



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

August 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 Reformers,

Last November I said in my Gleaner article, "I hope as we spend this next year in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (1517-2017) that we remember it is not just a day to be worshiped. It's a day that should remind us to reform something."

This year Craig, who has worked in other congregations, happily pointed out, "So many things go on around here that people don't realize happen." Our building alone can be a place of reform as children learn the violin, the hungry are fed, parenting skills are taught, and the shed fills up with items from organizations who share in our mission.

I am looking forward to reforming the inside of the church in celebration of our 40th anniversary with a welcome center, remodeled narthex and a new projection system. I also beam with hopeful anticipation that our community will reform the way we serve those in poverty by working together like never before. There is a great hope that a number of nonprofits (around 6 total) will work together to create the Isabella Non-profit Center. This will allow for many new opportunities. For example, the Community Compassion Network (CCN) will be able to offer a food pantry that will be available during the week and the Isabella County Restoration House (ICRH) will finally accomplish their dream of a day shelter that will help the homeless get out of the cycle of homelessness.

Martin Luther says, "Now the church is not wood and stone, but the company of people who believe in Christ." The building that we have, and the one many hope the nonprofits will share, are made of wood and stone; things that will parish, that need updating, and have high costs. My prayer is that the building propels us, the Church, the company of people, to gather, worship, praise, collaborate, study, serve, support, create, and transform so that we may continue to reform hearts with Christ's powerful grace.

In awe,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

From the President.....

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write this after I have finished leading my last Council meeting and am spending the evening with a heavy heart and tears in my eyes. As you are undoubtedly aware now, I have accepted a position at a university in California (California State University, East Bay) and am moving there with my partner at the beginning of August. As a dear friend said, it is a “beautiful awful thing”. While moving (and big moves at that) are not new to me, they seem to get harder and harder when it comes to saying, “farewell for now”.

Immanuel Lutheran has been a home for me – a home that welcomed me quickly and allowed me to use my gifts and passions in new and unique ways. I am thankful for what you saw in me and giving me the opportunity to serve you and work beside you for the past 4 years. You have taught me much about Christ’s love and what it means to serve your community.

Blessings to Immanuel as you continue to be joyful Christians who love boldly and serve humbly. My life has been blessed by you all.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26)

Peace,

Meaghan McCollow

Council President



ANNUAL MEETING

Immanuel will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 20 immediately following our worship service. Annual Meeting Packets will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, August 6. Be sure to mark your calendars for this important event!



Please join us on August 27 after the 10am service for a Block Party & Church Picnic!

Be sure to invite your friends and family! We will have an inflatable slide & bounce house again. Council will be providing burgers and hot dogs. We ask that you bring a dish to share! We’ll be inviting our neighbors to join us... so please spread the word!

Ministry with Each Other



We have a team working on how we will celebrate these historic life altering events! Save the date of October 27 from 6-9 p.m. as we will gather at Hunter's Ale House, where there will be Brats (including Vegetarian), Beer (Or Beverage of Choice) and a Hymn sing in honor of Martin Luther's hymn writing and beer loving spirit!

While the adults are at Hunter's, the children (potty-trained - 5th grade) will be at Immanuel for a Halloween Party.

There will also be a great celebration on Sunday morning during worship (October 29) where the children will have the opportunity to ring the bell!

Welcome Center & Projection Updates

We are close to having both the layout/plans and financial quotes for a welcome center and for projection. A number of members have been working hard to decide what will be best for us visually and financially. We hope to soon share all our ideas with the congregation!

Worship Wednesday is Coming Soon!

Worship Wednesday will begin for the 2017-2018 school year on Wednesday, September 13th.

If you would like more information or would like to get your child(ren) registered, please contact Craig Torgerson at 773-4204.

