



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 2015

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Mission

**Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.**



Letter from Pastor Dana

During my time away at a conference last month I had an opportunity to walk a labyrinth. I don't know if you've ever walked a labyrinth. Most people think it looks like a maze. However, it's not a maze. It only has one path to the center and the same path out. One purpose of walking a labyrinth is to go on a journey and rid ourselves of all the noise in our heads so we can listen to God. I often focus on a word such as hope, joy, or Emmanuel. Once a person reaches the center s/he is blessed to let go, sit down, and listen to God. Ideally, after finding peace with God in the center, on the journey out of the labyrinth, one can focus on how to take that peace into the world.

As I was on the way out of the labyrinth I had not accomplished my ultimate goal. The noise in my head was still loud. I was actually looking at an orange tree off in the distance and thinking about how I really wanted to pick an orange from the tree before I left. While thinking this I stopped on the path for a moment, looked up to the heavens, and said, "Why can't I simply be quiet." Looking upwards I noticed that there was an orange tree right over my head. I had already walked the whole labyrinth and hadn't noticed. And there was a tree right over my head.

As I paused I thought, "What I have been wanting is right over my head and I didn't even notice."

(Pastor's letter continued on page 2)

Ministry with the Community and World

Receiving The Gleaner Online:

If you would like to receive The Gleaner by email, please call or email the office. It's also available on Immanuel's website and Facebook page.

Gleaner Submissions:

The deadline for submitting articles and information is the 20th of each month.

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering from March 22 will go toward Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM).

Contributions may be made in the Noisy Offering jar in the Narthex all month.

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to "spring forward" and change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time Sunday, March 8!

Pastor Dana's Letter, Continued

We try to see what God wants for our lives. We try to see where God is leading us. We try to be open to God's time and not our own. Yet, we can't help but look with a very focused lens. We tend to look for what's in our minds eye and we can't see the whole picture. How many of God's blessings have we missed?

Lent is a time for renewal. Let's take time to renew our understanding of God and how we see God at work in our lives. Sometimes there is an orange tree right over your head - and you didn't even see it!

Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Equal Exchange Products

What is Fair Trade?

- Fair Trade deals directly with small-scale coffee and cocoa farmers. These farmers are able to form democratically run co-operatives which use successful business practices on the global market.
- The middle man is eliminated, so the farmers receive a fair price for their products.



Why is Fair Trade important to farmers?

- Farmers learn improved farming practices and post harvesting skills from agricultural experts. Quality and quantity increases.
- Farmers are able to improve their quality of life by supporting their families with a stable source of income and stay on their own land.
- Farming communities are improved with schools, health care programs, social services and improved roads.

(Continued on page 3)

Ministry with the Community and World

(Fair Trade, Continued)

Why is Fair Trade important to me?

- Forced child labor is eliminated.
- Sustainable farming practices are supported.
- The products are organic.
- Toxic pesticides and chemical fertilizers are kept out of the land and water which helps to improve the environment and preserve our planet.

Why should I buy Fair Trade products?

- We are able to help farming families and forest areas in other parts of the world without leaving our home town.
- A portion of your purchase (20 cents per pound) benefits Lutheran World Relief Small Farmer Fund.
- The coffee, tea, hot cocoa and rich chocolate bars are delicious and high quality. The money you spend on these products goes directly to the farmers, not to the middlemen.

How do I purchase Fair Trade products?

- Pick out the items you wish to purchase off the conveniently located shelf - right here at Immanuel.
- Add up the total and put a check or cash into the envelope.
- Put the envelope into the slot in the office door.



(Community and World, Continued)

A Letter from Vice President Amy Powell

Dear friends in Christ,

As I reflect on our weeks of almsgiving and stewardship conversations, I'm in awe of those at Immanuel. On Sunday, Feb. 8, when we shuffled over to church in the completely iced conditions I thought, wow, how are people going to make it into the building! There was a team of members who just started salting and helping those into the building. No one has the job of 'helping' people get into the building when it's icy outside, but the loving members just helped. These are the kinds of members that Immanuel attracts, and we can all help by using our hands to serve God and those around us. After all, when we serve our brothers and sisters, we're serving God!

