



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The Great I Am

Midweek Lenten Series

You may know that Immanuel is part of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. But did you know that we have a smaller cluster of churches that we walk in faith with right here in Bay City? The Bay City Circuit is composed of seven congregations in and around Bay City. While each congregation is independent of one another and have a variety of unique ministries, we do desire to work together for the upbuilding of God's people and the proclamation of the Gospel to all people in the bay region.

During the Lenten season a number of pastors from this circuit will be leading and preaching in a "round-robin" for our midweek Lenten services. What this will mean is that from March 12th through April 2nd Immanuel will be led by a different LCMS pastor each Wednesday service. I will still be here every weekend leading services but throughout the season of Lent I will be at different sister congregations on Wednesday nights.

The theme for our midweek services is The Great I Am. Each pastor will be preaching on a different instance where Jesus proclaims "I am..." revealing that He is truly God and giving us a better understanding of his nature as The Great I Am, which harkens back all the way to when Moses asked God, in the burning bush, His name.

I pray that you are blessed by this series as you take extra time out of your week to worship together in the season of Lent. We will have free will offering dinners each Wednesday starting at 5pm being served all the way up to the start of service. You'll find in this newsletter a schedule of all of the meals and their hosts. Worship will begin at 6:30pm.

I'd also like to express my gratitude to all of our worship volunteers that help make sure our services run smoothly, from our Elders to our greeters and ushers, you are all so very much appreciated. And if you're not currently involved in one of these ministry opportunities and would like to learn more about it, send me an email at pastorg@immanuelbaycity.com and I will get you connected to the right people.

In Christ,
Pastor Garcia

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Rev. Chris Garcia

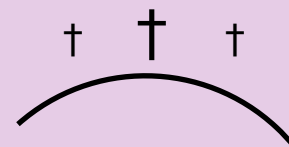
Worship Opportunities

Saturday at 5:00pm
Sunday at 10:00am

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, March 5
Noon & 6:30pm

Lenten Midweek
Services at 6:30pm
March 12, 19, 26
April 2, 9

Lenten Dinners
5:00pm prior to
Worship Service





*Dear Heavenly Father,
We thank you for the food before us,
for the hands that prepared it
and for your abundant provision.
Bless this meal, nourish our bodies,
and strengthen our spirits.
May our conversation be filled with
love and gratitude.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

Ash Wednesday

March 5 at 5pm

Ham Dinner with all of the fixins'

Hosts: Board of Mission & Outreach

Wednesday, March 12 at 5pm

Casserole Variety

Hosts: Friendship Guild

Wednesday, March 19 at 5pm

Soup & Bread

Hosts: Board of Elders

Wednesday, March 26 at 5pm

Pulled Pork, Au Gratin Potatoes, Baked

Beans & Dessert

Hosts: Board of Communications & Fellowship Committee

Wednesday, April 2 at 5pm

To be determined

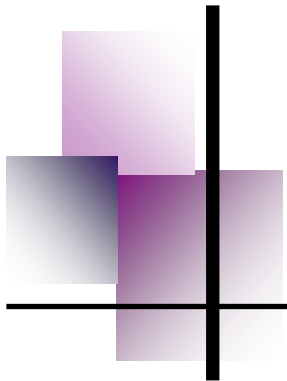
Hosts: Board of Christian Education

Wednesday, April 9 at 5pm

Sloppy Joes

Hosts: Youth Committee

**The Youth Committee dinner is a fundraiser for our middle school students to attend the youth gathering.*



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:30am Handbells 3pm Praise & Wors 5pm Communion Chipotle Fundraiser
2 8:45am Christian Education Hour 10am Worship VBS Meeting	3 6pm Bd of Elders 7pm Bd of Trustees	4 9am Ladies Bible St 6pm Bd of Par. Life 7pm Bd of Commu	Ash Wednesday 5 Noon Lent Serv. 5pm Lent Dinner 6:30pm Lent Serv.	6 1pm Cards 3:30pm Staff Bible St 6:30pm Choir	7 No School	8 8am Men's Bible St 8:30am Handbells 3pm Praise & Wors 5pm Worship
9 8:45am Christian Education Hour 10am Communion 6pm SNAG	10 6pm Bd of Christian Education 7pm Friendship Guild	11 9am Ladies Bible St 9am P2 meeting	12 8am Chapel 1:30pm Midweek 5pm Lent Dinner 6:30pm Lent Serv.	13 Noon Ladies Aid 6:30pm Choir	14	15 8:30am Handbells 3pm Praise & Wors 5pm Communion
16 8:45am Christian Education Hour 10am Worship	17 6:30pm Church Council	18 9am Ladies Bible St	19 8am Chapel 1:00pm Chapel NHB 5pm Lent Dinner 6:30pm Lent Serv.	20 1pm Cards 6:30pm Choir	21	22 8:30am Handbells 3pm Praise & Wors 5pm Worship
23 8:45am Christian Education Hour 10am Communion	24	25 9am Ladies Bible St	26 8am Chapel 5pm Lent Dinner 6:30pm Lent Serv.	27 School Art Fair 1pm Cards 6:30pm Choir	28	29 8:30am Handbells 3pm Praise & Wors 5pm Communion
30 8:45am Christian Education Hour 10am Communion	31 No School					

