



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

September 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.**



Please join us
in the Fellowship Hall
on
Sunday, September 8th
following the Annual Meeting
as we
Welcome Pr. Dana back
from
her Sabbatical!!!

A Letter from Pr. Dana....

Friends in Christ,

Yes, I enjoyed the sabbatical, and it is great to be back home! I want to thank each of you again, for the gift of a sabbatical. I am also grateful for our shared experience of the Lily Endowment Clergy Renewal Program. I look forward to hearing the stories of everything that happened and how you were renewed while I was away.

One of the things I got to do on my sabbatical was fall in love with God again and again! The wonders of the time in prayer, meditation, worship, being listened to, spending quality time with friends and family, and marveling at God's awesome creation showed me the face of God again and again! I even had a whole month with a personal yoga instructor who taught me how to breathe (and I'm not just talking the deep belly raising breath, I am talking a whole new level of breathing).

One way to share with you my renewed sense of awe comes from the book that I said I would read, *Sacred Sense*, by William P. Brown. In the chapter about Wounded Wonder, Brown shares a series of re-writing he encouraged a class to do from the book of Job (based on Job 38-39). I took it upon myself to do the same with some of my favorite animals from my travels:

Look, Job, at the majestic spread wings of the **Reddish Egret**, as it creates shade to reduce glare on the water to see its prey. I delight as they dash, zig-zag, and lurch for their prey. See how it gazes upon a mate raising the neck, back and crest feathers. Listen to the bill clacking, and see the wild flight circles.

Do you give the **brown bear** its might? Do you clothe its body with hair? Did you create her to know the rhythms of activity and rest as she stores up fat to nourish herself in the deep sleep of hibernation? Do you help the cubs to climb trees? Or give it the speed of 40 mph? Do you fill the streams with salmon or fill the trees with berries for food?

Where were you when I separated the waters from the dry land? Have you felt the rough and intricate shell of the **sea turtle** as she draws inward to protect herself? Have you seen her ride the 16 foot waves with grace? Who stretched her legs so they can be used as flippers? Who gave her an internal GPS so she can navigate over 12,000 miles round trip?

Brown writes, "Job has come back awestruck and freed. Having encountered firsthand the God of the wild...(p.77). I, too, return awestruck and freed. Having encountered firsthand the God of the wild. Thanks be to God.

In awe,

Pastor Dana Hendershot



From the Director of Faith Formation...

I am sure you have noticed a change in the sanctuary. It's true I moved up the back row and added a second pew. Okay, okay, you're right...I did that because we built a tech booth in the back!

I understand that changes are difficult and that I have helped in creating quite a few of them lately. I am understanding that on this one a little more of a heads up and transition may have been warranted. So...I'm here to explain myself!

There are many things to address but one of the first is the big "M". Where did the money come from? This tech booth was a project on the tail end of the Capital Campaign. When originally discussed, it was attached to the narthex renovation but not hired out to Denali (who did a fantastic job in the Narthex, right?!). It seems like everyone is really enjoying the new library and seating. Personally, I love seeing that end being used. It wasn't that long ago that we were basically using it as a storage area (oops!). Building the tech booth has helped to continually improve the usability and aesthetics of the narthex area. The flow of traffic is better and all the guts of the audio & visual equipment will be hidden (there is still some work to do!). One of the last things we are hoping to add will be opaque stickers or clings to the sliding doors behind the booth to let light through but also to help divide the tech area off and hide any "mess" that occurs as the booth is an area with lots of cables, cords, and activities.

So, why didn't we build the booth into the narthex area instead of into the sanctuary? Another great question! One reason was for the aesthetics of the narthex but another big reason was for the acoustic benefits. When the audio/ visual team sits under or behind the partial wall what they hear is very different than that of the actual sanctuary. It makes it difficult to balance the individual channels and to know if the band, videos, music, etc. is too loud or too quiet because what they hear is not necessarily what we hear in the sanctuary. Moving the booth into the room helps the A/V team better balance the sound to help give an overall better mix (you're ears will be thankful!). There are a ton of other things that are variables to sound such as how many bodies are in the room, temperature, and even humidity so if we can remove any barriers to producing a great audio experience it is definitely helpful and worth it!

You have probably noticed that we included a step high deck when we built the booth. This helps the A/V team see over top of the congregation even when people are standing in the room. The most important people for the A/V team to see are all in the front so getting them a step up is a big help! So...what's with the high wall? Some of that is trial and error. It grew a little higher than originally planned when I requested the angled topper. That's a fun tech booth trick to keep people from setting drinks on the rail. I am trying to avoid liquids being spilled on the electronics inside. I think you will find that most everyone can see to the pulpit and altar area over the top of the wall and especially when sitting in a high top chair (torsos don't vary as much in size). However, the work is not over. I may need to build a helper step or take the top of the wall down a little. I am trying to avoid this because the height of the wall is on purpose as it is placed to hide all of the guts of the booth.