I often struggle to find ways to get our girls involved in volunteer activities, as there are often age minimums for volunteers (for obvious reasons). During the first two Sundays in February our girls, along with other kids (and adults) gathered during the JAM time between the services and made placemats for the week that Immanuel was hosting the Isabella County Restoration House. I was so touched to see Lily Piatek-Jimenez (our youngest volunteer) coloring and giving of herself, in ways of which she was too young to understand. However, a foundation is being built—to give of one's self is to love our neighbors.

At the end of our time hosting the ICRH guests I was helping to transport the clean linens from the Comfort Inn to the next church. I had four VERY large bags, so I went in to see if there were a few of the church members who could help. I found Morgan, one of the ICRH staff members, and explained the situation. He quickly asked 2 of the guests (by name) if they'd assist. As we were walking outside Morgan said, "We just need some help bringing in some bags of linens," and the one guest said enthusiastically, "Well, of course, that's the least I can do for a warm place to stay and dinner." I thought, wow, that is amazing! There was not a sense of entitlement or expectation. He was eager to help. I was touched, and I thought, who is helping who here? We, as the volunteers, often think we are 'giving' the help, and in a way we are, but the guests are also giving us so much as well. As I've said from the beginning, these are people too—with feelings, families and stories to share. Our mutual respect is one of the biggest gifts we can give, and although we often feel compelled to give more the beginning can only start if we enter with the goal of mutual respect; and Christ asks no less. As Pastor Dana talked about unexpected visitors, I thought, we need that reminder that Jesus comes to us in all shapes and forms. He's not always in bleached white; but in the faces we see every day.

As we continue our Lenten journey may we aim to see God in every face we encounter!

Blessings, Amy Powell (vice president)

Ministry with Each Other

Immanuel on Campus Continues

Immanuel's college ministry will continue to meet on Thursdays at 9 a.m. at the Wesley Center on Central Michigan University's campus.

If you would like to help provide breakfast goods for our weekly meetings, there is a sign up in the Narthex.

For more information, contact Pastor Dana Hendershot at pastor@immanuelmp.com

Electronic Giving

Instead of writing out checks and using envelopes, members can make regular contributions to Immanuel through a checking or savings account.



This program contributes weekly offerings even when circumstances prevent members from attending service. For more information, click the (\$) sign at immanuelmp.com. Contact the office with any questions.

March Adult Forum Topics

Immanuel invites high schoolers through seniors to its adult forums.

The forums meet in the Fellowship Hall between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

- March 1: Living the Questions
- March 8: Living the Questions
- March 15: Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- March 22: Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- March 29: Palm Sunday: Mary Magdalene



Community Input: Praises and Pinches

To be a healthy, faithful community, Immanuel needs to be open with what we expect in all areas of life. If there is anything in our community life that brings joy or causes concern, please share any feelings and questions. Thank you for taking the time to communicate ways we are doing well in our ministry at Immanuel and the areas that need attention. Your Mutual Ministry Team needs your feedback. If you would like a personal response to your "praise" or "pinch," please be sure to sign this form at the bottom.

To discuss a concern directly with the Mutual Ministry Team or one of the Team members, please indicate below.

Praises: _____

Pinches: _____

Desired Outcome: _____

Is it OK to publish in Gleaner? ___Yes ___No (Name must be posted if you wish for this to appear in Gleaner.)

A specific question I would like answered: _____

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

“Developing the Leader Within You” Course to be Offered

There aren't too many organizations that complain about having too many leaders. To continue our efforts to develop leaders, join Pastor Dana and Joe Caleca for the “Developing the Leader Within You” course. The six-part video series by John Maxwell explores various aspects of the leadership issues and helps develop a picture what leaders look like.

The course will be offered Sundays from 2-3:30 p.m. from April 12 through May 17. There is no cost for the program, but we would like you to sign up so we can have a workbook for you.

Course Outline:

April 12	What is a Leader? Part 1
April 19	What is a Leader? Part 2
April 26	Leadership is Influence Part 1
May 3	Leadership is Influence Part 2
May 10	How to Grow as a Leader
May 17	Reflections of a Leader

As we continue to move forward as a congregation, we seek to develop and raise up a new group of leaders to shepherd us through the years to come.

Not sure you're a leader? The Lenten Journey and Holy Week narrative provides a great example of Leadership. Jesus got 12 to follow and his influence continued to grow.

