



March 2025 Newsletter



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Immanuel Lutheran Church Contact Information:

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 Email: ilckalamazoo@gmail.com
 Church Secretary: Ailene Buchtrup
 Music Director: Will Canfield
 Pastor: *Currently Vacant*



This newsletter has many contributors. If you'd like to submit an article of interest or an announcement of an upcoming event, please contact Ailene Buchtrup, Secretary, in the church office via phone or email. For those with email, an electronic copy of the newsletter will be sent to you. For those with no email or who would prefer to receive a paper copy, we will continue to mail the newsletters via U.S. Postal Services.

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To note in pastoral absence: Several pastors and other knowledgeable contributors offer great articles of interest all throughout the year, and in particular holy seasons. Until a new pastor is found for Immanuel, we will draw upon the knowledge and interesting perspectives of those pastors to provide readers with a section called, From the

Pastor's Desk. We hope you will find these articles of interest and helpful in your spiritual journey.



Contemplate Spiritual Practices for Lent

By Joann Nesser –
 Excerpt from Living Lutheran
 January 27, 2015

Silence, solitude and Scripture. Those are the three things I rediscovered years ago when invited to a Roman Catholic retreat center.

Many of us long for a deeper spiritual life, and Christianity has a rich history of contemplative practices rooted in silence, reflection and a loving intimacy with God. These ancient practices were central to the early church and were gradually lost as science and rationalism took over.

The church has been scrambling for years to find ways to stop the slow loss of members and declining growth. We've been good at social action and teaching. But looking back hundreds of years even before the Reformation, we see a gradual loss of the intimate spiritual life of the early church.

Ancient practices can bring new life to our lives and those of our congregations. Seasons like Advent and Lent are perfect times to introduce the congregation to new and ancient practices from the early church.

People throughout Western Christianity have turned to ancient mystics to learn what's missing and to search for answers to their deep hunger for meaning – solitude, silence and prayer have become the center of their lives. Contrary to what some might think, these folks aren't withdrawing – they are finding a deep spiritual life that heals inner wounds from life's hurts and loneliness from modern life's isolation.

A rebirth of such spiritual practices gives strength and purpose for life's challenges.

This can also become a natural part of the way a church does ministry. It's a cultural shift for many – busy pastors say they barely have time for such practices in their own lives, let alone their congregation's.

But this is about adding a practice, not a new program.

A similar shift is being made in much of the corporate world. Businesses are bringing in life coaches and taking time for meditation because it changes the way employees work together and do business. Health clubs and spas offer silence, meditation, and solitude for rest and renewal. Twelve-step programs offer spiritual guidance, companionship and prayer as part of recovery.

Many church members, as well as non-members, tend to their spiritual hunger by joining contemplative prayer groups or seeking spiritual directors or professional spiritual companions. All well and good.

But the church can also meet these needs. Making such a cultural shift in our congregations isn't about adding another meeting, but incorporating contemplative practices into what we're already doing.

Suggested practices

- Pastors, mark your calendar for daily silence, meditation and reflection.
- Instead of opening devotions or prayer at congregational council meetings, take time for *lectio divina*, the sacred reading of Scripture and shared silence. Rather than Roberts Rules of Order, let Christian discernment practices allow all members to voice their prayerful reflections on decisions to be made.
- Teach contemplative practices in all levels of education, even among the youngest children, who love to use their imaginations and tell their faith stories.
- Fold spiritual practices into confirmation. This age is surprisingly responsive to meditation and being asked how they experience God. This way of teaching honors their questions and doubts.
- Invite the choir(s) into centering prayer, song or chant as spiritual preparedness prior to worship.

- Invest in a singing bowl or meditation bowl for your worship space. Rather than a hum of chatter prior to worship, encourage silence and prayer by ringing the bowl. It teaches even the youngest child to become silent before God. Such a focus keeps us from checking out what is going on around us and keeps us centered.
- The singing bowl also signals a time for silence during worship, especially for prayer, and after readings and the sermon. Worshipers can be encouraged to ask themselves: How is God speaking to me through this text? What is God's invitation to me from this sermon?

By planting these seeds, ancient practices can transform our experience of God, changing us and our relationship with those around us – even changing how we see our families, our jobs and the world.

As we intentionally add simple, meaningful practices, the still, small voice of the indwelling Christ that is always present with us will guide our daily lives. As it changes even one of us, the ripple effect begins to change all.

Joann Nesser

Nesser is the founder and director of the Christos Center for Spiritual Formation in Lino Lakes, Minn.



Calling anyone who knits and crochets - We have secured a Thrivent grant and purchased many skeins of yarn for shawls. Rita Clarke or I can sign some out for you, and you can make something lovely that will keep your lap warm while you work on it. We have directions you can follow, or you are free to do your own thing.



