



The

Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

January 2016

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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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.



Mission

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

Letter from Pastor Dana

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

I want to thank you for all the ways you overwhelmingly showered me with God's love this Christmas with hugs, smiles, support, kind gestures, and gifts. I pray all of you had a wonderful Christmas with loved ones and that God showers you, in this New Year, with abundant grace and joyful surprises.

Speaking of surprises, I have been witnessing the mischievous Spirit at work this past year in unique and special ways. Sometimes in the midst of what seems to be so painful and dark – there is Christ – his light shining brightly. Showing us things we never even imagined possible. The ICRH is running its first year at capacity. The Christmas Outreach re-visioning was implemented successfully. Immanuel had a change in staff with Gail's retirement. Changes like these are stressful on a system (just ask the leaders of Christmas Outreach).

In any big transition, there is grief. There is anxiety. There is emotional work. In the midst of that, God is up to something. Christ's light can surprise. I give thanks to God for the numerous members stepping in to fill our needs, especially during this very busy Christmas season.

I'm looking forward to this New Year where we, Immanuel Lutheran Church, get to envision together a new opportunity to evaluate our current programs and begin the process of figuring out what our future staffing will look like. In the call paperwork that our congregation created as a vision for the coming years prior to my arrival, it was clear that evaluating and growing the youth program and campus ministry was a top priority. The leadership of this congregation will begin to lead us in a process of evaluation and visioning. God is up to something. I hope all your voices will be a part of where we go next. Let's see where the Spirit is leading us...

In the light,
Pr. Dana



Coordinating the Community for Christmas Giving

Once again, the Immanuel Congregation turned out in a phenomenal way to support Christmas Outreach. The annual event begins with Bonnie Schaeffer and her awesome team of volunteers who answered the phone to register nearly 700 families. This year, Sue Keilitz and Jennifer Digman organized the collection of over 250 new or barely used coats. Andrea Redmond dealt with hundreds of phone calls beginning in September, and this year in November she and Pastor Dana dealt with about two weeks of drop-off overload. As he has for many years, Chuck McCollom, gathered food to help everyone keep going during distribution and Harry Plouff kept the carts rolling for two days.

However, the most beautiful gift of Christmas Outreach is the incredible number of Immanuel members that volunteer to greet or escort guests, load the truck, contribute and distribute items and give so generously of their time and money. Thank you for all you gave to make Christmas so much better for someone else.

The Christmas Outreach Board

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
(Luke 2:14)*

Immanuel will be hosting the Rotating Homeless Shelter for two weeks in February! We will begin on February 7 and have guests through February 21. We will be in need of many volunteers, as well as donations of meals. Please watch your email for a link to the Sign-up Genius, which is where you will be able to sign up to help.



Ministry with Each Other

Pastor Dana's Amazing Adventures in January

I will be off on some amazing adventures during the month of January. I ask that you please keep me in prayer while I'm away. Please know that I will be keeping all of you in prayer. You're likely asking: What are these amazing adventures? How long will you be gone? I will be gone from January 10 – January 30.

- The first week (Jan. 10 – 16, 2016) I will be in Orlando, Florida at the Stephen Leader Training.
- On Sunday, Jan. 17 I will be worshipping at my previous congregation (Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Naples, Florida) as they are celebrating the church's 40th anniversary.
- The second week (Jan. 18 – 24, 2016) I will be in Naples, FL visiting with members from CVLC and then heading to Key West for a little R & R in the sun (hopefully it doesn't rain).
- The third week (Jan. 25 – 29, 2016) I will be in Delray Beach, FL for the annual Leading Well Conference.

Yes, that is 3 weeks in Florida (that I'm of course looking forward to) for rest, spiritual renewal, and learning.

Your question: What about us for those 3 weeks? I and the council are grateful to the Rev. Wayne Hoedt, who has agreed to preach and preside each Sunday. He will also be available for pastoral emergencies.

I want to thank you for gifting me with the opportunity to not only be in Florida (which warms my heart) but also your gift of the learning opportunities. I pray I come back re-energized to lead following Christ's call to us.

Praises and Pinches Form

As a congregation, we are committed to voicing our praises and "not sitting on our pinches"! To be a healthy, faithful community, we need to be open with one another about what we expect in all areas of our life together. If there is anything in our community life that brings you joy or causes you to be concerned, please share your feelings and questions. Thank you for taking the time to communicate about ways we are doing well in our ministry together at Immanuel, and the areas that need attention. Your Mutual Ministry Team needs your feedback. In order to best respond to your needs. 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: _____

A specific question I would like answered: _____

Name _____

(If you would like a direct response to your Praise or Pinch)

Please return this form to the Praises and Pinches Box located in the Narthex.

Ministry with Each Other



Stephen Minister training classes are scheduled to begin in February if we have at least three applications by the deadline.

