



# The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 2018

*The Gleaner is a publication of:*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

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Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

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**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday 8am-3pm  
Office CLOSED on Nov. 22 & 23

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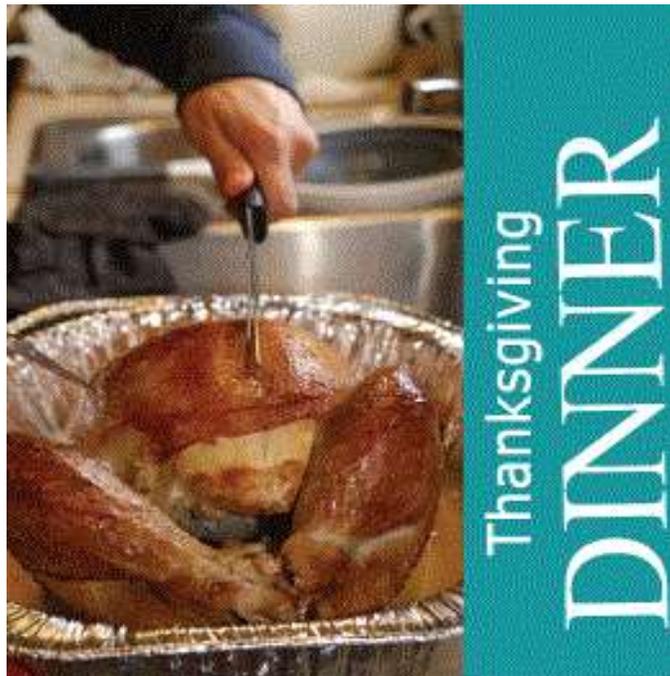
Immanuel has an online church directory. Visit our website and check it out!

Contact the office for your username and password.

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**Mission**

**Joyfully Christian.  
Humbly Serving.  
Boldly Loving.**



On Thursday, November 22 from noon to 1:00, Immanuel will host its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the community. This event is free of charge and open to anyone who is looking for a great place to have a hot turkey dinner with all of the fixings!

If you are interested in volunteering for the dinner OR if you are able to donate a dish for the meal, please sign up in the Narthex! Once again, Ric's Food Center has graciously agreed to donate ALL of our turkeys. We just need people to help us to get them all cooked! Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this wonderful opportunity!

# A letter from Pr. Dana.....

Dear members of Immanuel,

The ministries at Immanuel continue to work toward the goals we set from the cottage meetings we had 2 and a half years ago! I decided to take a moment to look back and am really impressed by what we have accomplished!

Here is a quick run-down (understand most everything – even with a checkmark – is a work in progress because we are part of the living breathing body of Christ!):

√ Equals that it is done and/or a work in progress.

Below the checkmarks I listed the not-yet-met goals that we continue to work on with an update in parenthesis.

## **Business**

- √ New projection system (including, but not limited to: add screen to other side, new computer, flat screen TVs instead of screen, live feed)
- √ Bell Tower entry looks like a storage area, and it's not designed for storage with all of the windows
- √ Create a more inviting look on the outside of the building (e.g. trimming trees)

Playground maintenance/improvements

(one slide has been replaced, tried to address the pricklers, continues to be a work in progress)

Create a more inviting look on the outside of the building (e.g. covering unsightly utility boxes)

(Still needs to be addressed)

Shed needs organizing/cleaning

(medical supplies have been cleaned out. Truth is once it is cleaned more is added so this will continue to be a work in progress)

Electronic sign for the front of the building

(quotes are being collected)

## **Worship**

- √ Clean out Assisting Minister Robes
- √ Involve youth in worship responsibilities
- √ Update designs for the kid's choir/bells shirts
- √ Inventory supplies for all programs
- √ Create uniform contents for the chair pouches in the sanctuary (we took them off)
- √ Equipment for the band (including, but not limited to: monitor)

Update Welcome Area (in the Narthex)

(Hoping to launch the new welcome center on December 2)

## *A letter from Pr. Dana.....(continued)*

### **Community & World**

- √ Adopt community involvement within the church (i.e. reminders of the community opportunities of where & when to serve) – this is in the Gleaner monthly if you haven't seen it yet.
- √ Expand campus ministry to CMU faculty and staff

#### Service Trips (including adults)

(We have been searching and asked for people willing to lead. Once we have leaders then I am sure we can make this happen. We have, thanks to Craig, added on a young adult mission trip during CMU's spring break.)

