



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

August 2022

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

Summer Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9-3:30

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.



Immanuel's Community Family Fun Day



It takes a small village to pull off a successful community event. There are always several hours of planning and dreaming and even more hours putting all the pieces together. All the while hoping that those pieces fit together and that the event is fun, well attended and successful. I am grateful for the small village from Immanuel who is helping to pull off the Community Family Fun Day!

The event will take place outside of Immanuel on Sunday, August 7th. The event will begin right after service and end by 3pm. The Community Family Fun Day will include food, games, music, face painting and even an inflatable - all at no cost to the community! Dominos of Mt. Pleasant is donating some pizza and the Barn Door is donating water bottles. Several community agencies that help families will also be on hand offering information. These agencies include; Clothing Inc, The Care Store and CCN. The purpose of this event is to offer an inclusive and open-to-all day of fun. We are a welcoming congregation and on this particular day we are showing our inclusiveness through the gift of a Community Family Fun Day! Along with the open invitation to all your friends and neighbors, I have also extended the invitation to include; the guests at RISE, the guests at ICRH and the team at MMI.

This event is truly grabbing inclusiveness, fun and community by its tail! Please join us!

Sherry Pulverente
Faith in Action Coordinator at Immanuel

A letter from Pastor Dana...

Friends in Christ,

I pray that you've been able to soak in the warmth of this summer. It is always bittersweet as we hit August and transition back into the school year. We know for our retirees Mondays might as well be Fridays, and we rejoice with you! We also look forward to that someday!

In July, some exciting things happened at Immanuel:

- On July 10, we officially hired Thomas Strandskov into a fulltime position. His title is, "Youth Ministry and Technology Coordinator." Don't be surprised if I continue to call him tech guru or youth ministry guru.
- A group of five went to Stony Lake Lutheran Camp for a week with Thomas S. and myself. We all had a wonderful time and came home with our spiritual cups running over.
- As I write this, we have five youth along with Thomas S. and Beth M. on a mission trip in Harrisburg, PA. The text messages have affirmed, while it is sweltering hot, they are enjoying their time.
- I decided to go to court in regards to the individual who broke the windows in my office and this individual is re-connecting with us and our ministries.
- The worship ministry decided that we will continue to worship outside during the month of August. We will move back inside in September (Labor Day weekend). This fall we will remain with one service at 10:00 a.m.
- We had our first ever Stephen Ministry Lookout training. I will be offering two more in August and I hope you can join us! (more information elsewhere in the newsletter)
- And just a little foreshadowing... we started planning Beer, Brats, and Hymns!

On Sunday, July 24 I preached:

"I mean, here we sit.

The wetness at your feet this morning after an evening rain.

The feeling of the wind.

The gift of the trees shade.

And the gift of this holy table— that brings God's kingdom here...

I want us all to be awed in the presence of God again!"

Hope to see you at worship! Let's join in the awe of God together.

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot

Ministry with Each Other



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".



Andrea will be away:
August 8-12

Please contact Pr. Dana if you need assistance. Thank You!



Stephen Ministry Lookout Training

This 20-minute presentation will equip you to be a Stephen Ministry Lookout, someone who identifies hurting people and connects them to our Stephen Ministry. This is an important part of the process we call referrals. Pastor Dana will lead a few sessions to make it convenient for many people to attend.

Thursday, August 18th at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 21st (following worship)



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.

Tax Break for Contributions –people over 70 1/2 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 Monthly Report – YTD as of June 30, 2022

Spending Plan 2021-2022: \$379,162
Actual Expenditures: \$228,592
Giving-To-Date: \$227,461

Annual Congregational Meeting

This meeting will take place on
Sunday, September 18th
following the 10am worship service.

Please be sure to mark your calendars!

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 Community & World

Thanks to TEAM IMMANUEL for serving at CCN!!!



2021-2022 Church Council

President.....Ted Tuma
Vice President.....Sarah Gilbert
Past President.....Beth Mundwiler

Council Members:

Natalie Douglas, Penny Endres, Kip Fergsuon,
Gabe Goodrich, Jim Hageman, Rose Prasad,
Mark Strandskov

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

Self-Defense Training at Immanuel

Officer Straus from the MPPD has agreed to hold a self-defense training on August 2 at 6pm in our Fellowship Hall.

*This class will only be available for the first 20 people who sign up.

Please sign up on our Facebook page!

The Care Store

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

~1 John 3:18

The shelves at church for The Care Store are in need of more items!

Please consider picking up a few items at the store the next time you are there.

Let's help those in our community who most need help!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Immanuel will host a Blood Drive on September 29th.

We will be looking for volunteers and DONORS!!

Living Waters Ministries

On Sunday, August 28, CJ Clark, the executive director of Living Waters will be preaching at our worship service.

We hope you will join us!

Church Council Minutes – June 17, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6 pm.

PRESENT: Ted Tuma, Mark Strandskov, Rose Prasad, Natalie Douglas, Sarah Gilbert, Penny Endres, Kip Ferguson, Beth Mundwiler

ABSENT: Pastor Dana Hendershot, Gabe Goodrich

Guests: Dave Simon, Dan Eversole, Denise Kaiser

Opening Devotions – Rose

Five Minutes of Positive Talk

May Minutes

Correct section in Pastor's report 1st and 2nd paragraphs.

Mark moved to accept May's minutes with corrections, Rose seconded, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mission Endowment Fund and Immanuel Lutheran Church Fund (ILC) – Dave explained the benefits of moving Rose's gift of an insurance policy (Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Policy #12057739.) from the Mission Endowment Fund into the ILC fund. Rose has been paying the monthly premiums and will continue as long as she's able. Currently the ILC fund has approximately \$48,000 and must reach \$50,000 in order to access funds. Rose's gift will help the entire congregation as well as the youth specifically. If this request passes, \$13,000 will be available immediately.

Mark moved to approve the transfer of the above funds into the ILC fund, Natalie seconded. There were two abstentions, Penny and Rose. Motion passed with six votes.

Personnel Changes – Dan presented to Council on behalf of the Personnel Committee the impending changes in staff and the process by which this occurred.

Whenever, a staff member leaves a position Dan meets with the supervisor. He explained, they have a thorough discussion of what went well, what needs were met and not met, what the supervisor wishes might happen to the position etc. The result of Maggie's leaving is that Pastor Dana would like to offer Thomas Strandskov a full-time position, combing resources from Maggie's position and Thomas' current position. This change does not require Council approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Living Waters Request

Ted and Beth reminded Council that we gifted LW \$5,000 for scholarships, which they are using this year. LW recently requested that this gift become a yearly one. Discussion followed, with an agreement to table this until next month's Council meeting.

Beth volunteered to speak with LW personnel next week and email Council re: how monies were used and how LW's needs were met.

ASSIGNMENTS

Denise will correct April and May minutes.

Beth will email Council after discussion with LW.

Sarah volunteered to write 2 thank you notes on Council's behalf.

Mark motioned to adjourn meeting, Rose seconded, Ted adjourned meeting at 7:15 and we closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting – July 15th and it will be a budget meeting.

Respectfully, Denise Kaiser