



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 2018

*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.

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



### [A letter from the Council President....](#)

Out in front of the Youth For Christ building in Alma is a sign that simply says “Be The Story”. While that is perfectly suited as a personal statement, I can’t help but think of how it speaks of Immanuel as well. The stories of quiet strength I heard when we ourselves, in central Michigan, became a part of a national story the day of the CMU shooting and the community went on lock down. The rapid response of the Synod Healing Team coming to Immanuel the very next week and the powerful healing they effected in those present. The story Immanuel continues to write in the community by our participation in the Isabella County Restoration House shelter, both in hosting the guests themselves for two weeks and in Ryan Douglas’, Jim Hageman’s, Craig Torgerson’s and Pastor Dana’s representation in the organization itself. We continue to write ourselves into the story of community transformation here in Mount Pleasant, and for that I am truly thankful.

This Easter season we celebrate the greatest gift – the resurrection of Christ and His saving us once and forever. We can (like the sign says) continue to BE that story with our lives and in others lives as well. We can reach out and share that love to those who don’t see love that often or who are just in a spot where they need a little lift right now. Share that grace that we ourselves don’t deserve but was given to us anyway. BE that grace to others. We have the greatest story to tell, because that story in itself contains the greatest gift to us all. May your Easter season be a blessed one and may it be filled with stories of joy and inspiration!

In Him,  
Bill Gallaher, Council President

# A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Dear friends in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! It is a joy to celebrate the new life given to us in Easter! I pray you find resurrection abounding within your life.

This month I want to give a special thanks to the sabbatical grant writing team. They have been working hard writing, researching, and being creative. The team consists of Dan Digmann, Sarah Gilbert, and Denise Kaiser.

I hope you will join us between the services on April 8 to learn about what we have planned. Here is a glimpse:

The theme is *Connection, Creation, Creativity*. This clergy renewal sabbatical will allow time to explore who I have become after 9 years of lay ministry and 10 years of ordained ministry.

*Connection* will be a time to reconnect with myself. True connection takes time and dedication, forgiveness and love, whether it is a relationship with another or with oneself. I will be very intentional on this sabbatical to integrate ways that I will forgive, love, and spend time taking care of myself, especially my health and body.

*Creation* is where most people feel the intense wonder and awe of God. As part of my renewal, I will visit places I have never seen. Immersing myself into the beauty and biodiversity within its land. God's glorious creation reveals itself in myriad ways!

Richard Rohr writes in an online devotion:

“Psychologist and wilderness guide, Bill Plotkin, believes – and I agree – that to ‘save our souls’ we need to reconnect with nature. To rediscover who we truly are – and who our brothers and sisters are – we must become intimate with our natural surroundings. The wisdom of nature can’t be understood with our thinking mind. We have to experience it with our being and let it speak to us through all our senses.”

*Creativity* has been limited because I'm so immersed in administration. I want to reignite my creative side. Creativity has always brought me joy and energy. Though as pastor I am called into the administrative role, I hope to dip back into the creativity that God has gifted me so I can enter into the congregation with new creative energy.

By focusing on *Connection, Creation, Creativity*, I hope to find a renewed strength of body, mind, and soul so that I can continue pouring out love and forgiveness with those I am called to shepherd.

Hope you join us between services on Sunday, April 8 to hear the details!

Living the resurrection,  
Pastor Dana Hendershot



# Ministry with Each Other



## There Is a Need for Christian Care

Every day you see people who are hurting: those who have lost a job, have lost a loved one, have gone through a divorce, or are battling a life-threatening illness. Stephen Ministers are God's representatives who bring his love to those who are hurting. God is waiting to make a difference in their lives through you! If you want to find out more about how you can be involved in this one-to-one caregiving ministry, contact Gail Mitchell, Chris Schuster, Fred Schuster or Pastor Dana. A new training class is starting soon.

### The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on  
April 22  
will be given to  
Immanuel Village.

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

### Sabbatical Update

Please join the grant writing  
team in the Capital Room  
between services on Sunday,  
April 8<sup>th</sup> to learn about the  
grant writing and what they  
have planned for Pr. Dana's  
sabbatical.



Starting in May Pastor Dana will be offering a series of New Member Classes. If you are interested in joining Immanuel at this time, please mark your calendar and talk with Pastor Dana. We will meet following the second service in May (12:30 – 2 p.m.) or after the combined service in June (11:30 – 1 p.m.) – Lunch will be provided by members of Immanuel.

May 6 – Welcome and sharing of spiritual journey

June 3 – Lutheran Theology

June 17 – Lutheran Theology

June 24 – Congregational communication and ministries

## (Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



VBS will be here before we know it! Plans are already in the works! We would love to have you join the team! We can use help from anyone who is able to help with planning/prep, the week of VBS or both! VBS is a great outreach and a great way to serve our children! If you are ready to jump on board or if you have any questions, please contact Claire Torgerson at [\(248\) 425-7346](tel:2484257346) or [claire.e.torgerson@gmail.com](mailto:claire.e.torgerson@gmail.com)

### Memorial Service for Susan Stan

Immanuel will host a Memorial Service for Susan Stan at 11am on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Part of the service will be livestreamed from Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. Part of the service will be live here in Mt. Pleasant. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Dr. Susan Stan Clarke Historical Library International Children's Literature Research Endowment, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859.

### Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Be sure to mark your calendars!

### April Birthdays

- 3 Oliver Sullivan  
Michael Wyman
- 4 Ben Strandskov
- 5 Gabe Reimer
- 9 Carol Erickson
- 11 Dawn Moss
- 12 Larae Fedor  
Barry Shellenbarger  
Zach Foote
- 15 Beth Patterson
- 16 Zander Behenna  
Ann Ferguson
- 17 Dan Pattison
- 18 Mary Lou Fell  
Mike Piatek-Jimenez
- 20 Thomas Mellinger  
Alexander Wegener  
Lillie Reimer
- 21 Doris Dale  
Carol Davis  
Gary Ramsower  
Thomas Strandskov  
Margaret Skop
- 22 Lauren Little
- 23 Justin Foote  
Terry Grabe  
Margaux Hetzman
- 26 Megan Watters  
Olivia Wegener
- 27 Michala Ebert
- 28 Brenda Hart
- 29 Jan Eversole
- 30 Tom Endres

# (Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



## Reflections

Where: Eagle Village in Reed City  
When: Friday, April 27 (7pm) to Saturday, April 28 (6:30pm)  
Cost: \$60 per person (includes 3 meals and linens for hotel-style accommodations)  
RSVP: bmundwiler@gmail.com

### Spring Clean-Up

Assuming the snow is gone by then, we will meet from 5-8pm on Wednesday, May 9, for our Spring Clean-Up Day!! Please bring your rakes and help us to get our grounds ready for SUMMER!!!

### 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!!!

### Pr. Dana will be away

Pr. Dana will be away on vacation from April 16-30. Pr. Sprang will preside over Sunday services on April 22 & 29. Stephen Ministers will be available for pastoral emergencies. Safe travels, Pr. Dana!!!

## 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

## April 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 the members of Immanuel to get involved with our community.

### Chippewa Watershed Conservancy

Want to spend more time in nature? Here's your chance to make a difference in a big way. The CWC maintains 22 nature preserves to the benefit of wildlife and the people who love them. Forests, grasslands, wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams are all a part of what we protect for the sake of maintaining and increasing the habitat and biodiversity of the areas we manage. If you are a member of, or work for an organization, we would like to make you a very important part of ours. Consider adopting one of our preserves as your group project. Under our direction, you can proudly manage a nature preserve for the community to enjoy. And you will get the credit you deserve. Join us!

Call 989-772-5777 for more information..

### Big Brothers Big Sisters

A Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Great Lakes Bay Region mentor's role is simple: to be a friend to a child, on a one to one basis. Men are matched with boys in all circumstances, and women are matched with girls in most circumstances.

- A Big and a Little participate in everyday activities together on average of two to three times per month for a minimum of one year. The schedule can be flexible to meet the needs of volunteers and Littles.
- Throughout the friendship, Bigs assist Littles to build confidence and promote positive decision-making skills, and independence. Enhancing the self-esteem of a child can be a key building block in the development of their personality and overall approach to life.
- Mentoring opportunities are also available to couples and families.
- All volunteers undergo a comprehensive background screening before being matched with a child.
- If you can commit 2-3 times a month, you can change the life of a child through mentoring!

Learn more at [bbbsgreatlakesbay.org](http://bbbsgreatlakesbay.org), or call 989-772-5232

**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



To the volunteers, ICRH & Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for opening up your church to us and letting us stay with you. Your church is very relaxing and made me feel at peace. I slept amazing☺ Thank you also for the great food and to all the people who prepared it and served it too! You are all so amazing!! I'm forever grateful and very appreciative for all of you and everything you have done. God Bless you all! Thank You!!!

Sincerely,  
"The Durf☺"

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## 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](http://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!!**

## April Worship Helpers

### Cantors (9:00)

8 Abbie Powell  
15 Dennis Marshall  
22 Bill Gallaher  
29

### Counters

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

### Altar Guild

8 Pat Podoll  
15 Kathy Gatten & Sarah Gilbert  
22 Jan Kruska & Bonnie Schaeffer  
29 Bonnie Schaeffer & Deb Reimer

### Projector (9:00)

8 Gabe Goodrich  
15 Deb LaBlance  
22 Amy Powell  
29 Dan Digmann

### Projector (11:00)

8 Dana Mielke  
15 Ted Tuma  
22 Kip Ferguson  
29 Dana Mielke

### Ushers (9:00)

8 Carl Graef, Alan & Gayle Gumm, Bill Jensen  
15 Tom Endres, Carl Graef, Bill Jensen  
22 Aaron Smith, Carl Graef, Bill Jensen  
29 Paul Geisthardt, Aaron Smith, Bill Jensen

### Ushers (11:00)

(lists not available at time of printing)

### Greeters (9:00 & 11:00)

(lists not available at time of printing)

### Assisting Ministers

8 (9:00) Dave Simon  
(11:00) Jodie Mitchell-Beach  
15 (9:00) Volunteer needed  
(11:00) Natalie Douglas  
22 (9:00) Volunteer needed  
(11:00) Jodie Mitchell-Beach  
29 (9:00) Volunteer needed  
(11:00) Cheryl Geisthardt

\*\*\*Thank you to ALL VOLUNTEERS who helped out throughout Lent and also on Easter Sunday!!!