August Birthdays

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Kara Hammond Barb McCollom Carolyn Swart |
| 2 | Jim Ferguson |
| 3 | Eric Wyman |
| 4 | Marilyn Zorn |
| 5 | Beth MacGregor |
| 6 | Jan Podolsky |
| 7 | Helen Leemaster Jeanette Noch Paul Kruska |
| 8 | Christopher Fultz Kara Watters |
| 9 | Patricia Alberts |
| 10 | Sarah Keller Marc Wills Larry Leemaster |
| 11 | Daniel Keller Steve Podolsky |
| 12 | Scott Connor |
| 13 | Pam Fultz |
| 14 | Tom Mueller |
| 16 | Dan Hess Abbie Powell |
| 17 | Sophia Powell |
| 18 | Thomas Ferguson |
| 19 | Jordan Heinrich Ashton Heinrich Shirley Howard Amy Schwerin |
| 20 | Sherry Pulverente |
| 21 | Cheryl Leider |
| 22 | Audrey Douglas |
| 23 | Linda Spycher |
| 25 | Axel Mellinger |
| 26 | Cheryl Geisthardt |
| 30 | Charlie Burke |
| 31 | Julia Simmons Enoch Torgerson |

Ministry with Each Other



Thank You to ALL who helped make
Vacation Bible School
a success this year!

We couldn't have done it
without you!

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.



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!
Donations can be brought to the church between NOW
and August 23rd and dropped off in Classroom #2.

Please keep our youth in mind as you continue to
work on your summer cleaning projects! All proceeds
from the sale will help defray the cost of the Youth
Mission Trip to Houston next summer!



Pr. Dana will be out of town at a
conference in Atlanta, GA from
August 7-14.

Please pray for safe
travels for Pr. Dana!



The Youth will
have a Lock-in at
the church from
8pm on August 26
through 8am on
August 27. Please
contact Beth
Mundwiler for
more information!

Ministry with Each Other

Dear Friends,

My favorite part of the liturgy every week is when Pastor Dana remarks something along the lines of, "This is the table not of the church, but of the Lord. So, come, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have much faith and you who have little. Come, because all who seek a relationship with Jesus shall meet Christ here."

I am learning to align my faith with the greatest commandments, Love God, love people. Along this quest, I have encountered many friends who feel that because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, the table of the Lord is closed to them. Although I have not participated in closing the table personally or intentionally, I am learning that the Church has such a sad history of poor treatment of these precious individuals. At Immanuel, we have the opportunity to become a Reconciling in Christ Church. This means that we can explicitly welcome our LGBTQ+ friends to the table of the Lord. When a person who is LGBTQ+ searches a website upon entering into or visiting the Mt. Pleasant, MI, community, they will immediately be assured that Immanuel is a safe place. We welcome all to the open table of the Lord.

The reality is that for the large majority of us, becoming an RIC church really doesn't change much, if anything. It is simply an outward sign of our inward commitment to love God and love people, a way for the many LGBTQ+ individuals searching for churches to know, yes, the table of the Lord at Immanuel is indeed open to me! So, come, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have much faith and you who have little. Come, because ALL who seek a relationship with Jesus shall meet Christ here.

Grace and Peace, Natalie Douglas

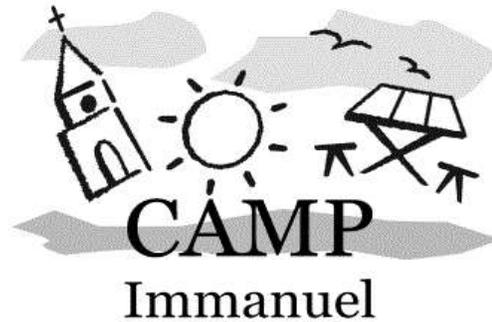
Immanuel Offers Electronic Giving

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



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 soon.

Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to participate throughout the day so that we can plan small groups and recreation activities accordingly.

We have a few spots left for overnight stay (pull-throughs & 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 campsite.

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

“Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **Matthew 20:28**

Here are some upcoming outreach opportunities to get involved in our local community.

Isabella County Commission on Aging

Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program taps the skills, talents and experience of Americans who are age 55 and over who are on a limited income to assist children in need. They serve in elementary classrooms, day care centers and Head Start classrooms providing academic social and emotional support to help students reach their full potential. For more information please contact Mary Ann Mooradian or Kelly Herrmann at (989) 772-0748 or toll free at 1-800-878-0726.