Another big question is about accessibility; especially now that there is a step up into the booth. First, I want to address that our "old" setup was not as handicap friendly as it may have seemed. Between the furniture and standing congregants there were quite a few things that obstructed the view for everyone on our A/V team; handicap or not. All along the way of the new build I have kept in communication with some key people to discuss our accessibility

From the Director of Faith Formation...

options. One thought was building a permanent ramp leading into the booth. This would include an eight foot long ramp into the narthex in order to be legal (1 foot of length for every inch of vertical height). The best solution raised was to use temporary ramps when needed. Pastor Dana did work some measurements with one of our consultants to make sure there is sufficient room to move and turn in the booth. Another concern is the height of the booth wall for someone, as an example, in a wheelchair. As I mentioned earlier, there is some trial and error in building the booth. I am doing a lot of learning but I also want to note we are not done with the entire setup. For example, Simoni just installed the new soundboard. Ideally the audio tech will be sitting in the booth and running things from the physical board; however, because the board is digital, it is possible to have control from a laptop or an iPad. This means that it is possible for an audio tech to simply sit in the pews among the rest of the congregation and have control of our Sunday morning audio needs! I do not have quite as smooth of a solution for the visual tech portion of the booth but I do have some ideas that I will be working through that are similar. All in all I simply want it to be noted that we have not forgotten to take accessibility into account with this build. We have a few solutions and are working on additional accommodations. One of the things that we did talk about in staff meeting the other day is how much we appreciate that our congregation takes pride in things like accessibility for all. Thank you for helping us make our congregation and our building a welcoming place for all!

This article is getting a bit long so I am impressed if you have read down this far! Thanks for hearing me out. I want to make sure that we are addressing thoughts and concerns and, as I wrote earlier, I did not do a great job of keeping you in the know all along the process. I could write a small manual of explanation; however, it may be easier to answer more thoughts and questions in person so I will be giving an update and doing time of Q & A at the annual congregational meeting on September 8th. Until then, please feel free to email, call, or catch me in person if you have any thoughts and concerns about the booth. Also, I am happy to give any of you a guided tour of the booth and any of the new equipment. It can be easier to understand once you get a little hands on training (and then you can join the A/V team!).

Finally, I want to thank you for your encouragement and support during this tech booth build and other projects around church. I recognize that it takes a high level of trust and I appreciate that you would allow me to have the room to try new things and make physical changes in the building. When walking into the "new" it can be uncomfortable and unknown and, even though I am pretty hands on all along the way, I am learning a lot and making adjustments as things happen. I do my best to carefully calculate and guesstimate results but I never really know until changes and projects begin to wrap up. Dana and I have had some confirmation in the last few weeks as our younger population has taken notice of our new build and gear. In fact, I was able to let a couple of our middle school crew learn and play right after the new soundboard was installed. I think they were enjoying it because mom had to put on a little bit of her parent voice to get them to detach so they could move along with their day. I think we may have some new A/V trainees in the near future!

Thanks for all of your love and support! See you at the congregational meeting on September 8th!
TGBTG,
Craig Torgerson

Worship Ministry



Please join us at
Coldwater Lake Family Park
in Weidman
on Saturday, September 14th

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

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on
September 22 will be given
to
The Care Store

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



If you feel your child is
ready to take his/her first
communion on Sunday,
October 6th, please talk with
Pastor Dana.

Classes will be held on:
Sunday, Sept. 22, 1-3pm
Sunday, Sept. 29, 1-3pm

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!



Immanuel will be offering a blessing of
the animal's service at our outdoor
pavilion on Saturday, October 5 at 3:00
p.m. All animals are welcome. We will
move the service inside if weather is not
permitting. Please bring your animals
on a leash or caged. This is open to the
community so please spread the word
to friends and/or family who would like
their pet to be blessed!

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!!!

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

Starting Sept. 12, Please join us in the Capital Room on **THURSDAYS** at 11am for a discussion on The Refugee Crisis

“Living Lutheran” reader call

From Ruth and Naomi to Moses and Aaron, the Bible is rich with tales of friendship. How do friendships enrich your faith? By Oct 30, send your 300 word story – subject line: “Friendship”- to livinglutheran@elca.org for and an opportunity to be published in “Living Lutheran”.

Tuesday Women’s Bible Study

This group will begin meeting on Tuesdays from 9:30-11am, beginning on September 12th.

Please join us!

Please contact Judy Emmons at 772-3831 if you have any questions.

Thursday Women’s Bible Study

You are invited!!

Please join us on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 9:30am for a study of *Unshakable Hope, Building Our Lives On the Promises of God* by Max Lucado. We will be listening to Max read his book to us, which is something new!

