



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 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.



Dear friends in Christ,
In my January Gleaner article I wrote:

"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."

We now have 18 trained facilitators who will lead the charge on these community conversations. Throughout March and April they will be asking over 90 leaders in our community, "If you had \$100,000 to invest in our community, what would you do to improve the quality of life for youth and families?" Two members of Immanuel will compile the 90+ results of the one-on-one's so that we will be able to share what we learned and hopefully see some agreed upon gaps in the community, and in turn, respond to them.

I ask that you hold the 18 facilitators and the 90+ leaders in prayer. Our hope is that in listening we will figure out how Immanuel, alongside United Way, can meet the needs of this community and its families. I have heard many of you say, "We'd love to see more families at Immanuel." This is one way for us to meet families where they are. Let all of this time and effort be in glory to God!

So, as we enter into this Lenten season and immerse ourselves in the Parables of Lent, please keep these community conversations in prayer. Jesus said, "I come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." In glory to God let us listen so that we may share this abundant life with the families of our community.

On our way to the cross,
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 Director of Faith Formation...

Many of you have probably noticed that we have caught the cleaning bug at church lately. We have gone through a lot of the classrooms in the education wing, cleaned up the lobby in front of the offices, moved the chairs out of the bell tower entrance, and reorganized some of the pamphlets and posters on the walls. Here are some of the things I have learned throughout this process:

We have a lot of junk. This probably seems harsh; however, if you have ever done a spring cleaning at home, you have most likely come to this same realization that there is a difference between knowing you have things you don't need and facing all the stuff that you need to get rid of. Over time I think it is easy to become comfortable with some of our mess. Every once in a while it is a good idea to take stock of what we have. Sometimes it is helpful to get a fresh pair of eyes to help us see things that we may overlook.

We rediscovered many things that are totally usable. We found an Alpha study and another middle school study that have great information with brand new workbooks. We found, and organized, a ton of CDs that we used to create a great music library in the youth room. We also discovered many new and gently used Spark Bibles that we can now make available for our children and youth classes. There is something very fulfilling about being able to rediscover or make something you already have usable again. It's kind of like connecting with an old friend.

Having less stuff can be scary and refreshing at the same time. One room that I am thinking of in particular is the JAM room. It feels so empty when walking in that room now! This newly welcoming and usable space now gives us the ability to redesign or try something new; whereas, before it was cleaned, we were kind of stuck with how it was set up. I think an emptying can be a frightening thing; however, it often brings us to a place of better use and greater potential.

Lent is a time where we, individually and corporately, take some time to clean up, organize, and refocus our faith. Where are we just storing and ignoring the junk in our lives? What disciplines, tools, or faith practices have we given up, quit using, or have forgotten about? How can we empty ourselves and create space in our lives so we might make ourselves ready and more usable for God's purposes?

I love how much time, energy, resources, and space we offer at Immanuel in order to serve our community. I believe that by taking advantage of this Lenten season we can make ourselves not only more usable but also give God an opportunity to redesign us so we can have a greater impact and an even broader reach in serving and sharing the Good News in Central Michigan!

TGBTG,

Craig Torgerson
Director of Faith Formation

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 March 5 and April 2 from 1:30-3:00pm.

Using Your Spiritual Gifts

Gifted to Care

Spiritual gifts are gifts to give away. God gives them to us, and we use them to serve others. How are you using your gifts right now? Are you looking for a new way to use them? If your spiritual gifts include one or more of the following—faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or compassion—consider Stephen Ministry, our congregation’s one-to-one caregiving ministry. This may be just what you’ve been looking for! Contact Gail Mitchell, Chris Schuster or Fred Schuster to learn more about this ministry.



An Invitation to the Congregation:

Immanuel’s Stephen Ministry extends an invitation to the church and community on Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 pm. We are excited to have Laura Ruhle, Program Educator for the Alzheimer’s Association. She will present, “Ministering to Persons with Alzheimer’s and Dementia”. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend right after the Lenten service.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Joann Johnson
Mel Woods |
| 3 | Sam Staples |
| 4 | Tom Dillman
Barb Dunn |
| 6 | Lachlan Weber |
| 7 | Michael Caleca
Olivia Geisthardt |
| 8 | Susan Shock |
| 9 | Janice Fox |
| 10 | David Ross |
| 11 | Meaghan McCollow |
| 12 | Katherine Brown |
| 13 | Rachel Schwerin |
| 14 | Joann Golden
Nicole Balent |
| 15 | Jennifer McCallum
Cil Lorand |
| 16 | Chris Schuster
Margaret VanFaussien |
| 18 | Wesley Skinner |
| 21 | Carl Graef
Zachary Heinrich |
| 22 | Doug Hill |
| 25 | Madeline Ebert
Ann Ferguson
Joshua Fluharty |
| 26 | Sue Keilitz |
| 27 | Christine Ruelle
Laura Richards |
| 28 | Craig Torgerson
Lacey Connor |
| 29 | Brady Griffith
Paula Krueger |
| 30 | Gabriel Kauffman
Morgan Oswald
Ethan Balent |

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!

