



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

September 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,

It has been an exciting month of gearing up for all the festivities that will surround us in September and October. We have passed a budget increase so we may support the staff, the ministries and mission of the church. We voted to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation! We have teams planning for Camp Immanuel, CropWalk, celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the 40th anniversary of Immanuel. Soon we will begin all the Choirs (chancel, children's, bell). JAM, Worship Wednesday, and Confirmation classes! The youth room is about to be moved into the JAM room and the JAM room into a classroom. Adult Forum on Sunday morning is planned. We will go back to two worship services on Sept. 17.

Our Intern Katie Butler has returned after a summer at camp and we are welcoming a second intern this year, Rachel Gran. Craig has officially been with us for a year. Stephen Ministers are caring for people. We have prayed for those who were and are in grief and have been harmed by the events of Charlottesville, Barcelona, and Texas. We have prayed for Immanuel's members and friends who have lost loved ones or are ill.

There are so many more ways that we are worshipping, ministering, and growing in faith together! As we enter into what people often consider a busy season we tend to put our spiritual life on the backburner. God is everywhere – even at the track meet, this is true. Yet, the busier we are the more we need to be reminded of Sabbath. I mean God created the whole world and even the creator took a break. Please find a way to plug into Immanuel's many ministries to help keep you grounded in faith and growing in faith. Let Immanuel be a place of Sabbath in your life.

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot

From the Director of Faith Formation....

Immanuel Family!

I have been here for right around a year now. I have had a lot of fun and experienced quite the whirlwind of activity! Immanuel Lutheran Church has a ton going on and does so much to serve the community! You may have known this already.

You have probably experienced the worship service we do on Sunday morning and our youth education on Wednesday evenings. You have probably made a meal or signed up for a shift to work with the Isabella County Restoration House. You have probably enjoyed our children's Christmas program and our choirs. But...I believe there are ways that we serve our community that you have no idea about.

Did you know that Eight Cap uses our building twice a month for a play group? Did you know that we have our own play group that meets Monday mornings (that grew so much in the summer that we had to open a second classroom space for older siblings)? You may have helped with a Community Compassion Network food distribution, but perhaps you didn't know that we host a monthly food distribution for Mid Michigan Community Action Agency. I bet you didn't know that there are violin lessons that take place in our building almost every day. There are countless people that stop in to church out of the blue that need help with clothes, food, housing, and fuel. We try our best to point people in the right direction for food, clothing, and housing because there are other organizations and ministries in town that are doing those things well. We give out several gas cards every week to people who need a few gallons to get to work, go to doctor's appointments, and drive their kids to school. These activities are just the tip of the iceberg.

Our building gets used for so many things. And, it's wonderful that we use this building 7 days a week. It would be easy for us to get overwhelmed because though we do a lot, there is still a lot of work to be done. There are still hurting, homeless, and hungry people in our community. There are still a lot of people that need the hope of Jesus!

As we move into the fall with sports, activities, and school campuses becoming filled with students, I have been doing a lot of reading of other campus pastor's ideas on how to bring new students into the group and how to kick programs off well. I have found one major common theme. It all starts with prayer.

In Colossians 4:2-4 (ESV) Paul says this:

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I out to speak."

Paul tells the people to be "watchful". He is suggesting that we should first soak and saturate all that we have going on, and all we hope to do, in prayer. Paul also says to do this "with thanksgiving". We have a ton to be thankful for at Immanuel! God uses us in so many ways! Finally, Paul is concerned with sharing his faith to the point of making sure that he speaks it "clearly" even in some of the toughest times of his life.

Fall can be stressful. It can be a blur. There is a ton going on. We already do many, many things. Take a step back. Breathe. Begin with PRAYER. Be THANKFUL. SHARE the hope of Jesus right in the place where you happen to be today. We are rightly named Immanuel; GOD WITH US!

Thank you for being a part of the family!
TGBTG, Craig Torgerson

Ministry with Each Other



We will celebrate Reformation 500 and Immanuel's 40th anniversary at Hunter's Ale House on October 27 (6:00 – 9:00). We will enjoy Brats(including Vegetarian), Beer (Or Beverage of Choice) and a Hymn sing in honor of Martin Luther's hymn writing and beer loving spirit and Katharina Luther's skill as a brewer! Please sign the sheets available in the Narthex if you plan to attend this event. This will help us determine the amount of food to order.

