



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 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.



Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 13
9am

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 14
9am & 11am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 18
6pm

Good Friday

Friday, April 19
6pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 21
Sunrise Service- 7am
Easter Breakfast- 8:30am
Festival Service- 10am

Stations of the Resurrection

Tuesday, April 23
5:30pm

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

I will soon be leaving for my sabbatical. I will be in the office through Easter. The week after Easter I am headed to Churchwide for the Ecumenical Round Table. I will return to preside on Sunday, April 28, and then I will depart for the sabbatical. As I have learned through this process through the Lilly Endowment Program: This truly is not a vacation. What I mean is, a vacation is 2 weeks if you're lucky, and I will be gone for 15 Sundays! This truly is a renewal; it is so much more than a vacation! I give thanks to God that you have gifted me with this opportunity.

I know I will miss you. I know that this is a gift. I am grateful and will keep you in my heart & prayers while I am gone. I ask that you keep me fervently in prayer also! It has been awhile since we have talked about what I plan to do on this renewal sabbatical so this month I want to share with you a summary statement from the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program:

The theme for my clergy renewal sabbatical is Connection, Creation, Creativity. In a profession where I am always the leader, the Shepherd – always plugged into technology, on call, praying for others, and being drawn into highly emotional situations – it is easy to lose track of myself. While I do take great joy in my call, it does take its toll physically and emotionally. This clergy renewal sabbatical will allow time to explore who I have become after 9 years of lay ministry and 10 years of ordained ministry.

Connection will be a time to reconnect with myself. My counselor, Shannon, will be the first to tell others that I spend way too much energy taking care of others and leave little to no energy to care for myself. True connection takes time and dedication, forgiveness and love, whether it is a relationship with another or with oneself. I will be very intentional on this sabbatical to integrate ways that I will forgive, love, and spend time taking care of myself, especially my health and body.

Creation is where most people feel the intense wonder and awe of God. As part of my renewal, I will visit places I have never seen. Immersing myself in the beauty and life that lives in the biodiversity of nature will bring me back into connection with the Creator. God's glorious creation reveals itself in myriad ways! This leads me into a sense of awe and wonder.

Creativity has been limited because I'm so immersed in administration. I want to reignite my creative side. Creativity has always brought me joy and energy. Though as pastor I am called into the administrative role, I hope to dip back into the creativity that God has given me so I can re-enter the congregation with new creative energy. By focusing on Connection, Creation, Creativity, I hope to find a renewed strength of body, mind, and soul so that I can continue pouring out love and forgiveness with those I am called to shepherd.

We are still on our Lenten journey – headed into the Easter glory! As we gather soon to celebrate the resurrection, I feel that this is a perfect sending for me to explore some resurrection in this renewal sabbatical time.

God be with you,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

A Letter from the Past President.....

PSSST! WE NEED TO TALK

*A Message from your Past-President About Money
(and yes, this means YOU)*

We need to talk – Council has been diligently caring for the financial strength of Immanuel, and we need to raise some concerns to everyone's attention (in a nutshell: we are in no trouble, but....). First off, and as the projects financed in the "Over the Hill" 40th anniversary campaign are wrapping up, we again want to thank the congregation for your overwhelming outpouring of support. Immanuel is blessed with generous members who step forward for a good cause.

The Council realized when the campaign began that in supporting the new exciting idea the more boring everyday stuff (the regular budget) might suffer. We skipped the regular stewardship campaign because (a) the "Over the Hill" drive was already one "ask" and (b) the response to it was so great we'd just look like putzes coming back for more.

When I came on to Council we had a standing rule that we wanted at least three months of operating costs as a reserve in our funds balance. Late last year our reserve fell below that number. We were hoping that the traditional December giving might solve the problem; however December 2018 giving was down significantly from 2017 and lower than 3 of the last 5 Decembers. As of March, our reserve stands at just over \$79,000. With an average monthly budget need of \$28,600 you can see we are still below our target reserve. So no trouble YET, but it's better to turn this thing around NOW. Council has put out the call to the ministries to tighten the belt and watch spending; but the other half is that we have to talk about encouraging giving. There are several factors affecting the balance of the two: our operating budget went up 3% this year; our December giving was dinged by tax laws that have generally lowered donations to all non-profits (we are not alone); but the truth is that our typical monthly giving is down. At the core is that Immanuel has lost some significant givers, either through death or because they moved away.

