

INSIDE IMMANUEL



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

Rejected?

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. Romans 11.1

Paul seems so sure of himself. He says that God has not rejected his people, stating this emphatically. But what evidence is Paul pointing to? The fact that he has descended from the tribe of Benjamin? That is nice but surely there are many, at that time who could trace their ancestry from Abraham, but were rejected by God. When the Jews were debating with Jesus in John 8, they said, "Abraham is our father." Just like Paul they pointed to their genealogy. From Abraham came the people of Israel. And the Jews claimed that they were part of this great heritage. Yet, those Jews were not doing what their father Abraham did. Abraham looked earnestly for the promises of God. Abraham followed the commandments of the Lord even when those commandments seemed self-contradictory. Like when God promised Abraham and all the world would be blessed through Abraham's descendant, then God told Abraham to go and kill his only son. And Abraham obeyed, believing and simply trusting God that somehow God had a plan. But is genealogy enough? Paul seems to say that God has not rejected his people and he points to the fact that he is a Benjamite.

To look at the state of Israel during the time of Paul one might wonder if the Jews were rejected by God. After all they had persecuted the Son of God. After claiming that they were children of Abraham (in John 8) the Jews picked up stones to stone Jesus. Not exactly something faithful people might do. Even still the Jews handed over the Son of God to the Romans and demanded that Jesus be crucified. Again, not something faithful people would do. And in the time of Paul, the Jews seemed to be hindering the spread of the Good News. At Iconium the Jews stirred up the Gentiles to persecute Paul, even trying to stone him. These Jews followed Paul to Lystra and there they did stone him (Ac 14). In Philippi Paul was imprisoned by the Jews for casting out a demon from a young girl (Ac 16). At Thessalonica the Jews were jealous of Paul and the following he was winning for the Gospel. It seemed that at every turn the children of Israel were hindering the spread of the Gospel among the Gentiles. How could God not reject these people who were actively working against His plans and His purpose?

God did not reject Paul. Paul, then Saul, had been working against God and against God's plan. Paul was zealous for the faith, but he had the wrong zeal for the wrong faith. He was actively persecuting the followers of Jesus, placing them in jail and breathing murderous threats against them. On the way to Damascus, where Paul planned on persecuting Christians, Jesus appeared to him and changed his life. On that road Paul was told he was persecuting God. Paul went from being an enemy of the church to a missionary to the Gentiles. Paul could point to himself as proof that God had not rejected his people. But no doubt that was little comfort for the average Christian. As persecution came upon the church, as people fell away, as it seemed like the church was about to be crushed it appeared that God has rejected his people.

And since the time of Paul what has changed? The church seems to be dwindling. The membership counts of our churches have gone down drastically in the last decades. The church may not seem as prosperous as it was in generations past. As Lutheran churches and school close their doors it seems that God has rejected his people. As the culture becomes less and less Christian and this nation seems to be falling away from the faith it is difficult to think that God has not rejected his people.

But even closer to home. As families fall apart, as children make wrong choices in life, and as we fall into sin it seems that God has rejected us. Just look at your own life. When difficult times fall upon us we wonder where God's love is, has God rejected us? When a loved one dies, when health problems come upon us, or when life simply does not go the way we expect we wonder if God has turned his back on us. Even as we pray, and pray, and pray and there seems to be no answer we wonder if God is even listening to us. Does God not care that we suffer?

Does God not care that we are nearly crushed by the cares of this world? Does God not hear us when we cry to him? Has God rejected us? As we look around it is easy to think God has rejected us.

But be honest, don't we deserve God to reject us? What have we done that is so wonderful that would make God not reject us? Does God need the best of our deeds? No, he has no need of them? Does God need our money? No, God needs no money. Does God need our love and devotion? No, God has no need of these either. There is nothing we can do that would change our rejected fate. As we reject God in sin there is nothing we can do to change our unfortunate condition.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! How can we know that God has not rejected us? Well, we must turn away from ourselves and our sins. See not what you have done, but what God has done for you. Turn your gaze to the cross and see what Jesus has done for you. He took upon himself all your sin. All the times you rejected him and he became rejected to death for you. Although you had nothing to offer God, Jesus offered you his sacrificial death. More than that, he brought his death to you for you would never come to him on your own. How do you know that you are not rejected by God, first see Jesus dying for you. Second, see how this death comes to you, turn to your baptism. There at the font you were joined to the death that Jesus died. There at the font you were forgiven. Jesus entered your life and proved his love of you. There you were made, not a child of Abraham, but a child of God. This gift of God is irrevocable. It is sure and it is powerful. Your baptism avails for you even this day. The forgiveness given to you that day is the forgiveness you have this day. You were not rejected by God but you have been shown just how deeply God loves you.