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!

No celebration is complete without a T-shirt. Shirts are available in both Adult and Youth sizes. Cost is \$12.00 per shirt. Forms are available in the Narthex and are due in the office mailbox by September 29th



On August 20, Immanuel held its Annual Congregational Meeting and voted on new Council members for the upcoming year. Welcome to our newest church council members: Aubyrn Anderson, Penny Endres & Ted Tuma! Also, a BIG thank you to Sue Knight & Meaghan McCollow, who are relieved of their duties and to Paul Kruska, for remaining on the Council for another term and to Amy Powell for her willingness to be appointed to Council to fulfill Meghan's term as Past President for one year!

September Birthdays

1	Paul Clise
4	Matthew Chilcote Tara Eversole
7	Mark Strandskov
8	Sandy Davidson Brandon Wegener
9	Doug LaBelle
11	Mark Johnson Deb LaBlance
13	Tim French
14	David Sprang
15	Sue Foote Kyle French Andrew LaJoie
17	John Keller
18	Kate Henry Larissa Schwerin Hannah Shellenbarger
19	Shirley Faleer Karl Fetting Kay Riley Jacob Robinson
20	Tanner Goodrich Elijah Torgerson
22	Bruce Torgerson
24	Dan Digmann Bart LaBelle
25	Katrina Piatek-Jimenez Nicole Ferguson
26	Nolan Kaiser Spencer MacGregor Neice Tuma
28	Jodie Mitchell-Beach Joan Langlois
29	Carolyn Hoffman Faith Jurick
30	Sandy Deaton Alyssa Hammond Jacque Jackson Shelley Tomko

Ministry with Each Other



Youth Group Schedule for September

Sept. 8-10.....Camp Immanuel at Coldwater Campground
Sept. 17.....Kick-off Event at Beth Mundwiler's home,
1145 Fairway Drive #8, Lake Isabella, 3-6pm
Sept.24.....3-5pm at the church

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.



The youth of Immanuel held a rummage sale on Friday, August 25 & Saturday, August 26 in the Fellowship Hall and with YOUR help were able to raise over \$3000 toward their trip to Houston next summer for the National Gathering! THANK YOU for your support!!

J.A.M.

JAM (Jesus And Me) will begin meeting again in between worship services (10:15) on Sundays beginning Sunday, Sept. 17.

This program is open to children ages 4-10.

We hope your kids will join us!!

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.

Stephen Ministers Are Care-Givers, God Is the Cure-Giver

The role of Stephen Ministers is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders (Gail Mitchell, Chris Schuster, Fred Schuster, Pastor Dana) to learn more about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



Ministry with Each Other



Our fall Adult Forums focus on our past, present and future! We are celebrating two historical and life changing events; the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and Immanuel's 40th Anniversary. Please join us on Sundays in between services in the Fellowship Hall for these these important discussions!

September 17 - We will reconnect after summer break. We will be creative. We will discuss and develop ideas for future Adult Forums. We will also contribute events, dates, and names of participants for Immanuel's historical timeline for 1997 - 2017 to be distributed at our Beer and Hymn Sing. We are all keepers of Immanuel's history.

September 24 - Video on the Life and Times of Martin Luther

October 1 - Chris and Fred Schuster and Ruth Magnell will share the story of their journey to Rome and to Luther's Germany.

October 8, 15, and 22 - Dr. Kelly Murphy, Department of Philosophy and Religion, will lead a Bible study on Homosexuality and the Bible.

October 29 - No Adult Forum because we will be celebrating Reformation 500 and Immanuel's 40th Anniversary during worship .

November 5- "Micro-Aggressions in Our Community"-guest speaker, Ulana Klymyshyn, will share with us about Micro-aggressions. Micro-aggressions in our community is based on interviews with members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. "Micro-aggressions" refers to repeated, subtle actions or comments that make the targeted person feel less than welcome in a group or community. The participants were asked to talk about their experiences in Mount Pleasant, positive as well as negative. The project was conducted by members of the Isabella County Human Rights Committee with the approval of and funding from the Tribal Council.

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

Tuesday Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study will resume for the year on Tuesday, September 12th. The ladies meet in the Capital Room from 9:30-11am every Tuesday.