Easter Food Distribution

The Immanuel Food Pantry is preparing to assist up to 35 families for Easter. If you would like to help us, please leave your donations in the food pantry box located in the narthex by **Sunday, April 6th.**

Needed Items for the Easter Bags are:

Canned Fruit
Jell-O
Mac and Cheese
Green Beans
Mushroom Soup
Crispy Fried Onions
Canned Gravy (brown or beef)
Brownie Mixes without nuts
Vegetable Oil (16 oz.)
Pancake Mix (complete)
Syrup
Peanut Butter
Jam



Food Pantry Requests Help for Easter



Now thru March 29th, please consider purchasing a Meijer "Simply Give" card at check out for \$10. Donations go to the Bay Co. Emergency Food Pantry Network. Meijer will match the donation. Immanuel's Food Pantry is part of this network- helping others in our community. Thank you for your support! (Double Match Days are March 1st and 22nd.

***PINE ROAD LOCATION ONLY**

Join Our Fundraising Committee!

We are excited to announce the formation of a brand-new Fundraising Committee to support the mission and ministries of our church and school. We are looking for passionate, creative individuals who are eager to help plan and organize fundraising efforts throughout the year. Your time and talents will make a meaningful impact on our congregation and help sustain our work.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please reach out to Kim Bublitz at (989) 737-5422.

We'd love to have you join this important team!

Shovel and Serve

Help Keep Our Church and School Pathways Clear

Winter weather can bring heavy snow, and our church and school sidewalks need clearing to keep everyone safe and our entrances accessible. We're looking for volunteers to help with shoveling after snow events. If you're able to lend a hand and serve our Immanuel community, we'd love to have you join the effort! Interested? Please reach out to Larry Reimann at (989) 385-6253 to learn more about how to get involved.



“Immanuel’s broadcast was so popular that since October 1928, they have been broadcast every Sunday with the exception of once, the beginning of World War II, when news preempted all other broadcastings.”

Did You Know?

(From our 150th Anniversary History Book) “The new medium of radio was used to carry the Gospel to the home-bound in May, 1926. When Immanuel began broadcasting Sunday services over Bay City’s year-old radio station WSKS, later renamed WBCM. For the first two years, Immanuel’s services were broadcast only once a month, but they were so popular that since October 1928, they have been broadcast every Sunday with the exception of once, at the beginning of World War II, when news preempted all other broadcastings.” Our radio ministry continues to be a blessing to many homebound, elderly, and also local farmers who are able to listen from their tractors. Did you know you could help with this special outreach platform? For \$220 you could underwrite a service as a dedication of a special event like a birthday or anniversary, in memory of a beloved loved one, or as a thanksgiving for blessings. Gratitude for the underwriting of the service is mentioned on air, as underwriting eases the financial burden on our congregation for this long standing mission outreach. If you would like to underwrite a service, please call the church office to select and schedule the service. THANK YOU!

The previous article contains text taken directly from our 150th Anniversary Book. Did you know we have a 150th Anniversary Book? Filled with detailed history about our church and school, as well as things that were happening in our world which coincided with our ‘Immanuel History.’ Written as part of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, and filled with great photos to illustrate a great deal of the information shared, it really is a neat book. We have quite a few books that were not purchased in 2013. Watch for upcoming details about how, when, and where you could purchase one for yourself.





DO GOOD
WITH CHIPOTLE



Fundraiser for Immanuel Lutheran School

Come Join Us Saturday, March 1st from 4-8pm

3921 Wilder Road, Bay City, MI 48706

25% of event sales will be donated to the cause. All proceeds will go toward the 2025 7th and 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC.

Order Online for pickup using code **RWN2GKV** or show this flyer in the restaurant.

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

Can Drive Fundraiser Still Going Strong!

