



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

June/July 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.

Mission
Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.



Friends in Christ,

If you're reading this, you know how important worship is because you are a church goer. It is an opportunity to lift praise and put God back as the number one in your life. As we refocus our priorities, God does something to us through worship. It could be to change your heart, open a wound, fill you with hope, hold you in despair, or shock you with transformation.

This summer we would like to invite you – the *ecclesia*, the assembly – to immerse yourself in several experimental ways to worship. On Thursday evenings at 7pm on June 14, July 12, July 26 and August 9, we will be offering several unique ways to worship, and after each service, we will be asking for your feedback on the experience.

I said back in my February Gleaner letter that 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. For about 20 years we have had a contemporary service designed to reach out to young people. While we have seen some growth, with this effort, it is now time to consider again the needs of a new generation of young people.

This summer we shall begin to envision with you as we engage in different worship experiences and see where the Spirit leads us. I pray that these worship evenings will be an added opportunity for God to change your heart, fill you with hope, and to shock us all into transformation. I'm talking a transformation like Abraham on the hill with Isaac, Moses at the burning bush, Jonah coming out of the big fish, the dry bones dancing in the valley, the leper given new skin, the hemorrhaging woman healed, the woman at the well with living water... Let our worship not just be a refocusing, but truly a transformation!

This is a great opportunity to invite your non-worshipping friends!

In Christ,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

A Letter from the Council President...(& the First Lady!)

REPORT ON THE 2018 NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD ASSEMBLY

This year's NWLM Synod Assembly "Signs of the Spirit" was held in Lansing May 20-22. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preached at the Opening Worship and presented in session. It was good to get to know her better and to hear how she wants to bring more people together to grow the church.

In Plenary Session Linda Wicander was elected to her second term on Synod Council (congratulations Linda!) Term limits on the Synod Bishop and Vice-President were eliminated and the 2019 NWLM Synod budget was approved. There was some good discussion about budgeting that far into the future. The Synod has been working from a "dream the big dreams" point of view to assemble their budgets and has historically (and successfully) adjusted expenses and fund proceeds to balance with actual revenues. We at Immanuel have used that method before but found that it disappointed the ministries when revenues fell short and they had to cut back on their plans. The upshot is that at next year's assembly (in Mount Pleasant!) the budget proposal will include two proposals: one budget based on the "dream big" method traditionally used; and another budget based on actual historical revenues. We also celebrated church anniversaries – the most notable was Bethany Lutheran Church in Northport celebrating their 100th anniversary!

And as mentioned, NEXT YEAR'S SYNOD ASSEMBLY WILL BE IN MOUNT PLEASANT AND HAS A BISHOP ELECTION TO BOOT! Bishop Craig Satterlee indicated he would be running for a second term.

CJ Clark was there to present on Living Waters, which is thriving and finding new ways to touch others with the camp experience. Including CJ it was really nice to see and to touch base with so many familiar faces from Immanuel's past: Pr. Andreas Teich, Pr. Sue (and Dave) Hand and Pr. Matt Deames were all there and send their best back to Immanuel.

God's Blessings,

Bill and Kathy Gallaher

ELCA Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice

The ELCA put together a draft social statement on women and justice. They are looking for our response to the statement. Linda Wicander will be leading a 3 session study on the statement.

Sunday, July 15, 22, and 29 following the 10am service.

A light meal will be provided

Nursery will available

An Overview of the Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice is available to be picked up in the Narthex. If you would like to view the whole statement you may view it online [click here](#).

Worship Ministry



Beyond the Walls Sunday

June 10, 11:00 a.m.

We will worship in Island Park with First Presbyterian, First Church of the Nazarene, Central Michigan Free Methodist Church, & Cornerstone. We will hold worship at the park and NOT at Immanuel that Sunday. Please bring a chair to sit in, and a dish to share. We will be having a meal/potluck together following the service. We decided rain or shine it'll be in the park! The offering that will be taken that morning will be going to help purchase the building for the William Strickler Nonprofit Center.

Worship in the Park CHOIR

Interested in singing in the Choir for Church in the Park on Sunday, June 10? There will be one rehearsal on Saturday, June 9 from 10-11:30am at First Church of the Nazarene ([1980 Lincoln Rd](#)), and will meet at 10:15 on the 10th before the service (Island Park). Let Pastor Dana know if you would like a copy of the music.