Now this is your turn. I prayerfully ask everybody to consider your giving to Immanuel and perhaps increasing that giving to continue the exciting and vibrant growth here at Immanuel. It all starts with each of us seeing if we can each help just a little bit more. To those who supported the OTH campaign: if you were/are monthly givers, perhaps consider rolling a part of that over to your regular giving when your OTH obligation is up. To everybody: consider electronic giving if you are not already doing so. Electronic giving makes it easier on you as you don't have to remember to do it each month and it will provide steady funding to Immanuel when you might be away and doing other things.

Immanuel is us. We have shown again and again that we step up and support causes and people doing God's work. We are in the midst of doing just that in the community and with each other. Please help Immanuel continue and grow that work by considering an increase in your giving. And I thank you for all that you do, all that you are and for your incredible heart for others.

And thanks for listening!
Bill Gallaher

Ministry with Each Other



- 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**
- 17 **Dan Pattison**
- 18 **Mike Piatek-Jimenez**
- 20 **Thomas Mellinger**
- Alexander Wegener**
- Lillie Reimer**
- 21 **Gary Ramsower**
- Thomas Strandskov**
- 22 **Lauren Little**
- 23 **Justin Foote**
- Terry Grabe**
- 26 **Megan Watters**
- Olivia Wegener**
- 27 **Michala Ebert**
- 29 **Jan Eversole**
- 30 **Tom Endres**

Crisis Action Plan

There is a team of members working on a crisis action plan for Immanuel. It deals with items like: fire, tornado, active shooters and health emergencies. The team has met with the fire and police department. In response to things we have learned as part of this process, we now lock the church door, even during office hours, if only one person is in the building.

You may notice, a new device outside the office door and soon outside the sanctuary door. It is called, *The Ring*; it is a video doorbell. It detects motion, and sends a notification to the staff. During office hours if someone rings the doorbell, we will do our best to answer, even if no one is in the building (we can answer from anywhere if we have our smartphone). We can talk to you through the doorbell, and you can hear us. For added security, we can see and hear you too. If you've lost your key to the church or if yours isn't working, please let us know. Also, make sure to have your key on you even during office hours just in case only one person is in the building.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

It's YOUR Ministry!

Stephen Ministry is **YOUR** ministry. It is an important way we at Immanuel care for one another. The responsibility for passing on God's love is for all Christians. Are you ready to put your gifts of caring to bring Christ's love to people in need? Stephen Ministry will provide you with the training and tools to care for another in their time of need. A new training class will begin very soon. For more information please talk with Pastor Dana, Gail Mitchell, Chris Schuster or Fred Schuster.

Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



A Memorial Service
will be held at Immanuel for
Giny Dumon
on
Saturday, April 6th
at 2:00pm.

Visitation will take place
from 1pm-2pm.



There will be a New
Members Class
on
April 7th
from
12:15pm-3:30pm.



Attention: All Ladies of Immanuel!!!

Join us for a Women's Retreat at Eagle Village in
Hersey, MI on April 12 & 13.

Cost is \$65.00 per person.

Registration is due on April 1st.

Call Beth Mundwiler at 989-330-9529 with questions.



CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT
APRIL 13th, 9:00 AM

We are looking for candy donations for our Egg
Hunt!! These should be dropped off in the office by
April 10. Thank You!!!

Business Ministry

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 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.

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
December \$35,039
January \$20,972
February \$16,155

Average Monthly needed to meet budget:
\$32,697

Capital Campaign Update



Pledged: \$147,945
Received \$143,272

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".

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on April 28
will be given to
"People Helping People".
A collection jar is located in the
Narthex throughout the month
for your convenience.

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!!!

Ministry with Each Other



The week of April 21st Pastor Dana will be traveling to Chicago, IL to attend a conference called, *"The Ecumenical Roundtable for Science, Technology and the Church."* This Roundtable is currently comprised of four of the so-called "Main Line" Protestant denominations in the Christian tradition:

- 1) The Episcopal Church Network for Science, Technology and Faith
- 2) The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology.
- 3) The Presbyterian Association for Science, Technology and the Christian Faith
- 4) The United Church of Christ Science and Technology Network

Save the Date



Camp Immanuel is scheduled
for the weekend of
September 13-15
at Coldwater Lake Family Campground

More information to follow.