#### Clarify and communicate the meaning of ELCA

(New website will make this more clear and we hope to launch it by Dec. 2.)

#### Include pictures of the CMU students who attend Immanuel on our college student board

(We are currently transitioning to TVs in the Narthex which will make this more possible.)

### **Each Other**

- √ Inventory supplies for all programs
- √ Update all bulletin boards
- √ Increase social opportunities/fellowship (including, but not limited to: small groups, adult kickball/softball, baseball games, beer, brats & hymns...)

#### Improved coffee/beverage options (for services, etc. in the Narthex)

(We have purchased the correct size scoops – 3/4 cup! It will also be addressed with our new Narthex system for coffee launching soon.)

#### Increase intergenerational opportunities

(Always a work in progress)

### **Then there is a list of things that were not goals, but happened because the Spirit was moving...**

- √ We became a Reconciling in Christ Congregation
- √ The youth were given a larger space to meet in that will soon be renovated
- √ There will be a newly renovated room for parents & adults to meet, work, relax, and pray
- √ We have partnered with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea.
- √ Ceiling Fans in the Fellowship Hall are fixed (no helium balloons in there PLEASE!!)
- √ Time & Talent sheets updated and digitized (soon to be filled out by all of you...)
- √ Roof that was leaking is fixed
- √ Nursery is organized and digitized
- √ Successful Capital Campaign, which included a generous donation to the Strickler Center.

Looking forward to where the Spirit leads us next... a special thanks to all of you for the ministry you continue to do through Immanuel. God is good.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dana

## Letter from the President...

The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 236). We are to “...**live** among God’s faithful people; **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper; **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; **serve** all people following the example of Jesus; and **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth,” <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Living-Our-Baptismal-Covenant>. Since the baptism of our kids on October 25, 2015, Ryan and I decided to set an automatic alarm in our phones to remind us of their baptism anniversary. Since that day, the kids seem to look forward to that day like they would a birthday or another special event. We light their baptismal candles and chat about our baptism. This year, I thought especially of the hymn below:

### *Baptized and Set Free*

- 1 We are people created, chosen by God.  
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.  
Sin has power no more, Jesus opened the door  
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.
- 2 We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.  
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.  
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:  
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.
- 3 We are nourished by water, all living things,  
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.  
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:  
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.
- 4 Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.  
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.  
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on all will be  
one in Jesus one in water, baptized and set free!

May we all walk in the freedom of this mighty act of grace!  
Peace be with all of you, Natalie Douglas



# Ministry with Each Other



## ***The Little Star: A Christmas Fantasy***

by Georgene Meddows

**Sunday, December 16th @ 10AM**

Rehearsals:

- Music Learned During Children's Choir
- Wednesday, December 12th | 6-7:15PM
- Saturday, December 15th | 9-11:30AM

This year's Children's Christmas Program is the Christmas story as we know it told by the perspective of the star of Bethlehem. Children of all ages are welcome to participate including our middle school and high school students.

Volunteers are also needed to help with props, costumes, guiding the cast, and helping students learn their speaking & singing parts. Please call the church office or email Craig.



## **Worship Wednesday Desserts Needed**

Calling all Julia Childs, Martha Stewarts, and Buddy the Cake Bosses...or...Meijer bakery shoppers! We can use your help with making, creating, baking, or buying desserts for Worship Wednesday meals. If you are willing to drop off a dozen cookies, brownies, or other special cake or creation please call the church office (989.773.4204) or email Craig Torgerson ([craig@immanuelmp.com](mailto:craig@immanuelmp.com)).



