



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

September 2020

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Monday-Friday 8am-3pm

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Layout and Editing:
Andrea Redmond

Immanuel has an online church directory. Visit our website and check it out!

Mission
Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.



- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Paul Clise |
| 7 | Mark Strandskov |
| 8 | Sandy Davidson
Brandon Wegener |
| 9 | Doug LaBelle |
| 11 | Mark Johnson
Deb LaBlance |
| 13 | Tim French |
| 14 | David Sprang |
| 15 | Sue Foote
Kyle French |
| 17 | John Keller |
| 18 | Hannah Shellenbarger |
| 19 | Kay Riley
Jacob Robinson |
| 20 | Tanner Goodrich
Elijah Torgerson |
| 22 | Bruce Torgerson |
| 24 | Dan Digmann
Bart LaBelle |
| 25 | Katrina Piatek-Jimenez
Nicole Ferguson |
| 26 | Nolan Kaiser |
| 28 | Jodie Mitchell-Beach
Joan Langlois |
| 29 | Carolyn Hoffman |
| 30 | Sandy Deaton
Jacque Jackson |

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Friends in Christ,

It is joyful to hear how people are reaching out to take care of one another! I give thanks to God as I witness the ways we are respectful and loving even when we don't agree on today or tomorrow's realities. The Spirit is up to something in the midst of so much worldly upheaval.

I know a lot of my previous assumptions of Church and Holy Communion have been upheaved. I remember when I took this call as Immanuel's pastor, I asked the question, "What is one thing that can never change at Immanuel." The call committee looked around at one another and then spoke, "Communion every week." I was elated to hear that answer because I fully agreed! Then, poof. We're online. We're not in person. Our bishops were asking us to abstain from communion, and on Easter nonetheless!

Many have asked if they can have their own bread and wine/juice on hand and I bless it over the service online. Our bishop has highly discouraged that practice so a number of pastors in our synod turned to drive-thru communion for the past few months. Suddenly, when we were thrust back to online only – I decided to set aside my critical assumptions about a drive-thru communion and offered it to you. I didn't know what to expect. I thought it would be weird, disjointed, and impersonal, only to find out it was likely one of the most beautiful things I have done since this pandemic began.

As the cars rolled up, I got to see faces with a wide variety of emotions, people I haven't seen since before the pandemic- along with some of the regulars, children that have grown so much in the past few months, masks with personality, and mostly, people hungry for Christ no matter how weird it was going to be. I cannot speak for those who drove through, but I can speak for myself, and it was a holy and sacred moment. Thank you for reminding me that Christ shows up in the most unexpected of places!

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot



Fall 2020- What to Expect at Immanuel.....

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Immanuel, like everyone else, has had to plan ahead with adjustments to our “normal” programming. Please find below a list of changes that we are currently expecting to implement until further notice.

WORSHIP

Until further notice, we will continue to offer Sunday services online at 10am.

EUCHARIST

Pr. Dana will offer a “drive-thru” for those wishing to receive communion on the last Sunday of the month. She will be available from 11:00-11:30 on these Sundays. If you are not able to receive communion during these times, please contact Pr. Dana for alternate arrangements.

WORSHIP WEDNESDAY

This fall we are planning on hosting virtual large group sessions, similar to the family worship Facebook Live sessions we have been doing throughout the summer. These large groups will include songs, prayer and Bible stories. We will create separate versions in order to meet the needs of our younger (K-2) and older (3-5) students. Additional lessons and activities will be organized through our website so families can continue to grow together in their faith through the Sparkhouse curriculum.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

We recognize the need for social activities but also the need to maintain safe social distancing practices. We are working on some family friendly ideas to allow us to safely continue to fellowship with one another in person. An example of a possible activity is a drive in movie. We are hoping to provide these opportunities once per month.

YOUTH SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

After having conversations with many of our parents and older students it sounds like our middle school and high school students are desiring community but are Zoom’ed’ out. We will be meeting with parents soon to put together a fall schedule of activities that are safe and socially distant but where we can also be in person. Some ideas of activities that have been discussed so far are mini golf and going to visit a pumpkin patch. We may do some online devotionals or small groups if students are up for additional virtual opportunities.

SMALL GROUPS

This fall we will be offering online opportunities for small groups. More information and sign-ups will be coming out very soon!

CAMPUS MINISTRY

At Immanuel we are looking into online options this fall to connect with students with online devotionals and small groups.

CHANCEL CHOIR & CHILDREN’S CHOIR

These groups will not meet until further notice.

Fall 2020- What to Expect at Immanuel.....