Do you have piles of cans that you're dreading returning to the store? A team of Immanuel middle schoolers is ready to take them off your hands! We are raising money for our spring trip to Washington DC and will use your returns to help fund this trip. You may drop your cans in one of the bins located both in the church narthex and outside the school office. Thank you for always supporting our youth!

Join Us For A Fundraiser @ Barney's Bar & Grill

Date: February 24th, 2025

Time: All Day

Location: 800 Michigan Ave, Bay City, MI, United States, Michigan

Support a Great Cause! Come and enjoy a delicious meal while supporting Immanuel Lutheran PTL. A portion of the proceeds from your meal will go directly to our PTL to help with fun school events. How You Can Help:

- Dine in from Barney's Bar & Grill on February 24th, 2025.
- Spread the word to friends and family! Thank You for Your Support! For more information, contact Courtney Witucki (989)326-1279



News From Valley Lutheran High School

Valley Lutheran Boosters are sponsoring a Cornhole Tournament and you're invited! Gather your team now and register to participate (\$50/ adult team, \$40/student team) or come watch the action (\$5 at the door)! Held on **Saturday, March 8** beginning at 10:30 am. Registration QR code and information available at www.vlhs.com/cornhole.

7th and 8th grade students - have you attended a Charger Visit Day at Valley yet? You're invited to experience Valley firsthand - meet students and teachers, attend chapel and classes of your choice, take a tour with students, and more - on these great days. See future dates and sign-up at www.vlhs.com/visitday.

Save the date for Valley Lutheran's Lenten tour home concert! On **Sunday, March 16** the musicians of the Symphonic Band and Golden Voice Choir, under the direction of Rebecca Sugden and Paul Eschmann, will present a Lenten worship concert beginning at 3 pm at Peace Lutheran Church. The theme of this year's worship is CROWNS, based on Revelation 19:12.





How Was Your Day?

This month try asking family members how their day was on a scale of 1 to 10. Then you can practice your empathy by celebrating with them or offering comfort. Even if they don't want to go into detail, it gives you a glimpse into their day and lets them know you are interested. We can encourage one another as we come alongside them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (Romans 12:15)

Easter Candy!

Believe it or not, it will soon be time to stuff over 1,000 Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. Look for a large basket in the narthex to place donations. Please include only individually wrapped candy. Hiding and finding eggs was a favorite activity for my daughter and happened at random times over the course of the year. She just couldn't get enough of it!



Junior High Gathering

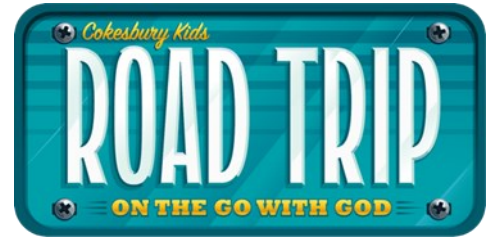
Join us in Frankenmuth for an unforgettable time with amazing speakers, games, food, opportunities to serve, and the largest indoor waterpark in the State of Michigan! This event is open to those entering 6th-8th grade in the fall of 2025. Let us know if you want to go! More information will be coming, but we'd like to start gathering our group of participants.

VBS 2025 June 16-19

If you haven't already, begin praying for this summer's VBS where kids will learn that God is with us wherever we go.

At Road Trip VBS, Travelers will discover the good news of Jesus and how God equips us to share that good news with the world. They'll hear Bible stories about:

- God's Promises
- God's Leading
- God's Presence
- Sharing the Good News



Who can you invite to join the journey?

Save the Dates!

Valley Lutheran will, once again, host this years Circuit Handbell Concert on **March 23rd, 2025 at 4pm**. Our "ringers" from Immanuel will take part with numerous other handbell players from other area churches.

Handbells

We are also looking for a few volunteers to help with Lutheran School Music Festival which will also be held at Valley Lutheran High School on **May 16th**. We will need 1 or 2 volunteers from Immanuel who are willing to assist the judges with paperwork, walk papers to and from the performance rooms and to keep order in the various rooms. If you have the time and are willing, please contact Sarah Geikas at sarahg@immanuelbaycity.com.





THE GOSPEL OF
MARK

With the March Newsletter, we are including, “Gospel of Mark” as a separate attachment for your Lenten Devotions.

What would you say to someone who asked about Jesus? Mark helps you think through your answer. We’ll go through the whole book of Mark taking a few days per chapter. You can read them on your own or with your family. You might be surprised by what your kids know. Check out the table in the narthex for these devotions.