



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

September 2016

The Gleaner is a publication of:

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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

Members & Friends of Immanuel,

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting. Along with our usual business and a constitutional change to support our Mission Endowment with 50% of all undesignated bequests we introduced a new staff member and our strategic plan!

We welcomed our new Director of Faith Formation, Craig Torgerson, and his family. Please be sure to read his contribution to the Gleaner to learn more about his family and him. He started with us on Friday, August 19 and has already hit the ground running. As he says in his article, "Let's grab coffee. You can stop me on Sunday morning. Or, pop into the office during the week." I hope each of you take time to get to know him and welcome him (back) to the Immanuel family.

We will hold an installation service for Craig on Sunday, September 25!

While we welcome Craig and his family, we are also welcoming our new intern, Katie Butler. My hope and prayer is that you will take the time to get to know her as you did last year with Intern Amy. Katie comes to us as a fellow member of the ELCA and passionate about God and ministry. She is headed to seminary next year and I hope we can show her Christ as she prepares for the journey. Many of you might recognize her as she was in our choir all last year.

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The Pastor's Page

Pastor Dana's Letter, Continued

We also shared our new strategic plan at the annual meeting. The council took the notes from the cottage meetings and the survey results to create the plan. We are sending a lot of suggested "to dos" to the ministries based on ideas shared at the meetings. We also prioritized your suggestions to make a long term plan based on our mission:

Joyfully Christian

Joyfully focus on faith formation for all ages, through:

- Intergenerational opportunities
- Small groups
- Fellowship activities

Humbly Serving

Humbly listen to community members, through one-on-one conversations, to identify unmet needs and gaps, for ways to better serve youth and families.

Boldly Loving

Boldly become a church that truly welcomes all in the community, reaching across all boundaries, such as age, race, ability, religion, social class, nationality, sexual orientation and political beliefs.

We do these in order that we may continue to grow our members in faith and build Christ's kingdom.

I give thanks to God for each of you! I am excited to be walking along side you listening to the work of the Spirit and joyfully anticipating all that Christ has in store for Immanuel and this community!

God be with you,

Pastor Dana



On Sundays, September 4 & 11, worship will be held at 10:00am.

Beginning Sunday, September 18, we will begin having 2 Sunday services- 9am Traditional service & 11am Contemporary service.

On this date, we will also kick off JAM for kids in between services, as well as the Adult Forum.

Be sure to mark your calendars!!!

A Letter from President Amy Powell.....

Dear friends in Christ,

It's unreal to think that another school year is about to begin. The hustle of school activities and new routines will abound. For many, it's a relief to be back into a routine, with more regular boundaries. Kind of like our faith life, at times. We get off track, we lose our routine, and we need something to get us back into the 'regular' swing of things with our faith life as well. I've spoken with many individuals over the past few weeks who were gone from church, and they indicated how much they missed the interactions, especially. The interactions feed our soul, and help us to grow in our spiritual journey.

Last year was the first time in many years that a camp retreat weekend was planned, and there was such a great turn out and response that the 2nd annual camp is planned for the weekend of Sept. 9-11. Above is the itinerary for the weekend, with hopes that even if you're not into camping, that you'd be into joining your faith community for some fun and fellowship. The weekend is planned around Romans 12:12; *Let your hopes keep you joyful, be patient with your troubles, and pray at all times.* The activities and sessions will be focused around this verse, and the hope is that the weekend will be a way to refocus our spiritual energy, and give each individual a meaningful faith filled grounding. Prayerfully consider joining the weekend, and discovering something new about YOU and your relationship with God.

As we begin a new faith formation year, with a new faith formation director, I encourage you to pray especially for the staff, council and ministries as we move forward with our strategic plan. The congregation has spent many hours on this, and we've got some great momentum for moving Immanuel to the next level—wherever God is leading us. Consider your gifts, and explore new ways for integrating your skills into our growing and flourishing faith community. The spirit is moving!

