



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.*



## Mission

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

### *Letter from the President*

Welcome to 2016!! December was a blur for me. As I am sure it was for many of you as well: festivities, illness, parties, sadness, and the general hustle and bustle of the holidays. There were many from Immanuel who were especially busy with the annual Christmas Outreach endeavor. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all who helped out, and especially to Peggy Burke and Mary Hageman. These two spearheaded a revised Christmas Outreach, and from the sounds of it, very successfully! There is a definite need in Isabella County, and without their leadership, the organization may have drifted away as many were feeling burned out and overwhelmed with the previous process. I would encourage you to offer a word of thanks to Peggy and Mary; it's never too late to offer kind words for a job well done!

We are about to embark on a two week commitment to the ICRH. This is a huge commitment, and if you have not already signed up, please consider stretching outside of your comfort zone and volunteer for a shift or two. You can click [here](#), or go the Immanuel homepage to sign up; there are still openings! There are many stigmas about homeless individuals: 'if they have money to buy cigarettes they should have a house,' or 'if they only worked a little harder they'd find a job,' or 'if they would just stay on their meds they'd be able to keep a job and a place to live.' Many of us are just a paycheck away from being homeless. If you've not volunteered, it's a very humbling experience, and you'll learn quickly that the guests are people with stories, and it becomes very apparent that 'we' could be in their shoes easily.

Finally, the council is moving forward with defining the needs of Immanuel in regards to the education of our members, from birth to death. If you have ideas about the educational programs (for any age or stage), and what program ideas might work for our modern families, please fill out a praises and pinches, or let one of the council members know. There will be a formal process for evaluating our youth education programs, but additional insight would be helpful. Pr. Dana is working with a committee with hopes of hiring within the next 6 months. Keep your eyes open for opportunities for input and involvement!

Blessings, Amy Powell

We are about to enter into our Lenten journey. As we do I'd like to invite your family and you to join us for all the liturgical rites that guide us through the sacred Lenten journey. Many people give up things (i.e. chocolate, chips, alcohol) or take on things (i.e. exercise, devotional time, prayer) for Lent. Alongside this tradition, this year, I invite this whole community to take on being present through the liturgical rites offered at Immanuel throughout Lent. We are on this journey together!

Our journey begins on Ash Wednesday where we acknowledge our human mortality and offer up a hefty confession of sins. We are invited individually to receive ashes and reminded, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." Then for five Tuesdays & Sundays after, as we stay in the wilderness of Lent, we do not receive absolution again until Maundy Thursday, and when we do, we receive it individually.

What was begun on Ash Wednesday is brought to a close on Maundy Thursday. What begins on Maundy Thursday does not end until the resurrection of Easter. It is the ancient Triduum, "The Three Sacred Days," which lead us to Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. We do not share a benediction following the services, we leave in silence, until Easter Sunday.

Maundy means "command" it's when we're given a new commandment to love one another as Christ has loved us. The peace is shared after the individual absolution and seals that forgiveness in a loving embrace, as if embraced by Christ himself. We wash one another's feet and we celebrate the Eucharist just as Christ did with his disciples the night before his death. The Post-Communion Blessing and prayer is the reading of Psalm 22 as the altar area is stripped which symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion.

At that point, it is Good Friday. The liturgy has transitioned us seamlessly from Maundy Thursday into Good Friday. But that's what liturgy does: it moves us from one place to another. And that seamless transition is how the worshiper can know that these three major services of Holy Week are actually a unit.

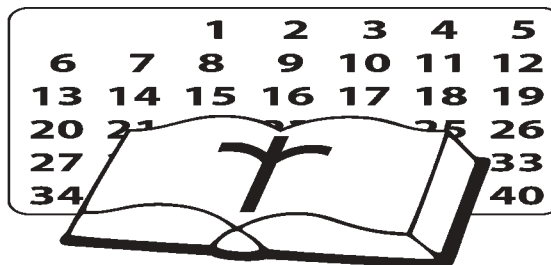
The Good Friday Liturgy is marked with austerity, silence and reflection. The chancel itself is bare from the Maundy Thursday stripping. Everything focuses on our adoration of the crucified Christ.

