



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 2017

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.



Friends in Christ,

This is a special month in the church. It's the month we end our Lenten journey and proclaim loudly together, "Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!" It is also famously said, "It's Friday but Sunday is coming!" As Easter people, Lent is a time we anxiously await the celebration of the resurrection. However, knowing the gift of the resurrection we experience the joy of Easter morning with a different mind and heart when we journey through the suffering and pain.

There is no question that each of us are very familiar with suffering and pain. It is something we experience. It is something that God experiences with us. Not just on the cross over 2,000 years ago – but in every breath of grief, addiction, depression, loneliness, oppression, and illness that we breathe.

I invite each of you to join me this Holy week. We gather as a community for the holy triduum (google it) so that we know we are not alone in suffering. We gather to remember. We gather to hear God's Word. We gather to give thanks. It is in this gathering that we are transformed into the creation that God has formed us to be.

Palm Sunday: We will lift our palms in celebration to a king who is not of this world as we sing Hosanna and journey to the cross.

Maundy Thursday: We begin with the washing of the feet, prayer, and song. Then we remember the last supper and join with the first Christians in what was known as an "agape meal" or "love feast." They shared supper together (we will offer soup, salad, and sandwiches), they prayed, read Scripture, sang hymns, and shared the Eucharist. The meal begins with the breaking of the bread and blessing of the wine. And so, the entire dinner meal is part of the Eucharist. Indeed, it is the Eucharist.

Good Friday: We will gather for Prayer around the Cross pausing at the crucifixion.

Sunrise Service: We begin outside at sunrise in joyful celebration of the empty tomb and move inside to the celebration of the resurrection!

Easter Festival Service: We proclaim loudly, "Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!"

Awaiting resurrection,
Pastor Dana

Lent & Easter 2017 Schedule

Lent

Ash Wednesday Services
March 1st @ 12:15 pm & 6:00 pm

Tuesday Lenten Services
March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
& April 4th @ 5:30 pm
Fellowship Hall



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Holy Week

Palm Sunday Services
April 9th @ 9 am & 11 am

Maundy Thursday Service
April 13th @ 6:00 pm

Good Friday Service
April 14th @ 6:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service
April 16th @ 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast
April 16th @ 8:30 am

Easter Festival Service
April 16th @ 10:00 am

From the President.....

You hear the prayer weekly during service – we pray for Stephen Ministry leaders and caregivers. You may have heard about Stephen Ministry in announcements or in the Adult Forum, too. Are you aware, though, of the impact of Stephen Ministry in our community? Perhaps not, because the work is done quietly, in personal relationships. But those quiet works are not to be confused with less impactful works. Indeed, Stephen Ministry provides care to many in our community who are facing a challenging time and are in need of extra spiritual support during a time of hurt, crisis, change, and/or loneliness, to name a few.

A year ago, I was in the middle of my training as a Stephen Minister. The training, while a commitment itself, has proven to be a powerful tool not only in my preparation as a Stephen Minister but as a human being. While I began my training a little uncertain that I was the “right person” to become a Stephen Minister, I developed a new perspective and came to understand that these skills provided a foundation through which God could use me in a caring relationship.

I want to challenge you to consider, deeply, whether Stephen Ministry might be an area of ministry to which you might be called. You needn’t have all the “right answers”, you don’t need to have experienced every type of crisis. A willing heart, a desire to help others, and an openness to sharing others’ experiences – those will take you far. So, how about you?

A new Stephen Ministry training will begin in May. If you are interested in more information or would like to talk to someone about Stephen Ministry, you are welcome to reach out to any of the Stephen Ministry leaders, or myself. Our Stephen Ministry leaders are Chris and Fred Schuster and Gail Mitchell. I won’t promise the training is easy (it’s not, to be honest), but I can honestly say – it was life-changing for me. This is one of the most powerful ministries we have at Immanuel. I hope you will prayerfully consider if this might be a good fit for you.

Peace,

Meaghan McCollow,
Council President



**The Pastor
Will Be Away**

During the week of April 24, Pastor Dana will be traveling to Chicago, IL to attend a conference called, “The Ecumenical Roundtable for Science, Technology and the Church.” This Roundtable is currently comprised of four of the so-called “Main Line” Protestant denominations in the Christian tradition:

- 1) The Episcopal Church Network for Science, Technology and Faith
- 2) The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology.
- 3) The Presbyterian Association for Science, Technology and the Christian Faith
- 4) the United Church of Christ Science and Technology Network

Ministry with Each Other



In honor of the 500th 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 April 2 & May 7 from 1:30-3:00pm.



Is God Calling You?

Stephen Ministry is a program in our congregation that equips lay members to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who desire extra support and caring during a particular time of need in their life. This ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Stephen Ministers faithfully visit another person to offer Christian care and support.