Still thinking “I could never do that.” Even the most introverted person can influence as much as 10,000 people in their lifetime. We all have roles in our families, jobs or organizations that allow us to influence and be influenced by others. Please pray about this opportunity and accept our invitation to explore “Developing the Leader Within You.”

Lenten JC's Schedule

March 1: No JC's (Quake)

March 8: Youth Gathering
Meeting 3-5pm

March 15: JC's 3-5pm

March 22: JC's 3-5pm

March 29: JC's 3-5pm

April 5: Easter Breakfast 8:30-
9:30 a.m. (help serve, no JC's)



Lenten Offerings

Help Immanuel sponsor another food truck for the community!

The donations from the Lenten offerings (Tuesdays and special envelopes) will go toward funding an additional food truck for our community. Check out the digital displays for updates on our progress toward the \$2,500 goal.

Theological Conversations with Pastor Dana

Pastor Dana's theological conversations will continue on Wednesdays, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Compassionate Hearts Endowment Fund

Dear Immanuel family,

I would like to tell you all about my experience with the "Compassionate Hearts Endowment Fund". About four years ago, shortly after Carolyn Bennett had formed "Compassionate Hearts" in memory of her husband, Randy, I had basically heard of the fund and knew it was formed to help the needs of Immanuel members.



I had been talking with a member who had a personal need, and I instantly thought of the "Compassionate Hearts" fund. I went to Carolyn and she told me that the Endowment fund had to have several thousand dollars before we could help people's needs with the interest.

Since that time, I have become a member of the "Compassionate Hearts Endowment Fund," along with Deb Mielke and Carolyn Bennett. This is my plan: I give an annual amount on the date of my husband Paul's death in March. I also give if Immanuel is listed as a memorial and take any opportunity to give on other occasions as well.

We need to seek ways as members to help fund the Endowment so that we can meet the many needs of the people of Immanuel. Now you may better understand the phrase, "We can't give until you give." If you have

any questions, please contact me at 772-4783.

Very sincerely,

Follow Immanuel on Facebook

Keep up with Immanuel by liking us on Facebook. Find us at facebook.com/immanuelmp for updates, pictures and more.

March Birthdays

2 nd	Mel Woods Joann Johnson Brian Mitchell
3 rd	Sam Staples
4 th	Barb Dunn Tom Dillman
6 th	Lachlan Weber
7 th	Michael Caleca Olivia Geisthardt
8 th	Susan Shock
9 th	Janice Fox
10 th	David Ross
11 th	Meaghan McCollow
12 th	Katherine Brown
13 th	Rachel Schwerin
14 th	Nicole Moss Joanne Golden
15 th	Cil Lorand Jennifer McCallum
16 th	Margaret VanFaussien Chris Schuster
18 th	Wes Skinner
21 st	Zachary Heinrich Carl Graef
22 nd	Doug Hill
25 th	Joshua Fluharty Austin Ferguson Madeline Ebert
26 th	Sue Keilitz
27 th	Chris Jurick Laura Richards
29 th	Paula Krueger
30 th	Ethan Balent Morgan Oswald Gabriel Kauffman



On Track with Jesus

Vacation Bible School 2015

Mark your calendars and get ready for a wonderfully wild and wacky week of Bible stories, music, drama, crafts, and all sorts of fun! Immanuel's Vacation Bible School, held July 6 through the 10th, will focus around a Train theme, where we will learn how to live our calling as children of God. Registration forms will be available in June for children ages 4 years through those entering 6th grade this fall.

It takes a lot of people to run a successful vacation Bible school. Please consider setting aside the time to volunteer to work with VBS. Whether you would like to teach, assist with a center, serve snacks, or share your gifts in other ways, we need you. To volunteer or for further information please contact Gail Caleca at (989) 773-4204 or email youth@immanuelmp.com. Thank you!

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Tuesdays during Lent:
Worship at 5:30 p.m.

March 29: Palm Sunday
services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

April 2: Maundy Thursday
service at 6 p.m.

April 3: Good Friday service
at 6 p.m.

April 5: Easter Vigil at 7 a.m.,
Easter Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.,
Easter Festival at 10 a.m.