A large cross, is brought into the church in solemn procession to become the focus. The cantor chants, "Behold the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world." The congregation responds, "Oh come, let us worship him." We meditate on the last seven words. Then we depart in silence without benediction. Christ's death is not God's final word.

On the Sunday following, we all gather for the Easter celebration where we celebrate our resurrection through Christ. We sing alleluia and join in a triumphant celebration! Christ is among us.

Join us for this journey!

On our way to the cross,  
*Pastor Dana Hendershot*



**Pastor's Message**  
*for* **Lent**

# LENT & EASTER 2016 SCHEDULE



**Immanuel**  
Lutheran Church

320 S. Bradley Street  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

(989) 773-4204

[immanuelmp.com](http://immanuelmp.com)

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 10th

12:05 pm & 6:00 pm

## LENTEN SERVICES

Prayer around the Cross  
Tuesdays, February 16, 23  
& March 1, 8, 15

5:30 pm

## PALM SUNDAY

March 20th

9:00 am & 11:00 am

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 24th

6:00 pm

## GOOD FRIDAY

March 25th

6:00 pm

## EASTER SUNDAY

March 27th

Sunrise Service - 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast - 8:30 am

Easter Festival Service - 10:00 am

## Learn about the Thrivent programs that help you help others

Whether you want to help support schools from pre-k to college, build or repair a house alongside a family or need to purchase supplies for vacation Bible school- there are countless ways to help others with extra resources if you are a Thrivent member. WHY? Thrivent is a unique kind of financial service organization. This is part of the mission to help people and live generously. Thrivent offers many options for outreach to help your church or community. HOW? There are three major ways:

1. **Thrivent Choice-** This allows eligible members to recommend which church or organization they would like to receive donations, e.g. Immanuel or St. Jude's Children's Hospital. In 2014, 25,652 organizations have received \$54.9 million through Thrivent Choice and \$37.3 million has been directed toward education (pre-school through college) since 2010. According to Daniel Speckhard, CEO and president of Lutheran World Relief "Thrivent members are helping people around the world end hunger, access water and develop resilient communities."
2. You can get involved in **Thrivent Action** teams for your community. This program began in 2014 and volunteers take action on causes they care about. Members simply submit an online short and simple application at least one month before an event. In ~3 -5 days when approved you get an action kit in the mail which contains a Visa credit card to use \$250 for seed money for your project, from picking up trash to hosting a fund-raiser. Some 65,000 members have applied to lead an action team. You can lead an action team once you are 16 years old.
3. Lastly, for ten years Thrivent has partnered with **Habitat for Humanity** in 43 countries where homes for those in need are constructed. This year 121 homes have been built in the USA with Thrivent funds. In addition, volunteers will repair more than 500 homes this year.

Which program is the best for YOU? Your help is needed. If you have questions contact your Congregational Thrivent Advocate, Carolyn Hoffman at 989-506-3763 for assistance.

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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 go to our website, [www.immanuelmp.com](http://www.immanuelmp.com) and click on the link to get signed up!





# Ministry with Each Other



To my precious Immanuel family,

You have given to me and my family, in such caring and supportive ways- your calls, cards, charity donations, gifts of food, offers to help, visits to the hospital, staying with me at night, and most of all- your heartfelt prayers which have made Jesus' love ever so real. I pray God's special blessings for each of you. Thank you so very much!

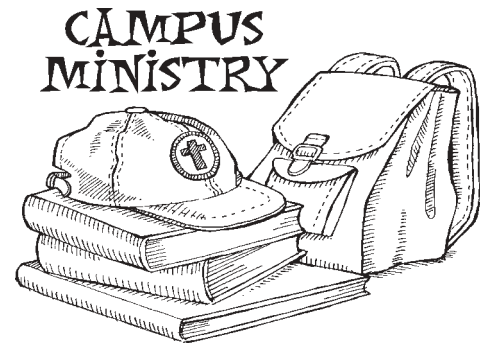
Love in Christ,  
Patty Jo Bugh and family

## Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School will take place at Immanuel during the week of June 27-July 1. Please see Jan Eversole or Nancy Simon if you would like to help out. More information will follow!



