



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

June/July 2016

*The Gleaner is a publication of:*

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

320 S. Bradley St.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: (989) 773-4204  
Email: office@immanuelmp.com  
Website: immanuelmp.com

Summer Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday 8am to 4pm  
& CLOSED on Fridays

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Pastor: Dana Hendershot  
Layout and Editing:  
Andrea Redmond

Immanuel now has an online church directory. Visit our website and check it out! Contact the office for your username and password.

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



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

Friends in Christ,

I recently read:

“God gives birth to new movements in history by calling forth instruments for the divine cause. Noah was called to build an ark; Abraham was called to birth a nation; and Moses was called to lead the nation out of bondage. Mary was called to bear a son by the Spirit, and he was called “God in the flesh dwelling among us.” The apostles were called to declare the gospel to all nations. We stand in a lineage of God’s call to birth new ministries and new mission in the world.” *The Life Cycle in Congregations* by Arlin J. Rothauge, PhD

Amen! We are standing in a moment of birth. The leadership at Immanuel offered space to hear from you what is working and what is not working, along with, the threats and opportunities present in the world and our community-then offered space to dream! It is in the dreaming that birth begins.

Birth is both painful and glorious. We need to prepare our hearts and minds for both. When it comes to birth, specifically in a congregation, there is no perfect process or leadership. It is a knowingly sinful people who are feeling called into grace and in response praying, listening, and moving with the Spirit. We are not trying to become a “perfect church”-that, we will never be. We are continually striving to be a “faithful church.”

We are a congregation that is *Joyfully Christian, Humbly Serving, Boldly Loving*, and yearning for more. The more is to grow in faith, unity, mission, and witness. We often put this in terms of tangible ideas and things. The leadership is prayerfully planning to take your tangible ideas and dreams and see where the mischievous Spirit is leading us. *(Pastor’s letter continued on page 2)*

# The Pastor's Page

## *Pastor Dana's Letter, Continued*

As Bishop Satterlee graciously put it in his synod report, "For we are bold to believe that the Triune God will also attend our assembly to shape our hearts and minds and to enliven and empower us to be a church for the life of the world."

We are bold! Please continue to pray for the strategic planning process and talk with our council leadership. It is your prayer that enlivens the Spirit to be the real leader in this process and let's see what new birth the Triune God has in mind for us!

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot



Pastor Dana's theological conversations will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 8 & 15 at 10:30am. We will then recess for the remainder of the summer.

## **Guest preacher on June 19th**

The congregation that Pastor Dana was confirmed in, Mamrelund Lutheran Church in Kent City, MI, is celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have graciously invited her to preach on Sunday, June 19 and have offered to pay for the guest preacher/presider at Immanuel that Sunday, Gary Hansen. Pastor has accepted the invitation. Please remember to keep Mamrelund in prayer as they celebrate 150 years of ministry!

## **Special Needs Fund**

In the past, we have had the ability to help many of our neighbors in need with some financial relief. We have helped both members and non-members. We do NOT hand out money, but rather items such as some I-Ride bus tickets, a \$15 gas card, water, or maybe a co-pay on a prescription. These funds, are called "Special Needs" or "Pastor's discretionary fund" and have almost been depleted. If you are looking for a way to help someone in need, please consider helping us re-build this emergency account. If you would like to donate, write a check to the church and designate it for "special needs."



Pastor Dana will be away from June 19-24 with the youth at Confirmation Camp. She will also be gone July 4-11 on vacation.

## From the President...

### A Letter from President Amy Powell

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we are wrapping up our data gathering for the strategic planning, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to EVERYONE at Immanuel who has helped on the committee, attended a cottage meeting or completed the survey. This is a huge task, and it takes the entire village for a complete picture. The Council has a retreat planned in July, and at that retreat we'll begin to come up with a plan, and future goals. Continue to keep your eyes open for additional updates.