If you have any questions, contact Jan Podolsky at 772-7762 or Chris Schuster at 989-588-7147.

We hope to see you!



- 1 Paul Clise
- 7 Mark Strandkov
- 8 Sandy Davidson
Brandon Wegener
- 9 Doug LaBelle
- 11 Mark Johnson
Deb LaBlance
- 13 Tim French
- 14 David Sprang
- 15 Sue Foote
Kyle French
- 17 John Keller
- 18 Hannah Shellenbarger
- 19 Kay Riley
Jacob Robinson
- 20 Tanner Goodrich
Elijah Torgerson
- 22 Bruce Torgerson
- 24 Dan Digmann
Bart LaBelle
- 25 Katrina Piatek-Jimenez
Nicole Ferguson
- 26 Nolan Kaiser
Neice Tuma
- 28 Jodie Mitchell-Beach
Joan Langlois
- 29 Carolyn Hoffman
- 30 Sandy Deaton
Jacque Jackson

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



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!



Coldwater Lake Park
September 13-15, 2019
Cost \$85 (scholarships available)

Registration forms are available in the Narthex

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)



An Invitation to Commissioning

On September 8 our congregation will commission our Stephen Ministers.

Abyron Anderson, Denise Kaiser, Sue Knight, Deb LaBlance, and Jodie Mitchell-Beech have already completed substantial training to equip them for their caring ministry. During worship we will lay hands on them, pray for them, and send them out to minister, asking for God's blessing and the Spirit's wisdom and power.

Our Stephen Ministers will be depending on our support in the time ahead as they assume the duties of their ministry. Let us thank God for all that they will bring to this congregation in providing care to others and let us promise them prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

Staff Performance Reviews

A responsibility of the Personnel Committee is to conduct an annual meeting with each of our staff to review their area of ministry. This review allows us to affirm the gifts of their ministry, clarify expectations, share concerns and offer guidance and direction.

We are requesting congregation members to share in this review. Please prayerfully reflect on the staff areas of ministry and offer your input in person or writing to the personnel committee by Sunday, September 15.

- Pastor Dana Hendershot, Pastor
- Craig Torgerson, Director of Faith Formation
- Mernie Bidstrup, Organist and Choir Director
- Andrea Redmond, Office Manager

In Christ,
Dan Eversole, Chair
Gail Mitchell
Dave Simon



Worship Ministry



ALL CHOIR REHEARSALS WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

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

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

The children's choir meets on Wednesdays at 4:45 -5:30pm 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!

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 click on the money sign (\$) and sign up! Please contact the church office if you have questions. **IMMANUEL NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!!**

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

May \$18,042
June \$18,192
July \$25,743

Average Monthly Needed to meet budget

\$58,120.00

Capital Campaign Update



Amount Pledged: \$147,945
Amount Received: \$149,046

Ministry with Community & World

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Year three of the summer lunch program has come to an end--and we served more than 3000 lunches to kids throughout our community. Sack lunches were prepared and delivered to scattered sites across the county - with around 25 daily going to our neighbors at the Bradley Street trailer park. A partnership with Community Compassion Network and First Presbyterian Church has made this all possible along with financial support from Immanuel. This support has been critical since this year's lunch customer numbers have tripled from summer 2018!

Thanks, too, to those Immanuel folks who donated school supplies. More than 80 back to school bags were given to our lunch bunch on Wednesday the 21st -- pencils, pens, notebooks, a water bottle, crayons or markers, and more -- all in a string backpack.

All of us with the summer lunch program are deeply appreciative of Immanuel's support - thank you for helping to feed those among us -Sarah Gilbert

Living Stone Initiatives

Our synod is undertaking and leading "Living Stone Initiatives" that equip us as Christians, congregations and a synod to participate in what St. Paul described as living stones joined together and rising as a holy temple in the Lord. There are multiple opportunities available including 2 upcoming workshops:

Workshop 1 :

September 20-21, 2019 – Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos, MI

Rev Sprang – Stewardship Specialist Training, Part 1 – Friday, 9:30AM-3:45 PM

Dr. Joy Schroder of Trinity Lutheran Seminary – Exodus, Covenant and Wilderness, Friday, 4:00PM-5:30PM and Saturday, 9:00AM – 2:30 PM

Workshop 2

October 11-12, 2019 – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mt. Pleasant, MI

Rev Sprang – Stewardship Specialist Training, Part 2 – Friday, 9:30AM-3:45PM

Dr. Kelly Murphy of Central Michigan University, History & Exile, Friday, 4:00PM-5:30PM and Saturday, 9:00AM-2:30PM

***Please talk with Pr. Dana if you interested. Immanuel is willing to cover your cost to attend this workshop!