



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 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.



EXPANSIVE FAITH
FROM OUR COMFORT TO DISCOMFORT - FROM OUR STORY TO OTHER'S STORY

NEW! 2019 LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

Instead of a weekly worship service, we are offering times throughout each week to join in a small group discussion. You can switch which you attend from week to week to fit your schedule. There will also be an option to watch the video on the church website and discuss online with others from the church.

See page 2 of the Gleaner for more information!

Ash Wednesday

MARCH 6, 2019
12:10 PM & 6:00 PM

NEW! 2019 LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY @ 1:00 PM

LED BY NICOLE FERGUSON
& NATALIE DOUGLAS

MONDAY @ 6:30 PM

LED BY CHERYL & PAUL GEISTHARDT

MONDAY @ 7:30 PM

(EDUCATION BUILDING @ CMU)
LED BY MARISSA READ & MADDIE PARKER

TUESDAY @ 7:00 PM

LED BY CORINNE & MATT SMYK

WEDNESDAY @ 10:30 AM

LED BY PASTOR DANA HENDERSHOT

WEDNESDAY @ 6:00 PM

LED BY KATRINA & MIKE PIATEK-JIMENEZ

THURSDAY @ 9:30 AM

LED BY JAN PODOLSKY

THURSDAY @ 5:00 PM

LED BY ROZE ZEFERI

THURSDAY @ 7:00 PM

(EMMONS LOBBY @ CMU)
LED BY THOMAS STRANDSKOV

FRIDAY @ 9:00 AM

LED BY DENISE KAISER

FRIDAY @ 1:00 PM

LED BY CINDY TORGERSO
& DENISE TORGERSO

SATURDAY @ 3:00 PM

LED BY JENNIFER & DAN DIGMANN

Week 1 – March 10

You're about to embark on a journey of faith with the help of five gifted and unique twenty-first century theologians. First up, Brian McLaren exposes our inability to fully comprehend God. He reveals the dangers of our suppositions and helps us to plot a course between them as we continue our quest for and with God.

Week 2 – March 17

This week, Lillian Daniel helps us reclaim religion, saying that spirituality is not enough. Lillian encourages us to root ourselves in the depths of the Christian tradition—its history and texts, beliefs, and practices.

Week 3 – March 24

This week, Shane Hipps offers us images of salvation as we think about what happens during and after this life on earth. Shane invites us to consider the fundamental questions surrounding this "strange, beautiful, mysterious thing called existence."

Week 4 – March 31

This week, Mark Scandrette guides us to think differently about living in Jesus' way. It began with a moment of truth: Mark realized that his sermons weren't doing anything important. What to do?!? He decided to make church a place of practice rather than just belief and learning. The rest is history.

Week 5 – April 7

This week, Nadia Bolz-Weber offers her take on the cross and how we might make sense of what was accomplished by the crucifixion of Jesus. Nadia asks us to think about how our interpretation of the cross lines up with our understanding of God.

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

I am sad when people shake my hand on their way out of worship and inform me that they will be out of town for a month or more. It starts at the end of November and continues through the beginning of March. It's like we fly south two by two and there is a void in worship without their presence.

Excitingly though, I have noticed something different this year as I look out into what is usually a void. I notice some new faces among us each week. Some I only see once, others return. I remember chasing one person down as they were exiting the church because they never walked through the line and always snuck out. ☺ As they were one foot out the door, we began to talk. The woman looked at me and said, "I absolutely love worshiping here!" There is no greater comment than hearing that a person was moved by the Spirit while we are gathered to worship.

I recently talked with Pastor Bill White on the phone and shared with him, "I cannot wait for you to see all the new stuff we have done with the building. I think you will be excited!" I shared this knowing he was the pastor when our church building was built. In response he said, "What will really make me excited is to see new faces worshipping together."

As we have been transforming our space, the faces among us have been transforming too! In September, we welcomed seventeen new members! I am holding another new members class before departing for my Sabbatical. I am being inspired as they share their stories of faith and the journey that has led them to Immanuel at this time.

