



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 2022

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Monday-Friday 9am-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.

Mission
Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.



Effective Sunday, February 6, 2022
Immanuel will offer ONE in-person
worship service on Sundays at 10am!!

(This will also be livestreamed for
those of you joining us online.)

Please be sure to mark your calendars!

A Letter from Pr. Dana....

Friends in Christ,

In 2006, Church Council agreed to take out a loan of \$55,000 from our Mission Endowment Fund. It was originally a three-year note at 3% APR. At the time the congregation was in financial strain, and 3% was a great interest rate! The loan paid for a refresh of the carpet, new paint throughout the building, and other minor updates to evolve with the times. These funds paid for our original projection system and the roll-down projection screen we used until the installation of TVs in 2017.

I spoke with the chair of the Mission Endowment Committee, Dave Simon, and asked for more loan details. I was surprised to learn how gracious the Mission Endowment Fund has been with Immanuel over the years. There were times we missed payments. There were times when Church Council decided to change the payment amount without communicating directly with the endowment team. Around 2008-2009, a 3% APR shifted into a quality investment; this means that Church Council was no longer in a hurry to pay off the loan because that 3% was going towards Mission Endowment!

All that being said, I am super excited to announce: We have paid off the loan! **Immanuel Lutheran Church is officially debt free.** However, there are many other congregations struggling right now, discussing using their endowed funds for daily bills. So, while I am excited and want to jump for joy, I also recognize that we too have been in financial trouble. As we celebrate that we have paid off our debt, let's keep congregations that are financially strained in our prayers.

There are many times lately when I look out at the few people who attend Sunday morning service and feel like we'll never bounce back from this pandemic. Then, I look up at that camera that is streaming the service and feel your presence. I have heard your stories and the fear that many of you experienced during the financial strain of the early 2000's. You thought we might never bounce back, but we have! Thanks be to God! Now, we have a different challenge. But we know that because God is in charge and not us, we will bounce back again. It may look different, but the Spirit will always keep the church alive. We will forever and always be who God wants this church body to be. Let's continue to listen to God!

I'm excited to see what God has in store for us and to know that each of you want to be a part of it!

In Christ,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

This group meets on Thursdays at 11am
via ZOOM.
Please join us!

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



Upcoming Lenten Opportunities

Please watch your email for updates as Lent draws closer.

Weekly Lenten Prayer Stations

Those who wish to use the prayer stations without crowds can come and use them at any time. For those who wish to see some familiar faces as we gather to pray, Pastor Dana will be at the church Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m.

Lenten virtual study

Pastor is researching options it will either be an online video study or a book study.



(Ministry with Each Other, Continued)



Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?

**Going through a tough time--
emotionally or spiritually?
Struggling with a crisis 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.



- 1 Judy Smith
Diane Thomas
- 4 Ted Lueder
- 9 Linda Mellinger
- 12 Kathy Gallaher
- 19 Chuck Clise
- 19 Mark Heinrich
- 20 Roger Gilbert
- 21 Emma Heinrich
- 22 Ed Berthold
- 23 Bonnie Berthold
Bill Gallaher
- 24 Allen Shock

2022 Offering Envelopes

are located in the narthex.
Please be sure to take yours
home with you.
Please contact the office
if you need your mailed to 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 _____

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 December 31, 2021

Spending Plan 2021-2022: \$379,162

Actual Expenditures: \$73,304

Giving-To-Date: \$94,400

Last year comparison:

December 31, 2020

Actual Expenditures: \$72,261.94

Giving To Date: \$82,445.71

2021 Giving Statements

Your 2021 Giving statements have been emailed. If we do not have an email on file for you, we sent them via snail-mail.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

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.

2021-2022 Church Council

President.....Ted Tuma

Vice President.....Sarah Gilbert

Past President.....Beth Mundwiler

Council Members:

Natalie Douglas, Penny Endres, Kip Ferguson,
Gabe Goodrich, Jim Hageman, Rose Prasad, Mark
Strandskov

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



Our second and final week, for this winter, housing the homeless in Isabella County is the week of February 6-13. Please sign up at the following link if you are able to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508044ba8a92fa1f58-immanuel5>

The Care Store

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

~1 John 3:18

Instead of giving something up for Lent this year, why not take something on?
The shelves at church for The Care Store are looking bare!

Please consider giving one item per day for the forty days of Lent.
Let's help those in our community who most need help!