Further proof of this is found in the Supper. There Jesus joins his body and blood to simple bread and wine and gives these to you. Here, much like baptism, you are joined to the death of Jesus. For it is his body which was broken for you upon the cross which you eat; and it is his blood shed for you which you drink. And as you eat and drink, you trust that God has not rejected you for you take Jesus at his word that this Supper is for the forgiveness of your sins. As you eat you are forgiven. There can be no doubt that the people of God have not been rejected! For you yourself have been joined to the death of Jesus through baptism. And you are given his body and blood Sunday after Sunday. You are a child of God, adopted through the blood of God himself!

In every age a Christians can look around themselves and find plenty of evidence in their lives and the world around them that seem to show God has rejected his people. The devil himself presents us with this evidence to shake our confidence and take our eyes off what our Lord has done for you. Thus, know for certain that God has not rejected his people and he has not rejected you! Even though you suffer and although your life may be wrought with difficulty you are still loved by God. See the evidence! Look to the cross, remember your baptism, and come to the Supper. There is all the evidence that you need to see that God still loves you. There is proof that you are a child of God. Although in sin God should reject us, the Father has sent his Son, Jesus. Jesus has given his life to save you. Fear not, for you are saved and are a child of God. God has not rejected you!

In Jesus Christ crucified,
Pastor Boyer

Treasurer's Report

MONTH OF JULY 2023

Receipts	\$ 80,754.53
Less Expenses	- 54,305.89
Operating Income	26,448.64
Deficit Reduction	<u>1,100.00</u>
Net Income	27,548.64

CASH IN BANK & ON HAND

Petty Cash	100.00
Independent Checking	181,137.97
Independent Savings	180,560.70
Restricted Savings	<u>-95,954.18</u>
Total	\$265,844.49

Official Acts

WEDDINGS

08/12 **Tiffany Lutz & Ethan Androl**

October Newsletter Deadline:

**FRIDAY,
September 15**

**G.L.U.E
"God Loves Us
Eternally"**

Billy Graham

"Yet many Christians are spiritually starved and weak because they ignore the spiritual "food" God has provided in the

Bible. The bible is not an option, it is a necessity. You cannot grow spiritually strong without it."

I started reading the Bible last year. I had mentioned to Pastor Boyer at one point that I have not read the Bible. His immediate response was, "You should. You don't need to start at the beginning, start with the New Testament." So, I followed his advice. I read Matthew, Mark, Luke and part of John. Then I did not read for months.

In April of this year I decided to follow a one year Bible reading plan. In this plan you start with Genesis and Matthew at the same time. It is a good mixture of the Old Testament Law and the New Testament Gospel. While I am a

little behind in keeping up with the plan, I am still reading, mostly when I first get up in the morning. I can do that because I'm retired. The point is to pick a certain time to read and stick with it as much as possible. So what, if you don't finish in exactly a year. Take two; but read it at some point in your life. For a fuller spiritual life sooner is better than later, but again, not mandatory.

I found so much more detail in understanding God's commands in the Old Testament, for His people and the consequences of not following His Word according to the Law, both His compassion and anger. As we know, the New Testament Gospel is the Story of Jesus' life and teachings, as well as, what is to come.

As I read the Bible I find it much like reading a book of short stories bringing me closer to understanding God's Word and the life of Jesus and His love for us.

Grow spiritually strong by reading the Bible.

Matthew 7:24

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

"Read the Bible;" it is God's gift to us that shows
 "God Loves Us Eternally!"