A Lenten Journey of Quiet and Reflection: Spending Quiet Time with God

When you receive a love letter from someone you adore, do you quickly read it and then toss it away in a desk drawer? Or do you linger over the letter, looking back on words and phrases that speak to your heart? Lisa Dahil describes scripture as a love letter in which God's love is poured out for us. Let's use the time of Lent to slow down and linger over God's Love Letters to us. Please join Linda Wicander at 12:15 p.m. for five Wednesdays in Lent for 45 minutes of reflective reading, meditation and prayer.

Can't make it all five weeks? No, problem – please join us when you can make it. The only request is for no eating and drinking during the sessions since this is a quiet reflective time. I hope to see you Wednesday.

(Worship Ministry, Continued)



Update on the hymnal

The church council has approved the purchase of the ELW hymnals. We will begin collecting information and money on March 1. The cost of the hymnal is \$22.50 + \$1.50 shipping and handling from Augsburg. We are going to round up to \$25.00 and will use the extra money for additional hymnals and supplies.

There will be forms available in the office and in the Narthex. When you purchase a hymnal you can choose to give it *in honor of* or *in loving memory* of someone. You can also have your name listed (*given by*).

Any questions? Email Mernie Bidstrup at mbidstrup@charter.net.

Walk for Hunger Campaign

On the new hymnal forms, we are also providing an opportunity for members to be able to help others.

The Walk for Hunger campaign is a year-long, youth-driven, fundraising challenge to support the water-related projects of ELCA World Hunger. Women in Sub-Saharan Africa walk an average of three miles each day to fetch clean water for their families. We have an opportunity to help those who have to walk such lengths for water.

At the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in July, high schoolers from around the country will bring their offerings. At the Interactive Learning space at COBO Center in Detroit, youth and young adult leaders will have the chance to participate in an unforgettable walk designed to simulate the experience of collecting water miles away.

Partner with our Youth to raise money to take with us to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit this summer! You have the opportunity to donate to this cause and our youth attending the Gathering will bring it to Detroit to help with our goal of raising \$500,000. All gifts toward this goal will be matched – dollar for dollar – until we hit a total of \$1 million! Together we make a difference – creating healthier families, stronger economies and a future filled with hope.

March Worship Helpers

Cantors (9:00 only)

- 1 Sarah Gallaher
- 8 Joe Caleca
- 15 Kathy Gallaher
- 22 Gail Caleca
- 29 John Lorand

Counters (applies to both services)

- 1 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 8 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 15 Chuck McCollom & Sue French
- 22 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 29 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff

Altar Guild (applies to both services)

- 1 Bonnie Berthold & Judy Emmons
- 8 Billie Plouff & Bonnie Schaeffer
- 15 Deb Reimer & Sandy Warriner
- 22 Nancy Stabenow & Linda Wicander
- 29 Bonnie Schaeffer & Sue French

Projector (9:00 only)

- 1 Gabe Goodrich
- 8 Dan Digmann
- 15 Deb LaBlance
- 22 Dan Keller
- 29 Amy Powell

Greeters (9:00)

- 1 Bob & Carolyn Hoffman
- 8 Bill & Kathy Gallaher
- 15 Dave & Sue Keilitz
- 22 Jim & Mary Hageman
- 29 Deb & Pete LaBlance

Greeters (11:00)

List not available at time of printing

Ushers (9:00)

- 1 Wes Skinner, Tom Endres, Ed Berthold
- 8 Tony & Amy Powell, Bill Jensen
- 15 Ruth Magnell, Wes Skinner, Tom Endres
- 22 Ruth Magnell, Aaron Smith, Bill Jensen
- 29 Carl Graef, Aaron Smith, Bill Jensen

Ushers (11:00)

- 1 Harry & Billie Plouff
- 8 Susan Shock & volunteer
- 15 Harry & Billie Plouff
- 22 Chuck Clise & volunteer
- 29 Volunteers needed

Nursery Attendants (9:00)

List not available at time of printing

Nursery Attendants (11:00)

List not available at time of printing

Assisting Ministers (9:00)

- 1 Cheryl Geisthardt
- 8 Bill Gallaher
- 15 Peggy Burke
- 22 Meaghan McCollow
- 29 Mark Strandskov

Assisting Ministers (11:00)

- 1 Joe Caleca
- 8 Rose Prasad
- 15 Amy Powell
- 22 Mary Hageman
- 29 Chuck Clise