I think this stands out to me a little more this year as we have been updating our membership rolls using our constitutional guidelines. This February was the first churchwide report that we have had to do since updating. I was humbled and in awe when Andrea told me that our membership is now 269 and of that 269, we have 236 actively participating in the life of the congregation! It is also the first year in my ministry as a pastor that I did more baptisms than funerals! Thanks be to God!

I also pray that all 269 members, plus friends, will participate in our Lenten study starting on March 10! We are offering a variety of times throughout each week to join in a small group discussion titled *Expansive Faith*. During these small groups held at the church for the 5-week Lenten season, we will watch a 10-minute video followed by a casual discussion about it. You pick the date and time that works for you. You can even switch which date and time you attend from week to week. If none of those times work, you can watch the video on the church website on your own and participate in a Facebook conversation. All of these opportunities are open to anyone who wants to participate.

This Lent, let us continue to grow closer to one another and to our Lord and Savior. Let this time of meeting, discussing, and studying our faith be an expansive experience.

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot



Ministry with Each Other



- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Joann Johnson |
| 3 | Sam Staples |
| 4 | Barb Dunn |
| 7 | Michael Caleca |
| | Olivia Geisthardt |
| 8 | Susan Shock |
| 9 | Janice Fox |
| 12 | Katherine Brown |
| 14 | Joann Golden |
| 15 | Cil Lorand |
| 16 | Chris Schuster |
| 21 | Carl Graef |
| 22 | Doug Hill |
| 25 | Madeline Ebert |
| | Ann Ferguson |
| 26 | Sue Keilitz |
| 27 | Christine Ruelle |
| | Laura Richards |
| 28 | Craig Torgerson |
| | Lacey Connor |

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on
March 24
will be given to Clothing Inc.
A collection jar is located
in the Narthex throughout
the month
for your convenience.



Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



**Daylight Savings
ends on March
10th.**

**Remember to set
your clocks ahead
one hour!!!**



New Members

Pr. Dana would like to invite anyone interested in becoming a new member to join her in between services (10:15am) on Sunday, March 24.

Easter Flowers



If you would like to order Easter flowers for the altar, please pick up an order form in the Narthex! They will be available on March 31st.



CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 13TH. 9:00 AM

Lamb of God

Experience the Easter story through music by attending an oratorio on the last days, death, and resurrection of Christ as told through soloists, a choir, narration, and full orchestra. Featuring performers from over 30 area churches. Friday, March 8, at the Midland Center for the Arts. Tickets available at midlandcenter.org. For more information, visit LambofGodMidland.org.

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.

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
November \$19,536
December \$35,039
January \$20,972

Average Monthly needed to meet budget:
\$30,629

Capital Campaign Update



Pledged: \$147,945
Received \$141,357

Immanuel Offers Electronic Giving

Immanuel Lutheran Church is pleased to offer an electronic option for making regular or special offerings.

Visit our website, www.immanuelmp.com click "Give".



Ministry with the Community & World



Attention: All Ladies of Immanuel!!!

Save the date for an off-site Women's Retreat on April 12-13 at Eagle Village! Cost is \$65.00 per person. More details to follow. Interested in helping to plan? Call Beth Mundwiler at 989-330-9529



Thank you to ALL who donated time and food items for the ICRH week!
We couldn't have done it without you!!

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!!!

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



“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:

- The Isabella Community Soup Kitchen, 621 S. Adams, is a great resource for people wanting or needing a hot meal. And always needs volunteers and experienced cooks. The soup kitchen also could use help with menus and preparing food. To volunteer, call 772-7392.
- The Special Olympics Michigan: State Summer Games happen May 30 - June 1, 2019 on the campus of Central Michigan University.

For more information and to get involved,
visit <http://www.somi.org/events/summergames.html#.XHQRxaROnYU>

- The Red Cross will be hosting the following blood drives:
Tuesday, March 5- Beal City High School, noon-5:45pm
Tuesday, March 12- Sacred Heart Parish, noon-5:45
- The Isabella County Commission on Aging is looking for home-delivered meal drivers. Become a friendly face delivering warm lunchtime meals to homebound older adults throughout Isabella County. Route pickup times are between 10:30am and 11am and typically take 1 to 2 hours. For more information, call Kelly Herrmann at 989-772-0748.

