



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

September 2018

*The Gleaner is a publication of:*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
320 S. Bradley St.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: (989) 773-4204  
Email: [office@immanuelmp.com](mailto:office@immanuelmp.com)  
Website: [immanuelmp.com](http://immanuelmp.com)

**Summer Office Hours:**  
**Monday-Friday 8am-3pm**

---

Pastor: Dana Hendershot  
Layout and Editing:  
Andrea Redmond

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 friends in Christ,

I took some time to look back on the articles I've written in the September Gleaner since I was first called to be your pastor in 2011. They cover a whole spectrum of ways we have grown together in Christ: rejoicing over successfully worshipping together as one body for the summer months despite musical preference, change of our mission statement, hiring a second full-time staff, long lists of summer faith activities (ELCA Youth Gatherings to VBS), a capital campaign, celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> of the Reformation and the 40<sup>th</sup> of Immanuel... these were just the September articles.

There have been a lot of changes over the past seven years and I think it is wise to recognize and honor that for new life to happen some things had to die. You've heard the whole death leads to resurrection or the series of pruning sermons (cut away so there can be new healthy growth). And it is hard to accept. But honestly, Jesus had a lot of sayings that were hard. Sayings such as, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," "You who are without sin cast the first stone," "Sell all you have and give it to the poor," "The first shall be last and the last shall be first," and "If you seek to save your life you will lose it."

There are a lot of us who have had to lose part of ourselves to "the way things have always been," or to "I cannot stand to be around that kind of music," or to "this is my niche - let's keep doing it my way."

In looking back, God has helped me realize this month, it is time celebrate! Celebrate new life! Celebrate how God is creating us, forming us, and sending us into the world. God has called us to be Church at this time and place. Christ has taken us from a community crying for healing to a community ready to receive those who need healing. Christ has taken us from a community who was too scared to change a bulletin board without council approval to a community who helped shape and form a successful community-wide rotational homeless shelter. Christ has taken us from being paralyzed with fear that we are an older congregation that may soon die to a place where the children give us communion, read scripture, sing and play bells in choir, and help bring the gifts that we have to give God forward to the altar.

Let us all taste that sweet fruit of the Spirit and share it with the world!

In Christ,  
Pastor Dana Hendershot

# Worship Ministry



Please join us at  
Coldwater Lake Family Park  
in Weidman  
on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

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

## The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on  
September 23 will be given  
to  
the Central Michigan Free  
Clinic.

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



If you feel your child is  
ready to take his/her first  
communion please talk  
with Pastor Dana.

## Fall Worship Schedule

Following Camp Immanuel  
weekend (Sept. 14-16),  
we will resume our regular  
worship schedule.

On September 23, we will  
again have weekly services  
at 9am & 11am.

Be sure to mark your  
calendars!



Immanuel will be offering a blessing of  
the animal's service at our outdoor  
pavilion on Saturday, October 6 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!

# 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 in the Capital Room on Wednesdays at 10:30am

## New Members

Anyone interested in becoming a new member please plan to stay after our Church Picnic & Block Party from approximately 1-4pm on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Tuesday Women's Bible Study

This group will begin meeting on Tuesdays from 9:30-11am, beginning on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

We will be discussing the book, *"Traveling Light"*, by Max Lucado. Please join us!

Please contact Judy Emmons if you have any questions.

## Thursday Women's Bible Study

This group will begin meeting on Thursdays from 9:30-11am, beginning on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

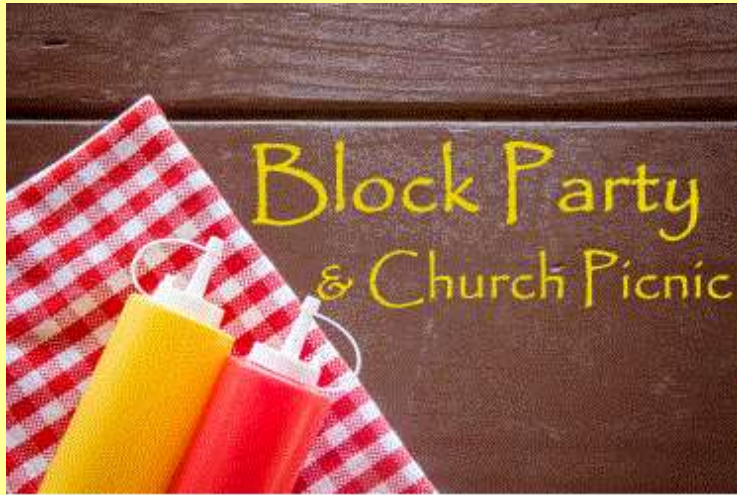
We will be discussing the book, *"The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi"*, by Kathy Lee Gifford. Please join us!

