



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 2022

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00

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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 Morning Adult Study

Pastor Dana, following the 10 a.m. service invites you to a discussion on *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible*. We will meet in the Capital Room for 60 minutes each Sunday. This is a series of 20 minute videos that we will follow up with discussion.

You do not need to make every week. Each video in the series can stand alone.

Dr. Mark Allan Powell, is a Lutheran pastor and Bible professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. In this seven session video series Powell invites you to explore seven important questions about Lutherans and the Bible. He does not prescribe "the Lutheran way" to read the Bible nor does he dismiss the way you may have come to understand the Bible. Instead Powell presents a variety of Lutheran perspectives for interpreting the Bible. Through Powell's rich discussions you will discover answers to questions you have always had about the Bible.

Sept. 25: The Word of God

Oct. 2: What Lutherans Say About the Bible

Oct. 9: Where the Bible comes From

Oct. 16: Interpreting the Bible in Context

Nov. 6: Determining Right from Wrong

Nov. 13: The Many Meanings of the Bible

Nov. 20: Devotional Bible

A letter from Pastor Dana...

Friends in Christ,

In 2017, we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was also the kick off of a new annual event for us titled, "Beer, Brats, and Hymns." Sadly, like everything, it halted in 2020. It's now 2022, and it's back!

You don't have to drink beer. You don't even have to eat brats. It's just a time to gather joyfully and celebrate our life of faith together. We have a number of new people since 2017 so I wanted to take a moment to share a bit about the history of this event. It was not only the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, but it was also the 40th anniversary of Immanuel.

It has been claimed by many people over the years that Martin Luther boldly seized tavern songs, changed the lyrics, and then sung them in congregations. This is exaggerated from the historical context in sixteenth century Germany; however, we do know that there were instances in which Luther and his colleagues used melodies and poetry from non-liturgical songs. The first stanza of "From Heav'n Above" (ELW 268) was based upon a light-hearted, tavern love song, "From Distant Land I Come To You." Originally the hymn was sung to the love song tune, but it was not long before the reformers substituted a newly composed melody for the original. It is this new melody that survives as the standard tune we sing in church to this day.

Martin Luther is credited for his hymn writing and for making waves in church history by nailing his 95 Theses to the church, but his wife—Katharina Von, is perhaps most famously known for brewing her own beer. Few historical documents remain to tell us about Kate, but Martin Luther's fondness for his wife's home brewed beer survived. In a letter to her he writes, "I keep thinking what good wine and beer I have at home, as well as a beautiful wife ... you would do well to send me over my whole cellar of wine and a bottle of thy beer."

So let us join together, raise our festive drink, and lift our voices in praise to all that God has done, is doing, and will do. Cheers!

Wednesday, October 19

6-9 p.m.

The Little Flower Barn (565 N Coldwater Rd, Lake Isabella, MI 48893)

If you don't have the funds for a ticket (\$15) and want to come, talk with me. I'll hook you up!

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot



Ministry with Each Other



Pastor Dana recently provided several opportunities for members to learn how to be a Stephen Ministry Lookout. A Lookout is someone who is alert to people who may be hurting and in need of care. Almost 20 members learned simple but important ways to identify and pave the way for hurting people to be connected to care through our Stephen Ministry. We are blessed to have so many caring members in our Immanuel family!

Stephen Ministers are well-trained caregivers, able to provide quality emotional and spiritual care to people experiencing a wide range of life difficulties. It's free, it's confidential, and a powerful way our church can reach out and minister to people who are hurting.

For more information contact Pastor Dana or Stephen Ministry Leaders Chris Schuster, Fred Schuster or Gail Mitchell

Theological Discussion

Pastor Dana's mid-week Theological Discussion will meet on Thursdays in-Person and via Zoom at 11 a.m. The link to join via Zoom will be on the website (immanuelmp.com).

I hope you will join us!

All Saints Day

We will have our All Saints Day service on Sunday, November 6.

If you've lost a loved one in the past year and would like their name and photo included in this service, there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Photos should be emailed to the office no later than October 31st.

We need volunteers!

