



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 2016

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Immanuel 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

A man without a home walked through the church doors when I was in Florida. We greeted (let's call him) Jim and he said, "I am not looking for money or a handout I just need to talk with someone." I guided Jim into my office and for the next hour listened to a story. His life story was full of hurt and instability. He explained that as someone without a home he has to stay on the move. Shelters only welcome you for so many days or weeks then you have to move onto another shelter. He talked about nights in the woods on the ground being covered with red ants and how a shower was a blessing when the circumstances gifted him with facilities.

As we continued to talk he shared that he has many broken relationships because of addiction, and he was proud to share that he is now 2 years sober. Yet, many of the relationships are so broken his apology goes unanswered. He was getting to a point where he wanted to drink again and that is why he walked in the doors of the church. He walked in wanting to continue on the path of sobriety and in the midst of this he wanted to know where God was.

I was blessed to recap his story. Remember when you stole the chicken from the grocery store and the manager said, "We can't put a man in jail for needing to eat?" Remember when you were in the woods covered with red ants and something in your head said go to the Homeless Veterans Home? They greeted you with kindness and you found out that there is actually a pension in your name and they guided you on how to start receiving it. Remember when the bank said you couldn't open an account to receive the pension payments and suddenly someone stepped in on your behalf and they waived the rule?

(Continued on page 2)

The Pastor's Page

Pastor Dana's Letter, Continued

You didn't have the \$10 to open the account, but there was a grocery store across the street and you were able to pan handle the \$10 you needed to open your account. Remember when you walked in the doors of the church instead of picking up another drink?

He responded, "Yes, but why do I have to suffer?"

I responded, "I think Jesus would look at you and me and say to me, 'Pastor Dana, Jim gets it. He knows why I had to suffer on the cross. Listen to his story.'"

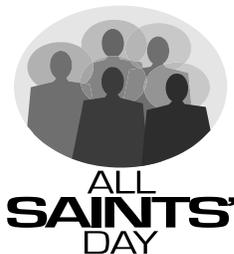
In suffering we experience to power of grace in a whole new way.

*In Christ,
-Pr. Dana Hendershot*



Immanuel will be offering a blessing of the animal's service at our outdoor pavilion on Saturday, October 8 at 3:00 p.m. All animals are welcome! We will move the service inside if weather is not permitting. Please bring your animals on a leash or caged. This is open to the community so please spread the word to friends and/or family who would like their pet to be blessed!

Please join us on Saturday, October 15 from 9am-noon as we hold our Fall Clean-up day! We will be working mostly outdoors getting the building and grounds ready for fall and winter. LOTS of help is needed....ALL are encouraged to bring a rake and come help us out!



Starting Sunday, October 9 we will place a list in the Narthex for you to write down the names of anyone you love that has joined the Church triumphant in this past year. We will honor them on All Saints Sunday, November 6.

A Letter from Incoming & Outgoing Presidents.....

I am thrilled to be moving into the position of president for your Council. As we watch the seasons change and the colors change, we are also moving into a new season in our church – with new leadership and new possibilities. The Council will continue to work with the Ministries and the congregation to address the strategic plan that came forward following our springtime cottage meetings. Craig Torgerson, our new Director of Faith Formation, will be working with the congregation to build our faith and growth in God. It is certainly an exciting time in our church!

While I have not lived in Mount Pleasant long, I truly feel at home at Immanuel and appreciate the way you have welcomed me into this faith community. Following a period in my life when I had a difficult time finding a faith community to worship with, learn with, and serve with, my time at Immanuel has breathed new life into me. I appreciate the faith you have in me to serve as a leader within this community.

I'll leave you with a Proverb I read recently that has stayed on my mind "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your path" (Proverbs 3:5-6, NRSV).

Peace,
Meaghan McCollow
Council President

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with a bit of sadness that I write my final newsletter as president of the council. The past year has been an amazing year of faith filled growth and development for our congregation. I am continually amazed with the way the members and friends of Immanuel step up to the plate and put it all on the line. When I look back at the year, and the programs and service our members provide; it blows my mind! I truly believe that it takes a village to raise a village; and although we have villagers of all different ages, we help and lift each other up in ways that makes our congregation unique.

With our new full staff, my dream is that our congregation will take wings and develop in ways that were expressed during the cottage meetings and survey over the past year. It's clear that we want to continue getting to know ourselves and each other, in a deeper, more spiritual way. As we continue on this journey I pray that our strength continues, and that your faith is deepened and satisfied.

I would be remiss if I didn't express my gratitude to the outgoing council members, Lisa Wegener, Charlie Burke and Dave Simon. They each brought a unique and diverse perspective to the council, and I will be forever grateful for the guidance and wisdom I've received. I'm a better person for having worked with each of them.

