



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 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.



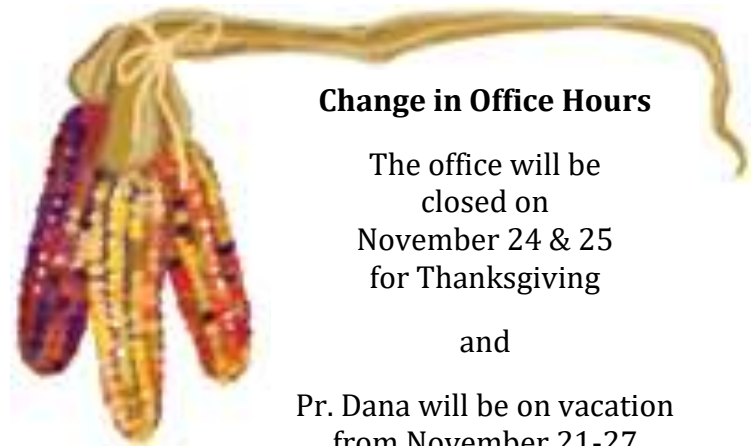
A Note from Pastor Dana...

Dear Members of Immanuel,

We just celebrated the 499th Reformation Sunday! Music filled the sacred space of our sanctuary as we worshipped together. God's grace abounded. We were reminded of the gift of scripture and the gift of time we have with our children to inspire them in faith. We had a door in the Narthex with the Ninety-five Theses on one side and Luther's Small Catechism to take home on the other. We are currently meeting in small groups learning about Martin Luther's life. I hope as we spend this next year in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (1517-2017) that we remember it is not just a day to be revered. It's a day that should remind us to reform something.

Breathing in the Spirit,

Pastor Dana



Change in Office Hours

The office will be closed on
November 24 & 25
for Thanksgiving

and

Pr. Dana will be on vacation
from November 21-27

From the Director of Faith Formation...

Hi Immanuel Family!

Thank you for letting me share with you on Reformation Sunday about the importance of the time we have with our students. It's so important that we take advantage of the moments we have as our schedules become busier and busier.

I hope you were able to get a copy of Luther's Small Catechism. If you weren't able to please contact the office and we will make sure you have a copy for your family. The app that we had running on the iPad on the door in the Narthex is called the "Legacy Countdown" app. I would encourage you download it on your phone, iPad, etc. and plug in your kids, grandkids, or any other kids or students that you have influence with. I believe that when we count our days we will become more intentional with the moments that we have with our kids and students.

I love being able to share tools with people that help them share their faith; especially when it comes to our kids, students, and young adults. However, our primary influence isn't in what we *teach*, it is in what we *do*. When it comes to our influences with kids, students, and young people, **more is caught than taught**.

Let them catch you reading your Bibles. Let them catch you singing along to your favorite worship CD in the car. Let them catch you taking advantage of the opportunity to pray for a meal; especially in the presence of family and friends or when you go out to Wendy's on Sunday afternoon. Let them catch you patiently helping someone in need; especially if you really don't have the time. Let them catch you praying for a friend on the phone. Let them catch you showing compassion and being a listening ear for someone who is hurting, lonely, in the hospital, or homeless. Let them catch you loving God and loving people because that is what Jesus told us to do (Matthew 22:27-29).

Head knowledge will teach our young people what is right and wrong. Heart knowledge will help them love people like Jesus loves people. Let's keep leading our young people to the cross. God will take care of the rest!

"So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart." {Psalm 90:12}

TGBTG,

Craig Torgerson
Director of Faith Formation

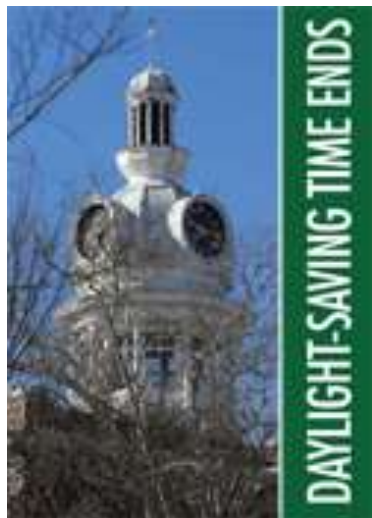


Ministry with Each Other



Halloween 2016 at Immanuel was a huge success!