Fall Clean-Up Day
will be held on October 13
from 12:30-4:30

Come out and lend a hand.
There will be inside and outside jobs...
Any and all help is appreciated!!

We will also meet on October 27
from 12:30-4:30 to clean out the shed.
Help is needed that day as well.

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 1/2 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 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.

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".

Financial Monthly Report – YTD as of August 31, 2022

Spending Plan 2021-2022: \$379,162

Actual Expenditures: \$279,988

Giving-To-Date: \$267,560

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 _____

Ministry with Community & World



The rotating homeless shelter will be at Immanuel from October 30- November 6. We will need volunteers to cover shifts as well as people to provide meals. The sign-up link will be issued SOON!

Christmas Outreach Registration

will take place at Immanuel
October 31-November 4
& November 7-11.

If you or someone you know needs help this Christmas season, call 773-4204 to get signed up!

The Care Store

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

~1 John 3:18

The shelves at church for
The Care Store are in need
of more items!

Please consider picking up a
few items at the store the
next time you are there.

Let's help those in our
community who most need
help!

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



Thank you to all who
donated blood, helped with
set up and/or provided
snacks for this event.

A special thank you to the
Plouffs for organizing.
Job well done!!!



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 18,2022

Present: Beth Mundwiler, Natalie Douglas, Penny Endres, Rose Prasad, Ted Tuma, Pr. Dana Hendershot, Gabe Goodrich, Mark Strandskov.

Absent: Kip Ferguson

Guest: Denise Kaiser

Ted called meeting to order at 6 pm.

Opening Devotions – Gabe

July Meeting Minutes

Sarah moved to accept minutes as written, Penny seconded, motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Please see attached report

PASTOR'S REPORT

Please see attached report

Financial Report

Judy Emmons was unable to join meeting. Pr. Dana and Ted presented report. Dana explained that Judy is ready to step down as financial treasurer, but will help train new person/s. Steve and Jan Podolsky have volunteered to step in as financial treasurer.

Rose moved to accept all reports, Gabe seconded, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Congregational Survey

Sarah compiled congregational responses from a Sunday morning sermon asking a few questions: How Immanuel enriches you, ways we can grow to care for others, and what do people take out into the world from Immanuel. The responses were presented to council. Discussion followed and the council will continue to utilize the feedback moving forward.

Annual Meeting Assignments

Beth presented signup sheet for volunteers to help grill, serve, cook etc., for Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Agenda

Dana presented agenda for Council to review.

OLD BUSINESS

Living Waters Gift

In 2022, our Mission Endowment granted \$5,000 to help make camp free for all attendees. We got information from the executive director, C.J. Clark, to help discern if this should become a line item on our budget. It seems like Living Waters will be unable to make camp free for all attendees again in the 2023 summer.

It was suggested that we put monies in our budget so that all of Immanuel's kids could attend camp free. After discussion we agreed to create a line item for \$4,000 (Pastor Dana and Beth did the math). It is titled, "Camping/Retreat Ministries" found in the Ministry with Each Other budget lines.

Budget

Dana presented the 2022-2023 proposed budget which is a 2% decrease from the 2021-2022 budget. Discussion and questions followed.

Beth moved to accept the 2022-2023 proposed budget, Rose seconded, motion passed.

Council Members

Four names will be brought forward at the annual meeting as potential council members: Staci Couch, Dan Digmann, Linda Wicander and Sarah Gilbert (second term). These names and any other nominations will be voted on during Annual Meeting September 18th.

OTHER

Sarah volunteered to write an article for the Gleaner regarding the Congregational Survey results.

September 11th is "God's Work Our Hands." The congregation will be invited to make a commitment to a helping agency/community program/need and volunteer for at least a month.

Next Meeting – has been changed from September 15th to the 14th, which will enable Council members who wish to attend Art Reach Auction for the Arts to do so.

Assignments: Sarah will write article for Gleaner and thank you notes to some congregants.

Mark motioned to adjourn meeting, Rose seconded, **Ted adjourned meeting at 7:20.**

Submitted by,
Denise Kaiser