Peace,
Amy C. Powell, Council President



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.

Ministry with Each Other

Camp Immanuel Weekend Retreat Schedule

Sept. 9-11, 2016

Coldwater Lake Family Park



Friday:

- 1-7p Check-in & Set-up (Dinner on your own)
- 4-7p Prayer Stations (on your own) (LP)
- 7p Welcome and Introductions (CS)
- 7:30p Group Campfire/S'mores (CS)

Saturday:

- 8:30-9:30a Breakfast (LP)
- 10-11a Session #1
"Let Your Hopes Keep You Joyful"
Adults (HP)
Children 12 & under (LP)
- 11a-2p Free Time
Jenga Tournament (LP)
Up Words Tournament (LP)
Euchre (LP)
Yoga (HP) (11-12pm)
Beach/Swimming
Beach Volleyball
- 2-4p God's Work Our Hands
Service Project (HP)
- 4:30p Saturday Evening Worship (HP)
- 6p Potluck (LP)
- 7:30p Session #2/Campfire (CS)
"Be Patient with your troubles"

Sunday:

- 8:00-9:00a Breakfast (LP)
- 9:30-10a Session #3 (CS)
"Pray at all times"
- 10-1p Break Camp
Must be checked out by 1p

PS-Personal Site
LP- Lake View Pavilion
HP- Hofbaur Pavilion
CS- Campfire Site #42

Adult Forum

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

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 resume meeting on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. on September 28 in the Capital Room. Please join us!

Installation of Craig Torgerson

Please join us on Sunday, September 25th as we install our new Director of Faith Formation during our 9:00am worship service.

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Immanuel welcomes Craig Torgerson as Director of Faith Formation

Hi everyone!

Thank you for being so welcoming as I have started working here at Immanuel as the Director of Faith Formation. I officially started on Friday, August 19th. It has been a busy couple of weeks as I have been getting to know everyone and learning about the different ministries at church but it has also been a lot of fun!

I actually grew up at Immanuel so there are plenty of pictures and stories floating around this building from my younger years. I was baptized here by Pastor Bill White and was confirmed with the help of my sponsor, Carl Graef. I took piano lessons from his wife, Karen. Sometimes, while my brother was in the middle of his piano lesson, Carl would invite me to watch football and eat peanuts. I like to think it was one of my first experiences with discipleship.

I graduated from Chippewa Hills in 2003 and became a Chippewa at Central Michigan University. During my time at CMU I was a Leadership Advancement Scholar, part of the Student Government Association, a member of the Homecoming Ambassador Court, a member of Take A Stand for Kids, a brother of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Lyre Man for Alpha Chi Omega, Coordinator of the David Garcia Project, a leader of an Alternative Break trip to Mexico, I went on many mission trips with Orphanage Outreach (now Outreach 360) in the Dominican Republic including a summer internship there, an intern in the youth program at Mount Pleasant Community Church, and was able to launch two college ministries; uLife at Mount Pleasant Community Church and Greek InterVarsity at Central Michigan University.

While attending CMU I completed about half of the coursework for a degree in education but, with the guidance of a few mentors, changed directions to pursue a degree that would help me head toward a career in ministry. In 2009 I graduated from CMU with a major in Organizational Communication and a minor in Leadership.

Right before graduating I began to pursue a relationship with Claire Lewis, a girl I had met while working with Greek InterVarsity. I moved to Memphis at the end of that summer. In November we got engaged. We were married in April. I guess when you know, you know!

When I moved to Memphis in 2009 I was without a job. I moved in order to pursue youth ministry with a friend of mine. I moved in with three other friends and worked odd jobs to make ends meet for about the first two months of moving. I ended up receiving offers to work at Woodland Presbyterian Church and at Faith Presbyterian Church as the youth director. I ended up choosing to work with Faith Presbyterian Church and it became our home for the next five and a half years. In that time we made great friends, built the youth group, purchased a home, and had our three children; Enoch, Elijah, and (Elisabet) Grace. Claire and I also studied at the DownLine Institute which taught us cover to cover through our Bibles and took us through intensive coursework on Discipleship.

