



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

January 2019

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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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.

Mission
Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.



Dear friends in Christ,

When something new happens there are a number of reactions we can have:

1. I just don't like it.
2. That was interesting, let me think on this...
3. That was awesome!
4. Whatever...

There's no doubt we have seen a lot of newness around Immanuel. It's not only a new year, but we have a new welcome center, a new coffee station, a new online giving system, a new parent room, a new youth room under construction... the list is long. I'm sure among our worshipping community we have had all of the above reactions to the changes.

I am guessing though, we all share one thought in common, we want Immanuel's focus to remain outward and not inward. We want for that focus to not just be words, but action! Sharing that common mission, I want us to remember that some of these changes (a result of our cottage meetings a few years back), though inside the building, actually have an outward focus. A first priority is being welcoming; this includes the new welcome center. Having the center though is not the end to our welcoming... it is only the beginning. Along these lines, three easy action items we can all do is wear our nametags, smile, and talk to people we don't know.

I was reminded recently that being welcoming can actually be uncomfortable and what makes me comfortable might not make my neighbor feel comfortable. I was recently put in a new and uncomfortable position when I attended something titled, The Theological Round Table, at the churchwide offices in Chicago. It was an honor to be invited. I was sitting at a table with some of the most creative and passionate leaders in the church. We began the meeting, like every meeting with unfamiliar faces, introducing ourselves. I quickly noticed people doing something I had never heard before.

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A Letter from Pr. Dana (continued).....

“Hi, I’m Tara, and I use the pronouns she/her/hers.”

“Hi, I’m Tom, and I use the pronouns he/him/his”

I got a little palm sweaty listening and I actually wrote in front of me “she/her/hers” just in case I forgot my pronouns when it was time to introduce myself. In all honesty, it was weird, and left me saying, “Really, we have to do this now?”

When I got back to Mt. Pleasant I told this story to the staff and our two college interns. Marissa and Maddie said, “We do that all the time at school, it’s normal to us.”

Then I got asked by a CMU faculty member if we can start using pronoun stickers on our nametags at church. They even brought in an example of their own nametag to show me what a pronoun sticker looks like. The idea is that we provide stickers for attendees to affix to their nametags that indicate the pronouns they use: she/her, he/him, they/them, and often a fill-in-the-blank option. This allows attendees to passively but *clearly* share which pronouns they use, so that other attendees can address them correctly and respectfully.

Being a congregation who welcomes all persons, the worship ministry decided to offer pronoun stickers for those who wish to put one on their nametag. I have supported and encouraged this following my initial reaction of, “Really, we have to do this now?” because I have learned a few things.

I took the time to learn why, and it has nothing to do with me. My initial reaction did make it about me. “Really, we have to do this now?” This is actually about loving my neighbor. For those people who are automatically called by their correct pronouns, pronouns can seem unimportant. But for those who have to carve out space and constantly work to get people to use their pronouns, the issue of pronoun use is a big deal.

Through more reading and listening, I learned that regardless of my own gender identity...

- By explicitly sharing my own pronouns with others, I help create a safe space for others to share theirs with me.
- By using a pronoun sticker, I signal that I care about gender identity and that I want to use your correct pronouns and not accidentally misgender you.
- By standardizing the practice of *everyone* using pronoun stickers, I help non-binary and trans folks feel less “othered” or singled out by their own use of the stickers.

So, yes, at Immanuel all are welcome. That statement is not just words to us, it is action! I invite you to put on your pronoun sticker and wear it proudly, because we are proud to be a beacon of light as we welcome all of God’s children.

Happy New Year!

God is good!

Pastor Dana Hendershot

Theological Conversation with Pastor Dana

This discussion group will resume on
Wednesday, January 9th at 10:30am in the Capital Room.

Please join us!!!

Ministry with Each Other

Address change for Lorraine Tubbs

1811 E. Remus Rd. #413
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: (989) 317-8225

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on January 27th will be given to Clothing INC.
A collection jar is located in the Narthex throughout the month for your convenience.

2019 Offering Envelopes

2019 Offering Envelopes are located in baskets in the Narthex. Even those of you who choose to do online giving have a small packet of envelopes for times of "special" giving. Please be sure to take yours home!

Christmas UN-decorating

On Sunday, January 6 at 12:30pm, we are asking for volunteers to help the Youth as they UN-decorate the church from the Christmas season. Please come lend us a hand, if you are able!

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!!!