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 the 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**

Here are opportunities to get involved with our community:

- The 2nd Annual Isabella County Volunteer EXPO will be held on April 11 from 3-6pm at the Commission on Aging, 2200 S. Lincoln Rd. Come out and explore the volunteer opportunities in your community!
- The Special Olympics Michigan: State Summer Games happen May 30 - June 1, 2019 on the campus of Central Michigan University.

For more information and to get involved, visit <http://www.somi.org/events/summergames.html#XHQRxaR0nYU>

- The Red Cross will be hosting the following blood drive:
Tuesday, April 23, Rosebush Presbyterian Church, noon-5:45pm

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

Ministry with the Community & World



Almsgiving Station **High Five for 85 years of doing God's work through Samaritas**

Why use the word alms or almsgiving? It comes from a Greek word that means mercy. In its original sense, when you give alms, you are dispensing mercy.

Each Lent we collect a special offering because it is the heart of our community and a season of almsgiving. Since we do not have a midweek worship service, this year, we will collect this offering a little differently. We will have an almsgiving station in the narthex. You will notice it because it will be a large hand on the wall. The offering will be going to Samaritas (supporting: senior living, foster care, refugees, building communities, and family support). Each time you give (whether it is \$5, \$55, or \$555) we ask that you take a sticker and give the hand a high five! Your alms will be collected at the almsgiving station in the box located there. Checks may be written to Immanuel Lutheran and you may give online too, click, "Lenten Almsgiving for Samaritas." If you do give online, don't forget to give the hand a high five!



Taco Bar Benefit Dinner **for Tara Riley**

Sunday, April 14th
2:00pm
Judge's Bench
2803 W. Blanchard Rd, Winn, MI

Join us for food, auction, dancing and more!

All proceeds will help to defray the medical costs that Tara has endured after an automobile accident last fall.

Worship Ministry

April Worship Helpers

Cantors

7 John Lorand
14 No Cantor
21 No Cantor
28 Dennis Marshall

Counters

7 Chuck McCollom & Cindy Torgerson
14 Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
21 Jodie Mitchell-Beach & Harry Plouff
28 John Emmons & John Warriner

Altar Guild

7 Sarah Gilbert & Rose Prasad
14 Kathy Gatten & Roze Zeferi
18 Pat Podoll & Judy Emmons
21 Jan Kruska & Linda Wicander
28 Deb Reimer & Rose Prasad

Projector (9:00)

7 Amy Powell
14 Gabe Goodrich
21 Deb LaBlance
28 Dan Digmann

Projector (11:00)

7 Susan Shock
14 Dana Mielke
21 Ted Tuma
28 Kip Ferguson

Sound System (9:00)

7 Bill Gallaher
14 Aaron Smith
21 Craig Torgerson
28 John Keller

Sound System (11:00)

7 Kathy Gallaher
14 Craig Torgerson
21 Bill Gallaher
28 Kip Ferguson

Assisting Ministers (9:00)

7 Dan Digmann
14 Chris Schuster
18 Roze Zeferi
19 Amy Powell
21 (7am) Susan Shock
28 Linda Wicander

Assisting Ministers (11:00)

7 Natalie Douglas
14 Amy Powell
21 (10am) Jodie Mitchell-Beach
28 Roze Zeferi

Ushers (9:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Greeters (9:00)

(list not available at time of printing)

Greeters (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Welcome Center (9:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Welcome Center (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month

Coffee Attendant (9:00)

7 Kathy Marshall
14 Jan Eversole
21 (10:00) Jan Eversole
28 Jan Eversole

Coffee Attendant (11:00)

Volunteers needed for month



More about Pr. Dana's Sabbatical.....

As you know, Pr. Dana is preparing to leave for her sabbatical very soon. We wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that there are plans in place, not only for her travel, but also for her absence from Immanuel. Supply pastors are lined up for for the summer as follows: (Please take some time to read through their biographies on the following pages.)

May 5	Rev. Jim Couser
May 12	Rev. Jim Couser
May 19	Rev. Jim Couser
May 26	Rev. Jim Couser
June 2	Rev. Jim Couser
June 9	Church in the Park
June 16	Rev. Jim Couser
June 23	Rev. Wayne Hoedt
June 30	Rev. Wayne Hoedt
July 7	Rev. Rick McKenzie
July 14	Rev. John Hitzeroth
July 21	Rev. John Hitzeroth
July 28	Rev. John Hitzeroth
Aug 4	Rev. Rick McKenzie
Aug 11	Rev. John Hitzeroth
Aug 18	Bishop Craig Satterlee

Our Stephen Ministers will also be available to provide pastoral care throughout Pr. Dana's absence, as well as various pastors in the area.

