



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

May 2017

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Monday-Friday 8am-3pm

Summer Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm
(beginning on May 26)

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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.**



North West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly

On Sunday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. we will be hosting a worship service for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly at Immanuel to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation!

Immanuel members are welcome to attend this special event.



Interfaith Panel Discussion

May 3 at 6:30 p.m.

We will have local Muslim brothers and sisters joining us in the fellowship hall for an interfaith panel discussion. This is open to all members and friends of Immanuel.

Religions and cultures differ, but all the major world religions share key values. In this panel discussion, we will follow up on questions raised during Immanuel's study on Islam. We will discuss the human and ethical values that we share with one another.

From the Pastor.....

I read in a devotion by Jacqui Thone:

“I watched the waves pushing against the rocks of our campsite – a reminder of the rhythm that is part of nature. The waves push and then recede. They can’t simply keep pushing – there must also be a time to recede in order for the next push to happen. It is creation’s way, and we are part of creation.”

This inspired me to check out biblically what role the waves play throughout scripture.

Genesis 1:6 – “And God said, ‘Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’”

God created the oceans, lakes, rivers, creeks...

Psalms 65:7 – “You [God] silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.”

God not only created the waters but God in the midst of the rhythm that is part of nature. God is in the midst of the pushing and receding – the loud and the quiet – the scary and the joyful.

Matthew 8: 24 – “A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up saying ‘Lord, save us....’ Then Jesus got up and rebuked the winds and the seas; and there was a dead calm.”

In this Jesus wonders why the disciples have such little faith. God is active in our lives – yet we continue to doubt.

Matthew 14: 24 – “...but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he [Jesus] came walking toward them on the sea... So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.”

Jesus not only does the impossible but invites Peter to do the same. When Peter doubts, Jesus reaches out his hand to raise Peter above the water.

These stories of water make a beautiful picture of God. God created and is the midst of the rhythm that is part of nature. God gives us the ability to do the impossible and when our humanness calls on doubt – Jesus reaches out to raise us!

And all of this from looking up the word "waves". God can speak to us through creation. As spring brings new growth, let us recede for a moment and listen!

Flowing in God,
Pr. Dana

Ministry with Each Other



In honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Pastor Dana has offered an adult Confirmation Class this year. The final class will be held on 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.

We will have a new training series beginning in mid-May. Please contact Fred or Chris Schuster, Gail Mitchell or Pr. Dana if you are interested in joining this class.

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!



May Birthdays

2	Rob Faleer Beth Mundwiler
3	Sam Riley
4	John Zolynsky Jan Kruska
7	Jennifer Gallaher
8	Michael Hetzman Asher Weber
9	Reggie Becker
10	Bert Krueger Kathy Marshall Tony Powell Ryan Wood
11	Leah Wicander
13	Caleb Ross Matthew Strandskov
14	Julia Hoffman
16	Haylee Geisthardt Gabe Goodrich Dan Weber
19	Emily Zolynsky
20	Trudy Staples
22	Carson Mitchell
24	Justin Oswald Peggy Schuette
25	Michael Deaton
26	Amy Moore
27	Peggy Burke Joe Ross
29	George Dunn Ashley Shellenbarger
30	Ryan Ferguson Katie Caleca
31	Joe Caleca

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!



Summer
WORSHIP
TIMES

On Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 28th, we will switch to ONE weekly worship service at 10am.

This will remain in effect through Labor Day weekend. Be sure to mark your calendars!!



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



If you are interested in helping out with mowing this summer, please contact Paul Geisthardt at 772-7014.

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

Pr. Dana invites you to join her for Theological Discussions on Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Capital Room.

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

Matthew 25:35-40

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

To our Dear Immanuel Family,

We can't express how grateful we are for all the prayers, cards, meals, gift cards, help with transportation, the many visits and all the support that you have given to us, and continue to give to our family during this time with John's recent stroke.

We are truly grateful blessed to be a part of the Immanuel family. It has been nearly 6 months now since John's stroke, and this note of appreciation is long overdue. It has, indeed, been a rather scary and hard time to get through all this- but you have helped us in so many ways.

We can't thank Pastor Dana enough for all her visits, and the several times that she stopped by to pick up Daniel from Saginaw Valley so he could see his Dad. We are all doing well and encouraged by John's recovery so far and pray for his continued strength and healing. Thank you again.

In God's Love,

John, Cindy, Matt, Sarah and Daniel Keller



SAVE THE DATE!!!

The Bible is filled with examples of God's people **shouting** and **cheering** in response to His mighty acts of power. **Victory** invites children to do the same by remembering **who God is, what He has done, and what He promises to do!**

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

Be sure to mark your calendars NOW!

YOU ARE INVITED!!!



We are having a party to honor Eric Podolsky's graduation from high school on Sunday, June 4th from 1 – 4 pm in the church fellowship hall. He will attend Michigan State University this fall majoring in engineering.

You have been his church family since he was born and we thank you so much for the love and support you have given him. We would be honored if you could join us to celebrate his graduation as both family and friends!

Where do I drop off donations???

*Plastic grocery bags for CCN can be dropped into the baskets under the benches 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



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.

CCN Mobile Food Pantry May 13th at Immanuel

On Saturday, May 13, Immanuel will host a mobile food pantry from 9am to noon. We are in need of many volunteers! We need people to make refreshments, some to distribute food, others to escort our clients and finally, some to help clean up!

Please look for a sign-up in the Narthex.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Gilbert at sagilbert204@gmail.com.



Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering will take place on Sunday, May 28th. 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.

May Worship Helpers

Cantors

- 7 Amy Powell
- 14 Kathy Gallaher
- 21 John Lorand
- 28 (10:00) Dennis Marshall

Counters

- 7 Chuck McCollom & Harry Plouff
- 14 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 21 Jodie Mitchell Beach & Harry Plouff
- 28 John Emmons & John Warriner

Altar Guild

- 7 Chris Schuster & Ann Ferguson
- 14 Kathy Gatten & Sue French
- 21 Judy Emmons & Linda Wicander
- 28 Paula Krueger & Denise Little

Projector (9:00)

- 7 Gabe Goodrich
- 14 Deb LaBlance
- 21 Amy Powell
- 28 (10:00) volunteer

Projector (11:00)

- 7 Aubyrn Anderson
- 14 Craig Torgerson
- 21 Ted Tuma
- 28 (10:00) volunteer

Ushers (9:00)

(List not available at time of printing)

Ushers (11:00)

(List not available at time of printing)

Assisting Ministers

- 7 (9:00) Amy Powell
(11:00) Susan Shock
- 14 (9:00) Dave Simon
(11:00) Meaghan McCollow
- 21 (9:00) Linda Wicander
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 28 (10:00) Linda Wicander

Greeters (9:00)

(List not available at time of printing)

Greeters (11:00)

(List not available at time of printing)

Lawn-Mowing

- 4 Paul Kruska & Bill Jensen
- 11 The Geisthardt family;
- 18 Ed Berthold & Harry Plouff
- 25 The Powell family



Please join us at Island Park on Sunday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m. We will have Church in the Park along with First Presbyterian, First Church of the Nazarene & Central Michigan Free Methodist Church. (There will not be a service held here at Immanuel that day.) Be sure to mark your calendars!