1	Christian Jurick
3	Leah Faleer
6	Jennifer Digmann
6	Deb Reimer
7	Matt Keller
9	Andrea Wood
10	Mary Pattison
11	Ted Tuma
12	Harry Plouff
13	Jonathan Jurick
14	Dan Eversole
14	Hans Fetting
14	Sarah LaBelle
14	Alana Piatek-Jimenez
15	Freida Lee
15	Alicia Podolsky
16	Jeff Reimer
18	Marcilyn Barnard
18	Robin Decker
19	Shenan Davidson
19	Ben Ferguson
19	Charlie Schwerin
22	Pr. Dana Hendershot
24	Whitnee Foote
24	Peggy Recker
26	John Foote
26	Amy Powell
30	Martha Goodrich

# Ministry with Each Other



## Upcoming Events

- Nov 11.....3-5pm at church
- Nov 17-18.....Lock-in at church  
(8pm to 8am)
- Dec 9.....1-3pm at church  
(Christmas decorating)
- Dec 16.....Bake Sale

## Theological discussions with Pastor Dana

We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Capital Room.  
All are welcome.

We hope you will join us!  
(We will not meet on 11/21)



## Nursery Volunteer Training

Please join Marissa Read in the church nursery for Nursery Volunteer Training on Saturday, November 10th from 9-11AM. This is a great opportunity to get to know the other nursery volunteers, ask questions, and brush up on important systems and information. All current volunteers as well as anyone who are interested in starting to volunteer in the nursery are welcome to join. Please email Marissa ([read1mr@cmich.edu](mailto:read1mr@cmich.edu)) to let her know if you are able to attend!

## Where do I drop off plastic bags???



\*Plastic grocery bags for CCN can be dropped into the baskets under the benches outside of the office.

## 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.

## 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](http://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!!**

### Financial Corner

#### Unified Budget

July \$42,076  
August \$20,603  
September \$15,553

Thanks to all who helped with  
Fall Clean-Up Day!!!



### Capital Campaign Update



Amount Pledged: \$147,945  
Amount Received: \$136,942

# Ministry with Community & World

“Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **Matthew 20:28**

## **ICRH-**

BIG thanks to all who helped feed and host guests from the Isabella County Restoration House at the start of the rotating shelter season! Your participation and generosity is very much appreciated. If you did not have the opportunity to participate, Immanuel will be hosting guests during the week of February 24. Our church will partner with Faith Weavers. For more information on volunteer opportunities (like working at the day shelter), visit [icrhouse.org](http://icrhouse.org)

## **Red Cross Blood Drives-**

Nov 9- CMU Towers, 212 W. Broomfield, Mt. Pleasant, noon-5:45pm  
Nov 20- Sacred Heart Parish, 319 E. Illinois St, Mt. Pleasant, noon-5:45pm  
Nov 26- CMU, Kulhavi Hall, 210 W. Broomfield, Mt. Pleasant, noon-5:45pm  
Nov 27- Shepherd United Methodist Church, 107 Wright Ave, Shepherd, noon-5:45pm  
Nov 28- Beal City High School, 3180 W. Beal City Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI, noon-5:45pm

\*Please also read more in this newsletter regarding our Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Outreach, both of which are excellent ways to help within the community!

If you have any ideas for ways members of Immanuel Lutheran Church can get involved in serving our local community, please contact Jennifer Digmann at [\(989\) 775-8475](tel:9897758475) or Paul Kruska at [\(989\) 828-5103](tel:9898285103).



The annual **Red Cross Blood Drive** was held at Immanuel on October 25th. Thank you to volunteers ~ Donna Swenson, Bonnie Schaeffer, Roger Gilbert, Rose Prasad, Ed & Bonnie Berthold, Judy Emmons, Carolyn Hoffman, Ruth Magnell, Joann Johnson, Paul Kruska, Gary Ramsower, Thomas Ferguson and especially Billie & Harry Plouff, for organizing the event. This year, we had a successful 26 donors! Together we save lives! Already looking forward to next year.

