



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 2020

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.



Surprises? Many of us like those surprises that bring us joy and laughter, but I'd bet that most of us would rather avoid those less happy surprises.

A major surprise happened to our mid-Michigan neighbors not long ago. US Marble, a Remus manufacturer, suddenly closed its doors, laying off its entire workforce. Not only did the employees receive no notice, but they also received no paychecks. Their health insurance was abruptly cancelled and no back pay was paid out.

For this reason, Church Council has chosen to use our Lenten offering gifts to support the food pantries in the Remus area. Since many of US Marble's employees live in that area, those pantries are feeling the effects of extra guests. We can help those pantries to provide food for our neighbors.

A Letter from Pr. Dana....

Friends in Christ,

This month I felt inspired to share with you a list of things that are happening around Immanuel that you may not be aware is happening. We spend a lot of time advertising worship, bible studies, and serving opportunities that the nuts and bolts can be drowned out unless you're in a leadership role.

- We installed Ring Video Doorbell's at our main entrances.
- Rev. David Sprang's office (Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop) was moved to the room that was our chapel, for the next 6 years. The first classroom has been transformed into a room that can be used in the same manner as the chapel.
- We replaced an old furnace that died (the one that heats the classrooms & hallway).
- We finally fixed the door on the Northside by the kitchen (it closes & locks).
- We learned there was an online giving mishap. There were people who thought they were giving, but money was not being deducted from their accounts. This means we were not as in the red as we thought at the end of our budget year. This is very good news!
- We removed the large bulletin board across from the office because it was no longer serving as it was intended when it was installed.
- We will soon replace all the outdoor lighting to make our parking lot safe again.
- We will straighten the light pole in the parking lot on the Northside.
- We will be putting in a spot light to shine on the cross in the front of the church by the memorial garden.
- The youth room will be completed.
- We bought 2 fiber frames that will be placed by both drives to highlight our special events and activities.
- We will be encouraging the congregation to start using an app, Church Center, that will allow you to engage: groups (e.g. the Lenten study), events you will be able to view and register (e.g. VBS, Spring Hill, mission trips), check-ins for children's events, & online giving.
- We have been hosting and supporting the Bible Study leaders for CMU's Greek IV in member's homes.
- We are engaging our college students that are not in Mt. Pleasant with the Lenten Study via Zoom (or maybe I should just say online chatting...)
- We successfully completed our last week of hosting the homeless for this season!
- We will be hosting the Synod Assembly worship at Immanuel on Friday, May 15, celebrating 50 years of women's ordination.

Please give thanks to all the leaders of Immanuel when you see them! There are a lot of things happening each week around Immanuel thanks to all the dedicated volunteers, your generous offerings, and heart for mission and ministry.

Giving thanks to God for you!

Pastor Dana Hendershot

Lent at Immanuel

IT IS FINISHED

2020 LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES
MARCH 1ST - APRIL 11TH

SUNDAY @ 1:00 PM
LED BY NICOLE FERGUSON (CHILDCARE PROVIDED)

MONDAY @ 6:30 PM
LED BY PAUL & CHERYL GEISTHARDT

THURSDAY @ 11:00 AM
LED BY REV. DANA HENDERSHOT

SATURDAY @ 3:00 PM
LED BY CINDY HOPKIINS

This Lent, we are offering a variety of times throughout each week to join in a small group discussion. You pick the date and time from below that works for you. You can switch which you attend from week to week. If none of them work, you can watch them at home through RightNow Media (details at immanuelmp.com/lent).

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

A LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE
THURSDAYS @ 5:30 PM
MARCH 5 - APRIL 2



Easter Flowers

If you would like to order Easter flowers for the altar, please pick up an order form in the Narthex! They will be available on March 15th and will be due by March 29th.

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

A little over a month ago Pastor Dana and I sat down to look where my time is spent at work. We realized there was a lot to do and not enough time. Some activities needed to be cut or be put on hold. One item that we have been looking at with the Ministry with Each Other committee is creating a partnership program for our college students. Our hope is to help connect them to our congregation and give them support as a home away from home. I understood why this was not able to be a current priority but I was still bummed. It bugged me that I wasn't able to give students the time that I felt that they deserved. I figured if I could get some other projects done at church I could free up the time to put more time back on campus. God had other plans.

At the end of last semester Mitchell Anderson asked me to be part of the L.E.A.F. program at CMU. Basically, for one of his classes, he would be my personal trainer for two workout sessions per week. The price of free is good and so is staying in shape so I took him up on it!

Some of you may know that Claire and I met in a group called Greek InterVarsity when we were in college. Greek IV helps start and cultivate Bible studies in fraternity and sorority houses. Recently we were talking with Emmy Montgomery, who is the Greek IV staff person for the CMU and Alma campuses. We asked how things were going and what the current needs were. She said that she was trying to get the core team (these are the men and women who lead the Bible studies in their fraternity and sorority houses) to bond but was having some trouble doing so. Since then these students have been welcomed into homes of people in our congregation where they have been able to rest, relax, and bond together. We plan to continue to do this monthly during the school year.

Our college interns, Madeleine Welch and Joseph Monetta, are now working with us for ten hours per week. One of Madeleine's sorority sisters, Ariana, has been working with our kids in the nursery on Wednesday evenings. Ariana showed interest in doing more and has helped us restart our Friday evening date nights that people enjoyed during this past summer. She has been doing a wonderful job serving our families and has brought in even more college students to help support this program.

