



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 2019

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.



We are preparing to host the homeless shelter for our second week of this season from February 24th - March 2nd. Please join as we continue in this effort to support those experiencing homelessness in our community!

Links to the handbook and sign-up are below. Please review both well.

Please remember that there is now a slot for a shift leader on each shift. The intent of this is that someone from Immanuel is signed up in that slot for each shift in case a situation were to arise that required knowledge of our facility or organization. Anyone who knows their way around the building should feel free to sign up in the shift leader position.

In addition to volunteering for shift coverage and meals, we also have need for plastic cups, plastic ware, paper plates, paper bowls and napkins. Donations can be dropped off to the office.

Volunteer and Food Sign-up Link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508044ba8a92fa1f58-immanuel1>

Volunteer Handbook Link:
<https://www.icrhouse.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ICRH-manual-revised-9-18-Full.pdf>

Thank you,
Joe Anderson, Jennifer Digmann and Ryan Douglas

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Dear members of Immanuel,

I walked into Giny Dumon's room (96 years old) knowing that she was in her last days on earth. As I entered, I noticed Bertha Fluharty (who just turned 104) sitting next to her bed holding Giny's hand. The two of them silent, yet it spoke so loudly to my heart. I thought, "The people at Immanuel minister to one another no matter their age!" This is the heart of the church!

On the days with our lovely below zero temps when school was called off all week, I received a text from a concerned member at 10:36 PM. They noticed Commission on Aging was supposed to be a warming station and ended up canceling on Wednesday. They wanted to open a warming station. This is the heart of the church!

I called together about 12 men from the church to meet in what will soon be our new youth room. Craig shared with them the vision and suddenly walls were put up, ceilings taken out, new lights put in, and soon the painting will be done. This is the heart of the church!

We will soon be housing the homeless again. This is the heart of the church!

We are donating to organizations who help people in need of health care and clothing! This is the heart of the church!

We will soon be inviting you to join a small group for a Lenten study to grow closer to one another and to God. This is the heart of the church!

We continue to embrace ways we can make people feel welcome no matter the sin, pain, baggage, or brokenness they bring with them. This is the heart of the church!

We admit our own brokenness and worship God together loving and forgiving one another, celebrating our differences. This is the heart of the church!

The heart of God beats within creation when Jesus was born and it continues to beat within creation through the work of the church.

People of God, YOU are the church!

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Dana



Ministry with Each Other

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

This group meets in the Capital Room on Wednesdays at 10:30. Please join us!

(There is NO discussion on Feb. 13)

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on February 24th will be given to Clothing INC.

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

2018 Year-End Giving Statements

Year-end giving statements will be available in the Narthex on Sundays. Please be sure to stop and pick yours up today! If you are out of town and need this mailed to you, please call the office!

Lenten Practices

Instead of a weekly worship service on Tuesday evenings throughout Lent, we are offering a variety of times to join a small group! Please watch for details throughout February on how to sign up!



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



- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Judy Smith |
| | Diane Thomas |
| 4 | Ted Lueder |
| | Lisa Wegener |
| 9 | Linda Mellinger |
| 12 | Kathy Gallaher |
| 16 | Whitney Eidahl |
| 19 | Chuck Clise |
| 19 | Mark Heinrich |
| 20 | Roger Gilbert |
| 21 | Emma Heinrich |
| 22 | Ed Berthold |
| 23 | Bonnie Berthold |
| | Bill Gallaher |
| 24 | Allen Shock |
| | Donna Swenson |
| | Aubyron Anderson |

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!!!

Ministry with Community & World



The Food Pantry needs volunteers!

Alas, winter has come to Michigan and the “snow birds” have flown to warmer climes! At The Pantry, Community Compassion Network is in need of many hardy, cold and snow loving Michiganders to fill volunteer positions.

Like our former mobile food pantry days, we need cart pushers, produce handlers, shelf stockers, and more for the following dates and times: Wednesdays from 2-6 pm, and Thursdays from 8 am – 1 pm. We are also open from 9 to noon on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

Come one, come all – from ages 14 to 114 – spend two hours or stay for the whole shift. Have fun, meet new people, and help us feed our Isabella County neighbors. We are located in the William and Janet Strickler Nonprofit Center at 1114 W. High Street, just a few blocks from Immanuel. Come in on a pantry day or call 989-863-4449 for more information about volunteering.

Thank you from all of us at Community Compassion Network!



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
October \$22,912
November \$19,536
December \$35,039

Average Monthly needed to meet
budget: \$29,557

Capital Campaign Update



Pledged: \$147,945
Received: \$140,997

Tax Break for contributions – people over 70 years-old

If you are over 70.5- did you know that you can give directly from your retirement account to Immanuel Lutheran Church and no pay taxes on the gift? Due to the tax changes that include a higher standard deduction and the elimination of the personal exemption, it is possible the best tax benefit for contributions to the church is to give directly from your retirement account.

Electronic Giving

In January we switched to the new company we use for our online giving program (from Vanco to Stripe). The switch will offer a number of benefits to the church and you.

1. No more remembering a password! The new system just sends you a link to sign-in when you want to update your information.
2. You will get a message in your email for donation processing and a receipt each time a donation is initiated.
3. The church will have a text to give option.
4. Your statement will be available to be emailed to you.
5. Your gift will automatically be linked to you. This means our financial secretary will no longer need to enter in all the online giving manually.
6. The fees per transaction are cheaper.

Anyone can sign up today!!! Simply go to our website and click on “give”. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office at 773-4204.

February Worship Helpers

Cantors

10 Amy Powell
17 Abbie Powell
24 Dennis Marshall

Counters

10 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson
17 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
24 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff

Altar Guild

10 Bonnie Berthold & Jan Kruska
17 Deb Reimer & Sarah Gilbert
24 Billie Plouff & Judy Emmons

Projector (9:00)

10 Amy Powell
17 Gabe Goodrich
24 Deb LaBlance

Projector (11:00)

10 Dana Mielke
17 Ted Tuma
24 Kip Ferguson

Sound System (9:00)

10 Volunteer needed
17 Bill Gallaher
24 John Keller

Sound System (11:00)

10 Craig Torgerson
17 Ted Tuma
24 Kip Ferguson

Assisting Ministers (9:00)

10 Amy Powell
17 Dan Digmann
24 Amy Powell

Assisting Ministers (11:00)

10 Roze Zeferi
17 Mary Hageman
24 Jodie Mitchell-Beach

Ushers (9:00)

10 Ed Berthold, Bill Jensen, Barry Shellenbarger
17 Roger Gilbert, Bill Jensen, Aaron Smith
24 Bill Jensen, Barry Shellenbarger, Aaron Smith

Ushers (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Greeters (9:00)

10 Jennifer Digmann
17 Amy Powell
24 Volunteer needed

Greeters (11:00)

10 Amy Powell
17 Volunteer needed
24 Volunteer needed

Welcome Center (9:00)

10 Jan Strickler
17 Jan Strickler
24 Volunteer needed

Welcome Center (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Coffee Attendant (9:00)

10 Volunteer needed
17 Kathy Marshall
24 Volunteer needed

Coffee Attendant (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month