



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 2016

*The Gleaner is a publication of:*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

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## Mission

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

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## ***Letter from Pastor Dana***

It was the first time ever that Immanuel decided to host the shelter for two weeks in a row. We opened our doors to guests from our community. We ate, played cards, watched tv, laughed, and stressed together. The first Tuesday after we moved the shelter to the Presbyterian Church I actually felt like something was missing. I was so used to being greeted by our guests and volunteers each day that there was a little emptiness in my heart as I locked up the church empty and dark.

It was a blessing to see so much life within the church walls as we did what Jesus calls us to do.

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”  
Matthew 25:40

I give thanks to God for everyone who made it possible. I want to give a special shout out to Peggy & Charlie Burke and Jennifer & Dan Digmann who were keeping the wheels turning all week and filling in wherever needed. I give thanks to God for the twelve members of Immanuel who volunteered at over 5 shifts throughout the week (you know who you are). I am grateful for Faith Weavers who partnered with us. I am thankful that more than forty members of Immanuel volunteered as we worked to fill in the 272 shifts required to cover two weeks.

It may have been exhausting and an inconvenience at times but I pray that as we were opening our doors to share with people some basic needs to survive you experienced a little more life yourself. It is true that the

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

## **The Noisy Offering**

The noisy offering from March 27 will go toward the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen. Because the last Sunday falls on Easter, we will collect the Noisy Offering AFTER the services in the Narthex.

## **Daylight Savings Time**

Don't forget to "spring forward" and change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time Sunday, March 13!

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### ***Pastor Dana's Letter, Continued***

the more you give – the more you receive. Jesus came to give us the most important thing. Jesus stepped into creation to show us how much we are loved and to bring us life. Jesus came to show us that 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. Easter is coming

God's presence,  
Pastor Dana Hendershot

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## **ICRH Thanks You!**

Thank You to EVERYONE who helped with the Rotating Homeless Shelter. This was the first time that Immanuel hosted the ICRH for two consecutive weeks. This was a BIG undertaking on our part, but we did it! Thanks to ALL who volunteered their time, prepared meals, cleaned bathrooms, shoveled sidewalks, washed laundry and so much more. Your help was such a blessing!



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## **Attention Thrivent Members:**

Your Choice Dollars need to be directed **before March 28, 2016.** There is NO COST TO YOU. If you want to direct funds to Immanuel, just call [1-800-847-4836](tel:1-800-847-4836) and say "Choice Dollars". You will need to give the church's name, address or tell them where you wish the funds to go. You may be asked the last 4 digits of your social security number. If there are questions call Carolyn Hoffman at 506-3763.

# 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

### A Letter from President Amy Powell

Dear friends in Christ,

I hope that this finds you well, and successful on your Lenten journey. As we continue to discern the sacrifices and redeeming life, may you find peace, and enlightenment as it is poured out for you. This year we'll have the opportunity to experience a sunrise service on Easter morning—much like the original Easter.

About five years ago we engaged in cottage meetings, to get a complete picture of our congregation for our future pastor. Out of this came a number of goals; and Pr. Dana has been working at keeping those goals on the front burner. It is time once again, as a growing, active congregation to evaluate our strategic goals. During the second part of April you will have the chance to engage in a cottage meeting, and the result of the cottage meetings will be a new set of strategic goals. These goals will help to guide the hiring process, as we determine our educational needs. I strongly encourage every member of our congregation to engage in the process, and take advantage of a cottage meeting that fits into your schedule. Please keep in mind that the educational needs of our congregation don't end with confirmation!

I would like to extend a personal thank you to everyone who helped in some way during the two weeks that we hosted the guests of the homeless shelter. If you see Peggy and Charlie Burke and Dan and Jennifer Digmann, please offer your thanks, as they were the organizers for Immanuel and they were at church endless hours, after spending many hours organizing and recruiting volunteers.

Blessings, Amy Powell, Council President



# Ministry with Each Other

## New Member Classes

If you're interested in becoming a New Member please contact Pastor Dana ([pastor@immanuelmp.com](mailto:pastor@immanuelmp.com)). The classes will be:

Sunday, April 3: 12:30-1 (lunch) and 1-2:00 (class)  
Sunday, April 10: 12:30-1 (lunch) and 1-2:00 (class)  
Sunday, April 24: 12:30-1 (lunch) and 1-2:00 (class)  
Sunday, May 1: 12:30-1 (lunch) and 1-2:00 (class)

New Member Sunday: May 8 during worship.

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## Camp Immanuel Weekend Retreat

Save the Date! September 9-11, 2016 at Coldwater Lake Family Park, Weidman, MI we are hosting Camp Immanuel.

People may stay in tents, small campers, cabins, and pop-up campers

More details regarding this fun-filled weekend, as well as registration, will be available in April!

## March Adult Forum Topics

Immanuel invites high schoolers through seniors to its adult forums.

During March, the Adult Forum will continue reading and discussing the daily readings from the first four chapters of Colossians I found in the ELCA-sponsored booklet, Bearing Fruit, Devotions for Lent 2016. We will not meet on March 20 or Easter Sunday, March 27.