ALL are welcome to join!!!

If you have any questions, please contact
Judy Emmons at 772-3831.

Friday Women's Bible Study

The Friday morning Women's Bible Study (which formerly met on Thursdays) will resume for the year on Friday, September 15th. The ladies will meet in the Capital Room from 9:30-11am every Friday to continue learning aboutn women of the Bible. ALL are welcome to join!!!

If you have any questions, please contact
Terry Grabe at 586-604-8144.

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

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

- Luke 6:38

Here are some upcoming outreach opportunities for members of Immanuel to get involved in the local community.

Isabella Community Soup Kitchen

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

CROP Walk

Please join walkers from Immanuel and our community on Sunday, Oct. 1, and participate in the annual CROP Hunger Walk. The afternoon walk starts at the Mill Pond Park Pavilion. Local money raised will be used to support the Nutrition Club and the Weidman Food Pantry. For more information visit CWS.com

Red Cross Blood Drives

September 19- Sacred Heart Parish, 319 E. Illinois, Mt. Pleasant, 12:00-5:45pm
September 26- Beal City High School, 12:00-5:45pm

William Ellis Brockman Infant Pantry- This pantry is run by CCN and hosted by First Presbyterian Church on Watson St., Mt. Pleasant. They supply diapers, formula, baby food, and baby care products. The pantry is open on the first Wednesday of every month from 10am-5pm and all other Wednesdays from 11am-2pm.

CCN Mobile Food Pantry-

September 9- Located at First Presbyterian Church, Watson St, Mt. Pleasant 9am-noon.
September 23- Located at Central Michigan Free Methodist Church, 6012 S. Mission, Mt. Pleasant, 9am-noon

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.



Ministry with Community & World

Cookies and Congregations

Rev. Christopher Laughlin is an Army Reserve Chaplain who also serves a congregation in our synod. He is now stationed for a year at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Rev. Laughlin wanted to connect his congregation with basic trainees, drill sergeants and support staff. What better way to connect people than cookies!! Rev. Laughlin and Bishop Satterlee expanded the program to all congregations within our synod. Immanuel has participated in this program, sending cookies and the Prayer Book for the Armed Services to Bethany Ramos, an Alpha Company drill sergeant. We also sent cookies to Rev. Laughlin to serve at the fellowship hour following the “liturgical worship service.” The following story was featured on the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministry Website.

“Congregations, Cookies, and Christ’s Grace”

The Rev. Christopher Laughlin (Army Reserve ELCA Chaplain) is translating Centurion Connectors into a lively and enjoyable support for military personnel through connecting congregations, cookies, and a concept of abounding grace. Pastor Laughlin was trying to wear his two hats of ministry as a Reserve Chaplain and a civilian pastor in a way to connect his reserve Soldiers and his civilian congregation. His bishop (the Rev. Dr. Craig A Satterlee) suggested his congregation bake cookies to give to his Soldiers. This initially turned into a great success, but went into overdrive when Chaplain Laughlin was mobilized to Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri for a year. Expanding the earlier idea of the cookies, Bishop Satterlee and Chaplain Laughlin invited synod congregations to bake and send to basic trainees, drill sergeants, and support staff at Ft. Leonard Wood, the idea of grace grew with every dozen goodies.

“The response was overwhelming,” says Chaplain Laughlin. “At our annual assembly congregations signed up to send cookies every week to feed the soldiers.” This led to feeding their souls when the bishop’s office sold copies of the ELCA Armed Forces Prayer Book at assembly and suggested by Bishop Satterlee to be included with the cookies. Sales skyrocketed selling out all Prayer Book copies available and sending the bishop running for more. Soldiers were being fed both physically and spiritually with a sweet taste of truth and comfort in every package sent. Every week packages piled up for Chaplain Laughlin to share with a word of grace with basic training soldiers and his liturgical worship service he leads each week.

Chaplain Laughlin continues, “Pastors and congregations from inside and outside the synod continue to reach out to me to ask if they can sign up to send cookies and donate more books. When I send the reminders to the congregations and their pastor, I ask them to pray for specific Soldiers (with that Soldier’s permission), and the bishop encourages congregations to send notes to the Soldier, hand-written inside the Prayer Books.” The cookies, books, and prayer notes continue to flow in. Already these love gifts are touching lives; a Soldier recovering from cancer, a family struggling with separation issues, basic trainees from every American state and territory. Even the training staff and cadre are enjoying the outreach. Grace abounds where all are welcomed to God’s family.

