



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 2020

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.



Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 20
9am on Facebook and 10:15am on YouTube

ZOOM Coffee Fellowship

Sunday, December 20
Following Lessons & Carols at 11:30am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82180386064?pwd=Z1YwSUpaZi80NTQwLzVuOXAzUWhyZz09>

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24
5pm on Facebook and YouTube
(watch at your convenience)

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Are you aware that Covenant Hospital in Saginaw is a Lutheran hospital? The head of the chaplain program is a rostered leader in the ELCA and has been joining us on a clergy zoom every Tuesday morning since the pandemic hit. It has been eye opening to hear some of her stories and to carry in prayer the staff who have not had a break from COVID 19 since March. The numbers have fluctuated, but the COVID ICU has remained full the whole time. As you may have heard on the news, Covenant Hospital recently had the most COVID patients in the whole state.

This is of course heart-breaking. In October, I visited a friend in Buffalo, NY after her mother had died. She and her husband are nurses and I asked, "What can we really do for those who know the COVID fatigue on a whole different level?" It seemed to me that giving food simply wasn't enough. They explained to me that food makes all the difference. However, they don't have time to eat a meal. They need a treat they can eat on the run between patients and can throw in a pocket if necessary.

I began to talk with the other clergy on Tuesday mornings and starting December 8, the congregations in our conference will provide snacks for the day and night shift workers at the hospital every Tuesday. We will include encouraging words and notes of love. I just finished placing the order that will be delivered from Immanuel to the hospital workers on December 8: peanuts, Dove candies, and cookies (all on the highly recommended list)!

This Advent, this Christmas season, we get to be "making spirits bright." Helping our brothers and sisters at Covenant Hospital is just one of many ways we will continue to be church in the world! Each week in Advent we light another candle on the wreath and the light gets brighter in anticipation for Christ. In celebration of Christ's glorious light that the darkness cannot overcome, how you will be making spirits bright this season?

The light of Christ is yours! Shine brightly.

In hopeful anticipation,

Pastor Dana Hendershot



Ministry with Each Other

Theological Conversation with Pastor Dana

This discussion group will meet on Thursdays,
December 10 & 17 via ZOOM.

Please join us!!!

Adventus

Please join us for a 35 minute film with a handful of theologians and practitioners offering their thoughts on Advent, a season of being remade in the dark.

This was created by
The Work of the People
(theworkofthepeople.com)

Check out the website for details or
here is the link to the video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yvitorcc9qq57aq/AAD8KEjZxlvAGT3xtB2c7vrJa?dl=0>

Pr. Dana needs a picture/video of YOU!!



Pastor is working on her Christmas Eve service and would like for every member or family to record a quick video (or picture) of themselves by candlelight. She asks that you please hold your camera horizontally while doing so.

Please send these by December 18th to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/boQer3Fn3ugK4jtrzUyY>



- 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



(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)

We give thanks!!!

So many from our church family contributed to making our 34th Thanksgiving Dinner a wonderful success! We served 260 meals drive through style. We thank you for your hard work and generous hearts! There are too many to thank, but know we are grateful and blessed to be part of a caring community. A special thank you to Andrea Redmond, Craig Torgerson, Dan and Jan Eversole for working their magic. We could not have done this without you.

In Christ,
Harry & Billie Plouff

ATTENTION ALL CHOIR SINGERS (AND INTERESTED SINGERS)

We are looking to put together a Virtual Choir to perform "Joy to the World" for the Christmas Eve Service and WE NEED VOICES! If you have sung in choir or want to dip your toes in singing in a choir, we need you! Here are the details:

What is a virtual choir? - In these times of COVID, group activities turn into disease spreading events, especially where singing (breathing deeply and exhaling with force) is concerned. A virtual choir is a video presentation of choir members - each videoed singing individually - combined together into a choir sound.

What will I need to do? - You will need to first practice what you are going to sing. There will be music tracks available with the instrumental music and a specific singing part (Soprano, alto, tenor, bass) that you choose and that you will follow along with for your recording. There will be sheet music as well to download and use. Practice along with your selected part until you've got it down and then move to recording it. And don't worry - if you want to do melody all the way through that is fine (but parts are appreciated)! Once you have your recording, upload it to the site and you're done!

What will I need for this? - You will need something to record your performance with (video and sound) - a smartphone/tablet is just fine. You will also need something to play the music track while you are recording your performance along with it. And - VERY IMPORTANT - you will need headphones or earbuds so that the ONLY thing that you are recording is your voice. If you play the music backing track such that it is included in your voice recording, when we go to combine all the audio performances the extra music tracks muddy the whole soundtrack.

When is this happening? - If you are interested, Monday December 14 you will receive an email notice telling you where you can download the music and backing tracks. There will be additional pointers and guides for making your recordings to download as well. WE WILL NEED YOUR PERFORMANCE RECORDED AND UPLOADED BY END OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th.

What do I need to do right now? - **If you are interested, or if you have any questions, please email Bill Gallaher at gallaher4bess@charter.net.**

Spread some joy this Christmas season with music!

Business Ministry

The Trustees would like to say THANK YOU
to all who donated Christmas lights and extension cords
and also Thanks to all who came out to help light up Immanuel's lawn!!!

Be sure to drive by and check it out!!

In-Kind Donations

If you have an in-kind donation that you've made to Immanuel- such as items purchased or gas used- and would like to use this as a deduction on your taxes, please email Paul Kruska with this information no later than December 31 so that he may include it on your annual giving statement.

You will need to turn in receipts to his mailbox.
pkruska@yahoo.com

2020-2021 Church Council

President.....Beth Mundwiler
Vice President.....Ted Tuma
Past President.....Paul Geisthardt

Council Members: Chuck Clise, Dan Digmann, Penny Endres, Kip Ferguson, Sarah Gilbert, Jim Hageman, Mark Strandskov

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

2021 Stewardship Campaign

A couple of weeks ago, you should have received an email regarding our online stewardship campaign for the upcoming year. In case you've missed it, here is a link to give your 2021 pledge to Immanuel:

<http://immanuelmp.com/pledge/>

Please email Andrea if you have any further questions. Thank You!

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.