



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

January 2017

*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. 30 & 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...***

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

I want to thank you for all the ways you overwhelmingly showered me with God's love this Christmas- hugs, smiles, support, kind gestures, and gifts. I pray that all of you had a wonderful Christmas with loved ones and that God showers you, in this New Year, with abundant grace and joyful surprises.

As we enter into the 2017, I give thanks to God for each of you. I have witnessed Christ working in your lives. In joy and in sorrow. In exhaustion and in exuberance. In brokenness and in wholeness. There is no doubt that the light we celebrate at Christmas is shining in each of you. As God enters into the world we are given a new kind of hope. This is a hope we build on to know God is present each day in our hearts and in our lives. This news is so good, that we cannot stand by- but instead, we reach out to our neighbors with the joy that we ourselves have received.

In this New Year, it is exciting for Immanuel to step out in faith to listen to our neighbors. Asking what does this community need at this time and place in its life? As part of our strategic planning process we agreed to: Humbly listen to community members, through one-on-one conversations, to identify unmet needs and gaps, for ways to better serve youth and families.

We were blessed to find out that United Way was going to begin a similar process and we have agreed to join forces. Early in the New Year, we will identify the groups/people in the community we would like to meet with and the questions we would like to ask. Then we will train a team of people and send them to listen. If this is something you're interested in please talk with me. I ask that you pray for this process. I look forward to what the Spirit will surprise us with in 2017.

In the light of Christ,  
Pastor Dana Hendershot

# Thank You.....



## *Coordinating the Community for Christmas Giving*

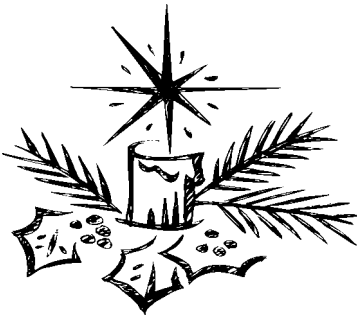
Christmas Outreach Thanks You For Your Help!

Thank you to ALL who helped make Christmas Outreach 2016 possible....including those who donated items and/ or money to our organization, as well as those who donated their gift of time, whether it was for registering over 800 families by phone, escorting some of our families, organizing a coat drive, or furnishing meals for our volunteers! A special thank you to the leadership from Peggy Burke and Mary Hageman from our congregation in making this event happen!

We look forward to another great year in 2017!

## **Bethlehem P.D.**

On Sunday, December 11, the children and youth from Immanuel once again put on another wonderful Christmas Program for our congregation! Thank you to all of the young people who made this possible, as well as a special thank you to Beth Mundwiler, Amy Henderson, Andrew LaJoie, Katie Butler, Craig Torgerson, Mernie Bidstrup for their time and talent in putting this special event together for us.



## **From the Staff....**

The staff of Immanuel would like to thank you for the very generous Christmas gifts that were given to us from the congregation! We very much appreciate it and even more so, appreciate YOU!

Blessings to all of you. We wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year!

-Pr. Dana, Andrea, Craig and Mernie

**Special  
Worship Time**

On Sunday,  
January 1, we will  
have one service  
time at 10:00 am.  
We will return to 2  
services on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.

**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 Jan. 18 or 25. 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 Jan. 8 & Feb. 5 from 1:30-3:00pm.

**UN-Decorating for Christmas**

On Sunday, January 8, at 3:00pm,  
we are asking for volunteers to  
help the Youth Group  
UN-decorate the church from the  
Christmas season. Please come  
lend us a hand, if you are able!



**January Birthdays**

- 1 Michael McCallum
- 3 Pam McClintic
- 4 Tami Schwerin  
Scott MacGregor
- 5 Kyle Behenna
- 6 Shae Skop  
Madison Skop  
Matthew Oswald
- 8 Tanner Shellenbarger
- 10 Chris Kauffman  
Kevin Sullivan
- 11 Jill Fultz
- 13 John Tyler  
Karl Mikko  
Dan Hoffman  
Allison Karr
- 14 Debi Mikko  
Jim Erickson
- 15 Judy Ramsower
- 16 Danielle Sullivan
- 17 Ernie Spycher
- 18 Emil Boasson  
Chris Danielson  
Felicia Bassett
- 19 Reed Polanco
- 22 Tom Hunt
- 23 Lauren Rogers  
Tara Chilcote
- 24 Lauren MacGregor
- 27 Rob Wang  
Dave Wyman
- 28 John Warriner  
Judy Emmons  
Joel Jurick
- 29 Asher Watters  
Bill Jensen
- 31 Blaine Chilcote

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.



## ICRH is soon returning to Immanuel

Our second and final week, for this winter of housing the homeless in Isabella County is the week of February 26- March 5, 2017. We will be using the online sign up again so please watch for the link. We will also have an opportunity for those who do not use computers to sign up after worship in the Narthex. Be sure to mark your calendars!

### The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on January 22 will be given to the William Ellis Brockman Infant Pantry.

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

### Pastor Dana on Vacation

From January 16 – 30, 2017, Pastor Dana will be enjoying the Florida sun, along with all of our snowbirds! Pastor David Sprang will be presiding on Sunday mornings and our Stephen Leaders will be available for pastoral emergencies.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_