God's blessings to all!
 Jim Bratton

Council Meeting JULY 10

Elders: The annual outdoor service and picnic will be September 10. This year the picnic will be a brunch instead of a chicken barbeque. The encouragement letters that were sent out to members we haven't seen in a while have gotten a good response so far. The new trees in the sanctuary have been pruned

and tucked in, they look great! We are looking for a Sunday School Director/Supervisor.

Trustees: There are a few windows in the school that still need to be replaced, but the rest of the windows and all the doors have gotten updated over the summer. The house on Auch Street, left to the church by Susan Gremel, has been appraised.

Evangelism: Cards will be sent monthly to our shut-in members. Key chain flashlights are available for visitors and new members. Dianne Schulz has sent out more than 144 postcards to reach out to our less active members to. A prayer vigil is planned for September 16 from 9am-9pm).

Stewardship: A Pastor Appreciation reception is planned for October 8.

Youth: The youth calendar has been set through the new year: the 1st and 3rd Sundays are Collide days with Jr High meeting in the Collide room from 4-5pm and Sr High from 6-7:30pm. Some recent Collide activities included: slushies at the fair and a Bay Port scavenger hunt in July, helping with VBS and having a beach outing at Gremels in August. Coming up in September will be Ocktoberfest.

School Board: Laura Nimtze is our new preschool director. Beth Deane is the new art and PE teacher. Travis Grulke, MLCMS superintendent of schools, visited and did some school board training and advising. He recommended cutting the board to fewer members to improve meeting efficiency and presenting the agenda 1 week prior to expedite the meeting.

Principal's Report: We are very thankful for all of the upgrades to the schools! CTK welcomes 8 new students (6 families) this year. We had 2 students leave CTK. The kindergarten class this year has 12 students. We are currently searching for an Athletic Director for this school year.

Vice President: We are still looking to appoint a replacement for this position.

Notes from the Music Director

"Studies on group singing show that it can lower levels of perceived stress, improve memory and mood, boost happiness, and even boost immune system activity." The source of this statement is the Cleveland Clinic. Our Adoration Choir and Christ's Messengers will resume their sessions of healthful living (rehearsals) right after Labor Day: Christ's Messengers on Tuesday, Sept. 5th, 6:00 p.m. and Adoration Choir on Wed., Sept. 6th, 7:00 p.m. There will be no try-outs or auditions for either group this year. The only requirement is that a person wants to praise God through music. Sometimes we even have extra fun with a social time afterwards. Now that will really improve your mood!

If you've ever wanted to play a musical instrument and thought you couldn't, now is the time for you to try playing a handbell or hand-chime. Immanuel's ringers play some very beautiful music! If you're new to bells and chimes, but would like to try playing for just two weeks, you are more than welcome. We are a very friendly group and welcome everyone. The only requirements are that you be able to move one wrist back and forth and that you want to praise God through music. Come join us for musical fun and fellowship beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 6th, 6:00 p.m.

CTK School News

A new school year has begun. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to daily share the love of Christ with our school children and their families. This year our theme verse is *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in*

Christ God forgive you. Ephesians 4:32. We look forward to the opportunities to explore this verse and put it into action.

Christ the King is delighted to have brought on some new staff members. Mrs. Laura Nimtz, a St. Paul member, joined us in July as our new Preschool Director. Miss Hannah Volz, an Immanuel member and CTK alum is student teaching with us in 5th grade, and Ms. Beth Deane, most recently from North Huron Schools, is our new PE and Art teacher. We welcome them!

Last spring CTK celebrated 25 years with a big birthday auction celebration. Once the funds have been fully spent a detailed accounting will be shared, but below is what has taken place so far:

5 Interactive Whiteboards - \$18,720 - reverse auction funds!

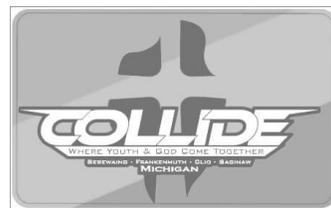
Keyless entry system for both campuses, installed this fall - \$18,549

New reading curriculum - \$14,000

Thank you so very much for your support of Christ the King!

