



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

August 2019

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 8am-3pm

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.



Camp Immanuel Weekend Retreat

Coldwater Lake Park
September 13-15, 2019
Cost \$75 (scholarships available)

Registrations due by August 9, \$85 after August 9.
Registration forms are available in the office
and in the narthex.

We hope to see you there!!!

A Letter from the President.....

Dear Readers,

I hope you are in the midst of a refreshing summer! We are so grateful for Claire Torgerson and others who have led us through some wonderful activities this summer while Pastor Dana is away on sabbatical – there are still many events coming up so please check this month's Gleaner, the bulletin and email blasts for important dates and events.

I have found this word from Father Richard Rohr especially encouraging this summer, and I hope you do too –

You can't make God love you one ounce more than God already loves you right now. You can go to church every day for the rest of your life. God isn't going to love you any more than God loves you right now. You cannot make God love you any less, either—not an ounce less. Do the most terrible thing and God wouldn't love you less. You cannot change the Divine mind about you...God is for you. We can't diminish God's love for us. What we can do, however, is learn how to believe it, receive it, trust it, allow it, and celebrate it, accepting Trinity's whirling invitation to join in the cosmic dance. The only thing that can keep you out of this divine dance is fear or self-hatred. Suddenly, this is a very safe universe. You have nothing to be afraid of. God is for you. God is leaping toward you! God is on your side, honestly more than you are on your own.

Indeed, God is for you and we at Immanuel are for you too - looking forward to seeing everyone throughout the next weeks and especially at the annual meeting on September 8th, 2019 after the 10:00 service.

Grace and Peace, Natalie



Worship Ministry



Please join us at
Coldwater Lake Family Park
in Weidman
on Saturday, September 15th

Worship at 4:30pm
Potluck at 6:00pm

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on
August 25 will be given
to
The Care Store.

A collection jar is
located in the Narthex
throughout the month
for your convenience.

Come hear about Haylee Geisthardt's trip to Nepal!!!

Haylee would like to thank
everyone for their prayers and
support of her volunteer
service trip to Nepal this
summer. All are invited to
join Haylee after service on
Sunday, August 11th in the
fellowship as she talks about
her experience. Snacks will be
provided.

Fall Worship Schedule

Following Camp Immanuel
weekend (Sept. 13-15),
we will resume our regular
worship schedule.

On September 22, we will
again have weekly services
at 9am & 11am.

Be sure to mark your
calendars!



ANNUAL MEETING

Immanuel will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 8th, immediately following our worship service. Annual Meeting Packets will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, August 25. Be sure to mark your calendars for this important event!

Ministry with Each Other

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!!!

**THANK YOU
to ALL of the
FABULOUS
VOLUNTEERS
who helped out
with VBS!!!**



August Birthdays

- 1 Barb McCollom
- Carolyn Swart
- 2 Jim Ferguson
- 3 Eric Wyman
- 4 Marilyn Zorn
- 6 Jan Podolsky
- 7 Helen Leemaster
- Jeanette Noch
- Paul Kruska
- 8 Kara Watters
- 9 Patricia Alberts
- 10 Sarah Keller
- Larry Leemaster
- 11 Daniel Keller
- Steve Podolsky
- 12 Scott Connor
- 13 Pam Fultz
- 14 Tom Mueller
- 16 Dan Hess
- Abbie Powell
- 17 Sophia Powell
- 18 Thomas Ferguson
- 19 Jordan Heinrich
- Ashton Heinrich
- Shirley Howard
- 22 Audrey Douglas
- 23 Linda Spycher
- 25 Axel Mellinger
- 26 Cheryl Geisthardt
- 30 Charlie Burke
- 31 Enoch Torgerson

BEAST FEAST

STEAK COOKOFF

August 3rd, 2019
Mt Pleasant, MI

Steak Payout

1st Place \$1000
2nd Place \$500
3rd Place \$400
4th Place \$300
5th Place \$200

Appetizer Payout

1st Place \$100
2nd Place \$75
3rd Place \$50

Event Location

Immanuel Lutheran Church
320 S Bradley
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

Entry Fee

Steak \$150
Appetizer \$25
Kids \$10

Event Timeline

8-10 Team Set Up
10:00 Cooks Meeting
Steak Selection
11:00 Judging Class
1-1:15 Appetizer Turn In
2-2:15 Kids Turn In
2:45-3:00 Steak Turn In
4:00 Awards

Team Spaces

10x15

Promoter Info

Claire Torgerson
248-425-7346
claire@immanuelmp.com

SCA Rep
Brett Gallaway

Sign up at www.steakcookoffs.com

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



Gifted to Care and Called to Care

Spiritual gifts are gifts to give away. God gives them to us, and we use them to serve others. Stephen Ministry is special program to train people to use their gifts of caring by becoming a Stephen Minister.

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the ***After People***. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed

Deb LaBlance is a member of our current training class and is excited to become an After People. In her words, “I look forward to shouldering others burdens and sharing God’s love.”

Aubryon Anderson, Denise Kaiser, Sue Knight, Deb LaBlance, and Jodie Mitchell-Beech are well into their 50-hour training. They continue to grow in confidence and care giving skills as they respond to God’s call to care. The most recent study topic was understanding and caring for people in crisis.

Please continue to keep this ministry and those who serve in your prayers.

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 Each Other, Continued)



Our four choirs will start in September after Labor Day. All choirs are always looking for new members who are dedicated to regularly attending rehearsals and singing on Sundays!! Please email me (Mernie) mbidstrup@charter.net or catch me after the service with any questions. If Worship Wed. is cancelled for weather so are all music programs.

Children's choir - Kindergarten -5th grade ---- Hand chimes- 2nd -5th grade

Attendance at rehearsal and the Sundays that we play is required to be a part of the hand chimes.

The children's choir/ hand chime choir meets on Wednesdays at 4:00 (earlier time this year). 2nd through 5th grade hand chime practice will be from 4:00-4:45 in the Sanctuary. From 4:45-5:30 the whole group will be together in the Choir room to sing. The children's choir sings at the 9:00 service on the fourth Sunday and at the 11:00 service on the first Sunday of each month. The hand chimes will usually play at the 9:00 service on the fourth Sunday.

Bell Choir - 6th grade through high school- includes some college students

The bell choir usually meets on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:30. Rehearsals may be on other nights as needed. (Our members are not just dedicated to the bell choir but are also very involved in other church and school activities which can cause schedule changes.) The rehearsal is fast paced and fun. The choir plays on the fourth Sunday at the 9:00 service and also plays at festival services. Come and try it- I'd be happy to meet with you and give you a mini lesson before you attend a rehearsal. We'd love to see you!

Chancel Choir- all ages welcome

Chancel Choir sings a variety of familiar and new SATB music. We sing at the 9:00 service on the first and third Sunday of the month. We also sing at all festival services. (Reformation, Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter) If you've ever sung in a choir or would just like to give it a try, come to our rehearsal at 6:00 on Wednesdays. We can be pretty noisy and we often talk too much (you know who you are ☺) but we have fun and are a great group of people and we would love to have you join us!

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 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 Corner

Unified Budget

April \$28,208
May \$18,042
June \$18,192

Average Monthly Needed to meet budget

\$47,328

Capital Campaign Update



Amount Pledged: \$147,945
Amount Received: \$147,949