Special Music for the Summer

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 sign up in the narthex.

Thursday Night Worship

On Thursday evenings at 7pm (June 14, July 12, July 26 & August 9), we will be offering different ways to worship. After each service, we will be asking for feedback on the experience. Please see Pr. Dana's letter on page 1 for more information. We hope you will join us!!

Ushers Wanted

During the summer months of July, August and September, extra ushers are needed to cover vacations. If you are a current usher or would like to become one, please contact Paul Kruska at 828-5103 or pkruska@yahoo.com OR see him at church! Thank you!



Hugh & Henry
McGuire were
baptized on June 3rd.
God Bless you, boys!

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on June 24 will be given to Immanuel Village and the noisy offering on July 22 will be given to the Central Michigan Free Clinic.

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

Ministry with Each Other

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!!!

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

Please join us on Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Capital Room.

June 20th will be the last discussion time for the summer.



The Youth will hold their annual Rummage Sale on Friday, June 15 & Saturday, June 16. All proceeds will help defray their cost to the National Gathering in Houston this summer. Donations can be dropped off anytime between now and June 13th in the last classroom on the left side of the hallway!



Congratulations to Haylee Geisthardt, Lillie Reimer, Gage Shellenbarger, Thomas Strandskov, and Eric Wyman, who graduated on June 3, 2018!!! Best of luck to all of you!!



Congratulations to Lauren Little & Carter Hoffman, who celebrated their Confirmation on Sunday, May 20th.

June Birthdays

- 2 Ryan Douglas
Delilah Tomko
- 4 Ashley Schuette
- 5 Roger Fultz
- 6 Jocelyn Strandskov
- 7 Bob Hoffman
- 8 Dana Mielke
- 9 John Emmons
Sandra Fluharty
Marty Kaiser
Randall Simmons
- 11 Rose Prasad
Dave Simon
- 12 Glen Jurick
Lily Piatek-Jimenez
- 13 Bob Grabe
Janet Heinrich
Zach Heinrich
- 14 Ryan Hammond
- 15 Piper Sullivan
- 16 Lori Kreiner
- 18 Madison McGuire
- 19 Kathy Gatten
Nathan Johnson
- 20 Kory Skop
Emma Connor
- 21 Ethan Torgerson
- 23 Isabel Goodrich
- 26 Andrea Redmond
- 27 Bryan Mielke
- 28 Travis Foote
Lacey Leonard
Jamie Recker
- 29 Dorothy Fetting
Sue Knight
- 30 Denise Little
Claire Torgerson
Augustus Connor

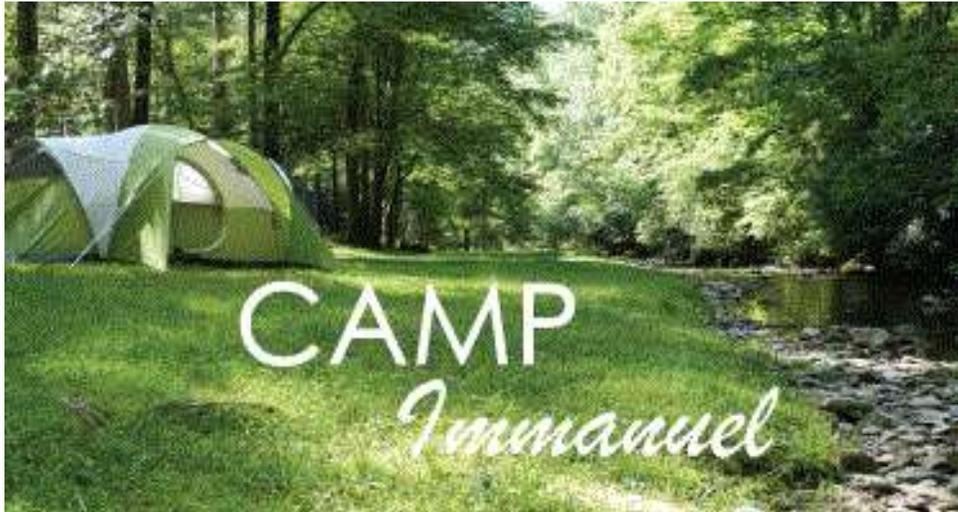
(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Immanuel family,



Thanks to each of you for your thoughtful cards, caring words, and offered prayers during my continuing experience with breast cancer. Your loving concern has been a big part of my recovery process; both Roger and I are deeply appreciative for all the help that you have offered over the last six months. As I near the end of the treatment process, I know that I have been buoyed by James 5:13: "The prayer of a righteous person has great power." It is good to be part of the family of God.

