



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 2020

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
Website: immanuelmp.com

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.



Ash Wednesday Services
Wed, February 26
12:15pm and 6:00pm

Lenten Worship Service
(Prayer around the Cross)
Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.
March 5, 12, 19, 26 & April 2

Lenten Small Group Sessions
We will also offer Lenten small group sessions! It is a video series titled, "It is Finished." The study is built around the final words of Jesus from the cross. Jesus' last words are powerful teaching moments that if unpacked, can radically shape our lives as we learn what it means to be human and the limitless love of God. Each lesson dives into the historical and practical significance surrounding each of Jesus' phrases while the study guide gives the viewer different spiritual practices to participate in throughout Lent.

Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.
Saturdays at 3:00 p.m.
Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

A Letter from Pr. Dana....

Friends in Christ,

Our 2020 Lenten journey will begin on Wednesday, February 26 with an Ash Wednesday service at 12:15 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. There are a variety of ways you can participate in Lent this year.

Worship & Prayer

On Thursdays at 5:30 beginning on March 5, we will offer a Lenten Worship Service, *Prayer around the Cross*. It is a flexible order for contemplative prayer that includes: scripture reading, candle lighting, song, and prayer.

Study & Fellowship

Lenten small group sessions will focus on a video series titled, "*It is Finished.*" The study is built around the final words of Jesus from the cross. Jesus' last words are powerful teaching moments that if unpacked, can radically shape our lives as we learn what it means to be human and the limitless love of God. Each lesson dives into the historical and practical significance surrounding each of Jesus' phrases while the study guide gives the viewer different spiritual practices to participate in throughout Lent. We will base the times we offer this study on the times that were well attended last year.

Almsgiving

Surprises? Many of us like those surprises that bring us joy and laughter, but I'd bet that most of us would rather avoid those less happy surprises.

A major surprise happened to our mid-Michigan neighbors not long ago. US Marble, a Remus manufacturer, suddenly closed its doors, laying off its entire workforce. Not only did the employees receive no notice, but they also received no paychecks. Their health insurance was abruptly cancelled and no back pay was paid out.

That is why Church Council has chosen to use our Lenten gifts to support the food pantries in the Remus area. Since many of US Marble's employees live in that area, those pantries are feeling the effects of extra guests. We can help those pantries to provide food for our neighbors.

Let us journey together this Lent!
In Christ,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

This group meets on Thursdays at 11am in the Capital Room. (We will not meet on February 13th)
Please join us!



Pr. Dana will be on vacation
February 10-16

A Letter from the President....

It is an honor to serve as council president. Thank you for allowing me to do so. When I was contemplating accepting my nomination to become president one of my concerns was having to write multiple articles for the Gleaner. I was assured I would not have to write many. So far so good 😊

Immanuel Lutheran, and its congregation, do many wonderful things throughout the year, and I'd like to let you know about some things that will be happening at Immanuel soon.

As you know one of the community organizations we participate in is the ICRH. The ICRH is a vital service to those looking for shelter and a place to rest all year long, but the need is more urgent in winter. Immanuel will be hosting ICRH guests the week of February 16th. I encourage you all to participate in some way, working a shift, supplying food for a meal, helping move & transport supplies from/to Immanuel... Any way we can make our guests feel welcome and safe will be much appreciated.

A middle school youth after school program on Wednesdays was started this past fall. They use the time to help out with projects around the church, to help prepare for Worship Wednesday, and to learn & grow in Christ. Thank you to Craig for leading this group and effort!

In recent years we've enjoyed the service of interns, and we will again be bringing two interns on board. One will be focusing their efforts on technology and how to best utilize our systems, the other will focus their efforts on early childhood development and the nursery.

Many changes have been made to Immanuel since the start of our capital campaign. The updated and improved narthex/welcome center, new display monitors, the new parent room to name a few. One of the last projects is nearing completion with final touches being made over the next several weeks is the youth room. Renovations should be completed by mid-February. I encourage you to take a look. This room is in the far northwest corner of the church. It will be a fantastic room for the youth to use and enjoy soon. Thank you to all members who are making this happen!

I've heard several of you comment about Immanuel's poor exterior lighting which is especially noticeable in the short days of winter. In our last meeting council approved money to go towards repairing and improving the exterior lighting. Several bids will be gathered and reviewed by the business ministry team. The bid that best suits our needs and budget will be accepted.

Thank you to all the members of Immanuel for making all this happen!