Several members of Immanuel have already picked up and/or turned in application forms, but if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister and have not yet picked up your form they can be found in the Stephen Ministry mailbox. You can return completed forms to the Stephen Ministry mailbox or to any Stephen Leader (Gail Mitchell, Rose Prasad, and Fred or Chris Schuster). The due date for return of the applications is January 11th. A meeting with a Stephen Leader will be scheduled soon after the application form is received.

Topics for the first four training sessions are as follows:

- 1) The Person of the Caregiver
- 2) Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours
- 3) The Art of Listening
- 4) Distinctively Christian Caregiving, Part 1

If these topics are of interest to you, you might consider Stephen Ministry.

Compassionate Hearts Ministry Endowment Fund



Compassionate Hearts Ministry has been established to help those in our Immanuel family who are experiencing a difficult time by providing support for them thru a one - time gift. This gift is designed to allow them a chance to take a break from a painful or overwhelming situation and a chance to recharge and reflect.

Our Compassionate Hearts Endowment Fund principle is very close to the \$10,000 goal. The principle will remain in place while the interest it earns will become available for our ministry's gifts of support.

Please consider making a year-end tax deductible donation towards this ministry. You can give your support to Compassionate Hearts Ministry today on-line at immanuelmp.com and click on the \$ sign or you can give by check. Donation envelopes can be found in the narthex. Remember Compassionate Hearts Ministry when making donations for memorials, honorariums, or remembrances.

Thank you for your caring donation! For more information or questions please contact Carole Heydenburg or Kathy Gallaher.



Immanuel Lutheran Church has created an online directory in addition to our paper directory for easy access to everyone's contact information. This directory consists of family groups, and member profiles which you will soon gain access to. Please contact the office if you would like more information.

Immanuel Lutheran Church is pleased to offer an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Visit our website, www.immanuelmp.com click on the money sign (\$) and sign up! Please contact the church office if you have questions.



It's time to UN-decorate the church!

Please join us on Sunday, January 3rd from 3-5pm as we remove all of our Christmas decorations from the church. ALL help is welcome and appreciated!



- 1st Michael McCallum
- 3rd Pam McClintic
Marcella Armstrong
- 4th Tami Schwerin
Scott MacGregor
- 5th Kyle Behenna
- 6th Shae Skop
Madison Skop
Matthew Oswald
- 8th Tanner Shellenbarger
- 10th Chris Kauffman
Kevin Sullivan
- 11th Jill Fultz
- 13th John Tyler
Karl Mikko
Dan Hoffman
Allison Karr
- 14th Debi Mikko
Jim Erickson
- 15th Judy Ramsower
- 16th Danielle Sullivan
- 17th Ernie Spycher
- 18th Emil Boasson
Chris Danielson
Felicia Bassett
- 19th Reed Polanco
- 22nd Tom Hunt
- 23rd Lauren Rogers
Tara Chilcote
- 24th Lauren MacGregor
- 27th Rob Wang
Dave Wyman
- 28th John Warriner
Judy Emmons
Joel Jurick
- 29th Asher Watters
Bill Jensen
- 31st Blaine Chilcote

January Worship Helpers

Cantors

- 3 John Lorand
- 10 Kathy Gallaher
- 17 John Lorand
- 24 Dennis Marshall
- 31 Bill Gallaher

Counters

- 3 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 10 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 17 Chuck McCollom & Sue French
- 24 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 31 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff

Altar Guild

- 3 Kathy Gatten & Deb Reimer
- 10 Linda Wicander & Chris Schuster
- 17 Sue French & Linda Hoedt
- 24 Billie Plouff & Denise Little
- 31 Jan Kruska & Ann Ferguson

Projector (9:00)

- 3 Dan Keller
- 10 Dan Digmann
- 17 Gabe Goodrich
- 24 Deb LaBlance
- 31 Amy Powell

Projector (11:00)

- 3 Kip Ferguson
- 10 The Digmans
- 17 The Powells
- 24 Kip Ferguson
- 31 The Digmans

Assisting Ministers

- 3 (9:00) Susan Shock
(11:00) Meaghan McCollow
- 10 (9:00) Linda Wicander
(11:00) Chuck Clise
- 17 (9:00) Amy Powell
(11:00) Chris Schuster
- 24 (9:00) Amy Powell
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 31 (9:00) Volunteer needed
(11:00) Volunteer needed

Ushers (9:00)

Bob Grabe, Bill Jensen, Dennis & Kathy Marshall (all month)

Ushers (11:00)

list not available at time of printing

Nursery Attendants (9:00 & 11:00)

list not available at time of printing

Greeters (9:00)

- 3 Dave & Nancy Simon
- 10 Dan & Jennifer Digmann
- 17 The Little Family
- 24 Deb & Pete LaBlance
- 31 "Surprise" greeters

Welcome
2016!

NOISY OFFERING

The Noisy Offering, on January 24, will go toward the Isabella County Soup Kitchen.

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

