



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 2021

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

320 S. Bradley St.
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

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Email: office@immanuelmp.com

Website: immanuelmp.com

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm

**The office will be closed
December 24, 27, 30 & 31**

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.



Sunday, December 12 - 10:00 am (Children's Program)

Sunday, December 19- 10:00 am (Lessons & Carols)

Friday, December 24- 7:00pm (Christmas Eve)

Sunday, December 26 - 10:00 am

Sunday, January 2 - 10:00 am

***We will return to holding 9:00 & 11:00 Sunday services
(both in-person and online)
on January 9th, 2022**

A Letter from Pastor Dana....

Friends in Christ,

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. This month because of a number of conversations I have had I was inspired to share this poem by Sarah Are Speed. May her words remind you God is here! Immanuel, with us.

*We are raw nerves, exposed and tender.
We are weary bones, hunched and fragile.
We are silent prayers, lips saying your name.
We are wedding rings we can't take off, even though time has passed.
We are the same pew, but it feels different now.
We are a brave face when we have to be strong.
We are tears in the shower when grief roars its head.
We are setting the table, but there are empty seats.
We are stuck in the swell, caught in the storm.
We are moving on, caught in our guilt.
We are okay some days, but some days we're not.
We are familiar with the night, we know it by name.
We are night-walkers, dream-makers, star-chasers.
We are close to home, but home has changed.
We are close to the surface, but the waters are rising.
We are all of this, plus everything else, and we are here.
We are here.
Grief is here.
God is here.
The night is here.
And all of this is true,
and we are not alone.
Take my hand.
Take these words.
Let them be your life raft.
Let this be the longest night,
and let it be
whatever you need it to be.
We are here.
Grief is here.
God is here.
Take what you need.
Amen.*



May peace be with you at Christmas and always,
-Pr. Dana

Worship Ministry



Poinsettia Order forms

If you would like to order a poinsettia for our Christmas Eve service, order forms are available in the narthex. Please turn your order form and payment into the office no later than Sunday, Dec. 19th.

Adult Forum on Sunday mornings between services

Led by Sue Bergeson

We will be doing a video series titled, "Living the Questions."

Invitation to Journey

Dec. 5- Lives of Jesus

Dec. 12- A passion for Christ- Paul

Dec. 19- Out into the world: challenges facing Christians

Dec. 26- no forum

Jan. 2- no forum

Jan. 9- An exploration of John Dominic Crossan's four questions from session 3 as to a way to start the new year

Altar Flowers



Please sign up in the Narthex if you'd like to purchase flowers for the altar. The cost is \$45.00 (Please return vase)



The Immanuel Virtual Choir Needs YOU for Christmas!

Interested in singing but not sure you want to be around others?
Maybe just want to try singing? This is for YOU!

The Virtual Choir is singing "What Child Is This?" for the Christmas Eve Service and needs all voices! We will make the sheet music and the vocal backing tracks available for download. All you need is something to play the tracks on, some earbuds and a phone/camera to record you.

Questions? Interested? Email Bill Gallaher at gallaher4bess@charter.com
or text me at (989) 330-1561

Ministry with Each Other

Exegetical Happy Hour

Tuesday, December 7th &
Tuesday, January 4th
4:30-6:00pm
Cheers Neighborhood Grill

Exegesis is a Greek word defined as, “a critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially a religious text. Traditionally the term was used primarily for work with the Bible.”

We'll gather together the first Tuesday of each month and read through the scripture for the month. We'll discuss our own interpretations and experiences with the scripture-all while enjoying a Happy Hour together! You can come and go as your schedule allows. Consider it an exegetical open house.

I hope you will join us!

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

Thursdays at 11am

(We're going hybrid – offering in-person and online – the link to join via zoom is on the website) This month, we will NOT meet on December 23 or December 30.

If you would like to occasionally receive scripture/inspirational texts from Pastor Dana, please text “Trinity” to 474747 to sign up.



- 1 Kathy Wyman
- 6 John Lorand
- 8 Annette Foster
- 10 Lorraine Tubbs
- 12 Ruth Magnell
- 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

Dear Immanuel family,
My family and I deeply appreciate all the heartfelt messages we received expressing sympathy and love, as we mourn the loss of Hans Fetting.

