



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

June/July 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.**



On Sunday, June 4 at 10:30am, we will worship at Island Park with First Presbyterian, First Church of the Nazarene & Central Michigan Free Methodist Church. We will hold worship at the park and NOT at Immanuel that Sunday. Please bring a chair to sit in, and a dish to share. We will be having a meal/potluck together following the service. This year, we have already decided that, rain or shine, it'll be in the park!

Join us on Sundays at 10am throughout the summer! This worship time will be in effect through September 10, which is Camp Immanuel weekend.



From the President.....

I am writing to you following an intense and interesting few days serving as a lay voting member representing Immanuel at the North/West Lower Michigan Synod assembly. It was a busy and productive assembly, with wonderful worship and an opportunity to hear from an inspiring keynote speaker – Bishop Guy Irwin from the Southwest California Synod.

During my time at the synod assembly, I heard multiple stories of the social justice call the ELCA seeks to answer across many areas – from fighting racism to climate change to feeding the hungry to being inclusive of LGBTIQ+. Through these stories, I was renewed in my admiration for all our church does for our surrounding community and across the world. And, I thought of areas in which we might do more.

For a few months, I have been in conversation with congregation members about becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church. While I have been familiar with RIC for years (indeed, I looked for an RIC congregation when I moved to Mount Pleasant as I've been a member of RIC congregations in the past), I know it is not terribly familiar in Michigan (only 6 RIC congregations exist in Michigan). I, and others, have considered how the RIC affiliation fits within the mission and strategic plan of Immanuel over the past year.

In the following section, I've selected specific questions about the RIC program to answer questions about what this might mean for Immanuel. Further resources and information can be found at <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>

What is an RIC (Reconciling in Christ) congregation? An RIC congregation is a tool to communicate who is welcomed into the congregation, in a very open and explicit way. “The RIC program recognizes Lutheran congregations... that publicly declare their welcome to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.... The RIC roster has become known as a resource for people seeking a community prepared to welcome them.”

All people are welcome in our faith community. Why should we single out lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people? Many LGBTQ people have learned by experience that they are not welcome in faith communities, even in those that state, “All are welcome here!”. This specific extension of “all” is particularly important to groups that have been marginalized and discriminated against by the church as a whole.

As we seek to live out the strategic plan developed through the cottage meetings we held last spring, I ask that you prayerfully consider ways in which our congregation can truly be welcoming. Not just to the LGBTQ+ community, but to others in the community as well. How can we live out Christ's example and love, and to extend our welcome?

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

Peace,

Meaghan McCollow
Council President

Ministry with Each Other



The youth of Immanuel will hold a rummage sale on Friday, August 25 & Saturday, August 26 in the Fellowship Hall.

They will begin collecting items immediately!

Items brought in before July 21, will need to be stored in the attic of the church. Anything brought in AFTER July 21 (the last day of VBS), can be taken to Classroom #2.

Please keep our youth in mind as you begin your spring cleaning! All proceeds from the sale will help defray the cost of their Mission Trip to Houston next summer!



Chicago Road Trip.....June 17-22

Please pray for Beth Mundwiler, Eric Podolsky, Lillie Reimer, Olivia & Haylee Geisthardt, Eric Wyman & Thomas & Jocelyn Strandskov as they attend this Youth Mission Trip!

Confirmation Camp.....June 18-23

Please pray for Pr. Dana & Lauren Little as they attend Confirmation Camp.

Vacation Bible School.....July 17-21

(see information on page 6)

Bridge Builders Camp.....July 22-28

Please pray for those attending this camp, where high school youth grow in leadership, develop peer ministry skills, and join the fight against racism as an expression of their faith and our call to love our neighbors. We give thanks for Beth Mundwiler who helps organize this week! Our prayers go with you!

June Birthdays

2	Ryan Douglas Delilah Tomko
4	Ashley Schuette
5	Roger Fultz
6	Jocelyn Strandskov
7	Bob Hoffman Robert Lee
8	Dana Mielke
9	John Emmons Rachel Davis Sandra Fluharty Marty Kaiser Randall Simmons
11	Rose Prasad Dave Simon
12	Glen Jurick Morgan Karr Lily Piatek-Jimenez
13	Bob Grabe Janet Heinrich Zach Heinrich
14	Ryan Hammond
15	Piper Sullivan
16	Lori Kreiner Lakyn Karr
19	Kathy Gatten Nathan Johnson
20	Kory Skop Emma Connor
22	Rebecca Golden
23	Isabel Goodrich Lauren Robinson
27	Bryan Mielke
28	Travis Foote Lacey Leonard Jamie Recker
29	Dorothy Fetting Sue Knight
30	Denise Little Claire Torgerson Augustus Connor

Ministry with Each Other

Lawnmower For Sale



A new Craftsman riding lawnmower was recently donated to the church. The church currently has 2 other riding mowers- a newer Toro zero turn radius mower and an older Sears Craftsman mower (about 1997-98), which is in good working condition. The church is willing to sell the older mower and is taking bids from any interested church member. The Sears Craftsman Riding Lawn Mower is a 19.5 HP Turbo cooled, 6 speed/ 42 inch cut. Please submit sealed bids to Andrea by 6/8/17 if interested.



