



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

May 2016

The Gleaner is a publication of:

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

Mission
Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.



Letter from Pastor Dana

Pastor Rick Warren Writes: "There is no growth without change. And there is no change without loss. And there is no loss without pain. A church that wants to grow without going through growing pains is like a woman who says, 'I want to have a baby but I don't want to go through labor.' Is the pain worth it? Yes, it's worth it. People need the Lord and as long as one person doesn't know Christ we have to keep reaching out."

At work, I have displayed on my monitor, "Change: The physical or mental act. Transition: The emotional work." We are a growing congregation and at the cottage meetings I'm hearing you want to grow even more. So I'm bracing myself for the new tide. Here are two examples of growing pains we may begin to experience:

1. The question arises, "whose church is this?" The people who don't know the history? Or the people who established it? This is even more unique to our situation as the members who established Immanuel are still active in volunteering and leadership. When we ask this question we need to remind ourselves that this church is not ours. It is God's church.
2. "Pastor, you're not as available." Yes. That is true and happens with growth. If you want me to personally care for everyone's needs, this church will never grow beyond my abilities. That is why we are beginning to get into motion Stephen's Ministry, looking into hiring another full-time staff member, and why I believe small groups keep coming up in the strategic planning process. Small groups can be a great way to care for one another.

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The Pastor's Page

Pastor Dana's Letter, Continued

In the midst of growth, we as a congregation will evolve. Some things will die. Some will be pruned. Some will remain. Some will need to be passed onto new leadership. Some will grow. Some will be new. The work of the Spirit is a mystery to us. What will happen in the next 5 years at Immanuel is a mystery, but to accomplish what we hope in being "*Joyfully Christian, Humbly Serving, Boldly Loving,*" it is vital that we lift our hopes and plan in prayer and keep communication healthy (going to the source of the pinch directly).

Starting the strategic planning process has awoken something within this congregation. We can get through these pains together – and spread the Good News of Christ in a whole new way. My prayer for us is that we prepare ourselves for growth and let God lead!

In hopeful expectation,

-Pr. Dana



On Sunday, May 8 we will be welcoming new members. Please be sure to pick up the new page for your church directory and give them an amazing Immanuel welcome:

Roger Gilbert, Linda Hamblin, Jermain Hawver, Amy Henderson, Craig & Lori Kreiner, Andrew Lajoie, and Ted & Neice Tuma.



On Sunday, May 29 we will be honoring the fallen men & women of our Armed Forces. There is a sheet in the Narthex to list the names of those you would like to honor during the service.

Synod Assembly

Pastor Dana, Amy Powell, and Dave Simon will be representing Immanuel at our annual Synod Assembly for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod from May 15-17. Please lift the whole assembly in prayer over those few days.

A Letter from President Amy Powell

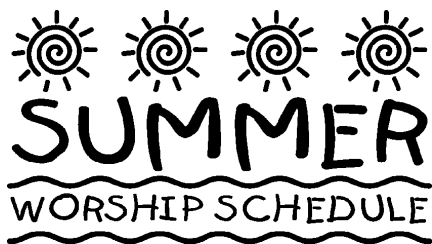
Dear friends in Christ,

We are in the midst of strategic planning (aka Cottage Meetings) and there are a few in the first week of May. Please click [here](#) if you'd like to sign up for one of the remaining meetings. Following the cottage meetings, all of the notes will be consolidated, and the strategic planning team will create a survey for a prioritization of the ideas created. We'll be sending out the details about the survey in the second half of May. Once the survey data is collected, council will work to create a set of goals for moving Immanuel forward. Your active participation in the process is important, and the goal is that each worshipping individual will have a chance to voice their thoughts! As we enter the next phase of our history, please keep the congregation and leadership in your prayers. We are growing, which is wonderful, and as we grow we will change.

