



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 2016

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Mission
Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.



Letter from Pastor Dana

Christ is risen!!

As I said on Easter Sunday, “We live in a world full of new possibilities thanks to the risen Christ.” This Easter season the leadership of Immanuel is providing an opportunity to discuss the new possibilities we as a church can live into in the years to come. We will be entering into a Strategic Planning process that needs the voice of all who worship with us! We have decided to offer cottage meetings to allow this to happen. I am sure lots of you have questions about how this will work so here are some Q & A’s:

What is a cottage meeting? It’s a small gathering of folks (usually not more than twelve people) who are coming together to discuss some of their hopes and dreams for Immanuel Lutheran Church. We need your input so we are able to set a strategic plan for the future ministries of Immanuel.

Who’s running these cottage meetings? Members of Immanuel who are trained as facilitators. There will also be a note taker at each meeting who will anonymously record your responses to various questions and the information you share will then assist the strategic planning team with putting together a congregational survey that will help us prioritize your hopes and dreams.

Who should attend one of these cottage meetings? All members of Immanuel and active worshippers who may not yet be members are invited to attend one of these meetings.

(Pastor’s letter continued on page 2)

The Pastor's Page

Pastor Dana's Letter, Continued

How do I sign up for one of these cottage meetings? You can sign up any time during the first half of April (signup sheets are in the Narthex). However, keep in mind that once we reach the maximum number of twelve participants, we will have to close the meeting. So the earlier you sign up for the one you would like to attend, the better. You can also call the church office (773-4204) for available meeting dates and times.

What if I'm not able to attend one of these cottage meetings? Following the cottage meetings the strategic planning team will compile the ideas generated at the meetings and create a survey to help us prioritize all your dreams and hopes for Immanuel. You will be welcome to complete the survey and add your thoughts.

I ask that all of you prayerfully attend a cottage meeting. As we enter into this process it is the Spirit and your prayers that will carry us and keep us faithful to where God is calling us at this time and in this place.

Living resurrection,

Pastor Dana

Pastor will be out of town

The week of April 11th Pastor Dana will be traveling to Pittsburg, PA 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! Please pray for Pastor Dana during this week.

Theological Discussions with Pastor Dana

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

A Letter from President Amy Powell

Dear Friends,

Hard to believe that another Lenten season has come and gone. Once again, we had the opportunity to celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead to save us. Alleluia! HE IS RISEN! Let us continue to celebrate throughout the year, and challenge each other to continue growing and deepening our faith, as if every day is a Lenten day.

You'll begin to see invitations for participating in Strategic Planning cottage meetings. This will be your chance to help shape the future of Immanuel, and ALL members are encouraged to participate. Please plan to attend, so your voice can be heard—and encourage others to attend as well. The cottage meetings will be scheduled from April 17 to approximately May 7, with the hope that we'll have a variety of days, times and places to meet unique schedules and needs. After the cottage meetings are completed, we'll conduct a survey, with the hopes of ranking ideas that were generated from all of the cottage meetings. Please be on the lookout for all of the information, so you don't miss out on the opportunity to shape the future of Immanuel!

We've had the distinct pleasure of having Amy Henderson (aka Intern Amy) as our most recent intern, and her tenure as an intern will be done in early May. Amy brought a great set of strengths to our congregation, and we are thankful for all of her contributions. As we say Thank You to Amy for her service to our congregation, we'll be welcoming a new intern in the fall. We are strengthened as a congregation by the contributions of our interns, and each intern has brought unique qualities. Some of our interns are more visible than others, but the work of each has been important and has helped in moving us forward.

Many Blessings, Amy Powell, Council President

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 27th through July 1st 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 6th grade this fall. More information will follow!



Ministry with Each Other

2nd Annual Camp Immanuel Weekend Retreat September 9-11, 2016

Immanuel is once again hosting Camp Immanuel at Coldwater Lake Family Park in Weidman! This year, the camp weekend is happening over God's Work, Our Hands weekend, and we'll be integrating service into the weekend. Everyone is invited for this fun-filled weekend. The cost for the entire weekend is \$60 per site/cabin, and this includes breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and dinner on Saturday. We have reserved pull-through sites, tent/pop-up camper sites and all five of the cabins. 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. The cabins have electricity and two sets of bunk beds (there is no water/restroom in the cabin). Space is limited, so please complete your registration form EARLY for a guaranteed spot. The campground includes a handicap accessible bathhouse, pavilions, sandy swimming beach, grills, playground, volleyball and basketball courts, horseshoes, a boat launch and more!

What is Camp Immanuel? The weekend will include fellowship, group meals and campfires, service, and a worship service on Saturday evening.

More details are available on the registration form. The registration deadline is Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Your registration form and payment will secure your spot.

If you have questions, please contact Amy Powell, 989-948-3626 or Amy.Powell@cmich.edu. We're excited to offer this opportunity, and hope you'll join!

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)



Training Update

Our Stephen Ministers have already completed 20 hours 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. In addition, they have deepened their understanding of what it means to provide distinctly Christian caring and learned how to be an assertive Christian—one who relates gently and firmly to others.

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

- Telecare: The Next Best Thing to Being There
- Crisis Theory and Practice: Danger vs. Opportunity
- Maintaining Boundaries
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

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.

Immanuel on Campus

This group meets every Tuesday evening at 9:00pm. Please see Pr. Dana if you would like to become involved with this campus ministry!

