

INSIDE IMMANUEL



Faithful to God's Word – we receive, celebrate and share Jesus Christ.

Going Away... Sort Of

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ~ John 16.7

They were confused and bewildered. It seemed that nothing made sense in the world anymore. Their teacher, Jesus, was saying all these odd things about leaving them. He would not leave them as orphans. They would know the way to where He was going. But they didn't know the way. The disciples didn't want Jesus to go away.

It just didn't make sense to them. After three years with Jesus the disciples still did not understand. The events of holy week wouldn't make things any clearer either. As Jesus was arrested the disciples fled for fear that they would be jailed next. Even on Easter Sunday the disciples were hiding in the upper room. Yet, Jesus appeared to them and spoke the good news of his resurrection. Even so what all this meant was still not clear to them.

Not until after Jesus ascended into heaven did things make sense. Still it was not the disciples who understood of their own intellect, but the Helper had come to them. After Jesus ascended He sent the Spirit to the disciples on Pentecost and the disciples suddenly got it. They understood why Jesus had come to earth and they finally understood what his death on the cross meant for them and for all people. The disciples began preaching powerfully to the people beginning that Pentecost. What a miracle that they finally understood and what grace God gave them to understand!

They would not have understood without the help of the Holy Spirit and they would not have received the Spirit had Jesus not ascended and given them the Spirit. It was indeed to their advantage that Jesus ascended and sent the Spirit or they would have been cowering in the upper room for much, much, longer. It is to your advantage also that Jesus has ascended. We may be tempted to think that if only Jesus would appear to us and do some miracle then we could believe in Him with our whole heart. Yet, Jesus has ascended, He is not here. Jesus has not left us alone. He has given us a Helper to teach us His Word and give us faith. This helper is the Holy Spirit.

This Spirit came to you through your Baptism. This Holy Spirit gave you faith to trust in Jesus as your savior. This Spirit brought the saving death of Jesus to you in a real way so that your sins are forgiven and you are made a child of God. This is all to your advantage for the Spirit points you to your Savior Jesus.

Jesus has not gone away from you forever. He is still here. He was in your Baptism for you were baptized into His name. He is in the Lord's Supper for He says to you, "This is my body, this is my blood." He is there for you so that your sins would be forgiven. He is there whenever two or three are gathered in His name. He has not forsaken you. He was forsaken upon the cross so that you, His dear child, would never be forsaken. You need not be confused nor bewildered for you know with confidence that Jesus Christ is your Savior. He has died upon the cross and forgives you all your sins. Through your baptism He brought salvation unto you.

Jesus ascended into heaven bodily. He sent his Spirit, the Helper, to the disciples and to you also. You are not alone in this difficult world. That Helper is in you for your baptized body is His temple. He is waiting for you in the Word of God to strengthen your faith. He is ready to direct you to your Savior's body and blood given and shed for you. That Spirit is ready to point you to the suffering and death of your Savior, Jesus, so that you would never be confused nor afraid.

In Christ,
Pastor Boyer

"God Loves Us Eternally"

F orgiveness of sins...they are forgiven!

O ffering...giving to the Lord's Treasury!

L ord's Supper...Body and Blood of Jesus Christ!

L ord's Prayer...pray daily!

O h give thanks unto the Lord...for He is good and His mercy endures forever!

W alk with Jesus...all the days of your life!

J udge not...lest you be judged!

E verlasting Love...Jesus' love for you!

Sabbath Day...remember it and keep it holy!

V uphold the Ten Commandments...as commanded by God!

Savior of the world...the only way to the Father is through Jesus!

Follow Jesus, God's gift to us that shows God Loves Us Eternally!"

1 Peter 1:3, 8-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead....Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. God's blessings to all!

Jim Bratton

August Newsletter Deadline: THURSDAY, July 13

Treasurer's Report

MONTH OF APRIL 2023

Receipts	\$ 84,394.35
Less Expenses	- 58,258.55
Operating Income	26,135.80
Deficit Reduction	825.00
Net Income	26,960.80

CASH IN BANK & ON HAND

Petty Cash	100.00
Independent Checking	309,929.03
Independent Savings	221,905.83
Restricted Savings	-249,662.65
Total	\$282,272.21

Council Meeting May 15

Elders: Immanuel welcomes new members Corey & Lesley Smith. Their children Chloe, Cooper and Carver have been our members though either Confirmation or Baptism. We are glad they joined us as well. A discussion was had on following up with absentee church members. Traci will begin maternity leave the beginning of July. The Church Office will be open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday during the months of July and August.

Evangelism: Coffee mugs for new guests are gone, we now have a basket of flashlight/keychains to hand out to our visitors. Look for Immanuel's advertisement on the Sugar Festival placemats in the restaurants around the area!

Stewardship: The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University course has been completed, we are looking to set up

the next round. We are looking into possibly doing a photo yearbook every 5-6 years to capture more families. Plans are to continue with the next book in the Red Letter series during the next Lenten season.

