



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

August 2016

*The Gleaner is a publication of:*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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Summer Office Hours: (eff. 5/30)  
Monday-Thursday 8am to 4pm

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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.

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



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

We have officially started the interview process and are blessed to have an opportunity to sit down with the candidates and hear their stories. God is bringing to us faithful, spirited, and talented people. I ask first and foremost, for your prayers. We are seeking discernment for the interview team and for the candidates. It is through your prayers that the Spirit will give us guidance. We seek guidance to recognize and know the leadership that we are looking for and needing at this time. Also, guidance on how to welcome a new staff member into our midst. This decision will change the dynamics of the staff and of the congregation. Let God be the light to show us how this new leadership dynamic will bring resurrection to our church, community, and world.

One thing that has become a light for me since our cottage meetings is the gift to be able to share with the candidates the passion and heart of the people at Immanuel. They want to know what kind of church they are coming to and it is with great joy that I get to say we are a church that is in the world. It is not just through community programs like Christmas Outreach, Thanksgiving Dinner, and ICRH that end up inside our church building. We are a church that is out in the community every day.

Our members are involved with the Soup Kitchen, Red Cross, Youth for Christ, nursing homes, Hospice, Association of Interfaith Ministries (AIM), Meals on Wheels, Commission on Aging, Community Foundation, United Way, Clothing Closet, Community Compassion Network (CCN), Crop Walk, MS Walks, Cancer Walks, Special Olympics, they are in Lansing and Washington D.C. lobbying, they are bringing communion to those who can't be in church on Sunday, and faithfully praying.

*(Pastor's letter continued on page 2)*

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

Dear people of Immanuel, as you are out in the world, you are changing the world. Jesus is in you. You are bringing light. You are bringing the kingdom of God to the people you encounter every day. I give thanks to God for you and look forward to welcoming a staff member who will join us in being, ***Joyfully Christian. Humbly Serving. Boldly Loving.***

-Pr. Dana Hendershot

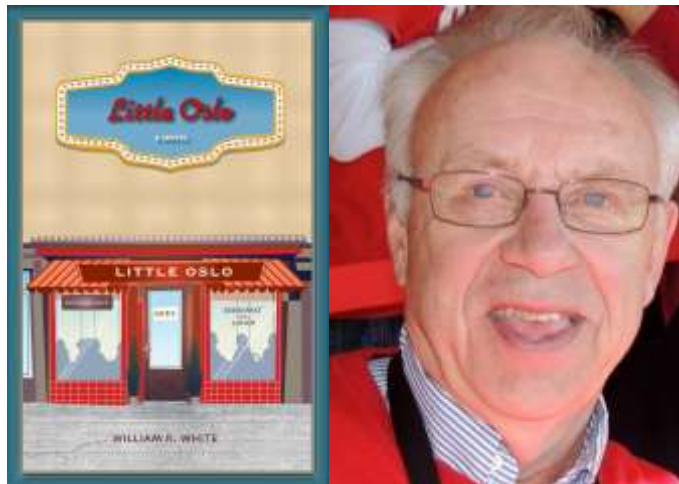
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## **Pr. Bill White to hold Book Reading on August 4**

Bill White, founding pastor of Immanuel Lutheran, will read from his novel, "Little Oslo," at Immanuel on Thursday, August 4, at 7:00.

Little Oslo is the name of a restaurant where 17 year old Jake works during the summer prior to his senior year in high school in the Midwestern town of Wahissa. Like many small towns Little Oslo serves as the center for information and social life. It is at the restaurant where the sheriff announces that a man was beaten senseless the night before. It is also at the restaurant where the locals debate the wisdom of a traveling Black baseball team staying in the local hotel (the novel takes place in 1952).

Pastor White, who served Immanuel from 1976-1991, will sell the novel at wholesale prices and sign copies.



## From the President...

### A Letter from President Amy Powell.....

Dear friends in Christ,

It's hard to believe that cooler days and longer nights will soon be coming our way. Enjoy these last few weeks of summer- it will be gone before we know it!