JC's Schedule

April 3- Spring Break
(no JC's)

April 10- JC's 3-5pm

April 17: JC's 3-5pm

April 24 : JC's 3-5pm

May 1- Last JC's 3-5pm



Thank you to ALL who helped make our Easter Breakfast so wonderful!!!



The youth of Immanuel will hold a rummage sale on Friday, June 17 & Saturday, June 18 in the Fellowship Hall. They will begin collecting items in early May.

Please keep our youth in mind as you begin your spring cleaning! All proceeds from the sale will help defray the costs of their Mission Trip to West Virginia this summer!

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Immanuel Offers Electronic Giving

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.

We're hosting a Food Truck!

Immanuel will host a CCN Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, April 23 from 8am-noon. Many volunteers will be needed! Please be sure to watch for sign-up sheets coming through your e-mail. If you do not e-mail and would like to sign up, please contact the church office. If you have questions about this event, please contact Peggy Burke at 775-0774.

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on April 24 will be given to the Goodrow Fund, which helps our local neighbors in need.

A collection jar is located in the Narthex throughout the month for your convenience.

April Birthdays

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

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

On behalf of the Strategic Planning team, we would like to invite you to participate in a cottage meeting. The hosts, dates and times are listed below, along with a calendar, of the meetings. All cottage meetings will take place in individual homes, unless otherwise noted. There will be a trained facilitator and note-taker assigned to each cottage meeting, so you as participants can engage fully in discussing and brainstorming. The cottage meetings are scheduled as an opportunity for us to discuss, with as many members of the congregation as possible, the future of Immanuel. This is your chance to let us know your dreams! After all of the cottage meetings are finished, a survey will be created, for everyone to complete, based on a compilation of the data from every cottage meeting. The information will then be given to the Council, for them to create strategic goals for Immanuel's future. Sign-up sheets (with directions to each location) will be available in the Narthex beginning April 3, and everyone is encouraged to attend!

- Dan & Jennifer Digmann - 4/18 @ 6:30pm (*barrier free*)
- Nancy & Dave Simon - 4/19 @ 7pm
- Young Children (4 yrs.-6th grade) - 4/20 @ 6:15pm (*at Immanuel*)
- College students - 4/22 @ 4:15pm (*at Immanuel*)
- Karen & Carl Graef- 4/22 @7:00pm
- Chuck & Barb McCollum - 4/24 @ 3pm**
- Youth (7th grade-12th grade) - 4/24 @ 3pm (*at Immanuel*)
- Shirley Howard - 4/26 @ 7pm
- Harry & Billie Plouff- 4/28 @ 2:00pm
- Paul & Cheryl Geisthardt- 4/30 @ 6:00pm **
- Peggy & Charlie Burke - 5/3 @ 2pm
- Ryan & Natalie Douglas - 5/3 @6:30pm
- Gail Mitchell - 5/5 @ 7pm

**Child Care Available

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4/17	4/18 Digmann- 6:30pm	4/19 Simon-7pm	4/20 Young children- 6:15pm	4/21	4/22 College-4:15pm Graef-7pm	4/23
4/24 McCollum-3pm Youth-3pm	4/25	4/26 Howard- 7pm	4/27	4/28 Plouff-2pm	4/29	4/30 Geisthardt- 6pm
5/1	5/2	5/3 Burke-2pm Douglas- 6:30pm	5/4	5/5 Mitchell- 7pm	5/6	5/7

Sincerely,
The Strategic Planning Team: Pr. Dana Hendershot, Nicole Ferguson, Cheryl Geisthardt, Carl Graef, Shirley Howard, Amy Powell, and Mark Strandskov

April Worship Helpers

Cantors (9:00 only)

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

Counters (applies to both services)

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

Altar Guild (applies to both services)

3 Bonnie Schaeffer
10 Marilyn Zorn & Pat Podoll
17 Deb Reimer & Kathy Gatten
24 Judy Emmons & Bonnie Berthold

Projector (9:00 only)

3 Deb LaBlance
10 Amy Powell
17 Dan Keller
24 Dan Digmann

Projector (11:00 only)

10 Geisthardts
17 Digmanns
24 Dan Keller

Greeters (9:00)

3 Kathy Smith & volunteer
10 John & Judy Emmons
17 Sandy & John Warriner
24 Volunteers needed

Greeters (11:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Ushers (9:00)

3 Sam Staples, Tom Endres & Bill Jensen
10 Wes Skinner, Bill Jensen & Ruth Magnell
17 Sam Staples, Carl Graef & Bill Jensen
24 Ruth Magnell, Bill Jensen & Rose Prasad

Ushers (11:00)

(List not available at time of printing)

Nursery Attendants (9:00)

3 Brandon & Lisa Wegener
10 Thomas & Jocelyn Strandskov
17 Lisa Wegener
24 Martha Goodrich & Ashley Shellenbarger

Nursery Attendants (11:00)

3 Eva Dyke & Jenn Becker
10 Eva Dyke & Jenn Becker
17 Haylee & Olivia Geisthardt
24 Kevin & Danielle Sullivan

Assisting Ministers (9:00)

3 Meaghan McCollow
10 Peggy Burke
17 Sandy Warriner
24 Amy Powell

Assisting Ministers (11:00)

3 Natalie Douglas
10 Natalie Douglas
17 Cheryl Geisthardt
24 Meaghan McCollow