



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 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

I have heard a number of people I've encountered recently say to me, "God only gives us what we can handle." I know for many people these are comforting words. God will give us the strength to get through the current turmoil surrounding us. I often smile and nod when I hear these words. They are usually followed by a laundry list of health problems, financial problems, the growing pains of having children, broken relationships, and usually all of this has depression as the beautiful cherry on top. So in desperate need for comfort they say to me, "God only gives us what we can handle." This means that whatever they are going through... God knows they can handle it, and it'll be ok. Again, I smile and nod knowing there is something in this statement that gives them strength for the day.

Let me share a little insight into what's going on inside my head when I hear the words, "God only gives us what we can handle." I hear something completely uncomfortable. I hear that every turmoil of life comes from God. God is out to test us and give us struggles so that we can grow stronger. God made you sick. God broke your relationship. God gave you depression. "God only gives us what we can handle."

This often is followed by, "I know this will make me stronger." Yes, it will make you stronger. I agree. However, that is because God is with you in the midst of the struggle.

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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 April 26 will go toward Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM).

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



Office Closed April 3

The office will be CLOSED April 3 for Good Friday.

Pastor Dana's Letter, Continued

Not because you're not strong enough yet. Not because God wants you to be some better version of yourself. Not because God is out to test your patience. You see, Jesus came to bring us life, not struggle. We are talking about a God of resurrection. A God who heals. A God who is the way, the truth, and the life. A God who humbled himself to wash feet. A God who took on death. A God who broke the veil between the Holy and the world. A God of resurrection and life. Now that's something I find comforting! When we are surrounded by muck and mire we have a God who sets our feet on solid rock.

Happy Easter! God is with you.

Pastor Dana

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

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.

Paint it Forward!

April 12th - May 3rd

You're invited to *Paint it Forward* by recycling your leftover latex paint buckets to be utilized by ELCA Gathering participants this coming summer in Detroit. Please leave all donations in the designated area in the Narthex.



Ministry with Each Other

Pastor Dana to be Out of Town for Conference

The week of April 13th Pastor Dana will be traveling to Cleveland, Ohio, to attend a conference called, “The Ecumenical Roundtable for Science, Technology and the Church.” This Roundtable is currently comprised of four of the so-called “Main Line” Protestant denominations in the Christian tradition:

1. The Episcopal Church Network for Science, Technology and Faith
2. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology.
3. The Presbyterian Association for Science, Technology and the Christian Faith
4. The United Church of Christ Science and Technology Network

Pastor Dana was invited to attend by the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science, and Technology, and the ELCA Churchwide body is paying for her to attend! The Roundtable members gathered will be looking at the church’s response to climate change issues. Please pray for Pastor Dana during this week.

Letter from Vice President Amy Powell

Dear friends in Christ,

As our Lenten journey is coming to a close I reflect upon my personal journey (which involves you, my Immanuel family). I truly do feel that Immanuel is part of my family, and without you (even those I’ve not connected with personally), our community would be completely different. We are dynamic, and that means changing and full of activity. And this is why our community is growing. Individuals are actually individuals at Immanuel, and we offer a sense of belonging and community.

Over the next few days we’ll reflect on the final days of Jesus’ life before he was crucified for our sins, and I’ve found the Lenten messages to be very thought provoking, touching, and quite profound. I often wonder, how I would have responded had I been alive at the time of Jesus’ life and death. What would I have done? Where would I have stood? As the tanner, basket maker, blacksmith, carpenter, and stone mason have given their perspectives, I’ve contemplated..... Each week brings me a new awareness and a bit of an internal struggle as well. Our faith should challenge us, and help us to develop and grow a stronger understanding of what it is we believe.

Let us carry our reflections and changed hearts throughout the year! With spring all around us it’s easy to see renewed life and spirit. Even children sense the newness. May your spring bring you renewed strength and depth.

Blessings, Amy Powell (vice president)

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Interested in going to a baseball game?

Are you interested in going with a group of Immanuel members to a Great Lakes Loons game this summer?