**Our Mission in
March is...**

**LCMS—
Michigan District**



Check out our other LCMS events on our Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/miLCMS/events>



**KALAMAZOO LOAVES
& FISHES**

ONGOING FOOD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Food donations are accepted
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at
901 Portage Street (KLF)

Other donation locations are listed below:

Family Dollar
(Select Locations)

Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church
321 W South St
Rollerworld
7491 Stadium Dr., Kalamazoo



In Our Prayers:

Homebound Ministry:

Marian Brugh Ellen Plano
John Curtiss Jerome Dirst

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Rose Maxum , requested by Chuck and Amber Townsend	Susan & Gregory Fritz , Stephanie Beck's parents
Amy Stillwell , sister of Dave Reynolds	Mary Ann Massey , friend of Dotty Smith
Lynne Partridge , friend of Christa Perri	Lucille and Lawrence Fritz , requested by Jonathan Fritz
Loren Gerber , Sue Anderson's father	Craig Rennhack , requested by Bob & Maryalice Reck
John Blasko , requested by Elizabeth Blasko	Mindy Mitchell , sister of Shelly Reynolds
Kyle Reinbold Family , requested by Kyle's sister, Sonya DeVary	James Leo Brown , requested by Shelly and Dave Reynolds
Karen McDougall , requested by Sue Steuer	Jim Sabo , friend of Susan Steuer
Katie VerKow , former member of Immanuel, requested by Phil Roekle	Sue Steuer's sister-in-law Christine's mother Elaine , and her daughter-in-law Molly
Vicki Dilley , requested by Christa & Phil Perri	Suzie Brink , Christie Sidwell's mother and Bill Brink , her brother
Joanne Cleason , Esther Cleason's daughter	Melissa , friend of Dotty Smith and daughter Laura
Marie Winberg , godmother of Bill Bennett	Hannah Bayer , 4 y.o., requested by her father
Lisa and David Wentzel , Sue Steuer's cousins	Jerry and Sandi McKenzie , friends of Dotty Smith
Ware Washam , requested by Brian Long	Sandy Hale , requested by Stephen Presdorf
Caroline Barkow	Jeri Noneman
Gene Jennings	Ruth Krueger
Bob Perri , brother of Phil Perri	Beth Mitchell
Alice Schley , Jane Schley's granddaughter	Charlie Miller , Marian Brugh's brother
Toni —Jane Schley's cousin	Jason , son-in-law of Sue & Craig Anderson
Sharon S. , requested by Dotty Smith	Karen Petersen , daughter of Cathy & Tom Mollet
Kay Hecht , John Hecht's mother	Jason Nichols , requested by Justin Beck
Linda & Scott Spurlock , requested by Esther Cleason	Marilyn Borgeson , Annie Hecht's grandmother
Deb , friend of Sue Steuer	Sophie Rose Verile , Brindley's niece
Merry Linn , Sally Crawford's sister	
Kim N., Kim M., Emilie H., & Sydney B. , all friends of Kim Sharp; and River Lint , Kim's cousin's baby	

If you would like the congregation to pray for you or your loved one, please contact the church office to have the name(s) placed on our prayer list.



Vivian Westphal	March 1
Ted Clarke	March 3
Rita Clarke	March 5
Glen Bierens	March 10
Adelaide Jefferies	March 15
Ezra Mandrick	March 17
Tom Mollet	March 18
Debra Foster	March 24
Scott Jackson	March 24
Christina Lauer	March 25
Steve Brelje	March 28



Mid-week Lenten services will begin on **Ash Wednesday, March 5**, and continue through the Lenten season (6 weeks).

Worship services are held on Wednesdays during Lent at 7:00 p.m. Soup Suppers will precede the service at 6pm

 LENTEN SOUP SUPPER— WEEKLY SPONSORS:	
March 5, 2025	Fellowship Committee
March 12, 2025	Property Committee
March 19, 2025	Worship Committee
March 26, 2025	Discipleship Committee
April 2, 2025	Outreach Committee
April 9, 2025	Service Committee

Diaper Drive



In Honor of **Mother's Day, May 11, 2025** and
In Support of Alternatives of
Kalamazoo and
The Douglass Community Association

Help for Needy Mothers

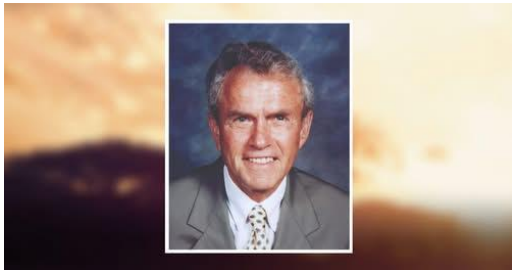
Diaper Sizes Needed:
**Infant, 2,3,4,5, and
Boys'/Girls' Pull-Ups**

Bring your donations to the narthex
by 9:00am **May 12th**

Note: Between now and May 11, be sure to watch for diaper sales. Both Costco and Sam's Club regularly have low diaper prices.



Your donations are greatly appreciated!!



Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier Obituary

Rev. Dr. Paul Luther Maier, 94, was welcomed into heaven peacefully on Thursday, February 27, 2025, in Kalamazoo, MI. Dr. Maier was born on May 31, 1930, the second son of Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier, founder of the International Luther Hour. Along with his mother, Hulda, and brother, Walter II, Paul cherished his beautiful and vibrant childhood in House Eleven at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. This was captured in Maier's biography *A Man Spoke, A World Listened*.

