



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 2017

***The Gleaner is a publication of:***

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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**Monday-Friday 8am-3pm**

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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.**



Friends in Christ,

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, I started to offer two opportunities to engage in learning more about our Muslim brothers and sisters. We are meeting on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the Capital room AND on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. in the Narthex.

Everyone is welcome to join us at any point, it is not an all or nothing study. The morning and evenings will mirror one another so you can flip flop on the time depending on your schedule. I don't have specific dates with each of the sessions yet – I first wanted to get a feel for the conversations and how fast we seem to move through each session. Hopefully next month I can allot sessions with the dates.

Harold Vogelaar says in the first session of the video series titled: *Introduction to Islam: A Dialogical Overview for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians*: "You'll have to learn a little about your Christian faith yourself. In other words, once you engage Muslims in conversation about Christ and God, you must know something about the Christian faith yourself. That's often where we fall short. We often don't know much about our own faith and don't really know how to talk about it with others, but that's the challenge we face in a pluralistic, multi-faith world which we are beginning to live in much more depth."

The sessions include:

A Framework for Christian/Muslim Dialogue  
History of Islam, Part 1 & 2  
Faith Practice of Islam, Part 1 & 2  
The Authority of the Qu'ran, Part 1 & 2  
The History of Islam in America, Part 1 & 2  
Sulfism: Muslim Spirituality, Part 1 & 2  
Equipping the Church for Dialogue

Please ask me if you have any questions about the study! I look forward to learning with you.

Living in Christ,  
Pastor Dana Hendershot

# Ministry with Each Other



## Exciting news for the Youth music programs at Immanuel!!

The Church Council has approved the purchase of a three octave set of Choir Chimes. Since hand chimes are lighter and sturdier than hand bells they are especially appropriate for teaching bell techniques to younger children.

This spring fourth and fifth graders will start learning how to use the hand chimes. In the fall, the full choir of second grade through fifth grade will begin. We will do our initial practices during part of the children's choir practice. If your second through fifth grader is interested in trying hand chimes, please email me (Mernie Bidstrup) at [mbidstrup@charter.net](mailto:mbidstrup@charter.net).

There are many hand bell pieces that use both bells and chimes so our bell choir (Rejoice) will also have the opportunity to use the new chimes.

We would appreciate your help in purchasing these chimes. The total cost is almost \$3300. We would like to complete the fundraising by the end of Feb.

Thank you for your support for our musical programs.



Services will be offered on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:15pm and 6:00pm. (The nursery will be staffed at the 6:00pm service.)



Tuesday, March 7, 14, 21, 28 & April 4  
5:30-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Be sure to mark your calendars!

# Ministry with Each Other

**Inviting all church family & friends  
to our Commitment Ceremony  
on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:00pm at Immanuel  
Refreshments following  
Please Join Us!!!  
(No gifts, please)**

*-Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Paul Zondlak*



In honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, Pastor Dana is offering an adult Confirmation Class this year. All are welcome even if you were already confirmed. These classes will be on Feb. 5 and March 5 from 1:30-3:00pm.



## ***Ever Thought about Becoming a Stephen Minister?***

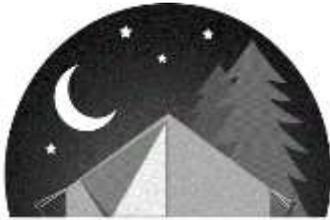
Immanuel will be training another class of Stephen Ministers beginning in May. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to use your gifts to serve in this important ministry.

We need more men and women Stephen Ministers to care for those who are making that long journey through the valley of a life crisis. Will you consider using your gifts in this way? If you think you might be interested, please talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Gail Mitchell, Chris Schuster, Fred Schuster or Pastor Dana.*

## **February Birthdays**

- |    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | Judy Smith<br>Diane Thomas          |
| 2  | Wade Johnson                        |
| 3  | Alana Johnson<br>Becky Wang         |
| 4  | Ted Lueder<br>Lisa Wegener          |
| 7  | Travis Danielson<br>Melody Ferguson |
| 9  | Linda Mellinger                     |
| 10 | Craig Boulier                       |
| 11 | Elizabeth Scott                     |
| 12 | Kathy Gallaher                      |
| 16 | Kris Kirby                          |
| 16 | Scott Mindel                        |
| 19 | Chuck Clise                         |
| 19 | Cristi Farmeller                    |
| 19 | Mark Heinrich                       |
| 20 | Al Wood<br>Roger Gilbert            |
| 21 | Emma Heinrich                       |
| 22 | Ed Berthold                         |
| 23 | Bonnie Berthold<br>Bill Gallaher    |
| 24 | Allen Shock<br>Donna Swenson        |
| 25 | Doug Schuette                       |
| 28 | Stephen Marshall                    |

# Ministry with Each Other



## Camp Immanuel

Camp Immanuel will be held at Coldwater Lake Campground September 8-10. Mark your calendars and watch for further information in the upcoming months!