Friendly Visiting is a program where volunteers of all ages are matched with homebound older adults who just need a friend to visit and interact with to help brighten their day. This program is for persons who have a friendly disposition and are reliable and trustworthy. Please call Ginny Cain at (989) 772-0748 to help ease the loneliness in someone’s life.

Art Reach of Mid Michigan

This nonprofit organization enriches the Mt. Pleasant community by supporting artists with a variety of creative *opportunities*. To volunteer, call (989) 773-3689

Humane Animal Treatment Society

H.A.T.S. provides valuable public services by empowering our community to support the compassionate treatment of all animals. There are several outlets where you can exercise your passion for helping animals in need, whether it’s running with the dogs, reading to them to provide companionship, taking and sharing photographs of the animals to encourage their adoption, and more. Interested? Call (989) 775-0830

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.



**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.



Ministry with Community & World

Join Us August 13 - 20, 2017

Four visitors from the Honduran Lutheran Church will visit our Synod in August. We will share information about our churches and faith experiences in the N/W Lower Michigan Synod. They will share with us what it means to be Lutheran in Honduras and talk about their many successes and challenges. Please join us for any of the activities listed below.

Sunday, August 13 – Saginaw

- 9:30 a.m. Ascension Lutheran Presentation
8695 Gratiot, Saginaw
"Get Acquainted with Our Mission Partners"
- 10:30 a.m. Worship service at Ascension
Picnic/potluck
- 5:00 p.m. Zion Lutheran Spanish Service
1209 Hancock St., Saginaw
Light meal with fellowship with youth.

Monday, August 14 – Saginaw

- 10:30 a.m. St. Timothy Lutheran Church
2417 Abbott Rd, Midland
- 2:00 p.m. Messiah Lutheran Conversation
501 S. Catherine St., Bay City
- 6:30 p.m. Picnic at Bob and Linda Grindahls
3977 Barrington Dr., Saginaw

Tuesday, August 15 – Saginaw/Lansing

- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study at Our Saviour, Saginaw
2525 Hemmeter Rd, Saginaw
- 6:00 p.m. Faith Lutheran Presentation
4515 Dobie Rd., Okemos - Potluck
"Get Acquainted with Our Mission Partners"

Wednesday, August 16 – Lansing

- 11:00 a.m. St. Stephens Lutheran Eucharist
2900 N. Waverly Rd., Lansing
Lunch and fellowship
- 6:00 p.m. University Lutheran Conversation
1020 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing
Potluck & "Lay Leadership and Outreach"

Thursday, August 17 – Lansing/Grand Rapids

- 10:00 a.m. Redeemer Lutheran Child Care
2727 W. Holmes Rd., Lansing
Worship, lunch and fellowship with the children
- 1:30 p.m. St. Paul Lutheran
3383 E. Lake Lansing Rd., East Lansing
Food Bank/Community Garden

Friday, August 18 – Grand Rapids

- 1:00 p.m. Bethlehem Lutheran
250 Commerce Ave SW, Grand Rapids
"Social Ministry in Action"

Saturday, August 19 – Grand Rapids

- 12:00 p.m. First Lutheran
1206 Whitehall Rd., Muskegon
"Youth Ministry – Sharing Ideas"
- 5:00 p.m. St. Luke's Lutheran – Sermon by Rev. Ortez
3215 4 Mile NE, Grand Rapids
Potluck picnic with fellowship

Sunday, August 20 – Grand Rapids

- 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Trinity Lutheran worship service
2700 Fulton St, East Grand Rapids
"Get Acquainted with our Mission Partners" during coffee hour.
- 1:00 p.m. Koinia Community Church Picnic
Peace Lutheran
1225 12 Mile NW, Sparta

Our Guests:

- Reverend Rolando - Pastor & President of ICLH
- Gloria Erlinda – Communications; General Secretary
- Bessy Vargas – Coordinator of Diakonia
- Luis Alfredo – Evangelist; Teacher

