



# The Gleaner

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

January 2020

*The Gleaner is a publication of:*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

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**Office Hours:**  
**Monday-Friday 8am-3pm**

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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.

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**Mission**  
**Joyfully Christian.**  
**Humbly Serving.**  
**Boldly Loving.**



Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

I want to thank you for all the ways you overwhelmingly showered me with God's love this Christmas: hugs, smiles, support, kind gestures, and gifts. I pray all of you had a wonderful Christmas with loved ones and that God showers you, in this New Year, with abundant grace and joyful surprises.

In the fall we began to focus on thankfulness and even put up a thank-full tree where you took time to write your heart's gratitude. A few things on the tree included:

- Family (parents, spouse, children, grandchildren...)
- Friends
- Shelter
- Food and comfort
- Good health
- Pets
- Music
- God (God's Rescue/Heard Prayers)
- Our awesome church (the youth, Stephen Ministry, & dedicated volunteers)

We are thankful for so many things and not just in November, but throughout the year. As we start this new year in 2020 let us all be filled with grateful hearts. Grateful not just for the things we have, but also for who we are. Grateful not just for those in our lives, but those we have yet to meet. Grateful not just for our church, but God's amazing grace that is infused in churches throughout the world. This year, let us explode open with gratitude so that the darkness turns into light.

In the light of Christ,  
Pastor Dana Hendershot

# *A Letter from the Director of Faith Formation....*

Dear Immanuel family,

Everybody's life gets a little busier at the end of the year as we come to the end of school semesters and experience holiday seasons. The same is true in the world of ministry. Now that I have a few moments where things have quieted down I would like to reflect on a few recent moments of fun that we had at church that happened in the middle of this busy and crazy time of year!

During the fall school semester Claire and I stumbled upon a great group of ladies via Greek InterVarsity. In particular, Madeleine Welch, showed interest in serving in the nursery. Madeleine has helped us bring in many college students - many from her sorority, Sigma Sigma Sigma - to keep the nursery well staffed so we can better serve families at Immanuel. It has been a joy working with these students!

Some of the middle school students have found it easier to come right over after school on Wednesdays rather than go home and then come back to church for choir, Worship Wednesday, and bells practice. I have creatively started to call this time [drumroll please...] "Middle School Hangout". I know, super creative. I am guessing the name will evolve and grow as does the group of students that are a part of this activity. We actually started by having them move a bunch of chairs. These students were very helpful, but I could see that they already have a busy life and heavy workload. After the chair moving project was complete, we changed this after school time into snacks and fun activities such as marshmallow & toothpick towers, calming jars (made with water & glitter glue in mason jars), funny coloring books, and chipboard 3D puzzles. It has been a lot of fun to see the creative side of these students and learn more about them!

Our children and youth did a fantastic job with this year's children's Christmas program, unFrozen. Thanks to Mike Piatek-Jimenez, we have a great recording with multiple video angles and really good audio! It is currently posted on the church Facebook page. The program was a little different this year as we tried to weave it completely in with the entire church service. I don't want to out any of the kids, but I know a few of them chose to step outside of their comfort zones and take on some bigger parts. I am really proud of them for doing that! Thank you to all of our actors, actresses, and adult helpers!

I'm looking forward to what 2020 has to offer. I will be giving the sermon on January 5th and we start Worship Wednesday on January 8th. I am sure there will be a lot more fun/ learning/ growing/ evolving moments to talk about!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Craig Torgerson  
Director of Faith Formation



# Ministry with Each Other

## 2019 Giving Statements

Your 2019 giving statements will be emailed this year. If we do not have an email on file for you and you would still like a hard copy of your statement, please let Andrea ([office@immanuelmp.com](mailto:office@immanuelmp.com)) know.

## 2020 Pledge Cards

If you have not already turned in your pledge card, please prayerfully consider your 2020 giving to Immanuel. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex. Thank you to the 44 families who have taken the time to fill them out!

## 2020 Offering Envelopes

2020 Offering Envelopes are located in baskets in the Narthex. Even those of you who choose to do online giving have a small packet of envelopes for times of "special" giving. Please be sure to take yours home!

## Christmas UN-decorating

On Sunday, January 5 at 12:30pm, we are asking for volunteers to help the Youth as they UN-decorate the church from the Christmas season. Please come lend us a hand, if you are able!



- 10 Kevin Sullivan
- 13 Karl Mikko  
Dan Hoffman
- 14 Debi Mikko  
Jim Erickson  
Bill Edmondson
- 15 Judy Ramsower
- 16 Danielle Sullivan
- 27 Dave Wyman
- 28 John Warriner  
Judy Emmons  
Joel Jurick
- 29 Bill Jensen



## Upcoming Events:

- Middle School Ice Skating Event- TBA (January)
- Spring Hill Winter Retreat- March 6-8

## (Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

### Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

This discussion group will resume on  
Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
at 11am in the Capital Room.



Thank you to all of the children, as well as the adults,  
who helped with this year's Children's Christmas  
Program, "Unfrozen".  
We hope the congregation enjoyed the program  
and had a Christmas that warmed your hearts!

### From the Staff....

The staff of Immanuel  
would like to thank you for  
the very generous Christmas  
gifts that were given to us  
from the congregation! We  
very much appreciate it and  
even more so, appreciate  
YOU!

Blessings to all of you. We  
wish you all a very happy  
and healthy New Year!

-Pr. Dana, Andrea, Craig,  
Mernie, Bill, Paul & Judy



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 (as of November 30, 2019)

Spending Plan 2019-2020: \$360,354  
Actual Expenditures: \$48,649.08  
Giving to Date: \$41,994.90

### Interested in joining the Trustees?

The Trustees at Immanuel are responsible for the care and maintenance of the building and grounds at the church. The Trustees meet on the first Monday of the month at **1:00pm**. (Please note this is a NEW meeting time!)

## 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.

### 2019-2020 Church Council

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

**Council Members:** Aubyrton 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



### Reminder:

The church office will be closed when Mt. Pleasant Schools are closed due to inclement weather.

# Ministry with Community & World

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

### Red Cross Blood Drives

Jan 14 (Tuesday) Sacred Heart Parish 12noon- 5:45pm

Jan 21 (Tuesday) Rosebush Presbyterian 12noon= 5:45pm

### Strickler Non-Profit Center

Help is needed at the Food Pantry, Care Store & Clothing, Inc.

Stop in at 1114 W. High, Mt. Pleasant if you are interested in volunteering.

### Care Store NEEDS:

ILC is an affiliated site for the collection of items not available for persons using Bridge cards.

Items needed: soap, detergent, paper products, cleaning supplies, and many more.

(Collection site, as well as a list of potentially needed items is available outside of Craig's office.)

On your weekly shopping trip, please consider purchasing an item or two and drop it off at church. Thank You!

## Immanuel's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

At Immanuel Lutheran's 33rd Thanksgiving Dinner, over 200 meals were served. Thanks to our congregation and others, turkeys were cooked and side dishes, drinks, and desserts prepared to make delicious meals for our guests. Over 50 volunteers worked and served, also providing fellowship for all. There are too many generous people to mention, but THANK YOU, Immanuel family, for making this special day happen!

*"How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it."  
-George Elliston*

### The Noisy Offering

This month, the Noisy Offering will be collected on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will be given to the Foster Closet.

For your convenience, a Noisy Offering collection jar is located in the narthex throughout the month.



Our second and final week, for this winter, housing the homeless in Isabella County is the week of February 16-23, 2020. We will be using the online sign up again so please watch for the link. We will also have an opportunity for those who do not use computers to sign up after worship in the Narthex.

### 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!!!