Plans are also in the making for some exciting activities to take place at Immanuel this summer as well. Please stay tuned for more information....

If you are interested in learning more about the Lilly Endowment Grant that has enabled Pr. Dana the opportunity for this National Clergy Renewal Program Grant, please click on:

<http://www.cpx.cts.edu/renewal/news/2018/09/24/christian-theological-seminary-announces-148-congregations-awarded-lilly-endowment-2018-national-clergy-renewal-program-grants>



More about Pr. Dana's Sabbatical.....

Rev. Wayne Hoedt

Wayne F. Hoedt was born to Arthur and Loretta Hoedt on June 12, 1943 in Toledo, Ohio. He was welcomed into the Kingdom of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on July 4, 1943 in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Toledo.

Wayne graduated from Morrison R. Waite High School in May, 1961, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio with a B.A. in Humanities in 1966, and the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary (now Trinity) with a Masters of Divinity in 1970.

On June 24, 1967, Wayne and Linda Lou Fagerlund of Worthington, Ohio were married in North Community Lutheran Church, Columbus. Linda also graduated from Capital University in 1967 with a B.S. in Business Education.

Parenthood was part of God's plan for Linda and Wayne as 5 children were gifted to them: Stephen (Kate), Karin (Russell), Marcia (David), Jeffrey, and Lauren (Steve). Eventually the gift of grandchildren was granted: Jacob, Evelyn, Alex, and Tommy.

From August 1967 to August 1968 Linda and Wayne lived in Salem, Ohio while he completed his internship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. After his supervising pastor left Emmanuel after 6 months to accept another call, Wayne served as the full-time "pastor" until their departure in August. Ordination into full-time Christian ministry as an American Lutheran Church pastor took place on June 14, 1970 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Toledo (Wayne's home congregation).

These are the congregations Wayne and Linda served since ordination:

- 1970 – 1972 First Lutheran and Grace Lutheran Churches
- 1972 – 1977 St. John Lutheran Church
- 1977 – 1981 Redeemer Lutheran Church
- 1981 – 1989 Trinity Lutheran Church
- 1989 - 2007 Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Edmore, MI
- 2002 - 2007 Faith Lutheran Church, Sidney, MI

Retirement was welcomed in June, 2007. Linda and Wayne then moved to the Mount Pleasant community, entering the first house of their own since everything else had been parsonages.

In October, 2011 Wayne joined the staff of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Saginaw as Assistant Pastor for Visitation. Retirement again ensued 5 years later.

In 2016 the house in Mt.Pleasant was sold; Linda and Wayne then moved to Columbus, Ohio to be closer to Marcia, Dave, Jacob and Evelyn. They are enjoying the retired life as part of a retirement community in Columbus just 5 minutes away from Marcia et al. Retirement was once defined for me as, "Waking up in the morning with nothing to do, and by bedtime it is only half done." Therefore, Linda and I find enough fellowship events to do within the retirement community of which we are a part; spending life with 9 year old Jacob and 4 year old Evelyn; volunteering several times a month at the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio; and watching dance recitals and soccer games. God is blessing us each day.

More about Pr. Dana's Sabbatical.....

Rev. Jim Couser

I am Pastor Jim Couser. My wife, Sandy, and I are excited to be spending some Sundays with you during your Pastor's upcoming sabbatical.

Allow me a brief introduction. I'm a native Detroit, having been raised on the east side. I attended Detroit Public Schools through eighth grade and graduated from Lutheran High School East in 1968. My home congregation was St. James Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe Farms. My mother (98 years old) currently resides in a nursing home near Detroit. Two of my three siblings are also retired from full time teaching and youth ministry. Being raised in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and sensing the call to ministry, I graduated from Concordia College, Fort Wayne, IN, and began studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The early 70s were a time of strain and testing in the LC-MS. Consequently, I completed my pastoral training and received my Master of Divinity from Christ Seminary: Seminex in 1976.