**Theological discussions  
with Pr. Dana**  
Wednesdays at 10:30am  
in the Capital Room  
Please join us!



## Immanuel on Campus

Tuesday evenings at 9:00pm

Pastor is looking for someone to coordinate goodies that we will provide for the college students to enjoy during their Bible Study. Please talk with Pastor Dana if you're interested in helping out.

## 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



## AN EXCITING MINISTRY BEGINNING

Sandy Fluharty, Roger Gilbert, Mary Hageman, Jan Kruska and Meaghan McCollow have been lead by the Holy Spirit to use their gifts and abilities to serve as Stephen Ministers. They will begin their 50 hours of training on Feb.7. Please offer continuing prayers for them and this ministry as they learn valuable Christian care giving skills.

February training topics include:

The Person of the Caregiver

The Art of Listening

Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours Distinctively Christian Caregiving

A wonderful book, Christian Caregiving-a Way of Life by Dr. Kenneth Haugk is one of the resources we will use during the first month.

Immanuel is blessed to be such a caring Christian community and this ministry provides us with another important way to provide valuable caring for our congregation and community!



**Sundays at 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall**

Feb 7- "The Flint Water Crisis"

February 14- March 13-

*"Bearing Fruit- Devotions for Lent"*

## FEBRUARY IS DESIGNATED COMPASSIONATE HEARTS ENDOWMENT MONTH

Compassionate Hearts endowment fund has been growing. The ministry's goal is to provide compassionate support to those in our Immanuel congregation in need of encouragement during a difficult or challenging time. Sometimes just being able have a break from circumstances can help a person recharge and refocus. We want to reach out with caring compassion to give support to those around us.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation towards this ministry. Envelopes can be found in the narthex.



# Ministry with Each Other



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](http://www.immanuelmp.com) click on the money sign (\$) and sign up! Please contact the church office if you have questions.



1 <sup>st</sup>	Diane Thomas Sid Smith
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wade Johnson
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Becky Wang Alana Johnson
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa Wegener Ted Lueder
5 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Stabenow Carole Heydenburg
7 <sup>th</sup>	Travis Danielson Melody Ferguson
9 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Mellinger
10 <sup>th</sup>	Craig Boulier
11 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Scott
12 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Gallaher
16 <sup>th</sup>	Kris Kirby
19 <sup>th</sup>	Chuck Clise Mark Heinrich Cristi Farmeller
21 <sup>st</sup>	Emma Heinrich
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ed Berthold
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bonnie Berthold Bill Gallaher
24 <sup>th</sup>	Allen Shock Donna Swenson
25 <sup>th</sup>	Doug Schuette
28 <sup>th</sup>	Stephen Marshall

## JC's Cafe February Schedule



Feb 7.....no JCs

Feb 14....3-5pm at church (make dinner for Homeless Shelter)

Feb 21.....3-5pm at church

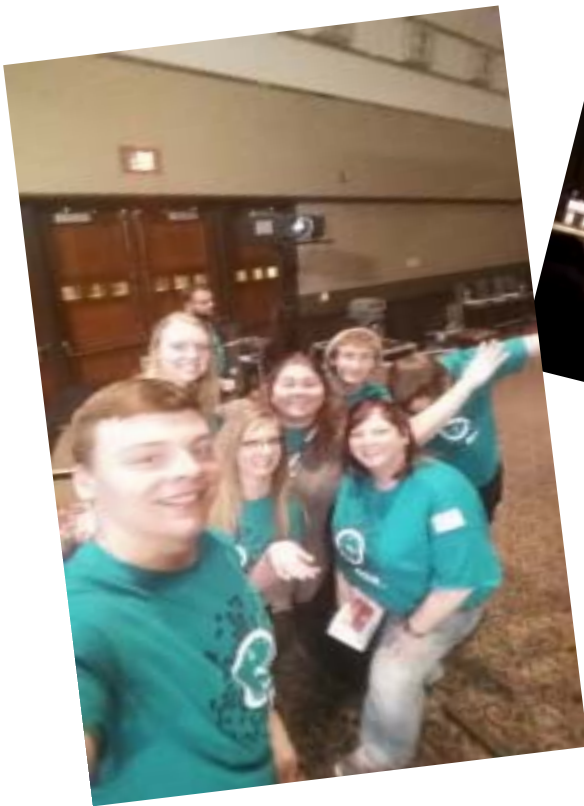
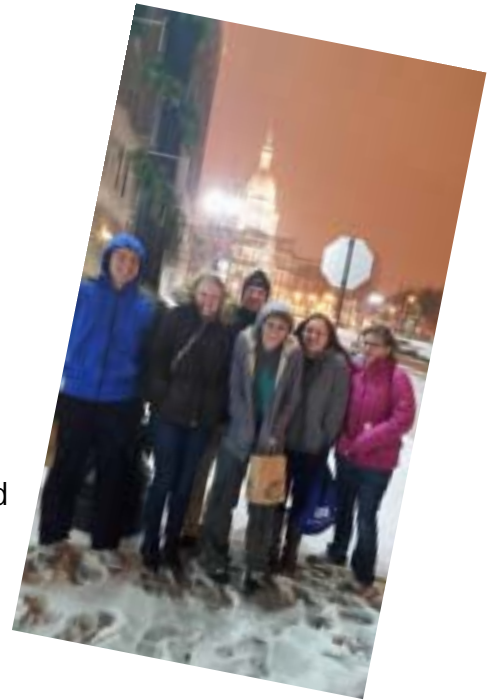
Feb 28....3-5pm at church