Physically, both campuses have had a lot of upgrades this year. Windows, windows, windows. Both campuses got new windows and they look spectacular! So thankful for all who made that possible. Both campuses are also pretty much fully air conditioned now and new security doors were installed. Touch up painting has also taken place to make the buildings look spiffy. We truly feel the support of our churches in taking such great care of the school buildings.

Please continue to keep CTK in your prayers this school year!



Starting Oct 1st- every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month junior high (6-8 grade) at 4-5pm and senior high (9-12 grade) at 6-7:30pm will meet in the collide room in the Church basement.

Memorial & Gifts

CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS BERINGER

Carol Mammel – scholarship

IN MEMORY OF CYNTHIA LOEFFLER

Roger & Dorothy Gremel
Evie Adam

**Immanuel welcomes
you to the**

**Church
Picnic**



**Sunday, September 10
following the outdoor worship at 9:00am**

Elders are providing pancakes, sausage, eggs, plates, napkins, silverware and drinks are provided. Price is \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids.



**The 7th Annual
Dusty Club Golf Scramble &
Blessing of the Clubs
Sept 30, 2023**

Sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church
With proceeds benefiting new windows & HVAC
for Christ the King Lutheran School

- **Where: Scenic Golf Course**
8364 W. Filion Rd
Pigeon, MI 48755
- **When: Registration @ 9:30am**
Tee Time @ 10:30am

Fun Contests Throughout the Day!
Fun Putt Longest Putt & Drive
Skins & 50/50s Putting Challenge
Hole in 1 Contest
New - 300 Club!!

- 4 Person Scramble w/ Cart
- Free Driving Range Prior to Tee Off
- Ties Decided by Highest Handicap Hole
- Contest Prizes, Silent Auction & More!

- Hot Dogs at Turn & Meal Following
- Great Goodie Bags
- Prizes to the Winners



7th Annual Dusty Club Golf Scramble Registration Form

_____ @ \$75.00/ Person (Non-Members of Scenic) ~Deadline Sept 22, 2023~
 _____ @ \$65.00/Person (Scenic Members)

If you are interested in helping to sponsor the scramble or would like to sponsor a hole, please let us know!

Team Members:

1. _____ (Captain) Telephone: _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Address: _____

Make Checks Payable to: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Mail Payment & Reg Form To: Becky Fiebig, 3812 Bay Port Rd, Sebawaing, MI 48759
 For more info contact Lori Sweetman (989)280-4931 or Becky Fiebig at (989)670-5635
Email: beckyfiebig@countysidemi.com



The 7th Annual Dusty Club Golf Scramble Sponsorship Opportunities



Join Immanuel Lutheran Church as we hold our 7th golf scramble on Sept 30, 2023 to benefit the new windows and HVAC systems at Christ the King Lutheran School in Sebewaing! We appreciate your support!



Please Return Form by Sept 20, 2023



Dusty Club Golf Scramble Sponsorship Form

_____ **\$1,000 Event Sponsor** –Signage recognition throughout event, at dinner and social media mentions

_____ **\$500 Meal Sponsor** -Signage by food and social media mentions

_____ **\$300 Contest Sponsor** -Signage at contest holes and social media mentions

_____ **\$150 Hole Sponsorship** - Signage at a hole

_____ **\$75 Cart Sponsorship** - Signage at on a cart

Business/Name: _____
(to be printed on signage)

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Make Checks Payable to: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Mail Payment & Form To: Becky Fiebig, 3812 Bay Port Rd, Sebewaing, MI 48759

For more info contact Lori Sweetman (989)280-4931 or Becky Fiebig at (989)670-5635
loririddler@yahoo.com or beckyfiebig@countysidemi.com

· Where: Scenic Golf Course
8364 W. Fillion Rd
Pigeon, MI 48755

· When: Sept 30, 2023
Registration @ 9:30am
Tee Time @ 10:30am

Thank you for your support!



Dust off your clubs, gather your friends and join us for a great day!!

