



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 2017

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Contact the office for your username and password.

Mission

**Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.**



Christ Followers,

In the month of October, we get to celebrate all that God has done throughout the last 40 years of our life together as Immanuel! We also get to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The planning team has sent invitations to previous pastors and close friends of Immanuel to invite them to join us for a celebratory evening of Hymns and Beer (or beverage of choice).

It has been claimed by many people over the years that Martin Luther boldly seized songs commonly sung in taverns, changed the lyrics and then made them the basis of congregational song. This statement does get exaggerated from the historical context (sixteenth century Germany). However, there were indeed instances in which Luther and his colleagues used melodies (and sometimes part of the poetry) from non-liturgical songs. The first stanza of "From Heav'n Above" (ELW 268) was based upon a light-hearted love song, "From Distant Land I Come To You." Originally the hymn text was sung to the love song tune. Since this tune was still being sung in taverns and other places for entertainment, it was not long before the reformers substituted a newly composed melody for the original. It is this new melody that survives as the standard tune to this day.

Martin Luther is credited for his hymn-writing and for making waves in church history by nailing his 95 Theses to the church, but his wife-Katharina Von is perhaps most famously known for brewing her own beer. Few historical documents remain to tell us about Kate, but Martin Luther's fondness for his wife's home-brewed beer survived. In a letter to her, he writes: "I keep thinking what good wine and beer I have at home, as well as a beautiful wife ... you would do well to send me over my whole cellar of wine and a bottle of thy beer."

So let us join together, raise our festive drink, and lift our voices in praise to all that God has done, is doing, and will do. Cheers!

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot

From the President.....

Fake news. Virtual Reality. Alternate facts. Facebook friends. These phrases fly around in our media and in our daily lives. They are hard to miss. As abstract phrases each is a self-contained contradiction – an oxymoron-- in the George Carlin “jumbo shrimp” vein. Yet in today’s world, these phrases are polarizing forces, charged with meaning that invite not so much conversation but confrontation. The internet, satellite radio and cable companies can become places where we can surround ourselves only with like-minded people 24/7 and opposing viewpoints are unwelcome and ridiculed.

As with the recent Reconciled In Christ discussion, we see that we cannot completely isolate ourselves from having our feelings fold themselves into cultural/political memes that can threaten to hijack the conversation entirely. And yet I was deeply impressed by our Immanuel family during that conversation – people felt open to share their deep concerns and were listened to with respect, even if not in agreement. That is what family is about. We won’t ever be in complete agreement; but love binds us together.

As newly minted president, I look forward to deepening the conversation of where we can be called to in our communities. I invite everyone to renew your focus on where God calls to you in your everyday life. The real world. No labels attached. The people you meet, you see, or the places in central Michigan you experience. Life, unplugged. I look forward to hearing all of what we see and how we can be God’s hands in the community. We have a team working on getting the findings of the recently completed Community Conversations into the hands of our ministries to also provide further inspiration. We’ll be communicating more on this in the near future.

Let’s continue having conversations. Let us be open to opposing opinions. Let us continue to speak – and listen – with respect and with love. And let us continue to be the welcoming community that Immanuel is already. I look forward to the journey.

In Him,
Bill Gallaher, President



Immanuel will be offering a blessing of the animal’s service at our outdoor pavilion on Saturday, October 7 at 3:00 p.m. All animals are welcome! We will move the service inside if weather is not permitting. Please bring your animals on a leash or caged. This is open to the community so please spread the word to friends and/or family who would like their pet to be blessed!

Meet Our Interns.....

Hello Immanuel!

My name is Rachel Gran and I will be working here this year as the children's ministry intern! Some fun facts about me: I'm from Canton MI which is a city right between Ann Arbor and Detroit (we have Ikea!) and I'm a senior here at CMU. I'm studying Spanish with minors in Business Administration and Leadership. I'll be graduating in May and going out into the real world to (hopefully!) find my grown up job. I absolutely love animals of all kinds and pretty much any sort of craft, and my favorite food is mac and cheese.