# Ministry with Each Other

## Lansing Gathering 2015

The Lansing Gathering was a wonderful opportunity to live in a world where God was at the center. We were able to serve at the Lansing Boys and Girls Club and worship with the 583 participants. We had 2 youth, 2 young adults, and 2 adults attend this year.

The 2015 ELCA youth was my first Michigan gathering ever (minus the quake) and I am disappointed it will be my last as a youth member. Through all of the skill shops, great food, meeting new people, and awesome worship services I still found time to connect with God. One of my favorite parts was Natasha T. Miller speaking, because I heard her speak at the National Gathering in Detroit, MI, and she is such a great poet and story teller who is very easy to connect with. I also liked small group time, because it is always easier to open up in front of a smaller group, and sometimes easier when you don't know the people in your small group. All in all I had a blast at the gathering and I hope I can come back next year as a young adult! - Dan Keller





## February Worship Helpers

### Cantors

- 7 Amy Powell
- 14 Amy Henderson
- 21 Kathy Gallaher
- 28 John Lorand

### Counters

- 7 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 14 Chuck McCollom & Sue French
- 21 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 28 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff

### Altar Guild

- 7 Sue French & Linda Hoedt
- 14 Jan Kruska & Denise Little
- 21 Paula Krueger & Marilyn Zorn
- 28 Bonnie Berthold & Sandy Warriner

### Projector (9:00)

- 7 Dan Keller
- 14 Dan Digmann
- 21 Gabe Goodrich
- 28 Deb LaBlance

### Projector (11:00)

- 7 Eric Podolsky
- 14 Dan & Jennifer Digmann
- 21 Volunteer needed
- 28 Volunteer needed

### Assisting Ministers

- 7 (9:00) Dave Simon
- (11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 10 (12:05) Meaghan McCollow
- (6:00) Amy Powell
- 14 (9:00) Chris Schuster
- (11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 16 (5:30) Mary Hageman
- 21 (9:00) Sandy Warriner
- (11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 23 (5:30) Jodie Mitchell-Beach
- 28 (9:00) Dan Digmann
- (11:00) Meaghan McCollow

### Ushers (9:00)

- 7 Bill Jensen, Cliff Moss & Tony Powell
- 14 Paul Geisthardt, Bill Jensen & Cliff Moss
- 21 Paul Geisthardt, Bill Jensen & Bonnie Schaeffer
- 28 Bill Jensen, Tony Powell & Bonnie Schaeffer

### Ushers (11:00)

*list not available at time of printing*

### Greeters (9:00 & 11:00)

*list not available at time of printing*

### Nursery Attendants (9:00 & 11:00)

*list not available at time of printing*



### LENTEN WORSHIP

Tuesdays during Lent at 5:30pm

We will be using "Prayer around the Cross." It includes: scripture, meditation, music, prayer, and candle-light. Please join us!

### NOISY OFFERING

The Noisy Offering, on February 28, will go toward the Isabella County Soup Kitchen.

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