Here is a link (<http://doodle.com/2zm34r9uxcb53hea>) to a calendar of Loons games in June, July and August. Grab your calendar and mark the dates that you'd be available on this website and we'll try to coordinate an outing with the greatest number of possibly attendees.

Tickets are \$9.50 each and children under 2 can sit on a lap for free.

The Sunday games are at 2 p.m. and the other games are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday games feature fireworks after the game.



This is NOT a reservation, just information gathering. Once a date is decided we'll have a sign up available. If you have questions please contact Amy Powell at [989-948-3626](tel:989-948-3626) or email Amy.Powell@cmich.edu.

Theological Conversations with Pastor Dana

Pastor Dana's theological conversations will continue on Wednesdays, starting at 10:30 a.m. The conversations on April 1 and April 15 are **cancelled**.

There will be a special guest at April 8's Theological Discussion. Here's a message from our guest, Pastor Kathleen Basner from Resurrection Lutheran Church in Saginaw:

"Dear friends,

I will be sharing a presentation of my experience on the Civil Rights Pilgrimage I participated in last November. The group journeyed through various sites in Alabama and Mississippi, hearing the powerful stories of many veterans of the movement, or their family members. A few of the places visited were the 16th Street Baptist Church, Kelley Ingram Park, Dexter Ave. Baptist Church and the parsonage where Dr. Martin Luther King's family lived, and we walked the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The stories were shocking and very powerful, and are a witness of how far we have come, and how much more work there is yet to do in our country when it comes to understanding racism. I look forward to sharing this experience with you."

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

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.

April 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.

- April 5: No forum (Easter)
- April 12: Homeless Shelter Update
- April 19: TBD
- April 26: TBD



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.”

Help Wanted

Jodie Mitchell-Beach has been working on organizing Immanuel's Library, which is located in the Narthex.

We have purchased an electronic scanner and printer for this project, so that all of our books can be checked out electronically. This project is time-intensive and Jodie needs your help!

Please contact the office if you are willing to provide assistance while we get our collection organized.

Youth Rummage Sale

Save the Date for the Youth Rummage Sale, which will be June 19-20.

The youth will begin collecting items for the sale in May.



(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Camp Immanuel Weekend Retreat

Save the Date! Aug. 28-30 at Coldwater Lake Family Park, Weidman, MI we are hosting Camp Immanuel.

Everyone is welcome and registration forms can be found and turned in to the office. **Registration is due June 1.** The cost is \$50 per family for the entire weekend stay! People may stay in tents, small campers, and pop-up campers. Every site includes a fire pit, grill, and water and electric hook-up. There is no sewage hook-up, but there is a dump station at the park. We have reserved five rustic cabins (electricity, two bunk beds, no running water/restrooms). Space is limited, so please contact us as soon as possible to reserve a cabin or an RV pull through spot.

The campground includes a handicap accessible bathhouse, pavilions, sandy swimming beach, grills, a playground, volleyball and basketball courts, horseshoes, a boat launch and more!

What is Camp Immanuel? The weekend will include Bible studies, group campfires, and Saturday night and Sunday morning worship! More details will be on the registration form in the office.

Any questions can be referred to Amy Henderson, at hende1ae@cmich.edu. We are so excited to have this opportunity and encourage everyone to come out!

JC's Schedule

April 5- Serve Easter Breakfast- 8:30-9:45 a.m.
April 12- Meeting for Youth Gathering 3-5 p.m.
April 19- JC's 3-5 p.m.
April 26- JC's 3-5 p.m.
May 3- Last JC's- Paint it Forward Project 3-5 p.m.

Follow Immanuel on Facebook

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

April Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 3 rd | Michael Wyman |
| 4 th | Ben Strandskov |
| 5 th | Jason Qualls Gabe Reimer |
| 7 th | Shawn Bugh Penny Sneed |
| 8 th | Carolyn Bennett |
| 9 th | Carol Erickson |
| 11 th | Dawn Moss |
| 12 th | Barry Shellenbarger Zachary Foote |
| 16 th | Ann Ferguson |
| 17 th | Dan Pattison |
| 18 th | Mike Piatek-Jimenez Mary Lou Fell |
| 20 th | Lillie Reimer Thomas Mellinger |
| 21 st | Doris Dale Gary Ramsower Margaret Skop Carol Davis Thomas Strandskov |
| 22 nd | Emily Dyer Lauren Little |
| 23 rd | Justin Foote Margaux Hetzman Terry Grabe |
| 26 th | Megan Watters Mindy Qualls |
| 27 th | Michala Ebert |
| 29 th | Jan Eversole |
| 30 th | Tom Endres |



(Ministry with each other/community, world)



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!

