



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 2018

The Gleaner is a publication of:

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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.



Congregational
MEETING

There will be a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Sunday February 18th in between services to gain congregational input and support for a potential 2019 sabbatical for Pastor Dana.

Sabbaticals are recommended about every seven years a pastor has been serving, and this year mark's Pr. Dana's seventh year here. More information will be forthcoming, but please mark your calendars now! If you have any questions please see Bill Gallaher, Ted Tuma, Amy Powell or Pastor Dana.

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Friends in Christ,

I entered 2018 truly humbled by the congregation's vigor and outpouring of support for the ministry and mission of Immanuel. This was made evident by the faithful energy surrounding the celebration of Jesus among us and the gracious offerings that came through our unified budget and our capital campaign, "Over the Hill and Still Moving Mountains." I am excited to share that through the campaign we have pledged a total of \$149,000! I fall to my knees in thanksgiving and rise to my feet with joy for the ways we will invigorate our facilities, resources, and ministries starting in 2018.

The first step with the campaign was to put in a new projection system. As you likely already know it is up and running! It has a lot of potential to enhance worship visually and for outreach through web streaming. We are learning quickly we need a dedicated and knowledgeable leader to use all the new bells and whistles well.

Alongside, upgrading our facilities I feel God has put it on my heart to really look into how our worship is reaching the younger generations, especially the contemporary service. It has long been the goal of the contemporary service to reach out to young families. We have seen some growth, but it is always healthy to re-evaluate so we are always making the focus on reaching God's children who are yet to come and worship with us.

It has been my hope that one day the contemporary service enthusiasts grow to the point we can't do just one service in the summer! In this New Year we will envision with the millennials and young families and see what they want in a service. We will discuss moving the service location so it seems more intimate and full of life. We will evaluate the flow of the service with music and word.

To do this effectively, I need to recognize my limitations as your leader. I have suggested to the Worship Ministry Team, Tech Team, Council and Personnel that I'd like to work with a paid staff member who can really help me to form and shape a Lutheran Liturgical Contemporary Service. It was approved at council in January that personnel begin a process to possibly hire someone for both contemporary music and projection in the coming months.

I look forward to seeing what happens and pray that God leads us through this process so that we may become more and more into a church, an assembly that reveals God's love to those who have yet to hear and know God's grace.

On my Knees,

Pastor Dana Hendershot



Ministry with Each Other

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In any healthy relationship, personal growth of each individual is just as important as the growth of the relationship itself. In fact, the relationship can plateau if the individuals involved are not growing and developing in their own lives. While we were still dating, Kathy and I spent a year apart as she attended Luther College in Iowa. We both look back on that year apart as one of the best things to happen in developing our relationship. Being apart crystallized what was important in our relationship. We came back together as new people because of our experiences, and recommitted to our relationship because we understood how important it was (and is) to each of us.

And so it is with the pastor and their church. Every now and again the pastor needs some time away to recharge their battery and focus on their own growth. Pr. Dana has brought to Council the application for a grant from the Lilly Endowment for Clergy Renewal, for the purposes of funding a 2019 sabbatical for her and which would also provide the funds for the stand-in pastor for Immanuel. The general recommendation is that a pastor take a sabbatical about every seven years. 2018 marks Pr. Dana's seventh year at Immanuel, so it is indeed about time for a recharging. The grant procedure will help focus Pr. Dana on how she wants to help herself during her sabbatical of three or four months; but it also asks us as a congregation what we might do to renew and redirect our energies during her absence. For that, we will need your input and ideas. Another critical requirement in consideration of awarding the grant is that we "provide evidence of broad congregational support" for Pr. Dana taking her sabbatical. To assess congregational support before we commit to beginning this application process, THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING BETWEEN SERVICES February 18th to discuss this, to answer any questions you might have and get an idea of the degree of support we have for a sabbatical. Please plan to attend – everyone's input is critical.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask me, Ted Tuma, Amy Powell or Pastor Dana.

In Him,

Bill Gallaher, Council President



Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

NEW STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING TO BEGIN IN APRIL

(with a slower-paced schedule!)

We have been praying about our Stephen Ministry program and asking God to stir up the spiritual gift of caring among you. Immanuel is in need of additional Stephen Ministers to provide confidential, Christ-centered care and support to those experiencing a life challenge. Please prayerfully consider serving others through this outreach ministry.

A less intense training schedule is planned, with classes beginning in April and held only ***twice a month***. It is our hope that spreading the training over a longer period of time will make it easier for you to commit to becoming a Stephen Minister. The total training is still 50 hours.

The Stephen Ministry leadership team is excited to talk further with you about sharing God's love through this ministry.

God's Peace,

Chris Schuster [989-339-4118](tel:989-339-4118)

Fred Schuster [231-920-3630](tel:231-920-3630)

Gail Mitchell [989-289-9164](tel:989-289-9164)

Pastor Dana [989-773-4204](tel:989-773-4204)



Ash Wednesday services
will be held on Wednesday, February 14
at 12:10pm & 6:00pm

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on
February 25
will be given to the
William Ellis Brockman Infant
Pantry.