Many blessings, Amy Powell, President

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



CrossRoads (a small group of young-ish Immanuel adults) invites the congregation to join us for a family style dinner at Countryside Dinners in Clare on Friday, October 14 at 6pm. The meal includes meat, veggies, salad and dessert for \$15 (adults), \$7.50 (3-12 yrs) and free (2 and under).

The deadline to sign up will be Tuesday, October 4. You may sign up in the Narthex, or [online](#). If you have questions, you may contact Amy Powell, 989-948-3626.

We hope you'll join us for a fun evening of food and fellowship.



ROAD RALLY

The Mission Endowment Committee invites you to a Road Rally, which will be held on Sunday, October 16 at 3:00pm. Each car will need someone with a smart phone, since the communication will be done through texts and photos. Guaranteed to be a fun time!

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum meets on Sundays in between services in the Fellowship Hall. Currently, we are watching and discussing 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

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.

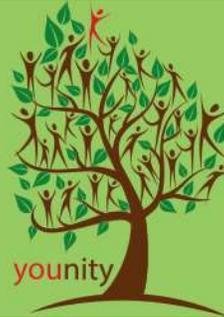
Theological Conversation with Pastor Dana

This discussion group will meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 in the Capital Room. Please join us!

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

DECEMBER 27-30, 2016

Radisson & Lansing Center
Downtown Lansing in Michigan



Get Fired Up for Gathering!

The Gathering is an opportunity for groups of high school aged youth and young adults age 18-25 to experience four days of faith formation, service, leadership and community. Convening for its 34th year, The Michigan Gathering offers participants an opportunity to experience meaningful worship, engage in small groups, serve others, grow in faith, and have a blast!

Participants have opportunities to be small group leaders, serve as peer ministers, lead worship, make a difference in the world through service, and form intentional faith-filled community!

The Gathering will take place at The Lansing Radisson and the Lansing Center located at 111 N. Grand Ave in Lansing, MI.

2016 Event Highlights

- * The focus this year is on faith and YOU. We'll spend time exploring who we are as individuals, as a community, and as children of God. Participants will lead in new ways, including speaking from stage!
- * Our tradition of a day of service in the greater Lansing community continues in 2016.
- * Our Young Adult track for participants age 18-25 (post-high school) is offered again this year! Invite your friends!

Cost - Registration Opens in September

- * \$155.00 if registered by November 16th, 2016 (includes a free t-shirt)
- * \$180.00 if registered after November 16th, 2016 (does not include a free t-shirt)

PLEASE TURN YOUR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INTO
IMMANUEL BY NOVEMBER 10TH!!!

October Birthdays

- 1 Giny Dumon
Sue French
Cliff Moss**
- 3 Sarah Gilbert**
- 4 Paul Geisthardt
Kathy Smith**
- 5 Cindy Keller**
- 6 Davis LaBelle**
- 8 Stacie Davidson**
- 9 Emma Cameron
Terri Freeland
Laurie Tyler
Craig Kreiner**
- 10 Abby Geisthardt**
- 11 Vickie Dillman
Holly Hoffman**
- 12 Cheryl Strandskov**
- 13 Melanie Wicander
Jermain Hawver**
- 14 Matthew Golden
Roxanne Lueder
Tad Richards**
- 16 Dana Mielke**
- 17 Hayden Fluharty
Eric Podolsky**
- 18 Gage Shellenbarger**
- 19 Pete LaBlance
Natalie Douglas**
- 20 Jeremy Moore**
- 21 Bill Reader**
- 23 Patty Jo Bugh**
- 24 Gail Caleca
Jenny Oswald**
- 28 Lexi Mielke
Pat Podoll**

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

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

Wednesday, October 19, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, October 26, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, November 2, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, November 9, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.



Childcare is available

New Member Sunday will take place on November 13 during worship.

Congratulations to those making their First Communion on Sunday, October 2!

Audrey Douglas, Laney Douglas, Luke Douglas, Ryan
Ferguson, Thomas Ferguson, Tanner Goodrich,
Sophia Powell and Stephen Riley

God Bless You!!



Adult Confirmation Classes

In honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Pastor will be offering an adult Confirmation Class this year. All are welcome even if you were already confirmed.

The classes will be held on the first Sunday of every month from October 2 – May 7 from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. (with the exception of Jan. 1 which will move to Jan. 8).

Please let Pastor Dana know if you are interested in joining this class.



JC's Café October Calendar

Oct 2	JCs at church, 3-5pm
Oct 9	JCs at church, 3-5pm
Oct 16	Crop Walk 1pm Road Rally 3pm
Oct 23	JCs at church, 3-5pm
Oct 30	Children's Halloween Party



Reformation Sunday Hymn Festival

REFORMATION SUNDAY HYMN FESTIVAL TO BEGIN A
YEAR LONG CELEBRATION IN THE GRAND RAPIDS AREA

Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 3 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 Fulton Street East, Grand Rapids

Luther wrote an amazing amount of hymnody for the new Lutheran Church, giving a voice to the people. We will use some of his hymns, as well as those of other composers who gave their talents to singing congregations over the years.