# Ministry with Community & World



## College Care Packages

We serve over 100 college students with care packages! If you would like to help create, shop, pack, deliver packages, or would simply like to learn more about the program please call the church office (989.773.4204) or email Craig Torgerson ([craig@immanuelmp.com](mailto:craig@immanuelmp.com)). The next care package packing day will be at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 4th after the first service (approximately 10:15).

*(No need to sign up ahead of time to help pack.)*



## Christmas Outreach Needs Your Help!!

Last year approximately 1700 winter coats were distributed to our community through Christmas Outreach. Immanuel Lutheran Church is again collecting coats and snow pants. We are asking for donations of new or gently used clean winter coats of all sizes for girls and boys, women and men. Your generosity is appreciated! Coats can be left in the donation box in the Narthex beginning November 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions regarding the coat collection, please contact Sue Keilitz, Donna Parr or Jennifer Digmann.



**Thanks to all CROP WALK participants!!!!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's CROP Hunger Walk. A special thank you to Mark Strandkov, Julie Shellenbarger, and Jennifer Digmann for helping plan the walk and coordinate the Immanuel CROP Walk team.

The Mt. Pleasant Area CROP Hunger Walk has served our community for 27 years and has raised just under \$500,000 over that time! Around a third of that money stays in our community to fight hunger locally and the remainder goes to Church World Service for national and international projects.

This year local funds are going to serve the Community Compassion Network Food Pantry and the Weidman Food Pantry. To learn more about the work of Church World Service, please visit <http://church.cwsglobal.org/crop-hunger-walk/>

Note: If you still have donations in hand, please turn them in to the church office by November 4<sup>th</sup>.



# Worship Ministry

## November Worship Helpers

### Cantors

- 4 Amy Powell
- 11 Abbie Powell
- 18 John Lorand
- 25 Dennis Marshall

### Counters

- 4 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
- 11 John Emmons & John Warriner
- 18 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson
- 25 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand

### Altar Guild

- 4 Chris Schuster & Sarah Gilbert
- 11 Jan Kruska & Sandy Warriner
- 18 Deb Reimer & Kathy Gatten
- 25 Pat Podoll & Jan Kruska

### Assisting Ministers

- 4 (9:00) Sarah Gilbert  
(11:00) Natalie Douglas
- 11 (9:00) Amy Powell  
(11:00) Jodie Mitchell-Beach
- 18 (9:00) Linda Wicander  
(11:00) Sandy Warriner
- 25 (9:00) Sarah Gilbert  
(11:00) Mary Hageman

### Ushers (9:00)

- 4 Bill Jensen, Cliff Moss, Aaron Smith
- 11 Bill Jensen, John Lorand, B. Shellenbarger
- 18 Bill Jensen, Aaron Smith, Volunteer
- 25 Bill Jensen, Roger Gilbert, John Lorand

### Projection Assistant

- 4 (9:00) Deb LaBlance  
(11:00) Susan Shock
- 11 (9:00) The Digmans  
(11:00) Dana Mielke
- 18 (9:00) Amy Powell  
(11:00) Ted Tuma
- 25 (9:00) Gabe Goodrich  
(11:00) Kip Ferguson

### Sound System

- 4 (9:00) Bill Gallaher  
(11:00) Kathy Gallaher
- 11 (9:00) Aaron Smith & Bill Gallaher  
(11:00) Craig Torgerson
- 18 (9:00) Bill Gallaher  
(11:00) Ted Tuma
- 25 (9:00) John Keller & Bill Gallaher  
(11:00) Kip Ferguson

### Noisy Offering



The Noisy Offering will take place on Sunday, November 25. All proceeds will go to the Immanuel "Special Needs" fund.



### December

- 2 9:00am & 11:00am
- 9 9:00am & 11:00am
- 16 10:00am (Christmas Program)
- 23 10:00am (Lessons & Carols)
- 24 7:30pm (Christmas Eve)
- 30 10:00am

Please be sure to mark your calendars!!!