I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Jan Eversole and Nancy Simon for their time and coordination of vacation bible school. They stepped in, without hesitation, and pulled off a well-attended and fun week of VBS! This was a huge undertaking, and the week was giant success!

God's work. Our Hands. Will take place during the weekend of Camp Immanuel, at Coldwater Lake Family Park from September 9-11. We're inviting all members of Immanuel to join us for the events of the weekend (regardless of whether you're camping.) The details are still coming together, but for our service project we're in need of the following items. There will be a box in the Narthex, and donations can be dropped off any time before we depart for camp on Sept. 9!

- \*Tootsie Rolls
- \*Mini Twix candy bars
- \*Hershey Hugs & Kisses
- \*Hershey nuggets
- \*Mini Almond Joy bars
- \*Mini boxes of nerds
- \*Mini Kit-Kat bars
- \*Individual wrapped starbursts
- \*Sandwich sized Ziploc baggies

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 21 immediately following the combined 10am worship service. Please plan to stay, as we'll be discussing the strategic plan and the upcoming budget proposal.

Thank you to all you have done to help Immanuel be such a wonderful, open and caring place of worship. Wishing you abundant happiness!

In Christ,

Amy Powell, Council President

### Annual Congregational Meeting

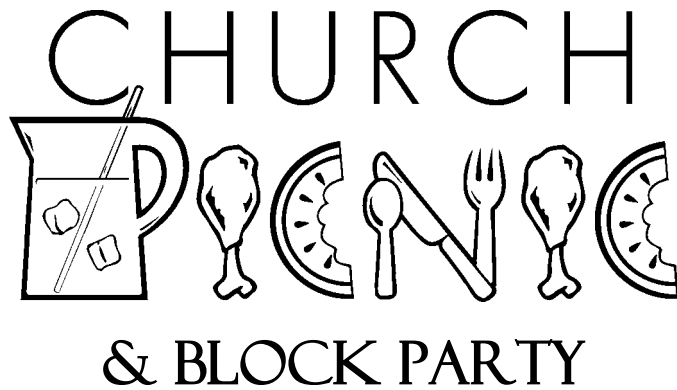
**Sunday, August 21  
following 10am Worship  
Service**

**Mark your calendars!!!**



We will have one Sunday Worship Service at 10am weekly. This will be in effect through Sunday, September 11, when we hold our Camp Immanuel weekend.

# Ministry with Each Other



August 28 following the 10am service

Be sure to invite your friends and family to join us for our block party! We already ordered the inflatable slide & bounce house again. Council will be providing burgers and hot dogs. We ask that you bring a dish to share! We'll be inviting our neighbors to join us... so please spread the word!

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

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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:** \_\_\_\_\_

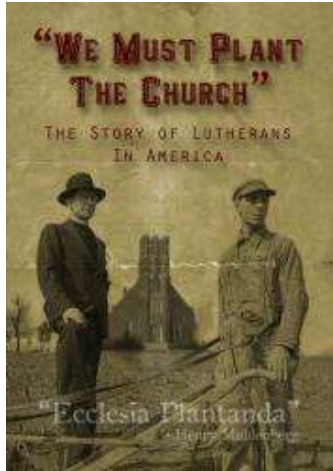
**Desired Outcome:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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)*

### **Adult Forum to start on Sept. 18**



The Adult Forum resumes on Sunday, September 18 between the services. We will watch and discuss a six part series "We Must Plan the Church, the Story of Lutherans in America" which is a history of Lutherans in America.

American Lutheran Churches faced tension between honoring the European roots of the church and adapting to the new realities of American life. The Lutheran church, from its earliest days, faced religious pluralism, intolerance, racism, war, lack of state support and diversity of languages and traditions. It wasn't easy then, and it isn't easy now. Understanding American Lutheran history can change the way we see ourselves and our future

#### Sessions Topics:

1. On New Soil: The Colonial Lutherans
2. In Times of Trial: Arriving in Waves
3. To Meet Human Need: Building Institutions
4. Working Together: Lutherans Uniting
5. In Modern Times: Becoming an American Church
6. The Future of the Lutheran Church

Please join us for this interesting series. Don't worry if you can't make all the sessions, feel free to drop in as you can.