Youth: Our Easter scavenger hunt in the church had 6 children in attendance and to-go-bags went home with 20 others. Cinco de Mayo was well attended...kids can't wait to go back! An ice cream social will be held during the Sugar Festival. Graduation Sunday will be June 4, with a reception for all graduates being held in the Great Room at 8:15am. We have 4 kids attending the Sr High trip to Mackinaw in late June.

Trustees: Hvac and windows are set to begin once school is out for the summer.

Principal's Report: Hannah Volz will student teach 5th grade next year with close supervision from Mrs. Yoder and Mrs. Eifert. A marketing team is being sought to brainstorm ways to promote and grow CTK. 8th grade Graduation is May 31. Closing chapel and CTK awards on June 2.

Official Acts

BAPTISMS

May 18 **Luke Ray Ruppert**, born March 15, 2019 to Kristen Wightman and Luke Ruppert

DEATHS

May 9 **Evelyn Weinlander**
May 20 **Margit Dyer**

CTK School News

By the time you read this, a successful 2022-2023 academic school year will be in the books. Many of the normal school year activities resumed this year and some new activities were initiated. Thirteen eighth graders successfully completed their Christ

centered education at CTK and are now moving on to high school.

Staffing brought some challenges this year but we are grateful to those who stepped in to be a part of the team. Mrs. Tamitha Foley stepped up in August to be our 5th grade teacher for the year. She has challenged her students and has truly been an asset to CTK. Mr. Nathan Schulz finished out the year as our Art and Physical Education teacher. His organization and willingness to step into this role is to be commended. We look forward to having Hannah Volz be a part of our team next school year. Hannah, a member of Immanuel, is finishing her Lutheran Teacher Education degree from Concordia University, Ann Arbor. She will be student teaching with us in the fall, under the supervision of Mrs. Jen Yoder and Principal Mary Eifert and, God willing, will remain with us for the remainder of the school year.

CTK has been blessed the past couple of years with many, many sources of income, most as a result of Covid. We've received funds from the Michigan Department of Education Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) for K-8 and for preschool, as well as some state of Michigan safety grants and from CTK's generous supporters at the spring birthday Auction. The funds have allowed us to make many purchases for CTK including:

- New LCD projectors for all classrooms
- Interactive whiteboard and stand - five more ordered with auction money!
- Technology software - future purchase
- Student ipads, chromebooks and teacher computers - more to be purchased

- Updated Social Studies, Math, Language Arts, and science curriculums
- Student standing desks and stools - more classroom furniture to be ordered
- Lunch tables for Unionville, with chairs to be ordered soon
- Tables and chairs for Sebewaing gym
- Gym storage and room dividers
- Cleaning and sanitation supplies
- Air Conditioning units for the Sebewaing campus
- Sebewaing Gym bleachers - future purchase
- Safety doors for classrooms and building exterior
- Unionville playground structure and installation - future Auction purchase
- Playground upgrades - future purchase
- Preschool - window, classroom furniture, supplies, and curriculum
- Preschool - Tuition and latchkey assistance, wages, free lunches and snacks
- Campus security assessment
- Upgraded door entry systems - future purchase
- School wide alert system - future purchase
- School signage and safety needs - future purchase
- Staff professional development and wellness training -current and future
- Social and emotional programing or services - future purchase

The last thing I'd like to mention this month is the desire for volunteers to serve on a CTK marketing team. The Board of

Education has spent a great deal of time reviewing and discussing current and future enrollment. Meeting the educational needs of our students, keeping them safe, and finding creative ways to increase enrollment have been at the forefront of the discussions. As a result of these discussions, tuition for the 23-24 school year has been reduced for families with multiple children to alleviate some cost concerns. A referral bonus has been instituted to encourage sharing the good news of our Christ centered education with potential new families. Now the focus is being directed at marketing to the community and finding new and creative options. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mary Eifert.

Please continue to keep the ministry of Christ the King in your prayers. We are blessed by your support.

In Christ,
Mary Eifert, Principal

End of the Year Reports

All reports for the 2022-2023 Church Year need to be turned in to the Church Office by Tuesday, July 11 so they can be added to the yearbook. Thank you!

Memorials & Gifts

IMMANUEL GENERAL FUND
IN HONOR OF PASTOR & JEAN KUHL'S
25 YEARS OF SERVICE
Ken & Janet Rink

CHRIST THE KING
IN MEMORY OF AL SAKON
Rod & Lois Bohn – scholarship
Tim & Sandy Irion - scholarship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 E BAY ST
SEBEWAING, MI 48759

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
SEBEWAING, MI 48759
PERMIT #32



Dates to Remember

May 29		Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL, Church office closed
May 31	7:30 pm	CTK 8 th grade graduation
June 2	7:55 am	Last Day of School - Awards/Closing Chapel
June 4	9:00 am	Graduate Sunday - reception at 8:15
June 18		Father's Day
July 4		Independence Day - Church Office Closed
August 14		CTK Registration Day
August 21		CTK first day of school
August 25		CTK no school