More comments on the life of the church:

1. In mid-May, Dave Simon, Pr. Dana and I attended the annual Synod Assembly in Grand Rapids. This was my first time at the assembly as a voting member, and it was really interesting to see the processes and passion of our synod! Next year the assembly will be held in Mt. Pleasant, and as members of the synod, anyone is invited to be present for most of the sessions, although only voting members are allowed to participate in the voting, and most discussion points.
2. I am excited as we move to the single summer service. We are an active, thriving church. We have diversity, in many ways (age, socio-economic status, education). We have members with talents beyond compare! We're fortunate that we've got such diverse tastes and talents in music. Our members are truly dedicated to making Immanuel the best that it could possibly be!!! We are busy (just look at all the sign-up sheets in the Narthex). Let us celebrate all that we are, and all that we have to offer. As one body in Christ we all live the fact that we love because God first loved us. Together let's celebrate and share the Good News of grace given to us through Jesus Christ.
3. Please note that there are two upcoming congregational meetings. You've likely heard about the special meeting on June 5, immediately following the combined 10am service (to begin about 11:25am). We'll be asking for the congregation's support to hire a full-time staff member (which is not currently in our budget). Our annual congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 21, immediately following the combined 10am service (to begin about 11:25am). All confirmed members are invited to attend both meetings. The nursery will be staffed, for families during the upcoming meetings.

Blessings,

Amy C. Powell, Council President

#### **Special Congregational Meeting**

This will be held on Sunday, June 5 immediately following our 10:00 worship service (at approximately 11:25am). The purpose of this special meeting is to vote on the hiring of a new full-time staff member, which is not currently in our budget. All members are encouraged to attend.

# Ministry with Each Other



Immanuel Lutheran  
Church  
Vacation Bible School

**JUNE 27—JULY 1, 2016**

**9:00 AM—NOON**

Open to all children ages 4 - entering 6th grade



## 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 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.

## 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)*



We joyfully celebrate that Sandy Fluharty, Roger Gilbert, Mary Hageman, Jan Kruska, and Meaghan McCollow have completed 50 hours of training that has provided them with the knowledge and skills to offer quality, distinctively Christian one-to-one care to people suffering from grief, loss, and other difficulties.

Just as Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to minister to others in his name, these Stephen Ministers have committed to extend Christ's care on behalf of our congregation and are asking the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance for them as they go out to bring Christ's care to hurting people.

We ask God's blessing on them and on their ministry to their care receivers in the weeks, months, and years ahead. We thank God for their gifts, and we ask him to be present with them both in their times of joy and of sorrow as they bring God's care to those in need.

Please join in praying for them and offering them support and encouragement as our congregation celebrates the beginning of their caring ministry.

A formal commissioning will be held in August.

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### **Confirmation Camp**

Please pray for Pr. Dana, Ashley Shellenbarger and Jocelyn Strandskov, who will be attending Confirmation Camp the week of June 19- 24.

### **Bridge Builders**

Please pray for Beth Mundwiler, Haylee Geisthardt and Lillie Reimer, who will be attending Bridge Builders from July 24-29, where high school youth grow as leaders, develop peer ministry skills, and join the fight against racism as an expression of their faith and call to love our neighbors.

### **Elementary Camp**

Please pray for Thomas & Ryan Ferguson, Blake Gingerich and Abbie Powell, who will be attending Elementary Camp July 24-29.



Please join us on Sunday, June 5 as we recognize Jonathon Jurick and Daniel Keller on their graduation day.  
Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### **Youth**



The youth of Immanuel will hold a rummage sale on Friday, June 17 & Saturday, June 18 in the Fellowship Hall. All donations can be dropped off between now and June 16 in Classroom #2.

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!

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### **The Noisy Offering**

The noisy offering on June 26 will be given to the Goodrow Fund, which helps our local neighbors in need. The noisy offering for on July 24 will be given to the Isabella County Animal Shelter.

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



## *(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)*

### June Birthdays

- 1 Sean Hetzman
- 2 Delilah Tomko  
Ryan Douglas
- 4 Ashley Schuette
- 5 Roger Fultz
- 6 Jocelyn Strandskov  
Mary Johnson
- 7 Bob Hoffman  
Robert Lee
- 8 Deb Mielke
- 9 John Emmons  
Sandra Fluharty  
Gary Schwerin  
Randall Simmons
- 10 Belinda Hetzman  
Piper Pendell
- 11 Rose Prasad  
Dave Simon
- 12 Wayne Hoedt  
Glen Jurick  
Morgan Karr  
Lily Piatek-Jimenez
- 13 Janet Heinrich  
Bob Grabe
- 14 Ryan Hammond
- 16 Lakyn Karr
- 18 Madison McGuire
- 19 Kathy Gatten  
Nathan Johnson
- 20 Kory Skop
- 22 Rebecca Golden
- 23 Lauren Robinson  
Isabel Goodrich
- 26 Andrea Redmond
- 27 Bryan Mielke
- 28 Jamie Recker  
Travis Foote  
Lacey Leonard
- 29 Dorothy Fetting  
Sue Knight
- 30 Denise Little



### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 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.