As spring continues to unfold, and new life is renewed all around us in nature, let us continue our renewal, living the Easter life! Dave Simon, Pr. Dana and I will be attending the Synod Assembly in mid-May, and as we represent Immanuel as delegates, keep then entire assembly in your prayers. I am anxious to experience this, and learn how to serve Immanuel and the ELCA with greater strength and knowledge.

Enjoy the blessings around you—in the spring life, and all that is new and remarkable!

Blessings, Amy Powell, Council President



We will move to having one combined worship service on Sunday, May 29th at 10am. This will be in effect through Sunday, September 11, when we hold our Camp Immanuel weekend.



Help is needed in getting our grounds ready for summer. We will work on Saturday, May 21 between 9am-noon. Our work session will be followed by a quick cook-out in the pavilion! ALL are welcome, as are your yard tools! There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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 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.

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 will complete their 50 hours of training this month! 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 studied telecare, crisis theory, the importance of confidentiality, maintaining boundaries, and ministering to those experiencing grief. They continued to deepen their understanding of what it means to provide distinctly Christian caring and how to be an assertive Christian-one who relates gently and firmly to others.

Stephen Ministers will complete their initial training during May as they study these topics during weekly classes as well as a day-long retreat:

- Dealing with Depression
- Losses Related to Aging
- Ministering to the Dying and Their Family and Friends
- Making the First Caring Visit
- Bringing the Caring Relationship to a Close
- Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care

Our trainees are Sandy Fluharty, Roger Gilbert, Mary Hageman, Jan Kruska and Meaghan McCollow. Please pray for God to bless their caregiving and to work through them to bring hope and healing to people's lives.

JC's Schedule

May1 - Last JC's 3-5pm

May15 - 9am Confirmation

May 22 - Mission Trip meeting
3-5pm



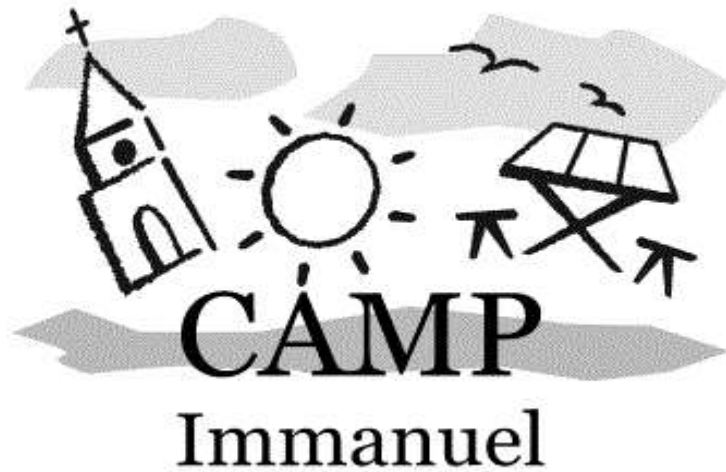
The youth of Immanuel will hold a rummage sale on Friday, June 17 & Saturday, June 18 in the Fellowship Hall. They will begin collecting items on May 1st in classroom #2.

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!

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on May 22 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.



**2nd 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. 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!

May Birthdays

- 2 Beth Mundwiler
Rob Faleer
- 3 Sam Riley
- 4 John Zolynsky
Jan Kruska
- 7 Jennifer Gallaher
- 8 Asher Weber
- 9 Tom Freeland
Reggie Becker
- 10 Kathy Marshall
Tony Powell
Ryan Wood
- 11 Leah Wicander
- 12 Bert Krueger
- 13 Caleb Ross
Matt Strandskov
- 14 Julia Hoffman
- 16 Gabe Goodrich
Haylee Geisthardt
Dan Weber
- 19 Emily Zolynsky
- 20 Trudy Staples
- 22 Carson Mitchell
- 23 Laila Kauffman
- 24 Justin Oswald
Peggy Schuette
- 25 Mike Deaton
- 27 Peggy Burke
Joe Ross
- 29 Ashley Shellenbarger
George Dunn
- 30 Katie Caleca
Ryan Ferguson
- 31 Joe Caleca

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Cottage Meetings/Strategic Planning

Thank you to everyone who has already participated in the cottage meetings. We have a few more coming up in early May. 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.

