



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 2016

*The Gleaner is a publication of:*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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**Office Hours:**  
**Monday-Friday 8am-3pm**  
**The Office will be CLOSED**  
**on Dec 26, Dec 27 & Jan 2**

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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.

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



### ***A Letter from Pastor Dana...***

We are a people who get easily tangled up.

We get tangled up in our theology, politics, health, busyness, addictions, anxiety, expectations... and we spend a great deal of time worrying and trying to untangle our lives. We want to make sense out of them. We want to figure out the unanswered questions. We want to overcome what is holding us back from being what God calls us to be.

So we set goals... we work our steps... we do one day at a time, one hour at a time, one minute at a time hoping that the tangled mess we live will become something ordered and controlled.

It's a lot like the ball of Christmas lights we put away in a rush last January and now have to deal with the tangled assortment. We spend time untangling them light by light, checking to make sure every bulb lights up, so we can wrap it neatly around a tree or place orderly on the outside of our homes.

If only untangling our lives was that easy.

Maybe the tangled-ness of life is not so much something to fix. Instead, it is an opportunity. An opportunity to see in the chaos that there is love. In the mess, there is hope. In the waiting, there is promise. In failure, there is forgiveness. In the darkness, there is light.

This Advent as we prepare, wait, and hope let us be eager not to fix our lives – but instead open our hearts to the light of Christ who shows us just how beautiful they are.

May we be tangled in the light of Christ together!

In hopeful expectation,  
Pastor Dana



## From the President...

As we leave November, a month of giving thanks, and move into December where we begin the Advent season of waiting and anticipation, there is much to be thankful for in our community. Taking the time to reflect on what you are thankful for is a way of recognizing the blessings in our lives, despite all that may be overwhelming in our lives.

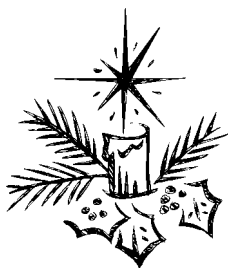
Immanuel hosted the first week of the ICRH Rotating Homeless Shelter. The shelter, in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, is already beginning to hit its capacity level. A huge thank-you to those who were able to volunteer, whether by spending time with guests, sitting watch through the night for the safety of the guests, getting the coffee ready in the morning, or bringing food for the guests, your support is greatly appreciated. Immanuel also hosted the annual Thanksgiving dinner, many thanks to those who donated time and food items to make this tradition a success.

As a community, we are also in a season of planning and accomplishing goals through our strategic plan. The Council recently received reports from all Ministries regarding tasks, wishes, and goals that were gathered from spring cottage meetings. All I can say is – Wow! Well done! The Ministries have done a wonderful job tackling the tasks asked of them and planning for the accomplishment of even more. I encourage you all to consider where your gifts, talents, and interests might be used within our community. Watch for more information on the strategic plan and all the Ministries are accomplishing and planning. If you feel called to any of the ministries, I encourage you to reach out to the Ministry chairs to become involved.

- Ministry to the Community and the World (Chair: Shirley Howard)
- Ministry to Each Other (Chair: Cindy Keller)
- Worship Ministry (Chair: Jan Eversole)
- Business Ministry (Chair: Chuck McCollom)

This month, I'd like to leave you with a charge as we begin advent – to find ways to be kind to others in random and planned ways. I recently saw a twist on the Advent Calendar – The Random Acts of Kindness advent calendar that suggests an act of kindness every day throughout Advent. Perhaps this is one way to live out what we've been called to be, "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things." (Galatians 5:22-23, NRSV).

Peace,  
Meaghan McCollow  
Council President




### **Your Input on Mission Trips is needed!**

We are in need of your input again, as we continue to implement your suggestions from our cottage meetings. One of the ideas that surfaced repeatedly at the meetings was about mission trips. We have created a survey to help us better understand and focus on what you envision mission trips to be. It is a quick 10 question survey, please click the link and fill it out. We will have hard copies in the back of the Narthex for those who would prefer. The survey will be closed on December 12, 2016.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QPM3F6P>

# Ministry with Each Other



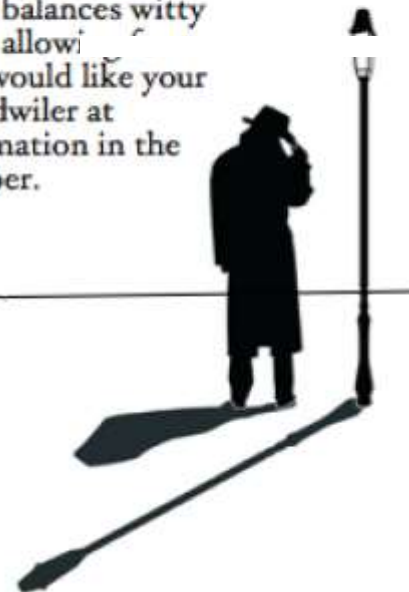
## Bethlehem P.D. *by Daniel Wray*

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 children of all ages to participate. If you would like your child to be in the play contact Beth Mundwiler at [bmundwiler@chsd.us](mailto: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



On December 18 at 9:00 a.m. we will be lifting praise to God through lessons and carols. Please be sure to sign up for the service if you would like to read a lesson! Starting December 4, we will have the readings and the signup sheets in the Narthex.