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

Although the registration period through Immanuel has ended, campsites and cabins may still be available! Please let us know as soon as possible, and we may be able to add a campsite for you. The cost for the weekend is \$60 per site.

Interested in coming, but don't wish to spend the night? We'd love to have you join us for the daytime activities!

If you have questions, please contact Amy Powell, 989-948-3626.

### July Birthdays

- 1 Kathy Hunt
- 2 Laurie Wood
- 3 Jackie Spycher
- 4 Kenny Galdeen
- 5 Alayna Fetting
- 8 George Polanco
- 10 Mary Ulmer
- 11 Todd Hammond  
Wes Kahkonen  
Nicholas Wegener
- 12 Zachery Wang  
Sara Gallaher  
Fred Schuster
- 13 Caiden Mitchell  
Tara Riley
- 14 Nancy Simon
- 15 Aaron Smith
- 17 Eric Decker
- 18 Betty Koenig
- 19 Heather Hanley  
Nicholas Wang
- 20 Linda Wicander  
Alaina Wills  
Jody Tomko
- 21 Keith Allen  
Maris Polanco
- 22 Lynne Danielson  
Penny Endres  
Katherine Scott
- 23 Christopher Brown
- 24 Julie Shellenbarger
- 25 Esther Lounsbury  
Karen Graef
- 26 Ashley Jurick
- 27 Dennis Marshall  
Dave Langlois
- 28 Dave Keilitz  
Jacob Mahoney
- 29 Jamie Decker
- 31 Linda Hoedt  
Debra Marshall

# Reformation 500

## REFORMATION 500

Next year Lutherans around the world celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. The ELCA and our Synod are encouraging congregations to recognize this event. I am gathering resources and information to assist you and Immanuel in recognizing this event.

Andreas Teich has been gathering resources for our Synod's Reformation 500 efforts for a year and the Synod's website [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org) (under the Events tab, click on Reformation 500) is very comprehensive. Andreas will update this website throughout the year so I suggest you keep checking it.

Several people have suggested that we take a trip to Germany to follow in Luther's footsteps. Several opportunities are available. Our synod-sponsored tour will be May 1-12, 2017. It is an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Lands of Luther and Italy. Information on this trip is available at the Synod website [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org). This tour will fill up quickly so you need to act fast if you're interested. If this trip doesn't work for you, Faith Journeys in Tempe, AZ at [http://myfaithjourneys.com/protestant\\_germany.html](http://myfaithjourneys.com/protestant_germany.html) also has several trips planned.

Interested in travel, but not interested in traveling to Europe? Consider attending the Grace Gathering in New Orleans. The Grace Gathering will be held concurrently with the Churchwide Assembly (August 10 – August 13). This is your opportunity to experience the ELCA as it gathers in the Churchwide assembly, to learn about the ELCA ministries and to attend workshops and presentations that focus on Reformation history and relevance, planning local observances, as well as connecting the Lutheran witness to our lives today. Workshops titles include: **What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran in a Multi-religious World? Lutheran-Jewish Relations, Lutheran-Muslim Relations, The Lutheran Witness: What Does This Mean?, and The 95 Theses and Other Key Reformation Documents.** Information about the Grace Gathering is available at <http://www.elca.org/gracegathering/Gathering-Details>.

Do you want to learn more about Luther's readings? Join in the [Luther Reading Challenge](http://www.lutherreadingchallenge.org/). ([www.lutherreadingchallenge.org/](http://www.lutherreadingchallenge.org/)) Sign up for a free account and join readers around the world in reading, discussing and reflecting on Luther's important writings. Each text begins with an introduction, giving its context and key themes. You can add marginal comments, respond to others' remarks, and raise your own questions. You can also tailor your own profile to share and connect with others.

