



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 2018

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

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Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8am-3pm
The Office will be CLOSED
on Dec 24, 25, 26, 31 & Jan 1

Pastor: Dana Hendershot
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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.



Sunday, December 2- 9:00 am Traditional Service
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday, December 9 -9:00 am Traditional Service
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday, December 16- 10:00 Service
(Children's Christmas Program)

Sunday, December 23- 10:00am Lessons & Carols
Service

Monday, December 24- Christmas Eve
7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 30 - 10:00 am Combined
Worship Service

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Friends in Christ,

A piece of Advent is longing. A longing for the Messiah. The one who will answer the cries of the afflicted and bring them deliverance (Psalm 72). As Isaiah describes: who will be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace.

Advent is a longing for the birth. A longing for Christ to return. I know I long for the one will answer the cries of the afflicted and bring them deliverance. I suppose that could be a church mission statement: "We answer the cries of the afflicted and bring them deliverance by the grace of God." Now that's what church stands for!

I also long for the unchurched to know Jesus. To know the Messiah. To know the love, we have been given. To know the forgiveness. To know the grace. To know the deliverance.

There are evangelical mega churches with 1,000's of people who flood through the doors and it makes me ask, "What are we missing?" Why don't seekers walk through our doors? So, I have challenged myself to step outside of my ELCA bubble and attend more evangelical continuing education events in hopes to gain some insight on why people flood through their doors each Sunday.

The first one I attended (2011) was all about about being more accepting of science, sexuality, culture, and lifestyle explaining that if we don't begin to address these issues we're going to lose a whole generation.

The latest one (2018) was about putting the focus back on Jesus and less "this is what the Bible says" or we're going to lose a whole generation.

It's like I'm looking for answers and ideas of how to grow the church and come out getting an affirmation that we have a pretty good theology. I sit there and say, yep, already do that... then I want to stand up and say, "That's not the answer. We are a church already there. We read scripture in its historical context, we know that science and faith are not in conflict, we welcome all sexual orientations and gender identities, and people are not flooding through our doors. We are still losing a generation."

I have not yet received the program or idea that will reach out to nonbelievers with Jesus or non-church-goers with *ecclesia* (the Greek word in scripture translated 'church', but actually means: assembly). Then like an epiphany awakening, God reminded me, there is no marketing plan, program, or idea that is the answer. The answer is Jesus.

In hopeful anticipation,

Pastor Dana Hendershot



Ministry with Each Other

Theological Conversation with Pastor Dana

This discussion group will meet on Wednesdays, December 5 & 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the Capital Room.

Please join us!!!

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on December 23 will be given to the Immanuel Special Needs Fund.

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

Lessons & Carols

The morning of December 23 at 10:00am, we will be lifting praise to God through lessons & carols. Please be sure to sign up for the service if you would like to read a lessons! There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Decorating for Christmas

On Sunday, December 9 at 1pm, we are asking for volunteers to help the Youth decorate the church for the Christmas season. Please come lend us a hand, if you are able!

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!!!



December

Dec 9.....1-3pm at church
(Christmas decorating)
Dec 16.....Bake Sale



- 1 Kathy Wyman
- 5 Isabella Wegener
- 6 John Lorand
- 8 Bonnie Schaeffer
Annette Foster
- 10 Lorraine Tubbs
- 12 Ruth Magnell
- 15 Keith Spycher
- 16 Luke Douglas
Laney Douglas
Grace Torgerson
- 18 Syd Smith
- 20 Carter Hoffman
- 21 Diane Clise
- 22 Chuck McCollom
Sandy Warriner
Billie Plouff
- 27 Kip Ferguson
- 28 Emily Little

Time & Talents

Calling all members to please fill out a new time & talents sheet! You can pick up a hard copy in the Narthex to click this link:

<https://immanuelmp.churchcenter.com/people/forms/3789>

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



The Little Star: A Christmas Fantasy

by Georgene Meddows

Sunday, December 16th @ 10AM

Rehearsals:

- Music Learned During Children's Choir
- Wednesday, December 12th | 6-7:15PM
- Saturday, December 15th | 9-11:30AM

This year's Children's Christmas Program is the Christmas story as we know it told by the perspective of the star of Bethlehem. Children of all ages are welcome to participate including our middle school and high school students. Volunteers are also needed to help with props, costumes, guiding the cast, and helping students learn their speaking & singing parts. Please call the church office or email Craig.



The youth will be holding a Bake Sale on Sunday, December 16th following the Children's Christmas Program.

All proceeds will go to the Youth Group for their trip next summer.



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 _____

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.

Financial Corner

Unified Budget

August \$20,603
September \$15,553
October \$22,912

Average Monthly needed to meet
budget: November \$29,144

Capital Campaign Update



Pledged: \$147,945
Received: \$139,082



Ministry with the Community & World



Coordinating the Community for Christmas Giving

Christmas Outreach Needs Your Help!

Monetary Donations are Needed:

Please send your checks payable to Christmas Outreach (a 501(c)3) to
Christmas Outreach, P.O. Box 1227, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804

Item Donations are Needed:

The following items must be NEW or gently used and clean. They can be dropped off at
Finch Fieldhouse on December 3, 4 or 5 between 8am and 4pm.

Winter Coats, Hats & Mittens, Boots, Christmas Decorations
Stockings, Books, Jeans & Linens

To volunteer, click here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084aafac2ea2ff2-2018>



Thank you to all of who volunteered their time and/or donated food for our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner!!! The dinner was a HUGE success!
Also, a special thank you to Dan & Jan Eversole and Harry & Billie Plouff for their fantastic job at organizing this important event!

December Worship Helpers

Cantors

- 2 (9:00) Kathy Gallaher
- 9 (9:00) Bill Gallaher
- 16 (10:00) No Cantor
- 23 (10:00) No Cantor
- 30 (10:00) Amy Powell

Counters

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

Altar Guild

- 2 Sandy Warriner & Linda Wicander
- 9 Billie Plouff & Ann Ferguson
- 16 Kathy Gatten & Pat Podoll
- 23 Ann Ferguson & Pat Podoll
- 24 Judy Emmons & Sarah Gilbert
- 30 Chris Schuster & Deb Reimer

Projector

- 2 (9:00) Amy Powell
(11:00) Susan Shock
- 9 (9:00) The Digmans
(11:00) Dana Mielke
- 16 (10:00) Amy Powell
- 23 (10:00) Gabe Goodrich
- 24 (7:30) Volunteer needed
- 30 (10:00) Deb LaBlance

Ushers

(list not available at time of printing)

Assisting Ministers

- 2 (9:00) Chris Schuster
(11:00) Cheryl Geisthardt
- 9 (9:00) Bill Gallaher
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 16 (10:00) Paul Geisthardt
- 23 (10:00) Dan Eversole
- 24 (7:30) Dave Simon
- 30 (10:00) Dan Digmann

Sound System

- 2 (9:00) Bill Gallaher
(11:00) Kathy Gallaher
- 9 (9:00) John Keller
(11:00) Craig Torgerson
- 16 (10:00) Craig Torgerson
- 23 (10:00) Bill Gallaher
- 24 (7:30) Volunteer needed
- 30 (10:00) John Keller



If you would like to purchase poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship service in memory or in honor of a loved one, please pick up an order form in the Narthex. Order forms and payment should be turned in to the office mailbox NO LATER than Monday, December 10th.

Thank You!