- 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



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.



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

Ministry with the Community & World

We're hosting a Food Truck!

Immanuel will host a CCN Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, May 14 from 8am-noon. Many volunteers will be needed! If you are able to help out during this event, please be sure to sign up in the Narthex. If you have questions about this event, please contact Peggy Burke at 775-0774.

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

May Worship Helpers

Cantors (9:00 only)

- 1 Amy Powell
- 8 Amy Henderson
- 15 Kathy Gallaher
- 22 John Lorand
- 29 Volunteer needed

Counters (applies to both services)

- 1 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 8 Chuck McCollom & Sue French
- 15 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 22 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 29 John Emmons & John Warriner

Altar Guild (applies to both services)

- 1 Sandy Warriner & Deb Reimer
- 8 Chris Schuster & Ann Ferguson
- 15 Kathy Gatten & Sue French
- 22 Judy Emmons & Linda Wicander
- 29 Paula Krueger & Denise Little

Projector (9:00 only)

- 1 Gabe Goodrich
- 8 Deb LaBlance
- 15 Amy Powell
- 22 Dan Keller
- 29 Volunteer needed

Greeters (9:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Greeters (11:00)

- 1 Janice Fox
- 8 The Ferguson family
- 15 The Powell family
- 22 Joe & Aubyrn Anderson
- 29 (10am) Shirley Howard

Ushers (9:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Ushers (11:00)

(List not available at time of printing)

Nursery Attendants (9:00)

- 1 Thomas & Jocelyn Strandskov
- 8 Ashley Shellenbarger & volunteer
- 15 Brandon & Lisa Wegener
- 22 Lisa Wegener & Martha Goodrich
- 29 (10am) Kevin & Danielle Sullivan

Nursery Attendants (11:00)

- 1 Eva Dyke
- 8 Haylee & Olivia Geisthardt
- 15 Kevin & Danielle Sullivan
- 22 Eva Dyke

Assisting Ministers (9:00)

- 1 Amy Powell
- 8 Volunteer needed
- 15 Volunteer needed
- 22 Linda Wicander
- 29 (10am) Dan Digmann

Assisting Ministers (11:00)

- 1 Natalie Douglas
- 8 Dan Digmann
- 15 Amy Powell
- 22 Meaghan McCollow

Confirmation- Sunday, May 15th at 9am

Julia Hoffman



To me, confirmation means that I have the chance to show that I am ready to dedicate time and energy to living a life of gratefulness and commitment to God.

During confirmation, I learned more about my faith and plan to learn even more in the future. When I was only a baby, I was baptized. Now that I am old enough to make decisions for myself, I have been preparing for confirmation day and I believe I am ready to commit my life to God and his work.

I am thankful that God created us and has shown us how to love him and all living things that he created. Every day we have a chance to honor him and treat others with kindness and respect. I can live each day committed to the mission of the church and help make the lives of others better every day.

Olivia Geisthardt

My name is Olivia Geisthardt and I'm thirteen. I have been going to this church since I was born. I was baptized here when I was just a baby. I was a member of the children's choir from when I was about three years old to 6th grade, and continue attending Worship Wednesday. I love the environment of this church, it's so friendly and welcoming to everyone. I hope my faith will continue to thrive in this church as I grow closer to God. Today, I am proud to say that I am an official member of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

The whole experience of confirmation has been amazing, especially with such good friends with me. I feel that I have become closer to God throughout this entire experience. Through confirmation I feel I will become a better, stronger member of the church. I think that being confirmed symbolizes that I am official member of the church, and that I will be even closer to God after I am confirmed.