## Synod Assembly 2017 to be held in Mt. Pleasant

The 2017 Synod Assembly will be held May 21-23, 2017 at Immanuel Lutheran Church and Comfort Inn and Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Mt. Pleasant. This is an opportunity to participate in the Synod Assembly without having to drive a long distance or stay overnight!

Our Assembly theme is “Freed by God’s Grace,” from the verse “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).

We will welcome the Reverend Dr. R. Guy Erwin, Bishop of the Southwest California Synod, as our keynote speaker. Bishop Erwin, a member of the Osage Nation, is the first Native American bishop elected to office in the ELCA. He is a noted church historian who has frequently taught courses on Martin Luther and the Lutheran Reformation. Bishop Erwin will address both of these topics during his time with the assembly.

Watch the synod’s website [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org) and the synod’s weekly updates for registration in early February.

## 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 Community & World

### **“Why Are Lutherans Political?” A Day of Conversation with Dr. James M. Childs, Jr.**

In our Nation today, the relationship between faith and politics is a highly-charged topic of discussion. Dr. James Childs, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, will guide us in exploration of this topic through presentations and conversation. This event will be held Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9:30am to 3:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos. All are welcome!

You may register for this event by contacting Ann at the Synod Office ([517 321-5066](tel:5173215066)). Lunch will be provided for a modest fee



Looking for the right gift of your special sweetheart? Valentine Gift Bags will be available to order on January 29 and February 5 before the 9am and 11 am Sunday services. The cost helps small-scale farmers all over the world earn a fair price for their products: coffee beans, cocoa beans, tea, nuts and fruit. The farmers may then build a better future for themselves and their families. You may choose from a variety of items and place an order that will be ready for pick up on Sunday, February 12.

# Ministry with Community & World

## **ICRH is returning to Immanuel**

**“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35).**

Immanuel Lutheran Church is hosting guests from the Isabella County Restoration House Rotating Shelter **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, through SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 2017** and your help is needed!

To participate, you can sign up online through Sign-Up Genius beginning Feb.5. You also will have opportunities to sign up between services on Feb. 5, 12 and 19 in the Narthex.

For any questions, please contact **Peggy Burke at (989) 775-0774** or **Jennifer Digmann at (989) 775-8475**.

**Please join us in making a difference in someone else’s life, as well as your own!**

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### **The Noisy Offering**

The noisy offering on February 26 will be given to the William Ellis Brockman Infant Pantry.

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

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

This discussion group will meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Capital Room. Join us!!!!

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## **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 Community & World

North/West Lower Michigan Synod  
**Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry (ELMM)**

## OVERVIEW

Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry equips leaders for service in our congregations and communities. Over a three-year period, students complete 12 two-day and 6 one-day learning events, focusing on biblical overview, Lutheran theology, practical skills, and gift discernment. Those who complete the program may be commissioned by their congregations for specific areas of ministry as deemed appropriate by their respective pastors and congregation councils.

The cost to complete the program ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000 depending on lodging accommodation preferences. There may be additional costs for books and travel expenses. Many congregations choose to support the leader who makes a commitment to the program by covering a portion of the costs. Scholarship funds are available for those who need additional financial support.

Prerequisites for entry:

- Active member of an ELCA congregation
- Application with three references (one of whom is the applicant's pastor)

Students may begin the three-year process at any time and are recognized by Synod Assembly following completion of the program.

Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio partners with our synod to provide biblical instruction. Rostered and lay leaders provide additional instruction relevant to service in our congregations and to synod-wide ministries. Congregations in our synod host our learning events and lodging accommodations are arranged at nearby hotels.

For more information, application materials, or scholarship details, contact Rebecca Bossenbroek at [rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net) or 517-927-4755.

### **Registration Instructions**

1. Email the following information to [rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net) by the registration deadline:
  - a. Date of event you plan to attend
  - b. Lodging requirements (commuter \$50, double \$95, single \$140)
2. Make your check payable to North/West Lower Michigan Synod and write ELMM and the event date (MMDDYY) on the memo line. If you are making an annual tuition payment, indicate this on the memo line.
3. Mail your check to Rebecca Bossenbroek, NWLMS ELMM Administrator, 1622 Royal Crescent Dr., Holt MI 48842
4. Receive via email confirmation of your registration and payment as well as map, agenda, etc.
5. Administrator will arrange for your lodging accommodations by submitting a group rooming list to the hotel

# Ministry with Community & World

## Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry (ELLM) Spring Retreat Opportunities