Our second and final week, for this winter, housing the homeless in Isabella County is the week of February 24- March 3, 2019. We will be using the online sign up again so please watch for the link. We will also have an opportunity for those who do not use computers to sign up after worship in the Narthex.



- 10 Kevin Sullivan
- 13 Karl Mikko
Dan Hoffman
- 14 Debi Mikko
Jim Erickson
Bill Edmondson
- 15 Judy Ramsower
- 16 Danielle Sullivan
- 18 Chris Danielson
Felicia Bassett
- 27 Dave Wyman
- 28 John Warriner
Judy Emmons
Joel Jurick
- 29 Bill Jensen

Time & Talents

Calling all members to please fill out a new time & talents sheet! You can pick up a hard copy in the Narthex OR click this link: <https://immanuelmp.churchcenter.com/people/forms/3789>

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



Do You Have a Heart to Care?

Immanuel needs more caring people to be Stephen Ministers. Pastor Dana and our Stephen Leaders want to identify people who wish to be trained.

Stephen Ministers are the “After People”. We come alongside and provide comfort and support for those facing life challenges: grief, a difficult medical diagnosis, a pink slip or job change, a move and so much more. Through 50 hours of training we learn how to provide one-to-one Christ-centered care. We are taught how to be better listeners, to be encouragers and to offer confidential support to our Care Receivers.

You may contact:

Pastor Dana	989-773-4204
Gail Mitchell	989-289-9164
Chris Schuster	989-588-7147
Fred Schuster	231-920-3630

From the Staff....

The staff of Immanuel would like to thank you for the very generous Christmas gifts that were given to us from the congregation! We very much appreciate it and even more so, appreciate YOU!

Blessings to all of you. We wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year!

-Pr. Dana, Andrea, Craig, Mernie, Bill, Paul, Judy, Marissa & Maddie



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 Corner

Unified Budget
September \$15,553
October \$22,912
November \$19,536

Average Monthly needed to meet
budget: \$30,104

Capital Campaign Update



Pledged: \$147,945
Received: \$140,542

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.

Electronic Giving

We are excited to announce that in January we are switching the company we use for our online giving program (from Vanco to Stripe). The switch will offer a number of benefits to the church and you.

1. No more remembering a password! The new system just sends you a link to sign-in when you want to update your information.
2. You will get a message in your email for donation processing and a receipt each time a donation is initiated.
3. The church will have a text to give option.
4. Your statement will be available to be emailed to you.
5. Your gift will automatically be linked to you. This means our financial secretary will no longer need to enter in all the online giving manually.
6. The fees per transaction are cheaper.

We want to make this switch as easy as possible for you. Pastor will email directions to all current online givers on how to switch. We will also have someone available between services on January 13 & 20 to assist anyone who wishes.

January Worship Helpers

Cantors

6 Abbie Powell
13 Dennis Marshall
20 Kathy Gallaher
27 Bill Gallaher

Counters

6 John Emmons & John Warriner
13 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson
20 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
27 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff

Altar Guild

6 Linda Wicander & Sarah Gilbert
13 Sandy Warriner & Billie Plouff
20 Jan Kruska & Rose Prasad
27 Donna Parr & Judy Emmons

Projector (9:00)

6 Dan & Jennifer Digmann
13 Amy Powell
20 Gabe Goodrich
27 Deb LaBlance

Projector (11:00)

6 Susan Shock
13 Dana Mielke
20 Ted Tuma
27 Kip Ferguson

Sound System (9:00)

6 Bill Gallaher
13 Volunteer needed
20 Bill Gallaher
27 John Keller

Sound System (11:00)

6 Kathy Gallaher
13 Craig Torgerson
20 Ted Tuma
27 Kip Ferguson

Assisting Ministers (9:00)

6 Linda Wicander
13 Sarah Gilbert
20 Dave Simon
27 Mary Hageman

Assisting Ministers (11:00)

6 Amy Powell
13 Natalie Douglas
20 Volunteer needed
27 Volunteer needed

Ushers (9:00)

6 Bill Jensen, Dennis & Kathy Marshall
13 Bill Jensen, Dennis & Kathy Marshall
20 Bill Jensen, Dennis & Kathy Marshall
27 Bill Jensen, Dennis & Kathy Marshall

Ushers (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Greeters (9:00)

6 Kathy Marshall
13 Jan Eversole
20 Volunteer needed
27 Volunteer needed

Greeters (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Welcome Center (9:00) & (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Coffee Attendant (9:00)

6 Jan Eversole
13 Volunteer needed
20 Jan Eversole
27 Volunteer needed

Coffee Attendant (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month