### **Commissioning on August 21**

We joyfully celebrate that Sandy Fluharty, Roger Gilbert, Mary Hageman, Jan Kruska and Meaghan McCollow have completed their 50 hours of training and will be formally commissioned as Stephen Ministers on August 21. We ask God's blessing on them and on their ministry in the weeks, months, and years ahead.

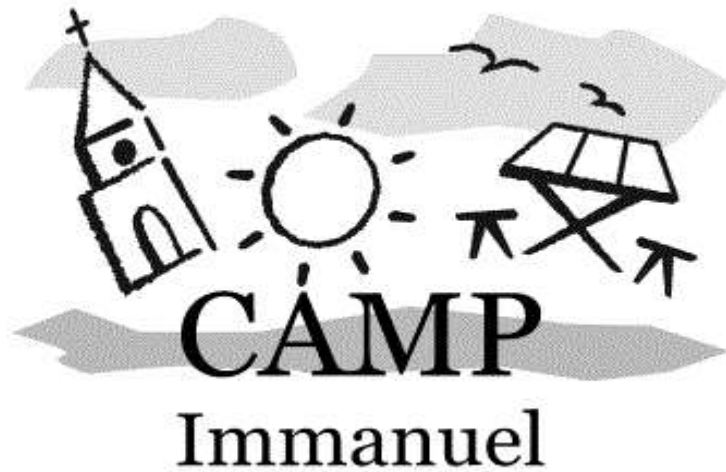
### **The Noisy Offering**



The noisy offering on August 28 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)*



### **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. 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.

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

## **August Birthdays**

- 1 Barb McCollom  
Kara Hammond  
Carolyn Swart
- 2 Jim Ferguson
- 3 Eric Wyman
- 4 Marilyn Zorn
- 5 Beth MacGregor
- 6 Jan Podolsky
- 7 Jeanette Noch  
Helen Leemaster  
Paul Kruska
- 8 Kara Watters  
Chris Fultz, Sr.  
Zoey Sullivan
- 9 Patricia Alberts
- 10 Larry Leemaster  
Marc Wills  
Sarah Keller
- 11 Steve Podolsky  
Dan Keller
- 13 Ida Ziehmer  
Pam Fultz
- 14 Tom Mueller
- 16 Dan Hess  
Abigail Powell
- 17 Sophia Powell
- 18 Thomas Ferguson
- 19 Jordan Heinrich  
Ashton Heinrich
- 20 Sherry Pulverente
- 21 Cheryl Leider
- 22 Mary Nedela  
Audrey Douglas
- 23 Lynda Spycher
- 25 Axel Mellinger
- 26 Cheryl Geisthardt
- 29 Hugh Stevenson
- 30 Charlie Burke  
Kent Krynock
- 31 Julia Simmons

## Lutheran World Relief School Bags



Once again the stores in the area are having sales of school supplies, so it is time for us to fill school bags to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. These bags go to impoverished children in the United States as well as the children in less developed nations who would not be able to attend school if they did not have these supplies.

The bags are located near the mail boxes, on the hooks, and not many are left. The list of supplies is also located in my mailbox. The list is the same as last year: 4- 8 ½ by 10 ½ spiral notebooks of 70 pages, 1 30 centimeter ruler, 1 blunt scissors, 5 number 2 pencils, unsharpened, bound with a rubber band, 1 pencil sharpener, 5 ballpoint pens (black or blue ink) also bound with a rubber band, 1 eraser 2 ½ inches long, and 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons.

There is a tub beside the coat hooks to put the filled bags. Beside the tub is a box to hold extra school supplies that can be given to Stuff the Bus.

Thank you for your participation again this year!  
-Rose Prasad



Thank you to ALL who helped to make our June blood drive a success, including those who volunteered their time and/or goodies.... and especially those who donated blood!