A collection jar is located in
the Narthex throughout the
month
for your convenience.



We will hold Lenten services in the
Fellowship Hall
at 6:00pm on Tuesday evenings
throughout Lent beginning on February 20th.

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Adult Forum

February 11

Jim Hageman will lead a discussion of Hillbilly Elegy a NY Times bestseller in 2016 by J.D. Vance. It is a personal and at times moving account of one person's experience growing up and escaping from a highly dysfunctional family, formerly from Appalachia, which migrated to a booming industrial city that became part of the a Rust Belt in Ohio. His analysis of the situations of blue collar families from similar circumstance has been both praised and criticized as false prophecy regarding the plight of the white working poor.

Please join us even if you haven't read the book!



SAVE THE DATE!

Maker Fun Factory VBS is coming July 16-20, 2018. If you are interested in volunteering, please email claire.e.torgerson@gmail.com!

Theological Conversation with Pastor Dana

This discussion group will meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Capital Room. This group will NOT meet on Wednesday, February 14th due the Ash Wednesday service.



- 1 Judy Smith
- Diane Thomas
- 2 Wade Johnson
- 3 Alana Johnson
- Becky Wang
- 4 Ted Lueder
- Lisa Wegener
- 7 Travis Danielson
- Melody Ferguson
- 9 Linda Mellinger
- 10 Craig Boulier
- 11 Elizabeth Scott
- 12 Kathy Gallaher
- 16 Kris Kirby
- 16 Scott Mindel
- 19 Chuck Clise
- 19 Cristi Farmeller
- 19 Mark Heinrich
- 20 Al Wood
- Roger Gilbert
- 21 Emma Heinrich
- 22 Ed Berthold
- 23 Bonnie Berthold
- Bill Gallaher
- 24 Allen Shock
- Donna Swenson
- Aubyrn Anderson
- 25 Doug Schuette
- 28 Stephen Marshall

Ministry with the Community & World



Attention: All Ladies of Immanuel!!!

Save the date for an off-site Women's Retreat April 27-April 28
More details to follow. Interested in helping to plan?
Call Beth Mundwiler at 989-330-9529

Youth Pop Can Drive to cease

The youth would like to thank everyone who has donated cans and bottles throughout the years!
At this time, however, we have decided to end this collection and focus on other efforts.

Where do I drop off donations???

*Plastic grocery bags for CCN can be dropped into the baskets under the benches outside of the office.

Thank You!!!



February

The Youth Group will meet on February 18th from 2-4pm.
(Please note that this meeting time has been moved up one hour.)

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 the Community & World

February Volunteer Opportunities

**“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 County Restoration House

Immanuel will be hosting ICRH guests Sunday, February 25, to Sunday, March 4. Food and volunteer sign-ups will be available soon online and in the Narthex.

Community Compassion Network Stationary Pantry

CCN is dedicated to fighting hunger by providing supplemental food for Isabella County families and relies on grants, donations, and community support. The pantry is located at 1114 W. High Street. To volunteer <https://ccnfeeds.org/volunteer-1/>

Clothing INC

Clothing INC provides free clothes to anyone in need, and it is located at 1114 W. High Street. To volunteer call 773-3904 or signup.com/go/BvuCiDe

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 the Community & World



Volunteers Needed

Isabella County Restoration House

Our local homeless shelter is in need of volunteers. The shelter is open 20 hours a day, 7 days a week. We depend on an average of 17-22 volunteers each day.

We have Day, Intake, Dinner, Evening, Overnight & Morning shifts available.

Please contact sherry@icrhouse.org for more information or to sign up



ICRH depends on 17-22 volunteers 7 days a week

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. **IMMANUEL NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!!**

February Worship Helpers

Cantors (9:00)

- 4 Lacey Connor
- 11 Kathy Gallaher
- 18 Abbie Powell
- 25 Dennis Marshall

Counters

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

Altar Guild

- 4 Judy Emmons & Kathy Gatten
- 11 Bonnie Berthold & Denise Little
- 14 Bonnie Schaeffer & Deb Reimer
- 18 Billie Plouff & Sarah Gilbert
- 25 Ann Ferguson & Pat Podoll

Projector (9:00)

- 4 Dan Digmann
- 11 Gabe Goodrich
- 18 Deb LaBlance
- 25 Abbie Powell

Projector (11:00)

- 4 Aubyrion Anderson
- 11 Dana Mielke
- 18 Ted Tuma
- 25 Kip Ferguson

Ushers (9:00 & 11:00)

(lists not available at time of printing)

Greeters (9:00 & 11:00)

(lists not available at time of printing)

Assisting Ministers

- 4 (9:00) Mary Hageman
(11:00) Amy Powell
- 11 (9:00) Dan Eversole
(11:00) Amy Powell
- 14 (12:10) Rose Prasad
(6:00) Amy Powell
- 18 (9:00) Amy Powell
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 25 (9:00) Volunteer needed
(11:00) Volunteer needed



Immanuel will hold a Nursery Volunteer Training session on Saturday, Feb. 24th from 8-10am. All current and interested volunteers are asked to attend!! Breakfast will be provided.