



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 2022

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.



A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Friends in Christ,

I was going to sit down today and write this letter about all the opportunities the church is offering this Lent, but I find that a bit more difficult as we watch Russia invading Ukraine. I see the images of the people hiding out in the subways. They have been experiencing the pandemic as we have and now it's not a virus- it is people hurting people. Why? Power? Greed? Entitlement? Tradition?

I don't imagine it is to be life-giving to a neighboring country. It is scary. It hurts. So, we pray. And as I preached on Feb. 13, we imagine it! Jesus' words, actions and teachings help us to imagine a new way. There's something powerful about helping people create a new space to imagine differently. To imagine a world that they cannot yet see.

This is liberation work!

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet, come to believe! (John 20:29)

Imagine it:

- Everyone has enough food, and no one has too much
- Everyone has shelter and a safe place to call home
- The earth's resources are honored, respected and held as sacred
- Everyone gives generously
- Every building and space is assessable and no matter your ability, you always feel welcome and safe
- Every mode of transportation is assessable
- Anyone in need of Healthcare can obtain it with no barrier
- Mental Illness is no more
- Gender diversity and sexual orientation are qualities to embrace and celebrate
- We truly see each other's racial differences and honor the beauty in all of them
- Everyone has time to rest
- We don't use up the earth's resources to create ways to hurt one another
- We don't need helping agencies because neighbors help neighbors
- Domesticated animals all have homes and loving caretakers.
- Our non-human relatives (animals, trees, sweet grass, rocks, rivers, oceans) are provided the environment that allow them to thrive.
- We let go of our egos and realize we are all connected
- All feel loved.

Jesus, help us to see it. Believe it.
Pastor Dana Hendershot



Lent at Immanuel



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. The prayer stations will change every Wednesday.



If you would like to participate in a Lenten Study, we have two options for you to consider on the website: <http://immanuelmp.com/lenten-study-2022/>

Pastor is coordinating an in-person small group and a virtual small group to discuss the Calling Now study. If you would like to participate please contact the office.



Lenten Almsgiving

Mission Endowment has agreed to match our alms up to \$2,000! Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

To learn more about the work that, they do please check out their website:

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>

Lent at Immanuel



Immanuel is offering something new – and very old! Lectio Divina is a very old Christian practice that uniquely fits the times we are experiencing. Part meditation, part listening, part thinking privately about what you are hearing in scripture and then sharing thoughts and questions if you wish. It's not a traditional study but provides a moment to go bit deeper into the Sunday scriptures in your own way for about 30 minutes.

We'll meet between services in the narthex near the fireplace. Chat with friends then wander over with a cup of coffee. After reading one of the sections of scripture, the group will silently focus on one of three questions in turn: What word or phrase jumped out? What is God saying to you in that word or phrase? What is God calling you to do? Participants will have the chance to share between each of the three brief meditation sessions – asking questions, making observations. Or you can stay silent keeping your thoughts to yourself. Try it out, all are welcome.

Can't come in person? Download the Lectio Divina guide off of Immanuel's website.

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

A graphic with the text "Lenten Devotionals" in a white, sans-serif font. The background is a dark purple with a subtle, abstract pattern.

Lenten
Devotionals

A link to our Lenten devotionals will be emailed out on Ash Wednesday. There will also be printed copies in the narthex and outside of the office beginning on Wednesday, March 2nd.

Please contact the office if you would like one mailed to you.

Ministry with Each Other



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.



March

- 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
- 25 Madeline Ebert
Ann Ferguson
- 26 Sue Keilitz

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

If you are interested in a small group discussion, please join Pr. Dana's Theological Discussion on Thursdays at 11am via ZOOM. (The link is on our website)



Business Ministry

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.

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 January 31,
2022**

Spending Plan 2021-2022:
\$379,162

Actual Expenditures:
\$103,702

Giving To Date:
\$110,709

2021-2022 Church Council

President.....Ted Tuma
Vice President.....Sarah Gilbert
Past President.....Beth Mundwiler

Council Members:
Natalie Douglas, Penny Endres, Kip Fergsuon,
Gabe Goodrich, Jim Hageman, Rose Prasad,
Mark Strandskov

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

Immanuel Offers Electronic Giving

Immanuel Lutheran Church is pleased to offer an electronic option for making regular or special offerings.

Visit our website, www.immanuelmp.com click "Give".

Ministry with the Community & World

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!



Last month, the people of Immanuel, along with the staff of Isabella County Restoration House and members of Faith Weavers, shared a warm place to sleep and hot meals to 24 guests. Eight of these guests were adolescents. One of these guests was a senior with terminal lung cancer. Several of the guests were young adults without family or community support. Several of the guests were older adults that are estranged from their families. Thank you for stepping up and giving your time and energy to help us provide what was needed for the houseless in our community.

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 _____