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
Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm in the Narthex

The sessions include:

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

“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.”

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



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 March Schedule

March 5 3-5pm at church
March 12 3-5pm at church
March 17-19 Spring Hill
March 26 3-5pm at church
April 2- NO JCs- Spring Break



Worship Wednesday Calendar

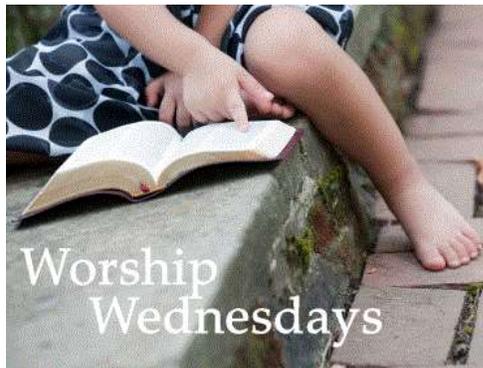
Wednesdays from 5:30PM - 7:15PM

March

- 1 - NO WORSHIP WEDNESDAY (Ash Wednesday)
- 8 - Worship Wednesday at the Jump Station
- 15 - "Early Believers" (Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37)
- 22 - "Peter Heals" (Acts 3:1-16)
- 29 - "Lydia" (Acts 16:9-15)

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)



Worship Wednesday Volunteers

We are coming up on the end of the Worship Wednesday season but we would still love to add you to the team! There are a lot of people that help create an environment that help our children and youth learn and grow in faith and knowledge of scripture. Here are our Worship Wednesday teams:

- Kitchen Crew
- Children's Choir Assistant
- Worship Wednesday Assistant Teacher
- Tech Team
- Set Up Team
- Tear Down Team

If you would like to join the Worship Wednesday crew please email Craig Torgerson at craig@immanuelmp.com.

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

**Daylight Savings Time
begins on March 12....
Remember to set your clocks ahead!**



SAVE THE DATE!!!

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

Be sure to mark your calendars NOW!

TOTALLY HIS- Children's Choir

Rehearsal Schedule

All rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at Immanuel from 4:15PM - 5:30PM.

March 15, 22, & 29

April 19 & 26

Performance Schedule

All performances are during the 9AM service on Sunday mornings. Please arrive at 8:15AM for warmup.

March 26

April 9 & 23

Email Cindy Torgerson at cindy.k.torgerson@gmail.com for more information!

Ministry with Community & World



**THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!**

The ICRH would like to thank everyone who helped Immanuel to house the homeless!
Your volunteer hours and food donations were crucial in
making this past week run so smoothly

Everyone Please Vote: All in attendance on Sunday, March 26 are asked to vote. Thrivent Financial donates “free money” through the Thrivent Choice program. Last year it was \$1,540 for Immanuel. Our church council has suggested (3) areas of financial need:

- 1) Funds toward our musical program.
- 2) Funds to make our narthex into an improved welcome center.
- 3) Help to support Camp Immanuel.

Please vote **once** for your preference. Thanks.



The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on March 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!!!!

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.

March Worship Helpers

Cantors

5 John Lorand
12 Dennis Marshall
19 Bill Gallaher
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 Billie Plouff & Sarah Gilbert
12 Sandy Warriner & Deb Reimer
19 Pat Podoll & Jan Kruska
26 Sue French & Denise Little

Projector

5 (9:00) Dan Digmann
(11:00) Aubyrion 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) Wes Skinner, Rose Prasad & Bill
Jensen
(11:00) Volunteers needed
12 (9:00) Sam Staples, Carl Graef & Bill
Jensen
(11:00) Volunteers needed
19 (9:00) Carl Graef, Wes Skinner & Bill
Jensen
(11:00) Volunteers needed
26 (9:00) Sam Staples, Carl Graef & Bill
Jensen
(11:00) Volunteers needed

Assisting Ministers

5 (9:00) Dan Digmann
(11:00) Paul Geisthardt
12 (9:00) Volunteer
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
19 (9:00) Chris Schuster
(11:00) Volunteer
26 (6:00) Volunteer
(9:00) Volunteer

Greeters (9:00 & 11:00)

(lists not available at time of printing)