Please contact Terry Grabe if you have any questions.



- 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
- 17 John Keller
- 18 Hannah Shellenbarger
- 19 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  
Neice Tuma
- 28 Jodie Mitchell-Beach  
Joan Langlois
- 29 Carolyn Hoffman
- 30 Sandy Deaton  
Jacque Jackson

## *(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)*



**Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
(after 10am service)**

Be sure to invite your friends and family to join us for our block party! We are planning to have an inflatable bounce house and slide again. Council will provide the burgers and hot dogs. We ask that you bring a dish to share! We'll also be inviting our neighbors to join us...so please help us to spread the word!!

### **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 and World



“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**

## **Here are opportunities to get involved with our community:**

**CROP WALK** On Sunday, October 7, is the CWS CROP walk. This walk serves as a visual reminder that millions of people around the world live in poverty and know long-term hunger. For them, walking is their primary method of moving from place to place.

Please join us at Mill Pond Park, [607 S. Adams St.](#) Money raised benefits both locally and globally. To sign up and participate, talk with either Craig Torgerson or Jennifer Digmann. And to learn more about the work of Church World Service, please visit <http://church.cwsglobal.org/crop-hunger-walk/>

**ICRH** Mark your calendars, Immanuel will host Isabella County Restoration House guests the weeks of October 28 and February 24. Once again our church will partner with Faith Weavers. For information, visit [icrhouse.org](http://icrhouse.org)

## **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES**

Sacred Heart Parish- Tuesday, September 18 from 12-5:45pm

Beal City High School, Thursday, September 27 from 12-5:45pm

\*\*\*Also coming soon....Immanuel will host a Blood Drive on October 25 from 12-5:45\*\*\*

(we will soon be looking for volunteers to help with this event...please see Billie Plouff if you are interested in helping out.)

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 Each Other, Continued)*



Our four choirs will start in September after Labor Day. All choirs are always looking for new members who are dedicated to regularly attending rehearsals and singing on Sundays!! Please email me (Mernie) [mbidstrup@charter.net](mailto:mbidstrup@charter.net). or catch me after the service with any questions. If Worship Wed. is cancelled for weather so are all music programs.

### **Children's choir - Kindergarten -5<sup>th</sup> grade ---- Hand chimes- 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Attendance at rehearsal and the Sundays that we play is required to be a part of the hand chimes.**

The children's choir/ hand chime choir meets on Wednesdays at 4:00 (earlier time this year). 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade hand chime practice will be from 4:00-4:45 in the Sanctuary. From 4:45-5:30 the whole group will be together in the Choir room to sing. The children's choir sings at the 9:00 service on the fourth Sunday and at the 11:00 service on the first Sunday of each month. The hand chimes will usually play at the 9:00 service on the fourth Sunday.

### **Bell Choir - 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school- includes some college students**

The bell choir usually meets on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:30. 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. The choir plays on the fourth Sunday at the 9:00 service and also plays at festival services. 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!

# Business Ministry

## 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](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!!**

### Financial Corner

#### Unified Budget

May \$21,632.41  
June \$20,884.07  
July \$42,076.00

#### Average Monthly Needed to meet budget

May \$33,158.28  
June \$37,249.69  
July \$34,836.50

### Capital Campaign Update



Amount Pledged: \$147,945.00  
Amount Received: \$127,407

# Worship Ministry

## September Worship Helpers

### Altar Guild

- 2 Ann Ferguson & Pat Podoll
- 9 Kathy Gatten & Bonnie Berthold
- 16 Jan Kruska & Judy Emmons
- 23 Sandy Warriner & Deb Reimer
- 30 Sarah Gilbert & Chris Schuster