Sandy was raised in the community of Rochester, MI, and graduated from Rochester High School. We met and began dating our first month of college (Ask Sandy about how she asked me out for our first date). She received her BS in Education from Concordia College, River Forest, IL. Sandy is the oldest of five siblings; two living in Oakland County just north of Detroit, one in Harrisville, MI, and one in Charlotte, NC. Sandy retired after over thirty years of teaching kindergarten and pre-school.

Sandy and I have been married 46 years. We were married the month before starting seminary. Our Vicarage/Internship was in Port Washington, WI. My first call was to serve as founding pastor of a congregation of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (the group that withdrew from the LC-MS and existed until the ELCA merger in 1988) in Lincoln, NE. We served that congregation, All Saints, Lincoln, for over ten years. From 1987-94, I served as Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI. In February, 1994, I was called to serve St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Cridersville, OH (just outside Lima). I served there over 21 years, until my retirement in October 2015.

We have two children, Matthew and Rebecca. Each of our children has an elementary education degree from Valparaiso University. Matthew is the principal of Our Savior Lutheran School, Lansing, MI. His wife, Katie, is a nurse in the surgical unit of Sparrow Medical Center. They have three children: Ryan (11), Micah (9), and Ella (7). Our daughter, Rebecca, is on the staff of Calvary Lutheran Church, Clarkston, in the area of youth and family ministry. Rebecca is now engaged. Her fiancé, Tim Higgins, is currently in China. He finishes his teaching contract in August. A wedding date will be set when he returns.

In retirement, we've chosen to live in Lansing, primarily to be close to our grandchildren. We are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Ledge, where we sing in the choir and regularly serve as assisting ministers in worship. I also share my guitar-playing skills in worship leadership. We both maintain a consistent exercise schedule (aerobics for Sandy, golf for me, walking, and biking). We enjoy all styles of music. I'm a diehard Detroit Tigers fan (I've even been to their winter Fantasy Camp a couple times). We enjoy traveling (we've been to 30 states and Grand Cayman since retiring and will be in Europe for three weeks this fall).

Continued on next page

More about Pr. Dana's Sabbatical.....

Like most "down-staters, we've spent some recreational time in mid-Michigan - for many years Sandy's family had a place on Wixom Lake. We've spent time biking the Pierre Marquette Trail near Midland. We also have a CMU connection: Sandy's sister and three cousins are alumni and our son's Masters in Elem. Admin. makes him a Chippewa too.

We look forward to spending some Sundays with the Immanuel Family. Our years of congregational ministry have brought many moments of satisfaction in sharing the promise of Christ and the work of God's kingdom. Our faith has been immeasurably enriched by the friendships we've developed through the church. We look forward to expanding that circle of friends in Christ through our time with you.

Peace and hope in Christ,
Pastor Jim Couser.

Rev. Rick McKenzie

Pastor Rick McKenzie (aka, P.R., an appellation given by the kids of Immanuel) has been retired since 2012. He served two parishes: Gethsemane, Warren, for 10 yrs and Immanuel, Grand Ledge, for 28 yrs. He and Ellen have been married 51 years and have 3 children: Erin, Austin and John. They are raising Keelyn, 1 of their 5 grandchildren. Other retirement activities for PR include mentoring for Kid's Hope, Delta Community Choir, teaching Adult Ed., catechism and singing in the choir at Calvary, Lansing. He is pulpit supply once monthly for Trinity Episcopal, Grand Ledge. His family can be hard to reach in the summer due to a penchant for camping in State Parks of Michigan and Ellen's fondness of running, 5K's to marathons. PR's operative principle for retirement: "The Freedom to Say 'No.'"

Rev. John Hitzeroth

John recently retired from full-time pastoral ministry after serving three parishes: Our Savior/Salem, Missouri; Peace/Sparta, Michigan; and, Pilgrim/Marysville, Michigan. He and his wife, Jan, still reside in Marysville and have a "lake home" in Six Lakes, Michigan. They have two sons, Andrew and Philip, who are married to Kansie and Mollika, respectively, and one granddaughter, Abigail, who lives with Andrew and Kansie in Morrow, Ohio. Philip and Mollika live in Los Angeles, California.

John has served on the Candidacy Committee for both the North/West Lower and Southeast Michigan Synods – he served on the committee when Pastor Dana was approved for ordained ministry.

Since retiring, Jan and John have enjoyed traveling through the Midwest and Southeast United States – Florida this past winter was particularly enjoyable. John hopes to keep up on his reading list and remain involved in the work of Port Huron's Soup Kitchen and Council on Aging.