I'm so excited to be here at Immanuel and to have the chance to work with and help grow the children's ministry programming! I've always loved kids for as long as I can remember and I have a passion for planning and organizing things too so this internship is a perfect fit for me :) This year I will be working mostly with the nursery, JAM and Worship Wednesday programs, and I will be helping out with the Christmas pageant too. Even though I have just started out, I've loved my time here so far and I'm looking forward to working with everyone this school year!

I can't wait to meet and get to know you all and I'm excited to grow my faith with everyone this year! Also one more shameless plug: if you are at all interested in volunteering in the nursery, or for Worship Wednesday or JAM feel free to let me know! We are always looking for more people and it is a great way to get involved in the church (plus the kids are a great time too). Also if you have any ideas on things you'd like to see with the children's ministry I'd love to hear it. Here's to a great year!

Rachel Gran

Immanuel Family,

It's great to be back after a summer away! This summer, I was the Program Assistant at Living Water Ministries, where I wrote all the programming for our 2017 Summer Camp Sessions! It was a wonderful summer full of laughter, love, lessons, and more mashed potatoes than I ever thought possible. I'm returning back to Immanuel with lots of great ideas and a new appreciation for my less demanding schedule!

I've got a big year ahead- I'll (fingers crossed) be graduating in December, but don't worry, I'll still be around in the Spring. You can't get rid of me that easy! Until then, I'll be working on my seminary application and attempting to stay on top of my schoolwork. My main job at Immanuel will still be primarily music, with Chancel Choir, Take Joy, and Rejoice, there will be plenty of opportunity for you all to enjoy my sleepy Sunday morning performances.

Although I wouldn't mind it if service were a couple hours later, it's still usually the best part of my week! I'll also still be hanging out with the Youth Group, trying to stay hip with the teens and help them grow in their faith.

As always, I'm so excited to be here and I'm so blessed with the opportunity to grow in my faith with all of you. Here's to another year!

Katie Butler

Ministry with Each Other



Get your \$5 ticket for Friday, October 27 from 6-9 p.m. Bring your own German stein if you have one!

We, at Immanuel, are planning an event to celebrate both of these special occasions with brats (including vegetarian), beer (or beverage of choice) and a hymn sing in honor of Martin Luther's hymn-writing and Katharina's skill as a brewer at Hunter's Ale House. We will have a brief program summarizing our four decades and lots of good conversation and singing!

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 get the opportunity to ring the bell!

T-shirts



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 October 1st.

October Birthdays

- 1 Giny Dumon
Sue French
Cliff Moss
- 3 Sarah Gilbert
- 4 Paul Geisthardt
Kathy Smith
- 5 Cindy Keller
- 6 Davis LaBelle
- 8 Stacie Davidson
- 9 Emma Cameron
Terri Freeland
Laurie Tyler
Craig Kreiner
- 10 Abby Geisthardt
- 11 Vickie Dillman
Holly Hoffman
- 12 Cheryl Strandskov
- 13 Melanie Wicander
Jermain Hawver
- 14 Matthew Golden
Roxanne Lueder
Tad Richards
- 16 Dana Mielke
- 17 Hayden Fluharty
Eric Podolsky
- 18 Gage Shellenbarger
- 19 Pete LaBlance
Natalie Douglas
- 20 Jeremy Moore
- 21 Bill Reader
- 23 Patty Jo Bugh
- 24 Gail Caleca
Jenny Oswald
- 28 Lexi Mielke
Pat Podoll

Ministry with Each Other

Pastor Dana out of town

From October 9-16, Pastor Dana will be away at a conference. Pastor Margaret Vredevelde will be presiding on Sunday, October 15th and will be available for pastoral emergencies throughout the week.

Theological discussions with Pastor Dana

We will resume meeting on Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Capital Rooms beginning Wednesday, October 18th. All are welcome!