Sarah Gilbert



He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" - Micah 6:8

Camp Immanuel Weekend Retreat

Coldwater Lake Park
September 14 - 16, 2018
Cost \$75 (scholarships available)

Registrations due by July 27, \$85 after July 27.
Registration forms are available in the office and in the narthex.

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



**VBS is coming SOON!!!
(July 16-20)
Get your kids registered TODAY!
Registration can be done in the church
office or on our website.**

If you would like to volunteer,
please contact Claire Torgerson at
248.425.7346 by call or text or by email
at claire.e.torgerson@gmail.com

Charge

By Isabel Goodrich

I went with Abbie Powell and Miss Beth to Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City in March. There was a gathering there of middle school students from all over the state. We met in small groups and read the Bible and talked about the Bible and played fun games.

We learned new songs and met a lot of new people. We did a service project where we made blankets and hats for people who need them. I liked doing the service project a lot. We also did some team building activities like figuring out how to drop an egg from up high without breaking it. And of course we got to play in the waterpark (my favorite).

It was fun to go on a road trip with Miss Beth and Abbie. This event was called Charge and I can't wait to go back next year!

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 Each Other, Continued)



Our Intern, Katie Butler, coordinated the **first Sunday** of the month as a time of fellowship and snacks between the services. Many of us enjoyed it so we put a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone who would like to host a first Sunday fellowship. Ministry with Each Other will be hosting June 3. Feel free to host by yourself, with a ministry team, a bible study group, or with a few friends. I would love to see if we can continue this new tradition.

JAM - Jesus And Me

We have completed this “in-between” services ministry program for children for the summer, and will start up again this fall. This past year, we had a few changes for JAM. We were very fortunate to have our intern, Rachel, lead the program and help with scheduling and activities. She was able to bring in some new ideas and games as well. JAM also moved to a new location, now in the large fellowship area which has given us a bit more room. JAM was started several years ago, as a place for children ages 4 and older to have an alternate kind of Sunday School program, and also an opportunity for the parents to participate in adult education programs or some short socializing time. While we do not have a strict curriculum each week, there are several options of activities that the children can choose to participate in, such as a movies, crafts, music, reading and a snack. We also have a “prize box” which allows the children to select a small prize after each 4 weeks of attendance. They love to put their attendance stickers on the board and count how many weeks until the next prize! Weekly attendance varies from about 6 – 12 children in various age ranges. Our hope is to have another intern this fall to oversee JAM and make it a safe and fun Christian based program on Sunday mornings!

New Grown-Up Lounge Coming Soon!!!

Friends, we are excited to let you know about a new project at Immanuel! There is a Grwon-Up Lounge coming soon, located in the room previously used for youth. It will be a comfortable environment for adults featuring both work and relaxation space, a check in station, coffee bar, printer, charging station and entertainment center. With a growing number of families in our building every week, we look forward to providing a space for busy parents to connect, recharge and work while they are at the church. It is our hope that this renovation will be complete in the very near future. By preparing this room before the start of VBS, we aim to welcome both our visiting and member parents to utilize this space and hope that it will continue to be an asset to them in the future. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support as this project develops into a useful space for the adults at Immanuel.

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Youth to travel to National Gathering

Please pray for us as we travel to Houston, TX June 23-July 2nd. We will be doing mission work before we head to the Gathering in Houston to worship with over 30,000 youth from around the country! We will get to worship with our synod, participate in the interaction center learning about lots of programs that help others as well as the opportunity to give blood, donate hair or build a habitat house, as well as serve a day in Houston.

Ashley Shellenbarger, Lillie Reimer, Haylee and Olivia Geisthardt, Jocelyn & Thomas Strandskov, Beth Mundwiler, Chloe Masterson and Craig Torgerson will be attending. Pr. Dana will also be working a booth about Faith and Science in the Interaction Center.