These, and many other recent stories of connecting with college students, seemed to culminate at our 6PM Ash Wednesday service when many of us noticed that there were quite a few college folks that joined us at church.

I guess what campus ministry really needed was for me to give God the space to work. It's not even that He completely moved me aside. I was still able to be a part of all of these awesome moments. I just needed the reminder to stop trying so hard and to let Him lead.

It is perfect timing to be moving into the Lenten season. It gives me the opportunity to continue to refocus and reprioritize. Working hard and doing a lot is being a good steward of my time and resources but remembering to let God increase and myself decrease is also an important piece of doing ministry. I am thankful to be a part of what God has going on in our congregation and on campus.

TGBTG,

Craig Torgerson
Director of Faith Formation



Mitchell Anderson was working at the Fabiano/ Emmons/ Woldt workout center on the campus of CMU during our Ash Wednesday service so we did "church" there.

Ministry with Each Other

Summer Camp July 19th-24th



schedule

Register on-line at
www.elcalivingwater.com

	First Timers	Discoverers	Challengers	Confirmation	Servant Hearts	Counselor-In-Training	Bridge Builders	MYLA	Abundant Life
WEEK 1 • June 14-19, 2020	●	●	●	●	●	●			
WEEK 2 • June 21-26, 2020		●	●	●	●				
WEEK 3 • June 29 - July 3, 2020									●
WEEK 4 • July 5-10, 2020		●	●	●	●				
WEEK 5 • July 12-17, 2020 Episcopal*		●	●	●	●				
WEEK 6 • July 19-24, 2020 Bridge Builders begins July 18th	●	●	●	●			●		
WEEK 7 • July 27 - August 1, 2020								●	
WEEK 8 • August 3-7, 2020	Booked for Samaritas Foster Care Program								
WEEK 9 • August 7-11, 2020	Booked for Samaritas Family Camp Program								

* Episcopal formation team on site. All are welcome to register week 5 (Lutheran, Episcopalian, etc).

rates

Register on-line at
www.elcalivingwater.com

SAVE \$35! Register by February 28 to receive the early bird rate and save \$35! No deposit necessary!

	Regular Rate	Early Bird Rate
First Timers • For campers grades 1-3	\$290	\$255
Discoverers • For campers grades 3-6	\$420	\$385
Challengers • For campers grades 6-8	\$415	\$380
Confirmation • For campers grades 6-8	\$415	\$380
Servant Hearts • For campers grades 8-12	\$460	\$425
Counselor-In-Training • For campers grades 10-12	\$415	\$380
Bridge Builders • For campers grades 9-12	\$415	\$380
MYLA • For campers ages 13-16	\$450	\$450
Abundant Life • For adults with developmental disabilities	\$380	\$380

Join us for a week of summer camp with Living Waters Ministries in New Era, MI! Check out elcalivingwater.com to see all of the summer fun and options they have to offer. The week we are highlighting at Immanuel is Week 6 - July 19th-24th. Beth Mundwiler and the Bridge Builder team will be back that week, our confirmation students decided they had so much fun last summer that they want to go back for another round, and there is a "First Timers" camp that is offered that week. If you have any questions about how Immanuel is participating with summer camp please email craig@immanuelmp.com

Ready to learn more about camp? Check out elcalivingwater.com

(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School

July 13th-17th



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

Registration for participants and volunteers is now open. Go to immanuelmp.com/vbs to get registered today!



- 2 Joann Johnson
- 3 Sam Staples
- 4 Barb Dunn
- 7 Michael Caleca
Olivia Geisthardt
- 8 Susan Shock
- 9 Janice Fox
- 12 Katherine Brown
- 14 Joann Golden
- 15 Cil Lorand
- 16 Chris Schuster
- 21 Carl Graef
- 22 Doug Hill
- 25 Madeline Ebert
Ann Ferguson
- 26 Sue Keilitz
- 27 Christine Ruelle
Laura Richards
- 28 Craig Torgerson
Lacey Connor

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)



Date nights were designed for couples to be able to drop off their kids and spend some time together; however, feel free to use this as an opportunity to grocery shop (without extra fruit snacks finding their way into the cart), look for that wall paint at the hardware store (there are sooo many choices!), or even go back home to take an uninterrupted nap. The time is yours!

Children up to 10 years of age are welcome. There is a suggested donation (cash only) of \$5/child to help cover costs. Please register your child(ren) through the "Church Center" app on your phone or go to immanuelmp.churchcenter.com

Your children will be cared for by wonderful volunteers who have been interviewed and background checked. Please contact Craig if you have any questions at craig@immanuelmp.com

If you have any questions please email craig@immanuelmp.com.

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 December 31, 2019)

Spending Plan 2019-2020: \$345,354
Actual Expenditures: \$110,080.89
Giving to Date: \$116,193.39



**Daylight Savings ends on March 8th.
Remember to set your clocks ahead one
hour!!!**

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

TreasurerJudy Emmons

Financial Secretary.....Paul Kruska

Recording Secretary.....Denise Kaiser

Ministry with Community & World

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

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!



Thank you to all who donated food and/or volunteered their time as we hosted our second and final week of the homeless shelter for the season!



The Noisy Offering

This month, the Noisy Offering will be collected on Sunday, March 22. 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.

You are invited to attend a baby shower for Miranda Dominguez, member of Immanuel, on Sunday, March 15th at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Please RSVP if you are able to attend
Miranda 989-482-5001
or
Gail 989-751-0689
(Registered at Target, Walmart & Amazon.com)

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!!!