I plan to continue attending both Sunday and Worship Wednesday services after this because this is only the beginning of my faith journey. Soon I will be able to attend summer mission trips, and other events that the youth go to. I hope to be a more active member of the church after my confirmation. I hope to continue my faith journey throughout my life

Even though my confirmation is just the beginning of my faith journey it is amazing to know that God is watching over me, and will help me grow in my faith.



Confirmation- Sunday, May 15th at 9am

Ashley Shellenbarger



When I look back at all the things I have learned during confirmation classes, I realize I am being prepared by God to live out my faith with the help of my church, my sponsors and my family. One of the things I want to do the most is to participate more in the community and within the church. I want to volunteer at everything I can.

When I go to college I want to pursue an education in Veterinarian Medicine, so I plan to start volunteering at the animal shelter because I love to help take care of animals and want to have the opportunity to invest in my future and learn as much as I can, while still helping to support the shelter with my time. I will also continue to help in the church nursery and at VBS because I love spending time with the children in our congregation and hope to someday be a mentor to them. I'm very excited to go on the Mission Trip to West Virginia this summer to help serve the community we visit. When I am old enough, the Isabella County Soup Kitchen is another place I would like to volunteer at. I will let God guide me in as many directions as he wants me to go!

What confirmation means to me is a chance to build a stronger relationship with God. It also taught me that the people I come into contact with every day in my life; friends, teachers, coaches or classmates, can make an impact in that relationship and hopefully I can share my faith with others. Becoming an adult member of the church I think feels very different for me because I realize the more active and more willing I am to help in the church and the community I am in, will make me a better example of what God wants me to be. It will help to guide me in high school, college and my adult life.

I will carry my confirmation through my life with lessons and experiences I have each day. I will have a better connection with God that will never end. I will continue to praise God and to pray to God for the life he wants me to live, during good times and difficult times. No matter what, I will keep building my relationship with God.



Jocelyn Strandskov

How will I identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission after confirmation? Ever since I went to the Quake last March I heard of an organization named Compassion International. I became fascinated by the concept of donating \$38 a month to sponsor a child in poverty. Every month you write a letter to the child you're sponsoring and pay the \$38 a month. That money is used to give that child food, shelter, clothing, education, and most important it gives them faith. When my mom allows me I want to sponsor a child. I want to be that beacon of hope for that child who has no one to save them. I encourage you to sponsor a child if you can. Be their beacon of hope. What does confirmation mean to me? To me confirmation is the acceptance into your faith life. When you get baptized you usually are young and don't have a choice as to whether you want to be Christian

or not. With confirmation you have the choice if you want to continue your faith or you don't. Confirmation is not only your acceptance into faith but also an acceptance into the church. How will I carry out my confirmation though life? I will carry out my confirmation by helping as many people as I can in the name of God. I will read the bible and follow its rules. I want to be a Good Samaritan and help and love my neighbors. As Philippians 4:13 says "I can do all things through him who strengthens me".

Confirmation- Sunday, May 15th at 9am

Natalie Douglas



- How will you identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission after Confirmation?

As the oldest confirmation student by over 20 years, it was easy for me to find myself identifying with the larger Christian community. Although I did not grow up Lutheran, there are actually more commonalities in the Christian community than there are differences. After confirmation, it is even clearer to me that I need to be loving God and loving people. Period.

- What does Confirmation (affirmation of baptism) mean to you?

I am thrilled to explicitly acknowledge Jesus' saving grace. On the verge of being too self-deprecating as a creature of God, I am constantly aware of my need for grace, this beauty and salvation and love that simply cannot be earned. I enthusiastically affirm God's healing of the world through Jesus' death and resurrection, a healing work that reached me.

- How will you carry out your Confirmation through life?

It would be unacceptable to refuse others the grace I have been freely given. People are hungry for authentic connection, a connection that can only be realized by living truthfully enough to let others see my need for grace. I'm forgiven and loved. I desire for the people I come into contact with to feel and know that they are forgiven, loved, worthy and enough, because of Jesus' healing and mysterious act.