Pastor/Chaplain Laughlin is running to keep up. “When congregations ask “how many cookies do you think will be enough,” I say, “3-5 dozen,” and the consistent response is “that’s all?” I reassure them that I will have enough Soldiers to eat all the cookies they send, no matter how many.” We will see.

Ministry with Community & World

Freed & RENEWED in Christ 500 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION

Sept 5 - Oct 14

Calvin College Art Gallery Exhibition

Calvin College

This exhibit entitled "Stirring the World: Printmaking in the Age of Martin Luther" will include portraits and theological writings of Luther and his contemporaries, sixty engravings and woodcuts, as well as numerous prints depicting biblical and mythological narrative scenes. This event is co-sponsored by the Meeter Center and Calvin College. Calvin College, Covenant Fine Arts Center, 1795 Knollcrest Circle, Grand Rapids. 616-526-6326.

Oct 19-21

"Reformation"

Wealthy Theatre

A full-length musical stage production based on the 17th century religious reformer Martin Luther, whose struggle to understand God divided the Church, a nation, and the movement he never wanted to create, to be presented at [Wealthy Theatre](#), 1130 Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids. (616) 459-4788, EXT 130.

Performances

- Thursday, October 19, 7:30 pm
- Friday, October 20, 7:30 pm
- Saturday, October 21, 2:00 pm

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.



We need your help to fight hunger! Join our CROP Walk team today! We have set a goal of raising \$10,000 this year. 50 "walkers" who raise \$200 each will help us reach this goal. You can even join one of our teams online! Fundraising is made easy by sharing a link in an email with family and friends. Erasing hunger is a huge task but together we can make a big difference! Check out the CROP Walk table in the narthex or email craig@immanuelmp.com to get involved!



You have probably noticed that the roads are more congested, the grocery lines are longer, and your favorite restaurants are a little harder to get a reservation for...because...college is back in session! The student body of Central Michigan University almost doubles the population of Mt. Pleasant during the school year. That is a lot of people! You can let these students know that they have a home away from home, in Mt. Pleasant and at Immanuel Lutheran Church, by helping us put together care packages! If you would like to get involved with this ministry please call the office or email craig@immanuelmp.com.

Worship Ministry

September Worship Helpers

Cantors

- 3 Bill Gallaher
- 10 John Lorand
- 17 Kathy Gallaher
- 24 Amy Powell

Counters

- 3 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 10 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 17 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 24 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson

Altar Guild

- 3 Ann Ferguson & Linda Wicander
- 10 Denise Little & Paula Krueger
- 17 Judy Emmons & Jan Kruska
- 24 Sandy Warriner & Deb Reimer

Assisting Ministers

- 3 (10:00) Natalie Douglas
- 10 (10:00) Volunteer needed
- 17 (9:00) Mary Hageman
(11:00) Volunteer needed
- 24 (9:00) Chris Schuster
(11:00) Volunteer needed

Ushers

- 3 (10:00) Rose Prasad, Paul & Jan Kruska,
Ted Tuma, Janice Fox
- 10 (10:00) Dave Keilitz, Chuck & Barb
McCollom, Bill Jensen
- 17 (9:00) Rose Prasad, Pete LaBlance, Ed
Berthold
(11:00) Volunteers needed
- 24 (9:00) Dave Keilitz, Ted Tuma, Paul & Jan
Kruska, Janice Fox
(11:00) Volunteers needed

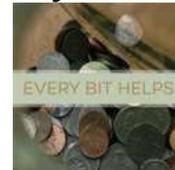
Lawn-Mowing

- 7 Bruce Torgerson & Dave Torgerson
- 14 Sam Staples & Barry Shellenbarger
- 21 The Keller family
- 28 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Kenny Galdeen



On Sunday, September 17, we will resume our regular worship schedule. We will offer a traditional worship service at 9am and a contemporary worship service at 11am. Please be sure to mark your calendars!!

Noisy Offering



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



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

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

Worship Ministry



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

The bell choir will meet on Mondays from 5:30-6:30pm. 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!