



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 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

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 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.**



BEER, BRATS & HYMNS



**Please join us at Hunter's Ale House
on
Friday, October 18th
from
6-9pm
for Brats (including vegetarian),
Beer (or beverage of choice),
and a Hymn Sing!!!**

**Tickets are \$15.00 and are available for
purchase in the narthex on Sundays
or in the office throughout the week.**

A Letter from Pr. Dana....

Dear Friends in Christ,

In a recent sermon I shared, William Willimon, Dean of the Chapel at Duke University, tells a story about a retreat he once held called "Exploring the Christian Faith." It was especially for young people who may know something about Jesus and the Church, but aren't ready to commit to it.

The first night of the retreat he showed a two-hour video which consisted simply of an actor reading the Gospel of Luke. When it was over, the dozen students sat there in stunned silence. Then one said, "It is a great story, a really great story." Another said, "I just can't figure out why all the Christians I know are so boring."

But it was that young man who, at the end of the retreat, came forward for baptism. After a month of instruction, Will baptized him. On the day of the baptism, one of the other members of the retreat group called Will and said, "Dr. Willimon, just to put your mind at ease, I want you to know that I have already gotten a keg of beer for the postbaptismal party."

"A keg of beer?" Will replied. "It never occurred to me to get beer for a baptism."

The student responded, "Why are you always calling us irresponsible? See? You didn't even think about the beer."

Will concluded that that was probably the first baptismal keg party in the history of the Christian church! (William H. Willimon, *Pulpit Resource*, July--September, 1998, p. 44.)

But it is exactly what our Gospel story calls for when someone lost has been found: a party!

God throws a party each and every time you open your hands in repentance, knowing God's grace has found you.

It is one of the reasons why we have communion each week instead of occasionally. It is not just on the high holy days, or the first and third Sunday, but each day, each moment a sinner repents there is joy in heaven. So we feast. We celebrate. We give thanks.

This October, we celebrate with four children who join us at Holy Communion for the first time on October 6 and 13! We celebrate as we bless our animals on October 5 at 3pm. We celebrate as we lift our voices together on October 18 at Beer, Brats, and Hymns! We celebrate as we fill the sanctuary with the sound of brass on Reformation Sunday (October 27, 9:00am)! You who were lost have been found. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Dana Hendershot

Worship Ministry

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on October 27 will be given to Community Compassion Network.

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

Join our Visitation Ministry



Immanuel is starting a new Visitation Ministry! If you are interested in joining, please join us for a meeting on Sunday, October 6th at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us!!!



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!

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

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

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”.



On Sunday, October 20, the Youth Group will meet at the church at 12:30 for a trip to Uncle John’s Cider Mill! We will return by 4pm. We Hope you you will join us for Donuts, Cider and FUN!! Please contact Beth Mundwiler at bmundwiler@gmail.com if you have any questions!



- 1 Sue French
- Cliff Moss
- 3 Sarah Gilbert
- 4 Paul Geisthardt
- Kathy Smith
- 5 Cindy Keller
- 9 Craig Kreiner
- 10 Abby Geisthardt
- 11 Holly Hoffman
- 12 Cheryl Strandskov
- 14 Roxanne Lueder
- Tad Richards
- 16 Dana Mielke
- 17 Eric Podolsky
- 18 Gage Shellenbarger
- 19 Pete LaBlance
- Natalie Douglas
- 23 Patty Jo Bugh
- 24 Gail Caleca
- 28 Pat Podoll

Fall Clean-Up Day

Immanuel will hold a Fall Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 19th from 9am-noon. ALL HELP is welcome and appreciated!!! Please sign up in the narthex. Lunch will be provided when we’re done!

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 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

2018-2019 Spending Plan:
\$343,497

August 2019 Actual Expenditures
\$276,214.46

August 2019 Giving to Date:
\$244,194.39

August 2018 Giving to Date:
\$290,930.35

Capital Campaign Update



Amount Pledged: \$147,945
Amount Received: \$149,480

Ministry with Community & World

PANTRY PATTTER

Thanks to everyone from Immanuel who volunteered at the Pantry last Thursday – some people served as guest hosts, some sorted salvage products, and some served as greeters. Each person made a difference in a guest's morning!

Think about your schedule – do you have ONE HOUR per month that you could share with CCN? We would welcome that ONE HOUR! You could escort guests as they shop, help to restock shelves, organize the warehouse, or many other tasks. That ONE HOUR makes a difference in a neighbor's week...

Questions? See Sarah Gilbert, Peggy Burke, or Rose Prasad or email sagilbert204@gmail.com.

Food for the Pantry comes from both Greater Lansing Food Bank and donations from the community. Sometimes there are products that we don't get from either source such as Hamburger Helper, taco mix and gravy mix packets, and noodle or rice side dish packages. Help us provide those items – a bin will be set up by the Care Store collection area so that you may drop off products such as those listed above. Let's start October with Hamburger Helper – any flavor, any style!



Immanuel will be hosting the ICRH rotating homeless shelter from October 27-November 3. Please go to our website: www.immanuelmp.com/ICRH and click on the link to get to signed up to volunteer and/or to help with food donations! If you have questions regarding the sign-up sheets, please contact Joe Anderson at epistulaejosephi@gmail.com

With your help, we look forward to another successful ICRH season!



Immanuel will host our annual Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, October 17, noon-5:45pm. Encourage family and friends who have never donated blood to give this year. Sign-ups sheets in Narthex or visit redcrossblood.org Hit Enter, then type 48858 (zip code); scroll to Immanuel's blood drive; click to obtain an appointment time. Walk-ins are welcome. Any questions, contact Billie Plouff 317-8271 or 506-8682.