Planning the Future of Christmas Outreach

There has been a good deal of discussion regarding the future of Christmas Outreach. We have some committee members who have "retired," and we have some who would like to see some changes in the future. For this reason, we feel it is time to sit down and reevaluate the logistics and the mission of Christmas Outreach.

On Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Immanuel, Dan Eversole will lead our group, which includes the Christmas Outreach committee, the members of Immanuel as well as any other individuals who are interested in this ministry, through a re-visioning process.

We will meet in the Narthex of the church for the meeting and lunch will be provided.

If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please feel free to call (989) 773-4204 OR email office@immanuelmp.com.



Update on the hymnal



The church council has approved the purchase of the ELW hymnals. Easter weekend will be the final time to purchase the hymnal between services. 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.

As of March 31, we have sold 188 hymnals, 12 short of our goal. Let's see if we can surpass our goal! Thank you to those who have donated for these books!

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 Water Campaign

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

The Walk for Water 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. **We have raised \$727 so far!**

You do not have to donate to both Walk for Hunger and for the new hymnals, but if you do, make sure you write separate checks made out to Immanuel.

April Worship Helpers

Cantors (9:00 only)

- 5 Dennis Marshall
- 12 Bill Gallaher
- 19 Sarah Gallaher
- 26 Joe Caleca

Counters (applies to both services)

- 5 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 12 Chuck McCollom & Sue French
- 19 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 26 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff

Altar Guild (applies to both services)

- 2 Marilyn Zorn & Linda Wicander
- 5 Paula Krueger & Sandy Warriner
- 12 Marilyn Zorn & Linda Wicander
- 19 Deb Reimer & Nancy Stabenow
- 26 Judy Emmons & Bonnie Berthold

Projector (9:00 only)

- 5 Gabe Goodrich
- 12 Dan Digmann
- 19 Deb LaBlance
- 26 Dan Keller

Greeters (9:00)

- 5 (7 a.m.) Joe Caleca & Tony Powell
(10 a.m.) Sam & Trudy Staples
- 12, 19, 26 To be determined

Greeters (11:00)

- 12 Mike & Katrina Piatek-Jimenez
- 19 Sue French
- 26 The Powell Family

Ushers

- 2 (6 p.m.) Carl Graef & John Emmons
- 3 (6 p.m.) Carl Graef & John Emmons
- 5 (7 a.m.) Mark Strandkov
(10 a.m.) John Emmons, Bill Jensen & Wes Skinner
- 12 (9 a.m.) Carl Graef, Amy Powell & Wes Skinner
(11 a.m.) Dan Keller
- 19 (9 a.m.) Ruth Magnell, Rose Prasad & Aaron Smith
(11 a.m.) Tony & Amy Powell
- 26 (9 a.m.) Bill Jensen, Ruth Magnell & Aaron Smith
(11 a.m.) Tony & Amy Powell

Nursery Attendants (9:00, 11:00)

List not available at time of printing

Assisting Ministers (9:00)

- 2 Peggy Burke
- 3 Linda Wicander
- 5 (10:00) Meaghan McCollow
- 12 Mary Hageman
- 19 Dan Eversole
- 26 Dave Simon

Assisting Ministers (11:00)

- 5 (7 a.m.) Amy Powell
- 12 Tony Powell
- 19 Cheryl Geisthardt
- 26 Susan Shock

Compassionate Hearts Endowment Fund

We emphasize giving in February, but you can give all year—for memorials, family occasions, or just to give. Red and pink envelopes are available in the Narthex. To contribute, put your envelope in the office mailbox. Contact Carole Heydenburg with questions at (989) 772-4783 or e-mail her at cnheyd@cmsinter.net.