### Assisting Ministers

- 2 (10:00) Chris Schuster
- 9 (10:00) Amy Powell
- 16 (9:00) Volunteer Needed  
(11:00) Cheryl Geisthardt
- 23 (9:00) Volunteer Needed  
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 30 (9:00) Linda Wicander  
(11:00) Volunteer Needed

### Counters

- 2 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 9 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 16 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 23 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson
- 30 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand

### Projector

- 2 (10:00) Gabriel Goodrich
- 9 (10:00) Dana Mielke
- 16 (10:00) Ted Tuma
- 23 (9:00) Volunteer needed  
(11:00) Volunteer needed
- 30 (9:00) Volunteer needed  
(11:00) Volunteer needed

### Ushers

- 2 (10:00) Rose Prasad, Ted Tuma, Bill Jensen
- 9 Paul Kruska, Gabe Goodrich, Dave Keilitz,  
Janice Fox
- 16 (10:00) Rose Prasad, Ted Tuma, Sam Staples
- 23 (9:00) Ed Berthold, Bill Jensen, Gabe  
Goodrich  
(11:00) Volunteers needed
- 30 (9:00) Sam Staples, Pete LaBlance, Dave  
Keilitz  
(11:00) Volunteers needed

### Greeters

(list not available at time of printing)

### Lawn Mowing

- 6 Bruce Torgerson & Dave Torgerson
- 13 Sam Staples & Barry Shellenbarger
- 20 The Keller family
- 27 Volunteers needed

### 2017-2018 Church Council Members & Ministry Leaders

President.....Bill Gallaher  
Vice President.....Natalie Douglas  
Past President.....Amy Powell  
Members.....Aubyron Anderson  
Dan Digmann  
Penny Endres  
Kip Ferguson  
Paul Geisthardt  
Gabe Goodrich  
Katrina Piatek-Jimenez  
Ted Tuma

Ministry with Each Other.....Cindy Torgerson  
Ministry with Community/World.....Shirley Howard  
Business Ministry.....Tom Endres  
Worship Ministry.....Jennifer Digmann



## Community Activities

### **For the Living of These Days: What can we learn from Dietrich Bonhoeffer?**

The Publicly Engaged Church Table is sponsoring an event discussing the works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Moderated by Pastor Erick Johnson, this event will consist of a presentation, viewing of the video "Bonhoeffer" by Martin Doblmeier, and a Q&A session. Lunch will be provided.

**September 15, 2018**  
11:00am – 3:00pm  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
320 S. Bradley St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
[Register Now](#)

### **Refuge Lansing**

**September 9-12, 2018**

Refuge Lansing: Stories of Resettlement in Mid-Michigan will be hosted by St. Stephen Lutheran Church. This traveling exhibit celebrates decades of refugee resettlement in Mid-Michigan. Join us on Wednesday, September 12 for Synod Eucharist, lunch, and viewing of the display and presentation. Contact the Synod Office to RSVP.

### **Ministry to Sick and Shut-In**

A learning event for lay leaders in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod led by Deacon Kathy Bonn and Pastor Erick Johnson

**Saturday, September 29, 2018, 9am-3pm**

St Stephen Lutheran Church, [2900 N Waverly Rd, Lansing MI 48906](#)

To register, contact St Stephen Lutheran Church ~ [office@ststephenonline.org](mailto:office@ststephenonline.org) or 517-321-2244.

Some lay leaders are called to support and accompany their pastor in providing pastoral care to persons who are ill and/or homebound. This event provides training in administering home communion and skill-building, confidence-boosting exercises in pastoral care. Participants are encouraged to read "A Primer in Pastoral Care" by Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner (Copyright © 2005, Augsburg Fortress) prior to the event.

The Anthropology of Religion Speaker Series presents

## Religious, Feminist, Activist: Cosmologies of Interconnection

A presentation by

Professor Laurel Zwissler



Many feminist Catholics, Protestants and Pagans are motivated by faith in their social justice activism.

In her new book, Dr. Zwissler introduces us to these women and puts their lives in context.

Free and Open to All  
Park Library Auditorium

7 PM September 19

Sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and Religion and  
the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work