On October 30th the youth group organized an awesome Halloween party for the younger kids at our church and in our community. The youth spent the weeks leading up to party planning games, activities and contests including glow bowling, a spiderweb maze and costume "fashion show". After church this past Sunday, our youth group transformed the church into a spooky and festive party zone. With costumes ranging from bumblebees to superheroes, lego men and unicorns, 45 children enjoyed the party and all the activities!



Remember to turn your clocks back an hour on Sunday, November 6th!!!

Certificate of Promise

We mailed a certificate of promise to our members.

Please prayerfully fill it out and return it to the office or place it in the offering.



We have been having a great time in JAM on Sunday mornings. As a reminder, we meet between services on Sunday mornings from 10:15 until 10:55 back at the end of the classroom hallway at the north end of church. All kids age 4 and up are welcome, and younger kids are welcome if they have a parent to supervise them. We watch cool videos, have snacks and drinks, do fun crafts, play computer games, and listen to Christian music. You can stay the whole time or just part of the time, and parents are welcome too if they want to come. We would love to have you!!

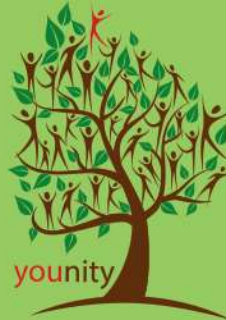
Theological Conversation with Pastor Dana

This discussion group will meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Capital Room. Please join us! This group will NOT meet on Nov. 23rd.

(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!!!

November Birthdays

1	Christian Jurick
3	Leah Faleer
5	Chelsea Kauffman
6	Jennifer Digmann
6	Homer Lee
6	Deb Reimer
7	Matt Keller
9	Andrea Wood
10	Mary Pattison
11	Ted Tuma
12	Harry Plouff
13	Jonathan Jurick
14	Dan Eversole
14	Hans Fetting
14	Sarah LaBelle
14	Alana Piatek-Jimenez
15	Freida Lee
15	Alicia Podolsky
15	Amy Henderson
16	Jeff Reimer
18	Marcilyn Barnard
18	Robin Decker
19	Shenan Davidson
19	Ben Ferguson
19	Charlie Schwerin
21	Myrna Zolynsky
24	Whitnee Foote
24	Peggy Recker
24	Jamie Stowe
26	John Foote
26	Amy Powell
29	John Ross
30	Martha Goodrich

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



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

Childcare is available

On November 13, we are excited to welcome new members into our congregation Lacey & Scott Connor (Emma & Augustus), Denise Kaiser, Bruce & Cindy Torgerson, Craig & Claire (Enoch, Elijah, & Elizabeth) Torgerson. Be sure to welcome them into our faith community and pick up your picture directory insert in the narthex starting Nov. 13th.

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 November Calendar



Nov. 6.....3-5pm at the church
Nov. 13.....3-5pm at the church
(Registration for the Gathering is DUE)
Nov. 19.....8pm Lock-in at the church
(will attend 9am worship together)
Nov27.....Joint worship TBD
Dec. 4.....3-5pm Decorate the church
Dec. 11.....Bake Sale and Christmas Program

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

WORSHIP WEDNESDAYS ARE IN FULL SWING!