Students to attend Bridge Builders Camp

Please pray for Jocelyn Strandskov and Ashley Shellenbarger as they attend Bridge Builders Camp this summer, along with Beth Mundwiler, who will serve as one of the facilitators. They will be learning peer ministry skills to help navigate heavy topics about racism.

Join us for a Loons Game!!!

If you love baseball, Star Wars, being outside or just spending time with family and friends, here is an opportunity for you!!

The Great Lakes Loons have a home game on Saturday, July 21 against Peoria at 7:15pm. It is Star Wars night and there will also be fireworks after the game. Box seats are \$10each and lawn seats are \$7. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex shortly.

Please pay Andrea in the office for your tickets. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Moss at 989-817-1901 or cdmoss1@earthlink.net.

July Birthdays

1	Kathy Hunt
2	Laurie Wood
3	Jackie Spycher
4	Kenny Galdeen
5	Alayna Fetting
8	George Polanco
11	Todd Hammond Wes Kahkonen Nicholas Wegener
12	Fred Schuster Sarah Gallaher Zachary Wang
13	Caiden Mitchell Tara Riley
14	Nancy Simon
15	Aaron Smith
17	Erin Decker
18	Betty Koenig
19	Heather Hanley Nicholas Wang
20	Linda Wicander Alaina Wills
21	Keith Allen Maris Polanco
22	Lynne Danielson Penny Endres Katherine Scott
24	Julie Shellenbarger
23	Chris Brown
25	Karen Graef
26	Ashley Jurick
27	Dennis Marshall David Langlois
28	Dave Keilitz
29	Jamie Decker
31	Debra Marshall

Ministry with the Community & World

June & July Volunteer Opportunities

*“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*

If you have not made the .7-mile trip from Immanuel Lutheran Church to the William Strickler Resource Center, we encourage you to do so. In this one building located at [1114 W. High St.](#), area organizations offer day shelter services, groceries, home supplies, clothing, and help with employment. These organizations are:

- [The Care Store](#)
- [Clothing INC](#)
- [Community Compassion Network](#)
- [Isabella County Restoration House](#)

Each organization offers members of our church an opportunity to volunteer and get involved within our community. Stop by the center to see how you can get involved.

Right now, Clothing INC needs volunteers to help sort, distribute and deliver clothes, as well as to assist guests with finding the clothes they need. Since October, the organization has distributed more than 60,000 pieces of clothing. The need for volunteers is great, especially since the CMU students have left for the summer.

In addition to services offered at the Non-Profit Center, the following agencies are always looking for volunteers:

The Isabella County Soup Kitchen, which is located at 612 S. Adams St, Mt. Pleasant, is looking for volunteers. Shifts are available daily between 8-11am and 11am-1:30pm. You will need to fill out a volunteer information sheet prior to your first shift and receive an orientation of the building. Please call 772-7392 if you are interested in helping out!

Red Cross Blood Drives

Wed, June 13....Wm. Strickler Non-Profit Center, 12pm-5:45pm

Fri, June 15.....Weidman Community Center, 12pm-5:45pm

Thurs, June 28...St. Vincent DePaul, Shepherd, 12pm-5:45pm

Thurs, July 5.....Coe Township Hall, Shepherd, 12pm-5:45pm

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

Dear People of Immanuel-

Thank you for sharing your Lenten offering with Partners For Puerto Rico!

In 1999 I visited Puerto Rico hoping to find a mission partner for our church in Madison. The trip was a success. We partnered with a growing congregation near Dorado, led by a dynamic woman, Pr. Ivette Salgado. Our churches shared a name (Bethel), and the pastor shared a birthday with our daughter Sara. For the next 11 years 30 people joined me in visiting Bethel, Dorado and working at the church, the Bible Camp nearby and in the community. Our Madison church helped them build a large addition on their building, and helped purchase adjacent land. Soon our Puerto Rico friends began to visit us in Wisconsin. When I retired in 2011 29 people surprised me with a visit.

At my retirement the Madison congregation created "The Bill White Mission Fund," which grew to \$90,000. I created Partners For Puerto Rico, inviting U.S. congregations to form partnerships with one of the 26 ELCA congregations on the island. As of this writing 13 congregations in Wisconsin, Minnesota and New York have joined the Partners For Puerto Rico Family. A partnership includes a face to face meeting with our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters each year, plus a gift of about \$2,000.