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



Almsgiving Station **High Five for 85 years of doing God's work through Samaritas**

Why use the word alms or almsgiving? It comes from a Greek word that means mercy. In its original sense, when you give alms, you are dispensing mercy.

Each Lent we collect a special offering because it is the heart of our community and a season of almsgiving. Since we do not have a midweek worship service, this year, we will collect this offering a little differently. We will have an almsgiving station in the narthex. You will notice it because it will be a large hand on the wall. The offering will be going to Samaritas (supporting: senior living, foster care, refugees, building communities, and family support). Each time you give (weather it is \$5, \$55, or \$555) we ask that you take a sticker and give the hand a high five! Your alms will be collected at the almsgiving station in the box located there. Checks may be written to Immanuel Lutheran and you may give online too, click, "Lenten Almsgiving for Samaritas." If do give online don't forget to give the hand a high five!

Synod Committee Nominees

The synod needs your help to carry out its mission as a partner in performing God's work. To do their part, the synod has established several committees made up of members from our congregations. The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates (both Lay and Clergy) for three Committees: Synod Council, Consultation Committee, and Discipline Committee. You can help by either agreeing to be nominated or identifying other individuals who have the gifts and willingness to serve.

The Synod Council positions are: Synod Vice President, 2 Lay Members - Females, and 1 Minister of Word & Sacrament - Male.

The Consultation Committee positions are: 1 Lay - Female and 1 Minister of Word & Sacrament - Female.

The Discipline Committee positions are: 2 Lay Members - Male, and 2 Ministers of Word & Sacrament – Male.

Biographies are due by March 29, 2019. Your pastor has additional information about each of these roles. Further information is available on the synod website. Please forward candidate names to: Rev. Jessica Hahn, pastorjessicahahn@gmail.com, 517-437-2647 or your Conference Dean for follow-up by the Nominating Committee.

Worship Ministry

March Worship Helpers

Cantors

3 Kathy Gallaher
10 Bill Gallaher
17 Lacey Connor
24 Amy Powell
31 Abbie Powell

Counters

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

Altar Guild

3 Donna Parr & Pat Podoll
6 Rose Prasad & Kathy Moore
10 Kathy Gatten & Jan Kruska
17 Deb Reimer & Sandy Warriner
24 Sarah Gilbert & Kathy Moore
31 Kathy Gatten & Donna Parr

Projector (9:00)

3 Dan & Jennifer Digmann
10 Amy Powell
17 Gabe Goodrich
24 Deb LaBlance
31 Dan & Jennifer Digmann

Projector (11:00)

3 Susan Shock
10 Dana Mielke
17 Ted Tuma
24 Kip Ferguson
31 Dana Mielke

Sound System (9:00)

3 Bill Gallaher
10 Aaron Smith
17 Bill Gallaher
24 John Keller
31 Volunteer needed

Sound System (11:00)

3 Kathy Gallaher
10 Craig Torgerson
17 Ted Tuma
24 Kip Ferguson
31 Ted Tuma

Assisting Ministers (9:00)

3 Chris Schuster
10 Volunteer needed
17 Volunteer needed
24 Chris Schuster
31 Volunteer needed

Assisting Ministers (11:00)

3 Paul Geisthardt
10 Volunteer needed
17 Roze Zeferi
24 Volunteer needed
31 Roze Zeferi

Ushers (9:00)

3 Ed Berthold, Carl Graef, Bill Jensen
(remainder of list not ready at time of printing)

Greeters (9:00)

3 Sue Knight
10 Volunteer needed
17 Jennifer Digmann
24 Volunteer needed
31 Amy Powell

Greeters (11:00)

3 Amy Powell
10 Volunteer needed
17 Volunteer needed
24 Volunteer needed
31 Volunteer needed

Welcome Center (9:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Welcome Center (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Coffee Attendant (9:00)

3 Kathleen Marshall
10 Volunteer needed
17 Kathleen Marshall
24 Volunteer needed
31 Volunteer needed

Coffee Attendant (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month