**Thank you to ALL who donated  
time, talent & treats for this  
year's "Camp Immy" VBS!**  
**We couldn't have done it without you!**

# Ministry with the Community & World

## **Foundations of Christian Spirituality**

This is a year-long reflective study of the Christian Wisdom tradition. Explore the classic elements of monastic, spiritual and contemplative life to discover how this ancient wisdom, learning and spiritual practice might be understood and lived in new settings and life today. The program consists of ten sessions (Mondays, 9:30 – 4:30 p.m.) held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mount Pleasant. The program starts on Monday, September 12. If you have any questions and/or wish to register for the program contact Sister Nancy Brousseau (616) 560-4580 or e-mail [nancybrousseau@mittensynod.org](mailto:nancybrousseau@mittensynod.org).

## **Lay Ministry Training Program**

The Lay Ministry Training Program is now Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry Program. It equips leaders for service in our congregations and communities. Over a three – year period, students complete 12 two day and 6 one - day learning events, focusing on biblical overview, Lutheran theology, practical skills, and gift discernment.

Those who complete the program may be commissioned by their congregations for specific areas of ministry as deemed appropriate by their respective pastors and congregation councils

The next Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry learning event is September 23 and 24 at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Topics are:  
Boundaries Training for Lay Leaders – Pastor David Sprang and the Synod Response Team  
Exodus, Covenant and Wilderness – Dr. Kelly Murphy, Central Michigan University.

For information and to register for the program, contact Ms. Rebecca Bossenbroek, Program Administrator, (517) 927-4755 or [rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net)

## **2016 Mt. Pleasant Area CROP Hunger Walk**

### **Recruiters' Meeting**

Date & Time: Thursday, Sept. 1 at 6:30 pm

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 1250 Watson Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

### **CROP Hunger Walk**

Date & Time: Sunday, October 16 at 1:30pm (Registration begins at 1:00)

Location: Mill Pond Park Pavilion, 607 S. Adams, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

### **Local Beneficiary Organizations:**

Community Compassion Network (CCN) Food Truck.....URL: <http://www.ccnfeeds.org>

Storehouse Food Pantry in Weidman.....URL: <http://tinyurl.com/jfkqf2>

### **Local Contact:**

Heidi Zwyghuizen, phone: (989) 854-4330 or e-mail: [hzwyghuizen@yahoo.com](mailto:hzwyghuizen@yahoo.com)



## August Worship Helpers

### Cantors (9:00 only)

- 7 John Lorand
- 14 Kathy Gallaher
- 21 Sarah Gallaher
- 28 Dennis Marshall

### Counters

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

### Altar Guild

- 7 Judy Emmons & Kathy Gatten
- 14 Bonnie Berthold & Linda Wicander
- 21 Bonnie Schaeffer & Sue French
- 28 Denise Little & Billie Plouff

### Projector

- 7 Deb LaBlance
- 14 Amy Powell
- 21 Kip Ferguson
- 28 Dan Digmann

### Greeters (9:00)

*(list not available at time of printing)*

### Ushers

- 7 Chuck & Barb McCollom, Bill Jensen, Janice Fox
- 14 Rose Prasad, Gabe Goodrich, Ted Tuma
- 21 Jan & Paul Kruska, Bill Jensen, Sam Staples
- 28 Pete LaBlance, Jan & Paul Kruska, Janice Fox

### Nursery Attendants

*(list not available at time of printing)*

### Assisting Ministers

- 7 Dan Eversole
- 14 Rose Prasad
- 21 Amy Powell
- 28 Natalie Douglas

### Lawn Mowing

- 4 The Geisthardt family
- 11 Sam Staples & Barry Shellenbarger
- 18 Steve Podolsky & Gabe Goodrich
- 25 Paul & Jan Kruska



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

# Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia

Thank you for your support for our mission trip! We had an EXTRAORDINARY adventure serving God in Charleston, West Virginia! We were apart of 18 congregations, 12 states, and 66 work crews. There were 55 sites and a total of 9,315 hours of volunteer work served throughout the week! We worked at a house and built relationships with the residents we served and then invited them to our final worship on Friday. However we didn't work the entire time, we had a little fun too white water rafting. We will be sharing some stories at the worship on August 28th. Hope you can join us!