A graduate of Harvard University (MA) and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (M.Div.), Paul went on to receive his Ph.D. summa cum laude from the University of Basel, becoming the first American ever to do so. In 1967, he married Joan Ludtke and they attended Gamma Delta together. Maier was the Russell H. Seibert professor emeritus of ancient history at Western Michigan University for 52 years, the longest-serving professor at the time of his retirement. He also served as chaplain at Kanley Memorial Chapel on WMU's campus and ran the Lutheran Student Center. One of the honors he cherished most was delivering the late Christmas Eve sermon at Zion Lutheran Church. He later served as Second Vice President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

He was a world-renowned author and international speaker. Maier authored endless articles and books, both fiction and nonfiction, with his works selling several million copies and being translated into over twenty languages. His work includes his best-selling novels, *The Flames of Rome*, *A Skeleton in God's Closet*, and *Josephus: The Essential Writings*. Additionally, he wrote award winning children's books and created DVD documentaries. His final, and incredibly thrilling project was giving the green light to a major motion picture adaptation of *A Skeleton in God's Closet*, bringing his best-selling novel to the big screen!

Paul was a staunch, vigorous, and engaging defender of the faith, considered an expert in apologetics. He was noted for using both secular and non-secular sources to confirm the authenticity of the Bible. He led countless tours to the Holy Land and other biblical sites.

In his free time, Paul loved caring for his property, driving his bulldozer, crane, tractor, and hosting family and friends for bonfires, boat and snowmobile rides at Bonnie Castle Lake, the cherished home he shared with his wife, Joan. In later years, he delighted in golf cart adventures with his daughters and grandchildren, and spending precious time with family and dear friends poolside in Bonita Springs, Florida.

He served on the board of the Ethics committee for The Upjohn Company, and was a lifelong speaker at Camp Arcadia. Paul will be fondly remembered for his warm smile, infectious laugh, and signature handshake—always greeting others with a “Hi sport/good buddy!”

Papa—The Man, The Myth, The Legend—will forever remain in our hearts and memories.

He is survived by four daughters, Laura (Brett) Alexander, Julie Maier, Krista (Zach) Klepchak, and Katie (Brad Toepper) Maier-Toepper; ten grandchildren: Christine, Nicole, Anna, and Drew Alexander, Rachel and Mark Lugauer, Ben, Adam, and Luke Klepchak, William Toepper; and grand dog, Apollo William. Sister-in-law, Leah Maier; nephews Rev. Walter A Maier II and Rev. David PE Maier; and great nieces and great nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Friday morning, March 14, 2025, at Zion Lutheran Church, 2122 Bronson Blvd, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. Clergy are invited to robe and process. Visitation at the church beginning at 10:00 am and again following the service during a light reception. Graveside services for family at West Oshtemo Cemetery will follow at 2:00pm. Visitation Thursday, March 13th from 4:00-6:30pm also at Zion.

Preferred memorials may be made to: Dr. Paul Maier Endowment for Ancient History—Western Michigan University Foundation, Camp Arcadia, and Zion Lutheran Church.

MOM to MOM SALE

St. Michael Lutheran School
& Preschool
7211 Oakland Drive
Portage, MI

April 12th
9:00am - 1:00pm

\$25 per space
registration & payment due by 4/4

Set up Friday, 4/11 5-8pm
with early access shopping for
sellers & volunteers

**School Program Tours & Information
available during the event!**

March 2025

The Mission of the Month: WMU Solid Grounds Ministries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Iqbal)</p> <p>11:30am Children's Choir</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30pm Mary/Martha Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study at ILC</p>	<p>5</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>6:00pm Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10-11am "Joy" Bible Study @ ILC</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Quardokus)</p> <p>11:30am Children's Choir</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast</p> <p>7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study at ILC</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00pm Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Couch)</p> <p>11:30am Children's Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study at ILC</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00pm Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Toman)</p> <p>11:30am Children's Choir</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00pm Baumgarts' Bible Study at ILC</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00pm Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00pm Lenten Midweek Service</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Communion Service @ ILC & online (Couch)</p> <p>11:30am Children's Choir</p>	<p>31</p>					

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
3000 West Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

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(269) 345-8090
**Immanuel
Lutheran
Church**

**Schoolyear
Schedule:**

9:15-9:45am

Children's Sunday
School

**10:00 am Sunday
Communion Service**

11:30am Adult Class
11:30am Children's
Choir Practice

NOTE:

All services will be
live-streamed on:
*Facebook and
YouTube*



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday April 13~
Communion Service 10:00am

Maundy Thursday April 17~
Evening Service 7:00pm

Good Friday April 18~
Evening Service 7:00pm

Easter Sunday April 20~

- Sunrise Service 7:00am
- Sunrise Breakfast &
Egg Hunt (#1) 8:30am
- Communion Service 10:00
- Egg Hunt (#2) 11:30

Come Worship With Us!!