



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 2022

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

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.



Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 10
10am

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 14
6pm

Good Friday
Friday, April 15
6pm

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 17
Sunrise Service- 7am
Easter Breakfast- 8:30am
Festival Service- 10am

(All services will be held both in-person and online.)

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Friends in Christ,

I recently sent an article to the council titled, “3 Shocking Statistics That Show How Quickly, Radically (and Permanently?) Church Has Changed Since 2020” by Carey Nieuwhof.

1. In-person attendance isn't what it used to be, **only a little over 1/3 of folks are still attending in person.**
2. **More than half of Gen Zers and Millennials *do not*** want to return to in-person worship.
3. **Almost ¾ of Boomers *do*** want to return to in-person worship.

Yikes! Looks like we have some generational discrepancies! The author goes on to argue that in-person worship isn't going away, but it likely won't play the same role as it did pre-pandemic.

I want to acknowledge that many of us also *feel* the drastic changes since 2020. As a congregation, we have lost a number of our young families due to relocation. We have one service, instead of two. Our in-person attendance is about half of what it used to be. All of these realities can be overwhelming as I think about the future of the church.

Recently, amid these realities, I was gifted with a powerful reminder. I was talking with someone who does not go to church. He was sharing a very personal and powerful story of struggling with some mental health issues. Throughout his journey of trying new medications, he was weighed down with suicidal thoughts. Also during this time, he was gifted with a friend who continued to invite him to worship. Eventually, the tug to attend became strong enough for him to step through those doors on a Sunday morning. Over the course of a year or so in that worshiping community, the heavy emotional fog lifted. He shared with me about the personal transformation that changed his whole outlook on life. He lived in that community for only a season, but that season changed his life.

I think it's time we stop thinking about the church in terms of attendance. Let's simply be the Church. Be there for people when they need it the most. Be aware of the hurting world and love people through it. Who knows what Jesus is up to in someone's life even if they are only there for one Sunday? One click online. Three months. One year. Or for a lifetime. Let's, “live Christ, love Christ, be Christ.” And Jesus can take care of the rest!

In Christ,
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.



Lenten Almsgiving

Mission Endowment has agreed to match our alms up to \$2,000!
As of March 31, we have received \$1155.00. Make your donation today!

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.



Easter Flowers

Order forms are available in the narthex for those of you who would like to purchase altar flowers for Easter. The cost will be \$8.00 per plant. We will purchase a variety of plants with these funds and as always, you are welcome to take home the number of plants that you purchased following the Easter services.

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/>



The week of April 21st Pastor Dana will be traveling to Chicago, IL to attend a conference called, *"The Ecumenical Roundtable for Science, Technology and the Church."* This Roundtable is currently comprised of four of the so-called "Main Line" Protestant denominations in the Christian tradition:

- 1) The Episcopal Church Network for Science, Technology and Faith
- 2) The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology.
- 3) The Presbyterian Association for Science, Technology and the Christian Faith
- 4) The United Church of Christ Science and Technology Network

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.



April

- 3 Oliver Sullivan
Michael Wyman**
- 4 Ben Strandskov**
- 5 Gabe Reimer**
- 9 Carol Erickson**
- 11 Dawn Moss**
- 12 Larae Fedor
Barry Shellenbarger
Zach Foote**
- 16 Ann Ferguson**
- 18 Mike Piatek-Jimenez**
- 20 Thomas Mellinger
Lillie Reimer**
- 21 Gary Ramsower
Thomas Strandskov**
- 22 Lauren Little**
- 23 Justin Foote
Terry Grabe**
- 26 Megan Watters**
- 27 Michala Ebert**
- 29 Jan Eversole**

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 in the Capital Room or via ZOOM. (The link is on our website)

We will not meet on
April 14 or 28.



Coffee Cakes are needed for our Easter Breakfast!

Please sign up in the narthex if you are able to provide a coffee cake for this event. These should be dropped off to the Fellowship Hall by 8am on Easter

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 February 28, 2022

Spending Plan 2021-2022:
\$379,162

Actual Expenditures:
\$125,146

Giving To Date:
\$131,449

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!



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 _____