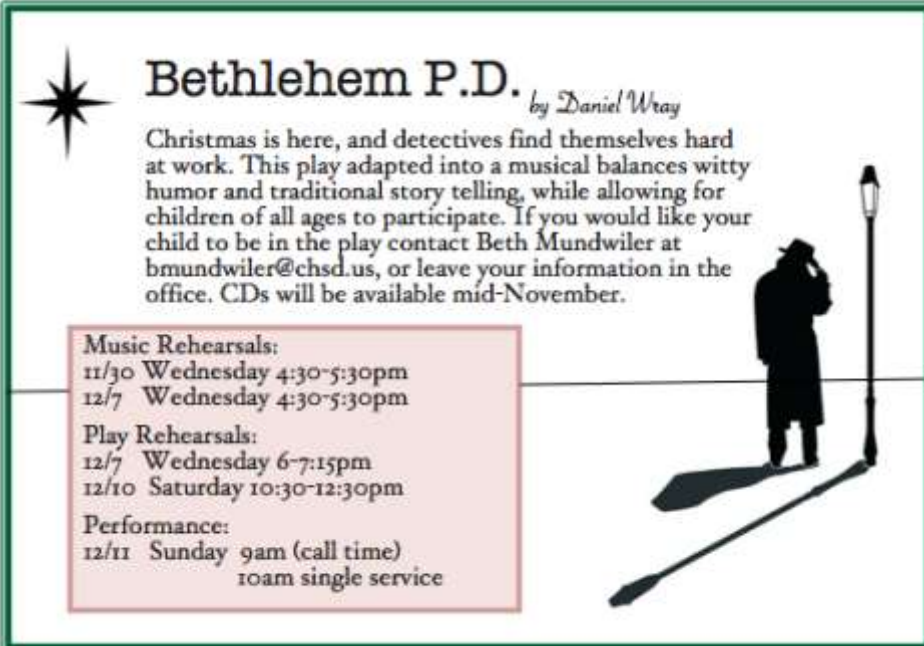
Everyone is welcome to join for dinner at 5:30PM. It is such a great family atmosphere and a wonderful opportunity to spend a little time with our church family in the middle of the week. Please try to donate \$1/ person or \$5/ family to offset the cost of the fantastic meal that is provided by the kitchen team.

The large group program for children and youth begins at 6PM. We have a lot of fun singing, dancing, praying, and highlighting our lessons each week. Currently we are traveling through the stories of the Old Testament. In November we will learn about "The Battle of Jericho" (Nov. 2nd), "David and Goliath" (Nov. 16th), and "Elijah & the Widow" (Nov. 30th). Please take advantage of the parent sheets that are sent home every Wednesday that offer ideas, questions, and activities to help parents join in the fun of exploring each week's lesson!

During the week of Wednesday, November 9th Immanuel Lutheran Church is hosting the Isabella County Restoration House rotating homeless shelter so Worship Wednesday will not be able to meet at the church building. Instead, we will be having a fun evening out at the Jump Station. Please email Craig Torgerson at craig@immanuelmp.com for more information or to sign up. Also, please put a note on your calendars that there will be no Worship Wednesday on November 23rd due to Thanksgiving break.

During our Wednesday program every week there is a time of offering. This is a great opportunity for us to teach students what offering is all about. It also allows us to encourage students to make God a priority when it comes to our finances! We have received a little over \$10 so far. That is great! This semester Worship Wednesday's offering is going to help the ICRH (Isabella County Restoration House).

Finally, a big thank you goes out to the entire kitchen team as well as all of our Wednesday night teachers. Our teachers this semester include Cheryl Strandskov (Pre-K & K), Cindy Torgerson (1st & 2nd grades), Susan Shock (3rd & 4th grades), Bill Gallaher (Pre-Confirmation), and Bruce Torgerson and Dave Torgerson (Post Confirmation). Please give them a pat on the back or send them a note of encouragement! If you are interested in volunteering with Worship Wednesdays we would love to have you on board!



Bethlehem P.D. *by Daniel Wray*

Christmas is here, and detectives find themselves hard at work. This play adapted into a musical balances witty humor and traditional story telling, while allowing for children of all ages to participate. If you would like your child to be in the play contact Beth Mundwiler at bmundwiler@chsd.us, or leave your information in the office. CDs will be available mid-November.