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.



Help send the youth to Houston for the National Youth Gathering AND get in the Halloween spirit with a pumpkin carved by our youth!

The youth will be carving pumpkins and selling them during Worship Wednesday on October 18th! Get one before they sell out!

Suggested donation of \$25

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!

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 "Does the Bible Say Anything about Homosexuality?"

Description: Texts from both the Old Testament and the New Testament are regularly invoked to support the idea that the Bible clearly speaks out against same-sex attraction, relationships, and marriage. However, what the Bible says (and does not say) about these issues is far more complex than what we often hear in political debates or on the news. "Does the Bible Say Anything About Homosexuality?" will explore the regularly cited texts from the Old Testament and the New Testament, asking: what does the Bible really say (if anything!) about same-sex relationships?

October 8 - The Old Testament

October 15 - The New Testament

October 22 - A LGBTQ Commentary on texts

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

Please join us on Saturday, October 14 from 9am-noon as we hold our Fall Clean-up day! We will be working mostly outdoors getting the building and grounds ready for fall and winter. LOTS of help is needed....ALL are encouraged to bring a rake and come help us out!

Fall Cleanup



CrossRoads (a small group of young-ish Immanuel adults) invites the congregation to join us for a family style dinner at Countryside Dinners in Clare on Friday, November 10 at 5:30pm. The meal includes meat, veggies, salad and dessert for \$15 (adults), \$7.50 (3-12 yrs) and free (2 and under).

The deadline to sign up will be Sunday, October 29. You may sign up in the Narthex, or [online](#). If you have questions, you may contact Amy Powell, 989-948-3626.

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

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.

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

ICRH Shelter Week Coming Soon

We will be hosting the first week of the rotating homeless shelter, Oct. 29 – Nov. 5. It is a gift to us that as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and Immanuel's 40th that we get to house the homeless – following our major celebration! God is good!



Calling all bakers!!!!

The ICRH (our local rotational shelter) is hosting a bake sale at Jay's Sporting Goods Friday, October 6. They are calling for all bakers who are willing to donate to the cause! If you are willing please drop your treats off at church by noon on Friday, Oct. 6! The ICRH thanks you!!

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

October Worship Helpers

Cantors

- 1 Dennis Marshall
- 8 Abbie Powell
- 15 Bill Gallaher
- 22 Amy Powell

Counters

- 1 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 8 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 15 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 22 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson
- 29 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand

Altar Guild

- 1 Bonnie Schaeffer & Sarah Gilbert
- 8 Denise Little & Linda Wicander
- 15 Billie Plouff & Judy Emmons
- 22 Bonnie Berthold & Kathy Gatten
- 29 Pat Podoll & Paula Krueger

Assisting Ministers

- 1 (9:00) Sarah Gilbert
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 8 (9:00) Dan Digmann
(11:00) Keith Farquhar
- 15 (9:00) Dave Simon
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 22 (9:00) Dan Eversole
(11:00) Rose Prasad
- 29 (9:00) Sarah Gilbert
(11:00) Mary Hageman

Ushers (9:00)

- 1 Dennis & Kathy Marshall, Bill Jensen
- 8 Dennis & Kathy Marshall, Bill Jensen
- 15 Bill Jensen, Bob Grabe & Pete LaBlance
- 22 Volunteers Needed
- 29 Volunteers Needed

Projection Assistant (9:00)

- 1 Deb LaBlance
- 8 Abbie Powell
- 15 Dan Digmann
- 22 Gabe Goodrich
- 29 (10:00) Deb LaBlance

Lawn-Mowing

- 5 Paul Kruska & Bill Jensen
- 12 The Geisthardt family
- 19 Harry Plouff & Ed Berthold
- 26 Tony & Amy Powell

Noisy Offering



The Noisy Offering will take place on Sunday, October 22. All proceeds will be given to the Habitat for Humanity.