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



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## 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)



### 2015–2016 Youth Quake Theme: UnBREAKABLE

*“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10*

Please pray for the 5 youth and Beth Mundwiler as we attend the Youth Quake at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City March 4-6<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to praising Jesus and learning more about Him with 200 other middle school youth from around the state. Beth will also be presenting a trek for other adult leaders from the Practice Discipleship Initiative. This is her first time presenting at a Quake and would appreciate prayers!!

### Vacation Bible School 2016

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 will be held June 27<sup>th</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup> and will be led by Jan Eversole & Nancy Simon. Registration forms will be available in late May for children ages 4 years through those entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade this fall. More information will follow!

#### Theological Discussions with Pastor Dana

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

## JC’s Schedule

March 4-6: Youth Quake  
(no JC’s)

March 13: JC’s 3-5pm

March 20: JC’s 3-5pm

March 27: (no JC’s)  
Easter Breakfast 8:30-9:30 a.m.  
(need shifts starting at 8am)



April 2- Board up homes in  
Detroit (for anyone not going  
anywhere for Spring Break)

April 3- No JC’s (Spring Break)

## Lenten Offerings

Help Immanuel send relief to Salem Lutheran Church in Flint, MI so that they may provide clean water to their community.

The donations from the Lenten offerings (Tuesdays and special envelopes) will all be sent to Salem Lutheran.

## (Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

### STEPHEN MINISTRY Training Update

Our Stephen Ministers have already completed their first 4 weeks of training! They have explored the Christ-centered foundation of Stephen Ministry, developed an understanding of the role of feelings in ministering effectively to others, and enhanced their active listening skills.

Here is an update on what they will be learning this month.

- Distinctively Christian Caregiving
- Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly
- Process versus Results in Caregiving

An important resource for this month's training is *Speaking the Truth in Love: How to Be an Assertive Christian* by Ruth Koch and Kenneth Haugk.

Please continue to lift our trainees, Sandy Fluharty, Roger Gilbert, Mary Hageman, Jan Kruska and Meaghan McCollow up in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and expand their knowledge to bring care to hurting people in Christ's name.

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### STEPHEN MINISTRY: The Role of the Pastor

The role of the Pastor is unique and vital to the success of any Stephen Ministry program. The reasons for this are varied:

1. The Pastor, more than any other person in the congregation, has knowledge of all that is going on in the lives of her flock. People trust her with information others know nothing about. So, she knows who may be in need of a Stephen Minister.
2. The Pastor also knows the nature of the problem, and the strengths of the Stephen Ministers, so she knows which Minister would be likely to be a good match.
3. The Pastor also is trusted by members of the congregation, as so they are more willing to agree when she strongly suggests that a Stephen Minister would be advisable for them.
4. The Pastor is also able to support any of the Stephen Ministers as their Pastor.

Pastor Dana has completed training as a Stephen Leader in January. She is already a great asset to the Stephen Ministry at Immanuel.

### March Birthdays

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

# Worship Ministry

## March Worship Helpers

### Cantors (9:00 only)

6 Amy Powell  
13 Bill Gallaher  
20 John Lorand  
27 Amy Henderson (10:00)

### Counters (applies to both services)

6 John Emmons & John Warriner  
13 Chuck McCollom & Sue French  
20 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand  
27 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff

### Altar Guild (applies to both services)

6 Sandy Warriner  
13 Deb Reimer & Bonnie Schaeffer  
20 Jan Kruska & Bonnie Schaeffer  
24 Sue French & Pat Podoll  
25 No Communion  
27 Bonnie Schaeffer & Paula Krueger

### Projector (9:00 only)

6 Amy Powell  
13 Dan Keller  
20 Dan Digmann  
27 Gabe Goodrich (10:00)

### Projector (11:00 only)

6 Powell  
13 Geisthardt  
20 Digmann  
27 Volunteer needed (7:00)

### Greeters (9:00)

6 Mike & Sandy Deaton  
13 Jacque Jackson & friend  
20 Cliff & Dawn Moss  
27 Volunteers needed (10:00)

### Greeters (11:00)

6 Sue French  
13 Allen & Susan Shock, Donald Poynter  
20 Joe & Aubryon Anderson  
27 Volunteers needed (7:00)

### Ushers (9:00)

6 Wes Skinner, Carl Graef, Bill Jensen  
13 Ruth Magnell, Carl Graef, Bill Jensen  
20 Ruth Magnell, Wes Skinner, Bill Jensen  
24 Carl Graef (6:00)  
25 Carl Graef, Wes Skinner (6:00)  
27 Ruth Magnell, Paul Geisthardt, Wes Skinner (10:00)

### Ushers (11:00)

6 Volunteers needed  
13 Volunteers needed  
20 Volunteers needed  
27 Carl Graef (7:00)

### 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)

6 Linda Wicander  
13 Rose Prasad  
20 Chris Schuster  
24 Meaghan McCollow (6:00)  
25 Amy Powell (6:00)  
27 Meaghan McCollow (10:00)

### Assisting Ministers (11:00)

6 Tony Powell  
13 Natalie Douglas  
20 Natalie Douglas  
27 Rose Prasad (7:00)