



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

June/July 2019

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

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Summer Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm
(these will begin in May 24)

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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.



Dear Friends,

This past month we had the pleasure of sending off our beloved pastor to a season of rest and renewal. We are all so blessed with the beauty of Christ that we regularly see reflected in Pastor Dana. Like Christ, she responds with kindness and love to our neediness, our humanity. For the next 15 weeks, our pastor will renew herself in the creation of the world, in silence, in time with family, and in time with projects that renew and restore. Hallelujah for this opportunity!

In the meantime, and by the grace of God, we are all in capable hands. Our Stephen Ministers are trained extensively to provide needed pastoral care and our church council and other ministries are at the ready to continue in our love of God, ourselves and one another.

While Pastor Dana is away, Claire Torgerson will lead us in some rest and renewal activities of our own! Here is a taste of some of the fun headed our way, and no worries – further details will be communicated to all as the summer progresses.
(continued on page 2)

Ministry with Each Other

Young at Heart Luncheons

These events are for our congregation members that are 55 and older. There will be lunch provided at church along with games and prizes. 11:30am-1:30pm in Fellowship Hall on the last Wednesday of the month: June 26th, July 31, August 28

Summer Rec League Teams

Adults over 18, are welcome to play on one or more team for kickball, volleyball and softball. There will be t-shirts. Mt Pleasant Summer Co-ed 18+ Rec Leagues:

-Sundays (June 2- July 21) KICKBALL 6pm-10pm (game times vary) at Island Park

-Tuesdays (June 4- August 6) SOFTBALL 6:15pm-10pm (game times vary) at the CMU IM Fields or Horizon Park

-Thursdays (May 30-August 15) VOLLEYBALL 6:30pm-9pm (game times vary) at Island Park

<https://mppr.sportngin.com/> Follow this link to join a team (or two, or all three!) click on "Player Registration", choose the correct day and time (see above) and then select Immanuel Lutheran Church as the team name. Please join a team, we would love to have you! I know it gets busy in the summer, but it will be a very fun time to connect with our friends and stay active. Also, invite a friend to join our teams! They don't have to attend Immanuel to be a part of the recreation league, we'd love to meet new friends! Invite those kickball, volleyball and softball loving friends to hang this summer!

Date Night Challenge

These weekly date night challenges are for all couples (or singles that want a night out with a friend). Complete the date night challenge and be entered into a drawing to win a gift card out for a future date night! Childcare will be available for 3 hours one night of the week. You go out any night this week, any place with anyone and have a great time! Text, email or message me where you ate because...our first challenge is a Mystery Restaurant! That means, if you chose to eat at the mystery restaurant, you will win a \$25 gift card! If no one ate there, the people that ate at the closest location to the mystery restaurant will win the prize! Follow Facebook for winners and updates!

Youth GetAway

A day trip for the youth! Still determining plan and location.

Barbecue Contest

We will be hosting a barbecue contest in the parking lot at Immanuel on Saturday, August 3rd. Bring a team and tell a friend! We will be inviting local restaurants and other churches to bring teams as well.

Paint with Art Reach

This special event will be held at the Comfort Inn, and includes appetizers, supplies to create some memories and even something special to keep! Date, time – TBD.

Salsa Dance Instruction Night at Immanuel

Come out for a night of salsa dancing at church! Date, time – TBD.

Welcome Back Celebration and Fall Kick Off (September 8th)

We will be welcoming Pastor Dana back from sabbatical with a party featuring games, good food and time to celebrate all that she did over the summer and all that we did here at home!

Wonderful times ahead! Grace and Peace, Natalie Douglas

Ministry with Each Other

CHURCH IN THE PARK

On Sunday, June 9, Immanuel will once again join with other churches for church in the park at Island Park. The service will be held at 11am, with a potluck lunch following. There will NOT be a service held at Immanuel that day.

Lawn-Mowing Volunteers Needed

We are looking for more people to become part of the church lawn-mowing team. If you are interested, please contact Paul Geisthardt at 989-954-0266.



Vacation Bible School

July 15-19
9am-noon

Come Join the FUN!!!!

To register, go to:
immanuelmp.com/vbs



June Birthdays

2	Ryan Douglas
6	Jocelyn Strandskov
7	Bob Hoffman
8	Dana Mielke
9	John Emmons Sandra Fluharty
11	Rose Prasad Dave Simon
12	Glen Jurick Lily Piatek-Jimenez
13	Bob Grabe Janet Heinrich Zach Heinrich
15	Piper Sullivan
16	Lori Kreiner
18	Madison McGuire
19	Kathy Gatten
20	Emma Connor
21	Ethan Torgerson
23	Isabel Goodrich
26	Andrea Redmond
27	Bryan Mielke
29	Dorothy Fetting Sue Knight
30	Denise Little Claire Torgerson Augustus Connor

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.

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 pay no taxes on the gift? Due to the tax changes that include a higher standard deduction and the elimination of the personal exemption, you may receive the best tax benefit if you donate directly from your retirement account.

Financial Corner

February \$16,155
March \$22,455
April \$28,208

Average monthly amount
needed to meet budget:
\$35,644

Capital Campaign Update



Pledged: \$147,945
Received \$147,145

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



Camp Immanuel is scheduled
for the weekend of
September 13-15
at Coldwater Lake Family Campground

Registration Forms coming soon!!!

Youth Rummage Sale

The Youth are holding a Rummage Sale from June 7-9 in the Fellowship Hall. If you have items that you would like to donate, they can be dropped off in the first classroom between NOW and June 6th. All proceeds will go toward their next Mission Trip!!

Bridge builders Camp

Olivia Geisthardt, Ashley Shellenbarger & Jocelyn Strandskov will head to Bridgebuilder Camp with Beth Mundwiler the week of July 20-26.

Please keep these girls in your prayers!

Confirmation Camp

Isabel Goodrich and Abbie Powell will head to Stony Lake for Confirmation Camp with Craig Torgerson from July 21-26.

Please keep this group in your prayers!

VBS Volunteers are Needed!!!

Vacation Bible School will take place July 15-19. If you are interested in volunteering this year, please contact Craig Torgerson at craig@immanuelmp.com



July Birthdays

3	Jackie Spycher
4	Kenny Galdeen
11	Nicholas Wegener
12	Fred Schuster Sarah Gallaher
13	Caiden Mitchell Tara Riley
14	Nancy Simon
15	Aaron Smith
18	Betty Koenig
19	Heather Hanley
20	Linda Wicander
21	Keith Allen
22	Penny Endres
24	Julie Shellenbarger
23	Chris Brown
25	Karen Graef
27	Dennis Marshall David Langlois
28	Dave Keilitz

Ministry with Each Other



Our new Stephen Ministry training class has already completed three sessions. Each session includes preclass reading assignments, in-class lecture, discussion, and role playing. Important caregiving skills in the areas of dealing with feelings and listening have already been covered. Upcoming topics include Christian Caregiving, Process versus Results, Assertiveness, and Confidentiality.

Denise Kaiser shared this about the experience so far: *“As we began our training for Stephen Ministry, we quickly realized that it is indeed a calling from God. With each meeting, we reaffirm that calling and question it at the same time. Are we up to this task-yes no, sort of? Thankfully, God is!”*

Leaders Gail Mitchell, Chris Schuster and Fred Schuster praise God for the gifts Aubryon Anderson, Nicole Ferguson, Denise Kaiser, Sue Knight, Deb LeBlance and Jodie Mitchell-Beach bring to Stephen Ministry and ask you to pray for them as they continue their preparation to care, listen, and share Christ’s love with those who are experiencing life difficulties.

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!!**