A new training class will begin in May. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please prayerfully consider attending an informational coffee on April 18th at 6:30pm at the home of Gail Mitchell.

Please let the church office know if you are planning to attend.

Stephen Ministry Fundraiser

Blank note cards featuring the beautiful window in our sanctuary (from an original watercolor by Barb McCollom) are available in the narthex.

A package of 10 cards and envelopes is \$5.00, with sales benefitting our Stephen Ministry program. Get yours while they last!



April Birthdays

- 3 **Oliver Sullivan
Michael Wyman**
- 4 **Ben Strandskov**
- 5 **Jason Qualls
Gabe Reimer**
- 9 **Carol Erickson**
- 11 **Dawn Moss**
- 12 **Larae Fedor
Barry Shellenbarger
Zach Foote**
- 15 **Beth Patterson**
- 16 **Zander Behenna
Ann Ferguson**
- 17 **Dan Pattison**
- 18 **Mary Lou Fell
Mike Piatek-Jimenez**
- 19 **Drew Minke**
- 20 **Thomas Mellinger
Alexander Wegener
Lillie Reimer**
- 21 **Doris Dale
Carol Davis
Gary Ramsower
Thomas Strandskov**
- 22 **Lauren Little**
- 23 **Justin Foote
Terry Grabe
Margaux Hetzman**
- 26 **Mindy Qualls
Megan Watters**
- 27 **Michala Ebert**
- 28 **Brenda Hart**
- 29 **Jan Eversole**
- 30 **Tom Endres**

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!



Please join us on May 6th from 9-12 as we prepare the building and grounds for spring! (Sign up in Narthex)

Study of Islam

Last month, Pastor Dana started to offer two opportunities to engage in learning more about our Muslim brothers and sisters:

Wednesday mornings at 10:30am in the Capital Room

4/5 – Sulfism: Muslim Spirituality part 2

4/12 – Cancelled (Holy Week)

4/19 – Equipping the Church for Dialogue

4/26 – Cancelled (Pastor Dana is at a conference)

OR

Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm in the Narthex

4/5 – Cancelled (Spring Break)

4/12 – Cancelled (Holy Week)

4/19 – Equipping the Church for Dialogue, Part 1

4/26 – Equipping the Church for Dialogue, Part 2 & 3

In May, we will offer a panel discussion with local Muslim brothers and sisters. Watch for details.

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 Each Other

**Nursery
Volunteers
Needed**



We are increasing the times we are manning the nursery to help be family friendly during our church activities. We hope to provide nursery:

- Sunday mornings during both services and in the passing time between services
- Tuesday evenings during our Lenten services
- Wednesday evenings during children's choir and Worship Wednesday activities

This means that we need more nursery volunteers! Please let us know if you are willing to join the nursery team! Email Craig Torgerson at craig@immanuelmp.com to learn more!

JC's Schedule

- April 2 NO JCs- Spring Break
- April 9 Clothing Inc. 3-5pm
- April 16 Easter Breakfast 8:30am
- April 23 3-5pm at church
- April 30 3-5pm at church
- May 7 3-5pm Last JCs of year
- May 21 Mission Trip Mtg. 2-3pm



Worship Wednesday Calendar

Wednesdays from 5:30PM - 7:15PM

April

5 - NO WORSHIP WEDNESDAY (Spring Break)

12 - NO WORSHIP WEDNESDAY (Holy Week)

19 - "Paul & Silas" (Acts 16:16-40)

26 - "Paul & the Philippians" (Philippians 1:1-14)



JOIN US FOR J.A.M.!!!

We are continuing to have fun every Sunday between services at JAM. All kids age 4 and up are welcome. We are located down the hall from the office, in the far north classrooms. For Lent, we are spending a brief time at the start of each JAM session doing a Lenten devotional centered on Holy Week. We will continue to hold JAM sessions on Sundays (except Easter Sunday) up until Memorial Day weekend, then we will break for the summer. Come and have some fun with us!



Where do I drop off donations???

*Plastic grocery bags for CCN can be dropped into the baskets outside of the office.

*Empty cans and bottles for the Youth can be dropped off in the bin in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall.

Ministry with Each Other



service programs

Road Trip • Chicago | \$485

For campers grades 6-12 or 9-12
Make positive changes in communities through well-rounded volunteer service opportunities that touch areas of poverty, human services, advocacy, and the environment. For the adventure we throw in a segway tour of Chicago that is fun and memorable!

For more information, email:

craig@immanuelmp.com



FAQs

How do we get to Chicago?

Transportation is included in the registration fee for our Chicago experience and will occur via Amtrak.

Where do we stay?