Sunday, December 4- 9:00 am Traditional Service  
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service

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

Sunday, December 18- 9:00 am Lessons & Carols Service  
11:00 am Contemporary Worship Service

Saturday, December 24- 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service  
9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25 - 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship Service

Sunday, January 1 - 10:00 am New Year's Day Worship Service

## *(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)*

### **Theological Conversation with Pastor Dana**

This discussion group will meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Capital Room. This group will NOT meet on Dec. 21 or 28. Join us!!!!



In honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> 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 on Dec. 4 & Jan. 8 from 1:30-3:00pm.

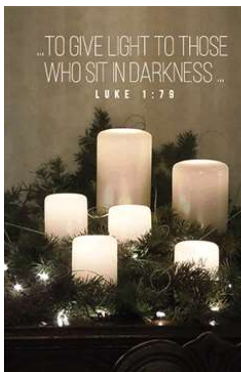
### **Decorating for Christmas**

On Sunday, December 4 at 3:00pm, we are asking for volunteers to help the Youth Group decorate the church for the Christmas season. Please come lend us a hand, if you are able!

### **Longest Night Service**

December 18 at 5:00 p.m

This Advent we will be offering a sacred space for those who miss loved ones during the Christmas season and/or for personal reasons don't find the Christmas season joyful. It will be a service with candle lighting, anointing, and healing prayer. We all seek light in the midst of darkness so please join us on Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 p.m. for our Longest Night service.



### **December Birthdays**

1	Kathy Wyman David McCollom
5	Isabella Wegener
6	John Lorand
8	Bonnie Schaeffer Annette Foster
9	Brad Long
10	Lorraine Tubbs
11	John McClintic
12	Christopher Fultz Jr. Ruth Magnell Kimberly Moss
14	Luke Karr Dale Leider
15	Keith Spycher
16	Kirsten Weber Luke Douglas Laney Douglas Grace Torgerson
18	Syd Smith
19	Jim Phillips
20	Carter Hoffman Maude LaBelle Sophie LaBelle
21	Diane Clise Dave Ebert Ben Plouff
22	Vigdis Boasson Chuck McCollom Sandy Warriner Billie Plouff
26	Jason Tomko
27	Kip Ferguson
28	Una Ebert Emily Little
29	Cheryl Hess
30	Dawn Polanco

# Ministry with Each Other

## 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 on December 4<sup>th</sup>.



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, Immanuel will host its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the community. Thank you to ALL who helped make this another successful year! We served approximately 100 guests with help from over 50 volunteers. We appreciate all of the food donations and time that you have given.

A special Thank you to Ric's for donating all 15 of our turkeys free of charge!

-Dan & Jan Eversole

-Harry & Billie Plouff

### **The Noisy Offering**

The noisy offering on December 18 will be given to the Woodland Hospice.

A collection jar is located in the Narthex throughout the month for your convenience.

(\*Please note that this is taking place on the third Sunday rather than the fourth Sunday)

### **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.

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup>

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 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.

## December Worship Helpers

### Cantors

- 4 John Lorand
- 11 Dennis Marshall
- 18 Bill Gallaher
- 25 Amy Powell

### Counters

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

### Altar Guild

- 4 Sandy Warriner & Denise Little
- 11 Billie Plouff & Ann Ferguson
- 18 Sue French & Bonnie Berthold
- 24 Paula Krueger & Judy Emmons
- 25 Chris Schuster & Deb Reimer

### Projector

- 4 (9:00) Amy Powell  
(11:00) Aubyrn Anderson
- 11 (10:00) Craig Torgerson
- 18 (9:00) Amy Powell  
(11:00) Aubyrn Anderson
- 24 (6:00) Kip Ferguson  
(9:00) Amy Powell
- 25 (10:00) Kip Ferguson

### Ushers

- 4 (9:00) The Strandskovs, Bill Jensen, Aaron Smith  
(11:00) Volunteers needed
- 11 (10:00) Aaron Smith, Carl Graef, Ruth Magnell
- 18 (9:00) Bill Jensen, Carl Graef, Wes Skinner  
(11:00) Volunteers needed
- 24 (6:00) The Strandskov family  
(9:00) Carl Graef
- 25 (10:00) Carl Graef, Aaron Smith, Bill Jensen

### Assisting Ministers

- 4 (9:00) Dave Simon  
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 11 (10:00) Linda Wicander
- 18 (9:00) Dan Digmann  
(11:00) Meaghan McCollow
- 24 (6:00) Amy Powell  
(9:00) Meaghan McCollow
- 25 (10:00) Chris Schuster

### Greeters (9:00 & 11:00)

*(lists not available at time of printing)*

