



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 2020

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

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The office is temporarily closed. Please call 621-3722 if you need to reach Andrea.

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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.**



Easter in 40 Words

*Love gave.
Help came.
Compassion reached.
Mercy saved.*

*Beauty filled.
Hope instilled.
Burdens lifted.
Grace revealed.*

*Death ended.
Breach mended.
Joy danced.
Peace extended.*

*Curtain torn.
Power soared.
Freedom breathed.
Life reborn.*

*He forgave.
Truth overcame.
Glory rose.
Light reigns.*

by Debbie McDaniel



Online Holy Week Services

***Palm Sunday- 10am
Maundy Thursday- 6pm
Good Friday- 6pm
Easter Sunday- 10am***

A Letter from Pr. Dana....

Friends in Christ,

The reality that we are not gathering together on Easter morning has hit me hard. I love all the energy, the music that fills the air, the seats of the church being filled, the beautiful lilies and their fragrance, the crisp air at the sunrise service when we gather outside to hear, "Were you There." I love the joy in the air as everyone gathers around a pancake breakfast together. I love seeing all the beautiful dresses and dapper gentleman. I love your voices shouting in joy, "Christ is risen indeed, alleluia." People often joke that I must go home from Easter services and need a nap. I am such an extrovert that I come home to my visiting family each Easter and they are sleeping and I am wired! I will miss you! I already do miss you.

As I was mourning this reality, God reminded me of something pretty important. I absolutely love Easter, but growing up, there is actually only one Easter I remember. All the other Easters blend together. I was in upper elementary school and we went to visit my Uncle Jimmy in Ohio for Easter. On Easter morning it was my family's tradition to go to worship, but it was not so for Uncle Jimmy's family. So, on Easter morning Uncle Jimmy went into his backyard and set up chairs for all of us. We got dressed and went into the backyard. Uncle Jimmy opened up a bible (he no doubt had to dust it off) and read to the family the resurrection story.

All my Easters blend together, but that's the one that has stuck with me throughout my life. My prayer is that this Easter, in your homes, whether you're a family of 3 or 6, a couple, or going solo like me right now, that you do something to make this Easter memorable. Not a bad memorable, but one that you will come to cherish years from now.

We will have online worship at 10am and I cannot wait to read all your comments. I'd love to see you post on our Facebook page your pictures on Easter morning especially if you dress up, or get up for the sunrise, or want to post a video of your response, "Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia."

I am eager to celebrate the resurrection with you!

In Christ,
Pastor Dana Hendershot



Ministry with Each Other



Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?

Going through a tough time---emotionally or spiritually? Struggling with a crisis in life? Or simply feeling down?

Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a member of our congregation who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn more, talk with Pastor Dana, Chris Schuster, Fred Schuster, or Gail Mitchell.



- 3 **Oliver Sullivan**
Michael Wyman
- 4 **Ben Strandskov**
- 5 **Gabe Reimer**
- 9 **Carol Erickson**
- 11 **Dawn Moss**
- 12 **Larae Fedor**
Barry Shellenbarger
Zach Foote
- 16 **Ann Ferguson**
- 18 **Mike Piatek-Jimenez**
- 20 **Thomas Mellinger**
Lillie Reimer
- 21 **Gary Ramsower**
Thomas Strandskov
- 22 **Lauren Little**
- 23 **Justin Foote**
Terry Grabe
- 26 **Olivia Wegener**
- 27 **Michala Ebert**
- 29 **Jan Eversole**

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 Monthly Report (as of December 31, 2019)

Spending Plan 2019-2020: \$345,354
Actual Expenditures: \$110,080.89
Giving to Date: \$116,193.39

The Noisy Offering

This month, the Noisy Offering will be collected for R.I.S.E. Advocacy, INC. (Recovery, Independence, Safety and Empowerment). This organization provides intimate partner and sexual assault support in Isabella, Clare and Gratiot Counties. Please consider saving your change until we meet again!!

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: Aubyrn 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



WHILE NOT IN-PERSON...

Prayer

- We will send out our weekly prayer list. Please email or call with any prayer requests.
- Please use your church keys to come and pray anytime.

Giving

Even though we will not be worshipping together, Immanuel Lutheran will continue to serve God and neighbor in this time of crisis. Your generous gifts help us to be the Body of Christ in a hurting world.

- For online giving options visit our website immanuelmp.com, text any dollar amount to 84321, or mail your offering envelope to 320 S Bradley St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

Please remember the special offering:

- Noisy Offering: (R.I.S.E) Recovery, Independence, Safety, and Empowerment. R.I.S.E. Advocacy, INC provides intimate partner and sexual assault support in Clare, Isabella, and Gratiot counties.

Worship

We will be posting our Sunday morning worship services at 10 am on our website (immanuelmp.com) and our facebook page.

Educational Opportunities

- Pastor Dana will continue to lead her theological discussion on Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. over Zoom. The link and directions to join are on the website.
- We are creating ways to connect with the children and youth through video and in home resources.

Serving One Another

We can and must continue to care for one another.

- Call, message, email, or text those who you know are particularly vulnerable or who may feel isolated during this time.
- Recognize that with all of the closures, these next few weeks will be especially hard on those who struggle financially. Be prepared to help in any way you can do so safely. We will let you know of any opportunities.



**Immanuel
Lutheran Church**