On Sunday, June 11, we will celebrate the Confirmation of:
Aubyrn Anderson
Jennifer Digmann
Ryan Douglas
Gage Shellenbarger



Do you have a musical talent you'd like to offer during worship this summer? Would you like to sing a song? Play and instrument? Think about it, pray about it and hopefully you'll be led to share some of your musical gifts with us this summer.

Sign up in the Narthex!



On Sunday, June 11, we will celebrate the High School Graduation of
Kenny Galdeen &
Eric Podolsky
during our 10am Worship service.

ELW Hymnals

Since it is wise to have a hymnal in each slot (between the chairs) the church purchased another 25 hymnals.

The worship ministry agreed we would like to offer for members and friends of Immanuel to purchase a hymnal and give it in honor of or in loving memory of someone. You can also have your name listed (given by).

The cost of the hymnal is \$25.00. There are forms available in the office and in the Narthex. Please talk with Pastor Dana if you have any questions.



Pr. Dana will be out of town on vacation from July 3-10.

Ministry with Each Other

THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to all who helped with the Synod Assembly that was held at Immanuel in May! We appreciate your help moving chairs, making breakfast for the bikers and also those who helped with the coffee hour!!



Time for Baseball!!

We have an opportunity to attend a Great Lakes Loons game on Saturday, August 5 against the Fort Wayne Tin Caps. The game will start at around 7:00. Tickets are as follows: Box seat \$9.50, lawn \$6.50, kids age 2 and under are free. It is Star Wars night AND there will be fireworks!! I have been told by Loons staff that this game will be sold out, so if you are interested in attending, let me know as soon as possible. I will have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex shortly with more information. Please contact Dawn Moss by phone 989-817-1901 or email cdmoss1@earthlink.net.

Theological Discussions

Please join Pr. Dana on Wednesdays at 10:30 in the Capital Room for Theological Discussions on June 7 & 14.

Beginning June 21, we will recess for the summer.



A year ago, after an accident, I sold my car. I want to thank all of my friends here at Immanuel for the many rides you have offered and given me.

As Pastor Dana says, "We are surrounded by the waters of God's grace." I feel now that's especially true.

-Marilyn Zorn

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: _____

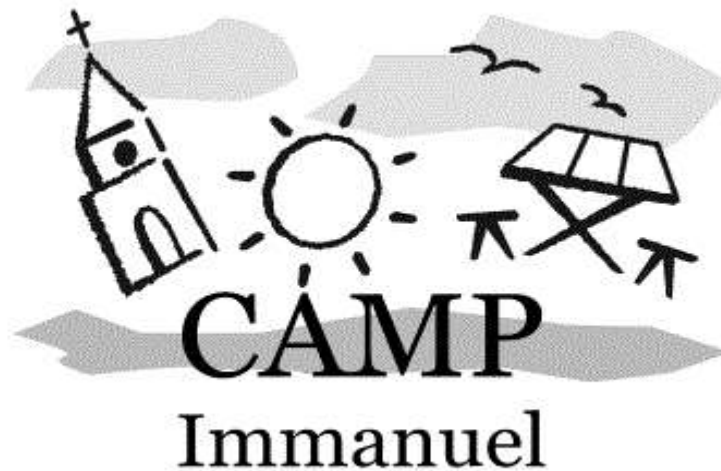
Desired Outcome: _____

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



September 8-10, 2017
Coldwater Lake Family Park in Weidman

Interested in coming, but don't wish to spend the night? We'd love to have you join us for the daytime activities! The schedule will be posted in August.

We have a few spots left for overnight stay (pull-through's and tents, all cabins are taken) Please let us know as soon as possible, and we may be able to add a campsite for you. The cost for the weekend is \$60 per site.

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.