Music Rehearsals:
11/30 Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm
12/7 Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm

Play Rehearsals:
12/7 Wednesday 6-7:15pm
12/10 Saturday 10:30-12:30pm

Performance:
12/11 Sunday 9am (call time)
10am single service

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

THE CALL TO CARE at The Adult Forum

“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: December 4 & 11



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



30th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

On Thursday, November 24 at noon, Immanuel will host its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the community. This event is free of charge and open to anyone who is looking for a great place to have a hot turkey dinner with all of the fixings! If you are interested in volunteering for the dinner OR if you are able to donate a dish for the meal, please sign up in the Narthex! This year, Ric's Food Center has graciously agreed to donate ALL of our turkeys. We just need people to help us to get them all cooked!

Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this wonderful opportunity!

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on November 27 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.

Ministry with the Community & World



Coordinating the Community for Christmas Giving

Christmas Outreach Needs Your Help!

Monetary Donations are Needed:

Please send your checks payable to Christmas Outreach (a 501(c)3) to Immanuel Lutheran Church 320 S. Bradley, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858 or Deposit it at any local branch of Isabella Bank.

Item Donations are Needed:

The following items must be NEW or gently used and clean. They can be dropped off at the following locations between NOW and December 3rd

Winter Coats.....St. John's Episcopal, Clothing Inc., First United Methodist, Immanuel Lutheran, Thrive, Mt. Pleasant Community Church
Hats & Mittens.....First Presbyterian Church
Boots..... Thrive Church
Christmas Decorations.....Immanuel Lutheran Church
Stockings.....Winn Methodist Church, United Methodist Church of Shepherd
Books.....St. Mary's, Unitarian Universalist Church
Jeans.....Morey Courts, McLaren Hospital, Clothing Inc.
Linens.....Sacred Heart Church, Potter's House, Central Michigan Free Methodist Church

If you have multiple items to drop-off or cannot find the location above, please bring your donations to Immanuel Lutheran Church on Wednesdays between 3:00pm- 6:00pm OR to Finch Field House on Monday, December 5 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE ITEMS WE WILL NOT ACCEPT: Toys, Household Items, General Clothing. Please limit your donations to the items listed above.

Volunteers are Needed:

When: Friday, December 9, 9:00 am—6:00 pm
Saturday, December 10, 9:00 am—6:00pm

All volunteers MUST schedule a time in advance by calling 989-773-4204 between 9am-3pm.

November Worship Helpers

Cantors (9:00)

- 6 Dennis Marshall
- 13 Bill Gallaher
- 20 Amy Powell
- 27 Kathy Gallaher

Counters

- 6 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 13 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 20 Chuck McCollom & Sue French
- 37 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand

Altar Guild

- 6 Chris Schuster & Sarah Gilbert
- 13 Jan Kruska & Linda Hoedt
- 20 Bonnie Schaeffer & Deb Reimer
- 27 Kathy Gatten & Pat Podoll

Projector (9:00)

- 6 Gabe Goodrich
- 13 Deb LaBlance
- 20 Kip Ferguson
- 27 Amy Powell

Projector (11:00)

- 6 Aubyrton Anderson
- 13 Craig Torgerson
- 20 Ted Tuma
- 27 Kip Ferguson

Ushers (9:00)

- 6 Roger Gilbert, Bill Jensen, Cliff Moss
- 13 Bill Jensen, Cliff Moss, Aaron Smith
- 20 Roger Gilbert, Bill Jensen, John Lorand
- 27 Bill Jensen, John Lorand, Aaron Smith

Ushers (11:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Assisting Ministers

- 6 (9:00) Dave Simon
(11:00) Susan Shock
- 13 (9:00) Volunteer needed
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 20 (9:00) Natalie Douglas
(11:00) Mary Hageman
- 27 (9:00) Volunteer needed
(11:00) Chris Schuster

Greeters (9:00)

- 6 The Goodrich Family
- 13 Jim & Mary Hageman
- 20 Ryan & Natalie Douglas
- 27 Deb & Pete LaBlance

Greeters (11:00)

(list not available at time of printing)



Special Sunday Worship Times

Mark your calendar! Two Sundays in December and one in January will be a joint Sunday morning 10:00am service!

Sunday, December 11 – 10:00 am (Children's Program)

Sunday, December 25 – 10:00 am

Sunday, January 1 – 10:00 am