YOUTH BELL CHOIR

This group will meet on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00 for rehearsals.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group is discerning whether or not they will meet.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group will not be meeting until further notice.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual meeting will be held ONLINE on Sunday, September 20th via ZOOM at 11:30am. (A link for this meeting will be emailed to you in the next week, along with a packet for the meeting.) If you need a printed copy of this packet, please contact Andrea in the office.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Pr. Dana will hold this annual event, as it is done outdoors in the Pavilion. This will be held on Saturday, October 3rd at 3:00pm. Bring you feathered and furry friends (in cages or on leashes) along with your masks!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Immanuel will host our Annual Blood Drive on October 15th from noon-5:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Billie or Harry Plouff.

BEER, BRATS & HYMNS

Although we cannot all join together in person for our newest Hymn Sing tradition, we are happy to announce that we will hold a Virtual Hymn Sing! More details to follow.

FALL CLEAN-UP

We have lots of projects to tackle this fall! If you or your family are able to help with trimming, raking, or a small project indoors, please contact Harry Plouff to see how you can be of assistance!

We will be doing this instead of having a large group gathering for a "fall clean-up DAY".

CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT

This event will take place. If you are on council, more information will be sent to you regarding this event.

CRLA

Craig Torgerson is continuing to lead the Campus Religious Leaders Association (CRLA) at Central Michigan University. This group is comprised of campus religious leaders of any faith background that serve at our CMU campus. CRLA continues to be a great opportunity for campus religious leaders to connect with the university as well as be an encouragement for religious leaders as we face unique challenges ministering to students and staff through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fall 2020- What to Expect at Immanuel.....

CAMP IMMANUEL

This event has been canceled this year.

ICRH

Pr. Dana and Ryan Douglas took a walk-through tour of the Day Shelter and they were both impressed with the changes that have been made to safely house the homeless. We have agreed to hosting the rotating homeless shelter for one week this fall. The ICRH will look different, and will hopefully, have some staff to support the reality of less volunteers. We will keep you posted as we hear more details. There will be a MANDATORY training for all volunteers to learn about the new procedures.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

This event will be adjusted to provide TAKE-OUT ONLY dinners to the community. We will likely be looking for more food donations than normal!

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

This will look very different this year! They have announced early registration (October 12-16 & October 19-21). The plan is to pre-package the items that the family needs and they will drive through to pick them up. This will take a lot of people power so watch for news on volunteer opportunities!

AIM & 8CAP

These groups will not meet until further notice.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This summer we tackled something we did not expect, two weeks of VBS exclusively online! It was wildly successful and we just wanted to share a few details with you! We used a curriculum from the Orange Company called FOCUS: Take a Closer Look. The theme focused on looking in our world and taking notice of all the things God created and how we can hear, see and share them with others. In order to accomplish our online VBS and still connect with children and families, we designed individual take home box for each child that participated in our program! These boxes included a pencil case with general art supplies (Additionally, we included some fun extra treats, like coloring sheets, bubbles and play dough for each child. Families were also given a packet that helped parents follow along daily, find the online videos, coordinate an optional fun snack and included completion certificates for each child for the end of the week! It was important to engage with the families that participated in VBS as best we could, so we created a private Facebook page that allowed and encouraged families to share their crafts, snacks and dance moves! Each morning we were able to link the entire preschool and elementary program to this page in addition to being available on our church website. Throughout the two weeks, we were able to get 110 boxes in the hands of local kiddos and had about 50 families participate in VBS this summer! With the help of 20-30 congregation members, supplies for the boxes were donated and boxes were packed and labeled. Thank you for supporting this ministry, it was incredible to host not only one but two amazing, fun and life changing weeks of VBS at online through Immanuel!

Business Ministry

Staff Performance Reviews

A responsibility of the Personnel Committee is to conduct an annual meeting with each of our staff to review their area of ministry. This review allows us to affirm the gifts of their ministry, clarify expectations, share concerns and offer guidance and direction.

We are requesting congregation members to share in this review. Please prayerfully reflect on the staff areas of ministry and offer your input in person or writing to the personnel committee by Sunday, September 20.

- Pastor Dana Hendershot, Pastor
- Craig Torgerson, Director of Faith Formation
- Mernie Bidstrup, Organist and Choir Director
- Bill Gallaher, Contemporary Band Director
- Andrea Redmond, Office Manager

In Christ,
Dan Eversole, Chair
Gail Mitchell
Amy Powell
Mark Strandskov

The Andersons have a new address!

Joe & Aubyrone Anderson
3509 Lake Avenue #2163
Columbia, SC 29206



Financial Corner (YTD as of July 31, 2020)

Spending Plan 2019-2020:
\$345,354.00

Actual Expenditures:
\$262,015.60

Giving To Date:
\$264,385.61

Payroll Protection Program (PPP loan):
\$27,830

Total unified budget funding including the loan:
\$296,692.36