Grace and Peace,

Paul G. Geisthardt
Church Council President

A Letter from the Director of Faith Formation....

Happy February!

Which means...we are only one month into the new year?! There has been so much that has happened so far!

Thank you all for giving me an opportunity to give the sermon at the beginning of the new year. I was actually able to use some of that material during Worship Wednesday when one of the kids asked how Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name. The discussion ended up exploring things like Jesus being fully God and that God is omnipotent and omnipresent. It is fun to see the wheels turning as our kids think through these things. Plus, they always have such great questions and ideas themselves.

The youth room has come a long way. Our goal is to have is finished by February 15th. There will always be additions like adding pictures, technology, etc. but this date marks when we would like to start inviting students into the room for programming & fun. In January we were able to get the stadium seating and restaurant seating carpeted, get the curved plywood base on the face of the snack booth, refinished the table legs for the restaurant booth area, get the countertops glued up and shaped, started painting the inside of the window trim, and have new cellular shades ready to put in the windows when that paint dries. All of that to say...a lot has been accomplished! I love taking people through the room to give them the vision of what we are trying to do. If you are interested in helping work on the room or would like a tour, please let me know.

This last weekend in January/ first in February is the ELCA Extravaganza in Anaheim, CA. The Extravaganza is an annual gathering of children, youth and family ministry leaders from across the ELCA. We sent Beth Mundwiler, who faithfully serves our middle and high school youth, to connect with these other leaders in our denomination and learn and collaborate about different ways we can serve our children, youth, and young adults. I was not able to go this year but this event is always a great way to renew, get educated, and connect with other leaders in our denomination. We really appreciate the ability to send leaders to the ELCA Extravaganza every year.

At the end of 2019 we reapplied for an ELCA campus ministry grant. This is a mission outreach grant through the synod that helps fund outreach to college campuses. We just received word that we received this grant again! In the past this has helped fund my position to serve in campus ministry, help us purchase materials for college small groups, fund care packages, take college students to Memphis over spring break for a mission trip, and most recently take on two interns for this spring 2020 semester.

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Faith Formation (continued)....



These interns are Joe Monetta, a freshman at CMU, who will be helping us with our tech around church including leading the Sunday morning audio & visual teams and Madeleine Welch, a junior at CMU, who will be working with our nursery and children's programs. I'd love for you to get to know them better. We will be posting their bios on the church website. Please help me welcome them into our Immanuel family. They are going to be great additions to our team!

January was busy but a lot of fun. I am looking forward to see what else 2020 has in store for us at Immanuel!

TGBTG,
Craig Torgerson

Spring Hill Winter Teen Retreat

March 6th-8th / 6th-12th grades



Come with us for a fun retreat weekend at SpringHill Camps in Ewart, MI. There are a ton of activities including snow tubes, a pool (with a great slide), a zipline, horseback riding, basketball, paintball, a ropes course, and more that are ready for you to come make a weekend full of memories. The cost is \$150/ student.

For more information or to register go to immanuelmp.com/wtr2020

Ministry with Each Other

Summer Camp July 19th-24th



schedule

Register on-line at
www.elcalivingwater.com

	First Timers	Discoverers	Challengers	Confirmation	Servant Hearts	Counselor-In-Training	Bridge Builders	MYLA	Abundant Life
WEEK 1 • June 14-19, 2020	●	●	●	●	●	●			
WEEK 2 • June 21-26, 2020		●	●	●	●				
WEEK 3 • June 29 - July 3, 2020									●
WEEK 4 • July 5-10, 2020		●	●	●	●				
WEEK 5 • July 12-17, 2020 Episcopal*		●	●	●	●				
WEEK 6 • July 19-24, 2020 <small>Bridge Builders begins July 18th</small>	●	●	●	●			●		
WEEK 7 • July 27 - August 1, 2020								●	
WEEK 8 • August 3-7, 2020	Booked for Samaritas Foster Care Program								
WEEK 9 • August 7-11, 2020	Booked for Samaritas Family Camp Program								

* Episcopal formation team on site. All are welcome to register week 5 (Lutheran, Episcopalian, etc).

rates

Register on-line at
www.elcalivingwater.com

SAVE \$35! Register by February 28 to receive the early bird rate and save \$35! No deposit necessary!