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(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

In 2015 God gave us an opportunity to move back home closer to the rest of our family about a year ago when Thrive Church was seeking a Next Gen Pastor. We made a lot of friends at Thrive and were able to watch God work as this two year old church began to grow. Moving from Thrive to Immanuel provided a very similar job description, working with children through young adults, but is a better fit for myself and my family. What an opportunity God has given for things to come full circle that I might have the opportunity to serve at Immanuel, the church where I was raised and grew in my faith!

We now live at Lake Isabella right down from my parents, Bruce and Cindy, who still live in the same house I grew up in. We have been able to visit with Claire's family a lot more since they are only a couple of hour drive away in Troy, MI. Our oldest son Enoch will be starting preschool this fall at Weidman Elementary. Our children are enjoying living in mid-Michigan and being closer to grandmas and grandpas. Our family frequents the Children's Museum, plays at the many parks in Mount Pleasant and at Lake Isabella, we enjoy camping, swimming at grandma and grandpa's house, and running through the woods; often barefooted. It is not unusual to catch me, personally, starting a new construction project with my dad, hunting, fishing, playing sports (I like them all), pouring an ice rink in the back yard, exploring a new tech gadget, or grabbing a cup of coffee with a friend.

Well, that is me in a nutshell. I would love to get to know each one of you, too, so please do not be shy! Let's grab coffee. You can stop me on a Sunday morning. Or, pop into the office during the week. Thank you so much for welcoming us into the Immanuel Lutheran family!

Craig Torgerson



September Birthdays

- 1 Paul Clise**
- 3 Beth McGuire**
- 4 Tara Eversole
Matthew Chilcote**
- 6 Minerva Alvarez**
- 7 Mark Strandskov**
- 8 Sandy Davidson
Brandon Wegener**
- 9 Doug LaBelle
Matt Tilmann**
- 10 Kim Boulter**
- 11 Mark Johnson
Deb LaBlance**
- 13 Tim French**
- 14 David Sprang**
- 15 Sue Foote
Kyle French**
- 17 John Keller**
- 18 Larissa Schwerin
Hannah Shellenbarger
Kate Henry**
- 19 Kay Riley
Shirley Faleer
Karl Fetting
Jacob Robinson**
- 20 Tanner Goodrich**
- 21 Bill Reader**
- 24 Bart LaBelle
Dan Digmann**
- 25 Katrina Piatek-Jimenez**
- 26 Nolan Kaiser
Spencer MacGregor**
- 28 Jodie Mitchell-Beach**
- 29 Carolyn Hoffman
Faith Jurick**
- 30 Jacque Jackson
Sandy Deaton
Alyssa Hammond
Shelley Tomko**

(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.

Sunday, Sept. 18 & Sept. 25 between services (during JAM) 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. We will be setting up one more class – but we'll wait to set that date until we can decide as a group what works best.

First Communion Sunday will be October 2, 2016

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



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.



The Chancel Choir will begin meeting for the year on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00pm in the Choir Room. ALL are welcome to join! We meet regularly on Wednesdays from 6-7pm throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please contact our Organist and Choir Director, Mernie Bidstrup.



(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Classes will begin on Sept. 7

Worship Wednesday Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00pm. These classes are open to children of all ages. If you are interested in having your child attend, please contact the church office to get him/her registered. We also offer a Wednesday night meal from 5:30-6:00pm. ALL are welcome!



Children's Choir Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 4:15-5:30pm. This choir is open to children grades K-6 and they will sing monthly during our 9:00am worship service on the 4th Sunday of the month. If you are interested in having your children join the choir, please contact our Children's Choir Director, Amy Henderson.