Ministry with Each Other

July Birthdays

- 1 Kathy Hunt
- 2 Laurie Wood
- 3 Jackie Spycher
- 4 Kenny Galdeen
- 5 Alayna Fetting
- 8 George Polanco
- 11 Todd Hammond
Wes Kahkonen
Nicholas Wegener
- 12 Fred Schuster
Sarah Gallaher
Zachary Wang
- 13 Caiden Mitchell
Tara Riley
- 14 Nancy Simon
- 15 Aaron Smith
- 17 Erin Decker
- 18 Betty Koenig
- 19 Heather Hanley
Nicholas Wang
- 20 Linda Wicander
Alaina Wills
- 21 Keith Allen
Maris Polanco
- 22 Lynne Danielson
Penny Endres
Katherine Scott
- 24 Julie Shellenbarger
- 23 Chris Brown
- 25 Karen Graef
- 26 Ashley Jurick
- 27 Dennis Marshall
David Langlois
- 28 Dave Keilitz
- 29 Jamie Decker
- 31 Debra Marshall



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!
Sign-up online @ immanuelmp.com/vbs

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 Community & World

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Here are some upcoming outreach opportunities for members of Immanuel to get involved in the local community. If you have any ideas for other ways members of Immanuel Lutheran Church can get involved in serving our local community, please contact Jennifer Digmann at 989-775-8475 or Paul Kruska at 989-828-5103.

Red Cross blood drives

- **Tuesday, June 6 -Noon to 5:45 p.m. @ Immanuel Lutheran Church**
- Tuesday, June 6-10:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. @ CMU College of Medicine
- Tuesday, June 13-Noon to 5:45 p.m. @ Rosebush Presbyterian Church
- Wednesday, June 28-Noon to 5:45 p.m.@ St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church
- Thursday, July 6-Noon to 5:45 p.m.@ Coe Township Hall

Isabella Community Soup Kitchen

To volunteer at the soup kitchen, call the office at 772-7392 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Special Olympics

*June 1-3- CMU- just show up for assignment

Commission on Aging (772-0748)

Dates available- anytime per your schedule

-Home meals delivery, COA reception volunteers, Medical transportation volunteers, Kitchen assistant, Helping Hands (small household jobs)

Habitat for Humanity (317-4650)

House renovation at corner of Elizabeth & Bellows (near High School)

- June 3, June 10 & July 15 - 9am-5pm

(volunteers must pre-register with Habitat office)

CROP Walk

Save the date for Sunday, Oct. 1, to participate in the annual CROP Walk. Local money will be used to support the Nutrition Club and the Weidman Food Pantry. For more information visit CWS.com



CCN Mobile Food Pantry June 24th at Immanuel

On Saturday, June 24, 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.



Immanuel will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 6 from noon-5:45pm.

DONORS are needed, as well as volunteers. Please sign up in the Narthex if you are able to DONATE BLOOD or help out!

Give the gift of life!

Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering will take place on Sunday, June 25th. All proceeds will be given to the "People Helping People" account through Max & Emily's, which will help to feed the homeless locally.

Buy an Equal Exchange Product- Be a part of Lutheran World Relief!

Purchase coffee, tea, chocolate bars, fruit & nut bars or hot cocoa mix. Not only will you treat yourself, you will also help support small rural farmers all over the world.



Immanuel Offers "Living with Alzheimer's" Series

In the early stage of Alzheimer's disease, families face new questions as they adjust. Join Laura Ruhle for a three-part series to hear practical answers to the questions that arise in the early stage. Hear from those directly affected and learn what you can do to cope with these changes.

This series will take place in the Fellowship Hall on June 15, 22 & 29 from 6:30-8:30pm.

June & July Worship Helpers

Cantors

June

- 4 no cantor- Church in the park
11 Bill Gallaher
18 Amy Powell
25 Kathy Gallaher

July

- 2 John Lorand
9 Abbie Powell
16 Dennis Marshall
23 Bill Gallaher
30 Amy Powell

Counters

June

- 4 Chuck McCollom & Sue French
11 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
18 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
25 John Emmons & John Warriner

July

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

Altar Guild

June

- 4 Ann Ferguson & Billie Plouff
11 Sarah Gilbert & Pat Podoll
18 Jan Kruska & Bonnie Berthold
25 Paula Krueger & Deb Reimer

July

(List not available at time of printing)

Ushers

June

- 4 no ushers- Church in the park
11 B. Jensen, B. Schaeffer, B. Shellenbarger
18 R. Gilbert, B. Jensen, B. Shellenbarger
25 R. Gilbert, J. Lorand, C. Moss

July

(List not available at time of printing)

Assisting Ministers

June

- 4 Chris Schuster
11 Amy Powell
18 Volunteer needed
25 Natalie Douglas

July

(List not available at time of printing)

Nursery Attendants

June

- 4 No Nursery- Church in the Park
11 Kevin & Danielle Sullivan
18 Joe & Aubyrn Anderson
25 Brandon & Lisa Wegener

July

(List not available at time of printing)

Lawn-Mowing

June

- 1 Steve Podolsky & Gabe Goodrich
8 Dan & Jan Eversole
15 Fred & Chris Schuster
22 Bruce & Dave Torgerson
29 Sam Staples & Barry Shellenbarger

July

- 6 The Keller family
13 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Kenny Galdeen
20 Paul Kruska & Bill Jensen
27 The Geisthardt family