	Regular Rate	Early Bird Rate
First Timers • For campers grades 1-3	\$290	\$255
Discoverers • For campers grades 3-6	\$420	\$385
Challengers • For campers grades 6-8	\$415	\$380
Confirmation • For campers grades 6-8	\$415	\$380
Servant Hearts • For campers grades 8-12	\$460	\$425
Counselor-In-Training • For campers grades 10-12	\$415	\$380
Bridge Builders • For campers grades 9-12	\$415	\$380
MYLA • For campers ages 13-16	\$450	\$450
Abundant Life • For adults with developmental disabilities	\$380	\$380

Join us for a week of summer camp with Living Waters Ministries in New Era, MI! Check out elcalivingwater.com to see all of the summer fun and options they have to offer. The week we are highlighting at Immanuel is Week 6 - July 19th-24th. Beth Mundwiler and the Bridge Builder team will be back that week, our confirmation students decided they had so much fun last summer that they want to go back for another round, and there is a "First Timers" camp that is offered that week. If you have any questions about how Immanuel is participating with summer camp please email craig@immanuelmp.com

Ready to learn more about camp? Check out elcalivingwater.com

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School

July 13th-17th



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

Registration for participants and volunteers is now open. Go to immanuelmp.com/vbs to get registered today!

- 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
- Abyron Anderson

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, Continued)



RightNow Media is an online video streaming service that provides churches with on-demand biblical content to share with their members. When churches subscribe to RightNow Media, their members gain access to over 20,000 biblical videos that can be used for things like Sunday school, small groups, Bible studies, or even personal devotion time.

We're excited to give you free access to RightNow Media, a wonderful library of video resources for all ages from churches and pastors all across the country, to help you develop and grow as a disciple of Jesus. Streaming directly to your computer, tablet, or mobile device, you'll find the online Bible Study Library includes relevant content for every age group or spiritual season.

You can search by category, topic, or speaker. Additionally, many of the series have direct links to workbooks and leader guides. Parents, you'll find that RightNow has a multitude of videos and resources for your kids.



Date nights were designed for couples to be able to drop off their kids and spend some time together; however, feel free to use this as an opportunity to grocery shop (without extra fruit snacks finding their way into the cart), look for that wall paint at the hardware store (there are sooo many choices!), or even go back home to take an uninterrupted nap. The time is yours!

Children up to 10 years of age are welcome. There is a suggested donation (cash only) of \$5/child to help cover costs. Please register your child(ren) through the "Church Center" app on your phone or go to immanuelmp.churchcenter.com

Your children will be cared for by wonderful volunteers who have been interviewed and background checked. Please contact Craig if you have any questions at craig@immanuelmp.com

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 Monthly Report (as of December 31, 2019)

Spending Plan 2019-2020: \$345,354
Actual Expenditures: \$79,251.40
Giving to Date: \$94,994.10

2019 Giving Statements

Your 2019 Giving statements have been emailed. If we do not have an email on file for you, we sent them via snail-mail. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

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.

2019-2020 Church Council

President.....Paul Geisthardt
Vice President.....Beth Mundwiler
Past President.....Natalie Douglas

Council Members: Aubyrton Anderson, Chuck Clise, Dan Digmann, Penny Endres, Kip Ferguson, Sarah Gilbert, Jim Hageman, Paul Kruska, Ted Tuma

Treasurer.....Judy Emmons
Financial Secretary.....Paul Kruska
Recording Secretary.....Denise Kaiser



Reminder:

The church office will be closed when Mt. Pleasant Schools are closed due to inclement weather.

Ministry with Community & World

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Strickler Non-Profit Center

Help is needed at the Food Pantry, Care Store & Clothing, Inc.
Stop in at 1114 W. High, Mt. Pleasant if you are interested in volunteering.

Care Store NEEDS:

ILC is an affiliated site for the collection of items not available for persons using Bridge cards.
Items needed: soap, detergent, paper products, cleaning supplies, and many more.
(Collection site, as well as a list of potentially needed items is available outside of Craig's office.)

On your weekly shopping trip, please consider purchasing an item or two and drop it off at church. Thank You!



Our second and final week, for this winter, housing the homeless in Isabella County is the week of February 16-23, 2020. Please sign up online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508044ba8a92fa1f58-immanuel3>

We will also have an opportunity (for those who do not use computers) to sign up in between worship services in the narthex.

The Noisy Offering

This month, the Noisy Offering will be collected on Sunday, February 23. All proceeds will be given to the Foster Closet.

For your convenience, a Noisy Offering collection jar is located in the narthex throughout the month.



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!!!