### ***Prophets Before the Exile – Rev. Dr. Carol Marie Bechtel, Professor of Old Testament, Western Theological Seminary***

*The Hebrew people wanted a more stable form of government that would bring separate tribes together. They wanted a king, like other nations (1 Samuel 8). At first the prophet Samuel objected to this idea: since the Lord is the ruler of Israel, there is no place for a human king.*

**Also in this session: *Worship and Liturgy***

**Rev. Andreas Teich, Messiah Lutheran Church, Bay City MI**

**Dates:** Friday (9am) –Saturday (3pm), March 3-4, 2017  
**Retreat site:** [Good Shepherd Lutheran Church](#), 3990 112<sup>th</sup> Ave, Holland, MI  
**Lodging site:** [Microtel Inn & Suites](#), 643 Hastings Ave, Holland  
**Cost:** Commuter \$50; Double occupancy \$95; Single occupancy \$140  
**Registration deadline:** January 31, 2017 – Contact Rebecca Bossenbroek at [rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net) to register.

### ***The Writings***

### **The Rev. Dr. Carol Marie Bechtel, Professor of Old Testament, Western Theological Seminary**

*Historians, priests and prophets were not the only ones with something to say. Others in Israel expressed their faith in a variety of ways, and some of their writings are also in the Bible. Because these works are so varied, they are called simply the “Writings.” In this session, we will take a brief look at all of these works, as well as the books of Ruth and Jonah.*

**Also in this session: *Creeds and Sacraments***

**Rev. Andreas Teich, Messiah Lutheran Church, Bay City MI**

**Dates:** Friday (9am) –Saturday (3pm), March 31 – April 1, 2017  
**Retreat site:** [Christ United Church](#), 1000 W Webb Rd, Dewitt MI 48820  
**Lodging site:** [Sleep Inn](#), 1101 Commerce Park Dr, Dewitt MI 48820  
**Cost:** Commuter \$50; Double occupancy \$95; Single occupancy \$140  
**Registration deadline:** February 28, 2017. - Contact Rebecca Bossenbroek at [rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net) to register.

### **The Rev. Dr. Carol Marie Bechtel, Professor of Old Testament, Western Theological Seminary**

Before joining Western’s faculty in 1994, Carol Bechtel taught at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. She has also served as a teaching fellow at Yale Divinity School and as interim pastor of Turn of River Presbyterian Church in Stamford, Connecticut. Dr. Bechtel preaches and teaches widely and is a General Synod Professor of Theology in the Reformed Church in America. She served as President of the RCA’s General Synod from 2009-2010.

Dr. Bechtel grew up on a farm in Fulton, Illinois. She attended Hope College, Western Theological Seminary and received her Ph.D. in Old Testament from Yale University in 1992. She now lives in Holland, Michigan with her husband, Tom Mullens. They have four children: Elyssa, Andrew, Ian, and Ellen, and a grandson, Michael. Her hobbies include singing, cooking, gardening, and the Celtic harp.

## February Worship Helpers

### Cantors

5 Dennis Marshall  
12 Bill Gallaher  
19 Amy Powell  
26 Kathy Gallaher

### Counters

5 John Emmons & John Warriner  
12 Chuck McCollom & Sue French  
19 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand  
26 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff

### Altar Guild

5 Sue French & Sandy Warriner  
12 Judy Emmons & Bonnie Schaeffer  
19 Jan Kruska & Denise Little  
26 Paula Krueger & Kathy Gatten

### Projector

5 (9:00) Dan Digmann  
(11:00) Aubyrton Anderson  
12 (9:00) Gabe Goodrich  
(11:00) Craig Torgerson  
19 (9:00) Deb LaBlance  
(11:00) Ted Tuma  
26 (9:00) Amy Powell  
(11:00) Kip Ferguson

### Ushers

5 (9:00) Bill Jensen, Cliff Moss, Barry Shellenbarger  
(11:00) Volunteers needed  
12 (9:00) Roger Gilbert, Bill Jensen, Cliff Moss  
(11:00) Volunteers needed  
19 (9:00) Roger Gilbert, Bill Jensen, Bonnie Schaeffer  
(11:00) Volunteers needed  
26 (9:00) Bill Jensen, Bonnie Schaeffer, Barry Shellenbarger  
(11:00) Volunteers needed

### Assisting Ministers

5 (9:00) Mark Strandskov  
(11:00) Amy Powell  
12 (9:00) Chris Schuster  
(11:00) Susan Shock  
19 (9:00) Mark Strandskov  
(11:00) Natalie Douglas  
26 (6:00) Amy Powell  
(9:00) Meaghan McCollow

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

*(lists not available at time of printing)*