



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 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
The Office will be CLOSED
on Dec 24, 25, 26, 31 & Jan 1

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.



2019 Advent & Christmas Schedule

December 8

9am & 11am- Worship Services

December 15

10am- Children's Christmas Program
Youth Bake Sale

December 20

6pm- Cookies, Cocoa & Carols

December 22

10am- Lessons & Carols Service
5pm- The Longest Night Service

December 24

7pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 29

10am- Worship Service

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Anticipation! Expectation! Hope!

In Advent, we wait with eager expectation and live in "hope." Eager expectation is like

Standing in the dark,
Scanning the horizon,
Leaning forward,
Afraid to blink,
Not wanting to miss a moment,
Waiting for the first sign of dawn.

Knowing that dawn is coming, the expectant watcher doesn't fear the darkness but simply tries to see through it -- watching, waiting, and knowing that the light will come. It's not a watcher who "hopes-so;" it's a watcher who **knows** that light will soon return.

That's a paragraph I shared in my December Gleaner article in 2012. I looked back for it because as I stood on top of the volcano Haleakala (which means house of the sun in Hawaiian) in Maui, I experienced that expectation.



We arrived at the top of the volcano, above 10,000 feet, so early in the morning. It was pitch dark. There we were above the clouds, where the planes fly. It was as if we could touch the stars and reach out to catch the shooting ones. Yet, we were not there for the stars. We knew the sun was going to rise. The light was coming. We had heard it was a magical scene as the sun is being birthed by the volcano crater itself. The anticipation and expectation did not disappoint! It was beautiful and glorious.

This Advent, we wait with eager expectation for the light of Christ to shine in the darkness. We picture the manger as a magical scene with baby Jesus swaddled in cloth. We picture wisemen, shepherds, and animals worshiping the new Messiah. This magical scene of love come down is not just something that happened over 2,000 years ago. Jesus comes to us every day. Christ's light is with us every day.

Advent is a reminder that the mystical love of God is still coming.

In hopeful anticipation,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

Ministry with Each Other

Theological Conversation with Pastor Dana

This discussion group will meet on Thursdays, December 12 & 19 at 11:00 a.m. in the Capital Room.

Please join us!!!

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on December 22 will be given to the Community Compassion Network.

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



Pr. Dana will be out of town
December 1-9 and December 30-January 4.

Decorating for Christmas

On Sunday, December 8 at 12:30pm, we are asking for volunteers to help the Youth decorate the church for 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!!!



December

- Dec 8.....12:30-2pm at church (Christmas decorating)
6:00pm Middle School Christmas Party at Douglas home
- Dec 15.....Bake Sale



- 1 Kathy Wyman
- 6 John Lorand
- 8 Bonnie Schaeffer
Annette Foster
- 10 Lorraine Tubbs
- 12 Ruth Magnell
- 15 Keith Spycher
- 16 Luke Douglas
Laney Douglas
Grace Torgerson
- 18 Syd Smith
- 20 Carter Hoffman
- 21 Diane Clise
- 22 Chuck McCollom
Sandy Warriner
Billie Plouff
- 27 Kip Ferguson
- 28 Emily Little

The Refugee Crisis

Join us for a short video and discussion on Sunday, December 8th in between services in the Fellowship Hall.

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 15th @ 10AM

Rehearsals:

- Music Learned During Children's Choir
- Wednesday, December 11th | 6-7:15PM
- Saturday, December 14th | 9-11:30AM



The youth will be holding a Bake Sale on Sunday, December 15th following the Children's Christmas Program.

All proceeds will go to the Youth Group for their trip next summer.



If you would like to purchase poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship service in memory or in honor of a loved one, please pick up an order form in the Narthex. Order forms and payment should be turned in to the office mailbox NO LATER than Monday, December 9th.

Thank You!

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)



What Is A Care Receiver?

We all experience challenges in life – time when we could benefit from confidential, Christ-centered care and support on a weekly basis. Stephen Ministers at Immanuel can provide a Care Receiver with the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as –

- Loss of a loved one
- Hospitalization
- Separation or divorce
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Spiritual crisis
- Unemployment or job crisis
- A chronic illness
- A terminal illness
- Aging and/or homebound
- Birth, adoption, miscarriage or infertility
- Relocation
- Recovery after an accident or disaster
- Countless other life challenges
- Men will be paired with men; women with women.

If you are in need of care or know someone who does, please contact Pastor Dana.

**Please join us for
Cookies, Cocoa & Carols!!!**



Friday, December 20th at 6pm
in the Fellowship Hall

2019-2020 Church Council

President.....Paul Geisthardt
Vice President.....Beth Mundwiler
Past President.....Natalie Douglas

Council Members: Aubyron Anderson, Chuck Clise, Dan Digmann, Penny Endres, Kip Ferguson, Sarah Gilbert, Jim Hageman, Paul Kruska, Ted Tuma

Treasurer.....Judy Emmons
Financial Secretary.....Paul Kruska
Recording Secretary.....Denise Kaiser

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 Monthly Report (YTD as of October 31, 2019)

Spending Plan 2109-2020
\$360,354

Actual Expenditures
\$25,082.61

2019 Giving to Date
\$22,370.05

2018 October Giving
\$22,912.17

Capital Campaign Update



Pledged: \$147,945
Received: \$156,193

2020 Pledge Card

In the month of November, you received a pledge card in the mail. If you have not already turned in your pledge card, please prayerfully consider your 2019-2020 giving to Immanuel. The stewardship team did the math and if:

- 25 members increased their giving by \$10 a month
- 25 members increased their giving by \$25 a month
- 25 members increased their giving by \$50 a month
- 25 members increased their giving by \$75 a month

-we would be in the black for the 2019-2020 year!
Please prayerfully consider this while filling out your pledge card.

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.

Ministry with the Community & World



Coordinating the Community for Christmas Giving

Christmas Outreach Needs Your Help!

Monetary Donations are Needed:

Please send your checks payable to Christmas Outreach (a 501(c)3) to
Christmas Outreach, P.O. Box 1227, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804

Item Donations are Needed:

The following items must be NEW or gently used and clean. They can be dropped off at
Finch Fieldhouse on December 2, 3, 4 or 5 between 9am and 5pm.

Winter Coats, Hats & Mittens, Boots, Christmas Decorations
Stockings, Books & Linens



Thank you to all of who volunteered their time and/or donated food for our Annual
Thanksgiving Dinner!!! The dinner was a HUGE success!

Also, a special thank you to Harry & Billie Plouff
for their fantastic job at organizing this important event!



Immanuel will host another week of the ICRH
Rotating Homeless Shelter the week of
February 16-22, 2020.

Please be sure to mark your calendars!



Worship Ministry



On December 22 at 10:00 am, we will be lifting praise to God through lessons and carols. Please be sure to sign up for the service if you would like to read a lesson! Starting December 8, we will have the readings and the signup sheets in the Narthex.



This year during Advent, we will be offering a special service to bring light into the lives of those who miss loved ones during the Christmas season and/or for personal reasons don't find the Christmas season joyful. It will be a service with candle lighting, anointing, and healing prayer. We all seek light in the midst of darkness so please join us on Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. for our Longest Night service.