Groups are housed in a local church, school, or community building. Showers are available either on site or at a nearby location.

Are meals included?

Meals is provided in the registration fee.

Ministry with Each Other

**Patty Jo Bugh will soon
have a new address!**

On April 1, Patty Jo will be moving to:

Rosebush Manor
4210 E. Rosebush Rd. Apt. 6
Rosebush, MI 48878
Phone: (989)433-0150 ext. 50327



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Vacation Bible School will take place
July 17-21 this year.

Be sure to mark your calendars NOW!



"My Master's Miracles" with Patty Jo Bugh

April 23 & 30 (between Sunday services, 10:15ish, in the fellowship hall)

Come gather with me, as together we will see,

The many wonders Jesus has done!

Let's discuss and explore God's miracles galore.

Then rejoice in them one by one!

Each of you dear friends is a miracle of God's own creation.

Let us pray and give thanks, as our voices we raise in joyful praise and celebration!

Hope to see you!

God Bless you,
Patty Jo

Ministry with Community & World



A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." **John 13:34-35**

While this verse is so well known by all of us, it is such a joy to see it in practice at Immanuel during the weeks when we open our doors to the homeless. At our last hosting of the homeless shelter, February 26 through March 5, one guest made the following comment to me on the last morning. "I have had to stay at many different shelters over the years. What I especially like about this shelter is that the people hosting it do not seem to be patting themselves on the back for how good they are or waiting around for someone else to pat them on the back. I like the way you treat all of us all the time."

Thank you all for opening your hearts and sharing your love with our neighbors who need a helping hand. The joy for us all is in the working together as a community of disciples.

Peggy Burke, Jennifer Digmann and Ryan Douglass

Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering will take place on Sunday, April 23. All proceeds will be given to the "People Helping People" account through Max & Emily's, which will help to feed the homeless locally.

Check out the new Fruit & Nut Bars!

- No added sugar
- No gluten
- No dairy or soy
- \$2.50 each



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.

April Worship Helpers

Cantors

- 2 Kathy Gallaher
- 9 No Cantor
- 16 John Lorand
- 23 Dennis Marshall
- 30 Bill Gallaher

Counters

- 2 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 9 Chuck McCollom & Sue French
- 16 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 23 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 30 John Emmons & John Warriner

Altar Guild

- 2 Chris Schuster & Ann Ferguson
- 9 Bonnie Schaeffer & Sarah Gilbert
- 13 Paula Krueger & Sandy Warriner
- 16 Deb Reimer & Kathy Gatten
- 23 Judy Emmons & Deb Reimer
- 30 Linda Wicander & Bonnie Berthold

Projector (9:00)

- 2 Dan Digmann
- 9 Gabe Goodrich
- 16 (10:00) Deb LaBlance
- 23 Amy Powell
- 30 Dan Digmann

Projector (11:00)

- 2 Aubyrton Anderson
- 9 Craig Torgerson
- 16 (7:00am) Ted Tuma
- 23 Kip Ferguson
- 30 Craig Torgerson

Ushers (9:00)

- 2 Tom Endres, Bill Jensen, Rose Prasad
- 9 Carl Graef, Bill Jensen, Newton S.
- 13 (6:00) TBD
- 14 (6:00) TBD
- 16 (10:00) Bill Jensen & volunteers
- 23 Bill Jensen, Ruth Magnell, Wes Skinner
- 30 Bill Jensen, Wes Skinner

Ushers (11:00)

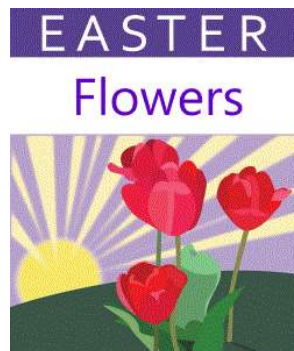
(List not available at time of printing)

Assisting Ministers

- 2 (9:00) Chris Schuster
(11:00) Cheryl Geisthardt
- 9 (9:00) Mark Strandskov
(11:00) Meaghan McCollow
- 13 (6:00) Mary Hageman
- 14 (6:00) Chris Schuster
- 16 (7:00) Rose Prasad
(10:00) Mark Strandskov
- 23 (9:00) Dan Digmann
(11:00) Chris Schuster
- 30 (9:00) Mary Hageman
(11:00) Natalie Douglas

Greeters (9:00)

- 2 Cil & John Lorand
- 9 Olena & Axel Mellinger
- 16 (10:00) Carole Heydenburg & friend
- 23 Keith Allen & friend
- 30 Deb & Pete LaBlance



Easter flower order forms are available in the Narthex. Pick yours up today, fill it out and submit it to the office mailbox, along with payment, no later than Monday, April 3rd.