Sincerely,
Dorothy, Karl & Katherine



(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?

**Going through a tough time---emotionally or spiritually? Struggling with a crisis in life?
Or simply feeling down?**

Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a member of our congregation who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn more, talk with Pastor Dana, Chris Schuster, Fred Schuster, or Gail Mitchell.



Children & Youth



Happy Advent,

Hope you are all doing well as we prepare for the coming of our CHRISTmas!! Here are dates to put on your calendar.

Saturday, December 11th at 1-3pm we will be practicing for the Christmas Program. I will also be setting up for the bake sale.

Sunday, December 12th 10 am service- Christmas Program
Bake sale will happen after the service. All items should be put on plates or packaged for people to buy. If you have any questions please let me know.

3-5pm White Elephant Gift Christmas party. Find something slightly used from home, wrap it and bring it for fun and games.

January 9- 3-5pm all are welcome to undecorate the church
2pm- ELCA Youth Gathering meeting for all attending Minneapolis this summer

January 23 - 3-5 youth group

January 28-30 - Spring Hill Winter Retreat *Cost \$155*

Please let me know if you have any questions and I'm looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season with you all!!

Beth



Youth Bake Sale
Sunday, December 12
following Christmas Program

*all proceeds will help our youth
get to the ELCA Gathering this summer

Ministry with Community & World



Did you know that Immanuel has a Medical Loan Closet???

For years, Immanuel has stored medical equipment in out in our pole barn....items such as canes, walkers, crutches, commodes, wheelchairs and shower seats.

If you or someone you know ever needs to borrow one of these items, please contact the church office and we'll see if we can help!

On the other hand, if you or someone you know just had surgery or an injury and acquired one of these items through your insurance carrier or elsewhere and would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to Immanuel and we'll be sure to pass them on to the next person who might be in need.

Please note that we cannot accept any type of electrical equipment, medications or disposable items, such as oxygen tubing or syringes etc.



Immanuel will host the ICRH rotating homeless shelter from February 6-13th.

We will, again, need volunteers to help us make this happen!

Watch for sign-ups coming in January!

The Care Store

is always in need of household items!
When you buy one for your home, consider buying one for someone in need. Place these items on the shelf in the hallway by the office and we'll get them delivered to those who need them.

Christmas Outreach

On December 9, 10 & 11, Christmas Outreach will hold their Distribution dates at the Campus Life Bldg. on West High St. to many families in need.

Volunteers for escorting are still needed on these dates.

Please visit their Facebook page Christmas Outreach of Isabella County if you are able to come help out!

Business Ministry

Immanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Funds

Recognizing that some members of Immanuel might desire to leave a Legacy Gift so that our Church can continue its outreach, Immanuel Lutheran Church has two Endowment Funds you may choose, a Mission Endowment and a Church Endowment.

This article will focus on the Church Endowment Fund. Why an Immanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund? The ILC Endowment Fund was created to supplement:

- Maintenance of our church building and property
- Capital Improvements
- Contributions to operating expenses if needed
- Property loss exceeding insurance limitations
- Expansion
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- Spiritual, emotional and compassionate needs of our worshiping community
- Special Programming and Staffing needs
- Remodeling

A principal balance of \$50,000 is required before this fund can begin to use earnings to fund needs listed above. The balance is currently \$47774.00.

How Can I Help?

Remember the Endowment Fund When you do your personal planning.

Consider a special occasion gift. Perhaps a milestone, a birthday or inheritance will provide an occasion to remember the Endowment Fund.

You may consider a memorial gift or remembrance. This is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one.

Join others who have made a thoughtful decision to include the church in their financial planning and when considering their Will & Testament.

Want more information or have questions? Contact a member of the Endowment Committee or Pastor Dana.

Endowment Committee Members:

Dave and Nancy Simon

Dan and Jan Eversole

Bill and Kathy Gallaher

Dave and Sue Keilitz

Paul and Cheryl Geisthardt

Chuck and Barb McCollom

Kathleen Marshall

Penny Endres

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.

Tax Break for Contributions –people over 70 years-old

If you are over 72 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.

Budget Year End- October 2021

Spending Plan 2020-2021: \$379,162

Actual Expenditures: \$21,879

Giving to Date: \$25,160

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 _____