Please let me know if you have any other suggestions or resources.

Linda Wicander

# Ministry with the Community & World



## Immanuel to host a Blood Drive

We will, once again, partner with Red Cross, and host a Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from noon-5:45pm. Volunteers and donations of refreshments are needed. Please sign up in the Narthex if you are able to help AND/OR if you are eligible to DONATE BLOOD! Please contact Carole Heydenburg if you have questions.

## ITEMS NEEDED FOR MISSION TRIP!



9- Immanuel Youth and 2 - adults are headed to Charleston, West Virginia this summer to serve at a Group Work Camp and we need to be prepared to work in the community. In order to do this we need supplies to take with us so we need help! We are looking for:

1. Safety goggles
2. Work gloves
3. N-95 disposable mask
4. Tool pouch, bag or bucket
5. Paintbrushes: variety of sizes
6. Paint roller
7. Paint roller cover
8. Paint tray
9. Paint scraper and/or wire brush
10. Screwdriver
11. Hammer
12. Spray bottle
13. Tape measure
14. Level (2)
15. caulking gun

Anything that can be donated would be appreciated!! Questions? Talk to Beth Mundwiler or email [bmundwiler@gmail.com](mailto:bmundwiler@gmail.com)



# Worship Ministry

## Beyond the Walls Sunday

June 12 at 11 a.m.



We will worship in Island Park with the First Church of the Nazarene & Central Michigan Free Methodist Church. We will hold worship AT the park and NOT at Immanuel that Sunday. Please wear your Immanuel t-shirts, bring a chair to sit in, and a dish to share. We will be having a meal/potluck together following the service. This year, we have already decided- rain or shine- it'll be in the park!

### June Worship Helpers

#### Cantors

- 5 Bill Gallaher
- 12 service in the park
- 19 Amy Powell
- 26 Kathy Gallaher

#### Counters

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

#### Altar Guild

- 5 Ann Ferguson & Billie Plouff
- 12 Linda Hoedt & Pat Podoll
- 19 Bonnie Berthold & Linda Wicander
- 26 Bonnie Schaeffer & Jan Kruska

#### Projector

- 5 Dan Keller
- 12 service in the park
- 19 Gabe Goodrich
- 26 Deb LaBlance

#### Greeters

*(list not available at time of printing)*

#### Ushers

- 5 John Lorand, Tony Powell & Bill Jensen
- 12 Bill Jensen, Tony Powell  
Schaeffer (service in the park)
- 19 Bill Jensen, Cliff Moss & Barry  
Shellenbarger
- 26 Bonnie Schaeffer, John Lorand, Cliff  
Moss

#### Nursery Attendants

*(list not available at time of printing)*

#### Assisting Ministers

- 5 Natalie Douglas
- 12 service in the park
- 19 Susan Shock
- 26 Kathy Gallaher

# Worship Ministry



Immanuel will hold one combined worship service on Sundays at 10am throughout the summer. This will be in effect through Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to mark your calendars!



Do you have a musical talent you'd like to offer during worship this summer? Would you like to sing a song? Play and instrument? Mid-May we will have a sign-up! Think about it, pray about it and hopefully you'll be led to share some of your musical gifts with us this summer.

## July Worship Helpers

### Cantors

- 3 John Lorand
- 10 Sarah Gallaher
- 17 Dennis Marshall
- 24 Bill Gallaher
- 31 Amy Powell

### Greeters

*(list not available at time of printing)*

### Ushers

*(list not available at time of printing)*

### Counters

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

### Nursery Attendants

*(list not available at time of printing)*

### Assisting Ministers

*(list not available at time of printing)*

### Altar Guild

- 3 Sue French & Billie Plouff
- 10 Denise Little & Sarah Gilbert
- 17 Linda Wicander & Chris Schuster
- 24 Linda Hoedt & Jan Kruska
- 31 Bert Krueger & Ann Ferguson

### Projector

- 3 Amy Powell
- 10 Kip Ferguson
- 17 Dan Digmann
- 24 Dan Keller
- 31 Gabe Goodrich