Scrip Order Form, Christ the King Lutheran School

Has Cards Order Cards

Name: _____ Account to Apply to: _____ Phone: _____

Chain Stores	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total	Gas	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total
Ace Hardware	4%	\$25			Marathon	3%	\$100		
Amazon	1.7%	\$100			Marathon	3%	\$25		
Amazon	1.7%	\$25			Shell	1.5%	\$25		
American Eagle	10%	\$25			Speedway	4%	\$100		
Auto Zone	7%	\$25			Speedway	4%	\$25		
Barnes & Noble	8%	\$10			Sunoco	1.5%	\$50		
Barnes & Noble	8%	\$25			Miscellaneous	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total
Bath & Body Works	12%	\$25			Build a Bear	8%	\$25		
Bath & Body Works	12%	\$10			Dave & Busters	13%	\$25		
Bed, Bath, Beyond	7%	\$25			Delta Airlines	4%	\$250		
Best Buy	4%	\$25			I Tunes	5%	\$15		
Cabelas	8%	\$25			Pet Smart	5%	\$25		
Cabelas	8%	\$100			Thirty-One A. Bell	5%	\$25		
Claire's	9%	\$25			Visa	1.25%	\$50		
Dicks Sporting	8%	\$25			Restaurants	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total
Disney	3%	\$25			Applebees	8%	\$25		
Disney	3%	\$100			Arby's	8%	\$10		
Dunhams	8%	\$25			Bob Evans	10%	\$25		
Five Below	2.5%	\$25			Bob Evans	10%	\$10		
Gap/Old Navy	14%	\$25			Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	\$25		
Gordon's Food	4%	\$25			Burger King	4%	\$10		
Hallmark Gold	4%	\$25			Happy Moments	8%	\$25		
Home Depot	4%	\$100			Chili's	11%	\$25		
Home Depot	4%	\$25			Chipotle	10%	\$10		
Jc Penny	5%	\$25			Cold Stone Creamery	11%	\$10		
Joann Fabrics	6%	\$25			Cracker Barrel	8%	\$10		
Kohls	4%	\$25			Dairy Queen	3%	\$10		
Kohls	4%	\$100			Dardens/Olive Garden	8%	\$25		
Lowe's	4%	\$25			IHop	8%	\$25		
Macy's	10%	\$25			McDonalds	2%	\$25		
Marshall/TJ Maxx	7%	\$25			Little Ceaser's	8%	\$20		
Maurices	7%	\$20			Outback Steakhouse	8%	\$25		
Meijer	3%	\$100			Panda Express	8%	\$25		
Meijer	3%	\$50			Panera Bread	9%	\$25		
Meijer	3%	\$25			Panera Bread	9%	\$10		
Menards	3%	\$100			Pizza Hut	8%	\$10		
Menards	3%	\$25			Qdoba	7%	\$25		
Micheals	4%	\$25			Red Lobster	8%	\$25		
Shutterfly	9%	\$25			Starbucks	7%	\$25		
Staples	5%	\$25			Starbucks	7%	\$10		
Target	2.5%	\$25			Subway	6%	\$10		
Ulta	4%	\$25			Taco Bell	5%	\$10		
Under Armour	11%	\$25			Texas Roadhouse	8%	\$25		
Wal-mart	2.5%	\$100			Tim Horton's	5%	\$10		
Wal-mart	2.5%	\$50			Uno Chicago Grill	12%	\$25		
Wal-mart	2.5%	\$25			Wendy's	4%	\$10		

Other: _____ Amt: _____

Total: _____ \$

For a complete list, download the RaiseRight App

Cash: _____ or Check # _____

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 E BAY ST
SEBEWAING, MI 48759

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
SEBEWAING, MI 48759
PERMIT #32

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dates to Remember

September 1	CTK No School
September 4	Labor Day – CTK No School, Church Office Closed
September 5	CTK preschool begins
September 6	CTK chapel – 8:05 am Sebewaing, 9:30 am Unionville
September 10	Church Picnic
September 13	CTK chapel – 8:05 am Sebewaing, 9:30 am Unionville
September 16	Prayer Vigil 9am-9pm
September 18	Voters' Meeting – 7:30pm
September 20	CTK chapel – 8:05 am Sebewaing, 9:30 am Unionville
September 27	CTK early dismissal – 11:30am
September 28	CTK chapel – 8:05 am Sebewaing, 9:30 am Unionville