The Youth Bell Choir is open to Youth ages 6th-12th grade and will begin meeting on Wednesday, September 7th from 7:15-8:30pm. This group will play monthly during the 9am worship services on the 4th Sunday of the month. If you have a child interested in playing the bells, please see Mernie Bidstrup. We'd love to have you join us!



JC's Cafe Kickoff Event

JC's Cafe is a youth group at Immanuel for youth in grades 7-12th. We meet weekly from 3-5pm with different activities that help young people grow in their faith and connect in a Christian environment.

Our Kick off event will take place on Sunday, Sept 18th at the home of Jan and Dan Eversole. We will leave the church around 12:30 and then return at approx. 6:30pm. We will have fun on the lake, kayaking, paddle boarding, tubing, and going for a ride on the pontoon.

If you have questions contact Beth Mundwiler. Looking forward to seeing the youth then!!!



JC's Café September Calendar

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Sept 9-11 | Camp Immanuel at Coldwater Lake |
| Sept 17 | Fundraiser at Ric's (12-3pm) |
| Sept 17 | Rachel Kurtz concert at University Lutheran Lansing |
| Sept 18 | Kick off event at the Eversoles (12:30-6:30) |
| Sept 25 - | JC's at church (3-5pm) |

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*

Do you know anyone who has suffered pain, loss, accident, or other misfortune and felt inadequate about how to interact and express your care (isn’t this just EVERYONE)? Join Stephen Ministers as they offer some very practical and constructive 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 will draw from 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 on October 2, November 6, and December 4.

Stephen Ministry Grows With New Commissioning



We are praising God for our NEW Stephen Ministers: Sandy Fluharty, Roger Gilbert, Mary Hageman, Jan Kruska and Meaghan McCollow, who were commissioned on August 21. They join Stephen Ministers Annette Foster, Cindy Keller, Trudy staples, Kathy Gallaher. Each is well trained to provide emotional and spiritual support to anyone experiencing difficulties in their life.

From left to right: Annette Foster, Kathy Gallaher, Chris Schuster, Jan Kruska, Fred Schuster, Pastor Dana Hendershot, Gail Mitchell, Roger Gilbert, Meaghan McCollow, Mary Hageman, Trudy Staples. Missing: Cindy Keller, Sandy Fluharty

Ministry with the Community & World

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

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on September 25 will be given to the Isabella County Animal Shelter.
A collection jar is located in the Narthex throughout the month for your convenience.

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. Please have all bags turned in by October 1st!

Thank you for your participation again this year!

-Rose Prasad

September Worship Helpers

Cantors (9:00 only)

- 4 Bill Gallaher (10:00)
- 11 Kathy Gallaher (10:00)
- 18 Kathy Gallaher (9:00)
- 25 John Lorand (9:00)

Counters

- 4 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 11 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 18 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 25 Chuck McCollom & Sue French

Altar Guild

- 4 Ann Ferguson & Pat Podoll
- 11 Denise Little & Paula Krueger
- 18 Jan Kruska & Linda Hoedt
- 25 Sandy Warriner & Deb Reimer

Projector

- 4 Dan Keller (10:00)
- 11 Gabe Goodrich (10:00)
- 18 volunteer needed (9:00)
- 25 volunteer needed (9:00)

Greeters (9:00 & 11:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Ushers (9:00)

- 4 Janice Fox, Paul & Jan Kruska, Ted Tuma
- 11 Bill Jensen, Chuck & Barb McCollom
- 18 Janice Fox, Gabe Goodrich, Paul & Jan Kruska
- 25 Bill Jensen, Pete LaBlance, Sam Staples

Ushers (11:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Assisting Ministers

- 4 (10:00) Natalie Douglas
- 11 (10:00) Kathy Gallaher
- 18 (9:00) Volunteer needed
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 25 (9:00) Volunteer needed
(11:00) Mary Hageman

Lawn Mowing

- 1 Harry Plouff & Ed Berthold
- 8 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Kenny Galdeen
- 15 The Geisthardt family
- 22 The Keller family
- 29 The Powell family



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!