For more information OR to become involved in the visit contact:

Sara Gregor, Saginaw: billandsarag@charter.net; 989.791.7995

Linda Grindahl, Saginaw: rgrindahl@mac.com; 989.791.4268

Linda Stark, Grand Rapids: lstark66@hotmail.com; 616.970.1252

Connie Lenkowski, Lansing: clenkowski@frontier.com; 517.655.5939

Worship Ministry

August Worship Helpers

Cantors

- 6 Kathy Gallaher
- 13 John Lorand
- 20 Abbie Powell
- 27 Dennis Marshall

Counters

- 6 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 13 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 20 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 27 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson

Altar Guild

- 6 Judy Emmons & Kathy Gatten
- 13 Bonnie Berthold & Chris Schuster
- 20 Bonnie Schaeffer & Bonnie Berthold
- 27 Billie Plouff & Pat Podoll

Assisting Ministers

- 6 Dan Eversole
- 13 Chris Schuster
- 20 Dan Digmann
- 27 Immanuel Youth

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.

Ushers

- 6 Bill Jensen, Ed Berthold & Sam Staples
- 13 Barb & Chuck McCollom, Ted Tuma & Bill Jensen
- 20 Paul & Jan Kruska, Rose Prasad & Janice Fox
- 27 Pete LaBlance, Gabe Goodrich & Sam Staples

Nursery Attendants

(list not available at time of printing)

Lawn-Mowing

- 3 Ed Berthold & Harry Plouff
- 10 The Powell family
- 17 Steve Podolsky & Gabe Goodrich
- 24 Dan & Jan Eversole
- 31 Fred & Chris Schuster

Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering will take place on Sunday, August 27. All proceeds will be given to the Isabella County Child Advocacy Program.

Gods Work. Our Hands.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 17, we are working alongside Habitat for Humanity for our Gods Work. Our Hands. Sunday. More details to come soon.

Papua New Guinea

On Sunday, August 6, we will have a guest, Samuel Elivong, from Papua New Guinea worshipping with us. Immanuel was able to fund his summer working for Living Water Ministries. It is truly and honor to have him visiting with us!

Worship Ministry



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



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

See Pr. Dana or Mernie!



Join us on Saturday, Sept. 9 for worship and a potluck at Coldwater Family Park in Weidman.

Worship: 4:30pm
Potluck: 6:00pm

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH CHOIRS!!

Our three choirs will start in September right after Labor Day. All choirs are always looking for new members who are dedicated to regularly attending rehearsals and singing on Sundays!! Give us a try! Please email me (Mernie) mbidstrup@charter.net. call- 772-5546 or catch me after the service with any questions.

Children's choir (Totally His) Kindergarten -6th grade

The children's choir meets on Wednesdays at 4:15. If Worship Wednesday is cancelled so are choir practices. We are changing the program a little bit this year. We will still start with a snack. At 4:30 we will start learning to read notes and music, match pitches and learn basic hand chime techniques. As soon as possible we will start to learn hand chime music and will play once a month for church services. From 5:00-5:30 we will sing. This year we will sing at both services (not on the same Sunday ☺). More details to follow.

Bell Choir (Rejoice) 6th grade through high school- experience is not necessary

The bell choir usually meets on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:30. Rehearsals may be on other nights as needed. (Our members are not just dedicated to the bell choir but are also very involved in other church and school activities which can cause schedule changes.) The rehearsal is fast paced and fun. Come and try it- I'd be happy to meet with you and give you a mini lesson before you attend a rehearsal.. We'd love to see you!

Chancel Choir- all ages welcome

Chancel Choir sings a variety of familiar and new SATB music. We sing at the 9:00 service on the first and third Sunday of the month. We also sing at all festival services. (Reformation, Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter) If you've ever sung in a choir or would just like to give it a try, come to our rehearsal at 6:00 on Wednesdays. We can be pretty noisy and we often talk too much (you know who you are ☺) but we have fun and are a great group of people and we would love to have you join us!