This first event in the Grand Rapids Conference celebration of the 500th year of the Reformation will be led by John Ferguson, the Elliot & Klara Stockdahl Johnson professor of organ and church music at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. The combined choirs of the Grand Rapids Conference churches, a brass choir and organ will present one of Ferguson's, as yet, unpublished anthems. Dr. Ferguson will lead us in the singing some of the most beloved of Luther's hymns. Works for organ and brass, anthems, and congregational hymns will be performed with inspirational organ accompaniment by Dr. Ferguson.

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

Ministry with the Community & World

THE CALL TO CARE

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ.” *Galatians 6:2*

Have you ever felt inadequate about how to interact and express your care when friends, neighbors, or family members have suffered pain, loss, accident, or other misfortune (isn’t this just EVERYONE)? Stephen Ministers will offer some very practical and constructive ideas for things you can say and do (as well as NOT say and do!) to best express your compassion and care for someone who is suffering.

These sessions are not a book study, but a sharing of important principles addressed in the book, *Don’t Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart* by Dr. Kenneth Haugk, founder of Stephen Ministry.

We prayerfully invite you to join us in the fellowship hall between services for any or all of the sessions: October 2, November 6, and December 4.



Stephen Ministers are well trained to provide emotional and spiritual support to anyone experiencing difficulties in their life.

If you or someone you know could benefit from **CONFIDENTIAL** one-to-one Christian care please speak to Pastor Dana or Stephen Leaders Gail Mitchell, Chris Schuster or Fred Schuster.

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: _____

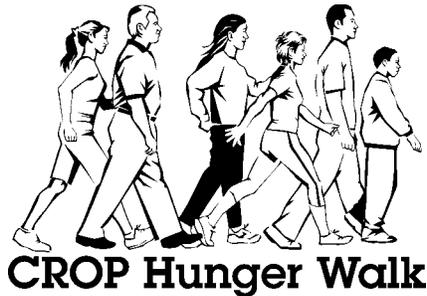
Desired Outcome: _____

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: _____

Name _____

Ministry with the Community & World



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

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on October 23 will be given to the Woodland Hospice.
A collection jar is located in the Narthex throughout the month for your convenience.

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.

October Worship Helpers

Cantors (9:00)

- 2 Dennis Marshall
- 9 Bill Gallaher
- 16 Amy Powell
- 23 Kathy Gallaher
- 30 John Lorand

Counters

- 2 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 9 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 16 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 23 Chuck McCollom & Sue French
- 30 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand

Altar Guild

- 2 Bonnie Schaeffer & Linda Wicander
- 9 Sue French & Jan Kruska
- 16 Billie Plouff & Judy Emmons
- 23 Bonnie Berthold & Kathy Gatten
- 30 Pat Podoll & Paula Krueger

Projector (9:00)

- 2 Gabe Goodrich
- 9 Deb LaBlance
- 16 Kip Ferguson
- 23 Amy Powell
- 30 Dan Digmann

Greeters (9:00 & 11:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Nursery Attendants

- 2 (9:00) Martha Goodrich & Ashley Shellenbarger
(11:00) Kevin & Danielle Sullivan
- 9 (9:00) Lisa Wegener & Linda Hamblin
(11:00) Haylee & Olivia Geisthardt
- 16 (9:00) Lisa Wegener & Martha Goodrich
(11:00) Joe & Aubyrone Anderson
- 23 (9:00) Brandon & Lisa Wegener
(11:00) Kevin & Danielle Sullivan
- 30 (9:00) Martha Goodrich & Claire Torgerson
(11:00) Haylee & Olivia Geisthardt

Ushers (9:00)

- 2 Dennis & Kathy Marshall, Bill Jensen
Bob Grabe
- 9 Bill Jensen, Brandon Wegener, and
volunteer
- 16 Dennis & Kathy Marshall, Bill Jensen,
Brandon Wegener
- 23 Bill Jensen, Dennis & Kathy Marshall,
Bob Grabe
- 30 Dennis & Kathy Marshall, Bill Jensen,
Bob Grabe

Ushers (11:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Assisting Ministers

- 2 (9:00) Dan Digmann
(11:00) Amy Powell
- 9 (9:00) Dave Simon
(11:00) Meaghan McCollow
- 16 (9:00) Mary Hageman
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 23 (9:00) Chris Schuster
(11:00) Cheryl Geisthardt
- 30 (9:00) Dan Eversole
(11:00) Meaghan McCollow

Lawn Mowing

- 6 Dan & Jan Eversole
- 13 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Kenny Galdeen
- 20 Sam Staples & Barry Shellenbarger
- 27 Steve Podolsky & Gabe Goodrich