When Maria struck the island in September the partnerships came alive. U.S. congregations supplied money, water, generators and dozens of items destroyed by the hurricane. To date partner churches have given over \$130,000 to 13 churches on the island.

I have now visited Puerto Rico 34 times, meeting with pastors and congregations to arrange partnerships, which is a way to care for people. Your gift of \$388 will be used for one of the churches that experienced great damage. God will bless your money and you. Once again, thank you.

-Pastor Bill White

HELP WANTED!!!

Community Compassion Network would like your help!

The Pantry has shifted to summer hours and CCN needs additional volunteers. All kinds of hours and opportunities to serve are available. We need people who will help guests shop, people who will help stock shelves, and people who will assist with guest registration. The Pantry is open from 2-7 pm on Wednesdays and 8 am to noon and 4-7 pm on Thursdays. Take a weekly shift, a shift once a month, or pitch in to help during Immanuel's days of service August 1st and 2nd.

The Summer Feeding Initiative is also starting its second year. This program provides sack lunches Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to students in Mt. Pleasant. Lunches are packed at First Presbyterian Church and delivered to sites throughout our community. Volunteers are needed to make sandwiches, pack lunch sacks, and help with deliveries.

If interested in lending your hands to help feed our neighbors, please contact Peggy Burke at peggybur@gmail.com, Sarah Gilbert at sagilbert204@gmail.com, or check out the website ccnfeeds.org

Contributing Stocks or Bonds

To contribute capital gain property such as stocks or bonds to the church, per IRS Publication 526 you can deduct the Fair Market Value of the asset on your personal tax returns - not the basis in the asset. Immanuel has a brokerage account to facilitate the transfer of these assets directly. If you are interested, please contact the church for information or assistance.

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!!**

Financial Corner

Unified Budget

February \$21,727.40

March \$21,417.89

April \$21,352.14

Average Monthly Needed to meet budget

February \$28,147.94

March \$29,269.61

April \$30,853.11

Capital Campaign Update



Amount Pledged: \$147,945

Amount Received \$113,746

June & July Worship Helpers

Altar Guild

6/17 Denise Little & Bonnie Berthold
6/24 Kathy Gatten
7/1 Pat Podoll & Kathy Gatten
7/8 Sarah Gilbert & Judy Emmons
7/15 Linda Wicander & Deb Reimer
7/22 Billie Plouff & Jan Kruska
7/29 Ann Ferguson & Pat Podoll

Assisting Ministers (10:00)

6/17 Chuck Clise
6/24 Dan Digmann
7/1
7/8
7/15
7/22
7/29

Counters

6/17 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
6/24 John Emmons & John Warriner
7/1 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson
7/8 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
7/15 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
7/22 John Emmons & John Warriner
7/29 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson

Projector (10:00)

6/17 Dana Mielke
6/24 Ted Tuma
7/1 Dan & Jennifer Digmann
7/8 Dana Mielke
7/15 Ted Tuma
7/22 Deb LaBlance
7/29 Gabe Goodrich

Ushers (10:00)

6/17 Bill Jensen & Barry Shellenbarger
6/24 Roger Gilbert, Bill Jensen & Aaron Smith
7/1 Rose Prasad, Bill Jensen & Pete LaBlance
7/8 Paul & Jan Kruska, Janice Fox, Gabe Goodrich
7/15 Sam Staples, Ed Berthold, Pete LaBlance
7/22 Chuck & Barb McCollom, Bill Jensen
7/29 Ted Tuma, Rose Prasad, Ed Berthold

Greeters (10:00)

(lists not available at time of printing)

Lawn Mowing

6/14 Fred & Chris Schuster
6/21 Bruce & Dave Torgerson
6/28 Sam Staples & Barry Shellenbarger
7/5 The Keller family
7/12 Volunteers needed
7/19 Paul Kruska & Bill Jensen
7/26 The Geisthardt family

THANK YOU TO ALL WORSHIP WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS!!!

Whether you helped us this year by teaching a class, cooking a meal, setting a table, moving tables and chairs, we appreciate ALL of YOU!!!

You're the greatest!!!