



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

September 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.



The results are in...

And Church Council wanted to share those results with you.

In May, Pastor Dana asked those worshipping in person and on line to think about what it means to be a part of Immanuel, what they would like to see more of at Immanuel, how we represent our faith, and how we reach out to others.

People said that they would like to see more opportunities for community – whether it might be the return of coffee hour, the addition of fellowship breakfasts, or sharing of faith journeys. They also expressed a desire for some changes in music, whether it be more traditional hymns or more “camp songs”.

Secondly, people said that at Immanuel one of our strengths is the way we care for one another. We also show compassion, share peace and comfort, and love and respect each other. Finally, Immanuel members are known for their tolerance and embracing of differences. More than one member said, “If I need help, I know people will help.”

Next, we heard about how Immanuel enriches each of our lives. Love was the center point for many of us; not only God’s love for us, but also the love we feel from our church family. People again said tolerance, forgiveness, and peace were ways we each find our lives richer after worship. One member said that sometimes it is the message, sometimes the music and sometimes the Scripture that makes our time together meaningful.

And the last area dealt with how we take Immanuel out into the community and world. We believe that we are reflections of God’s love, sharing our time, talents and treasures. We also hold to the idea that we live how Jesus wants us to live – being examples of living Christianity. Our acceptance of all and our awareness of God’s care for all people are central to being Immanuel – God with us.

Thanks to everyone who participated in providing us this feedback. The next step is to use this information to shape our plans for moving forward as a body of believers.

A letter from Pastor Dana...

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Year at a quick glance: (also Pr. Dana's Annual Report)

- We invested in technology to make the online-streaming experience higher quality
- We continued to have interns from CMU—Joe Monetta doing tech and Jocelyn & Thomas Strandskov playing bells.
- We hired Thomas Strandskov part-time as the Youth Ministry and Tech Guru (Sept. 2021)
- We hired Lacey Conner part-time as a Children's Ministry Coordinator (Sept. 2021, then she moved in December 2021)
- We hired a Faith in Action Coordinator, Sherry Pulverente (Oct. 2021)
- We started offering luncheons (Food 4 Thought) each month to gather and learn about the community
- We offered online bible studies
- We offered In-person bible studies, including an Exegetical Happy Hour at Cheers Restaurant
- We lit up the front yard of the church for Christmas for the 2nd year
- We hired Maggie Polley part-time as a Children's Ministry Coordinator (Dec. 2021, then she moved in June 2022)
- We paid off our loan and Immanuel Lutheran Church is officially debt free
- We offered drive-thru ashes on Ash Wednesday and a drive-thru communion in February
- We delivered Lenten boxes to all our families with children
- We offered weekly Lenten prayer stations
- Lenten almsgiving raised \$2,715.75 to offer aid to people in the Ukraine with our Mission Endowment matching \$2,000
- We attempted to get a seminary intern (a Vicar), but there were not enough seminary students for this to occur
- Our Stephen Ministers continued to be available, full of prayer, and we added a Stephen Ministry Outlook training
- We celebrated Beth Mundwiler's 25 years of youth ministry with Immanuel on May 8, 2022
- We served and financially supported Christmas Outreach, CCN (Community Compassion Network), ICRH (Isabella Country Restoration House), and the Care Store
- Our Mission Endowment gave Living Water Ministries \$5,000 to help make camp free for all
- We offered a Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training (QPR – Question, Persuade, Refer)
- We worshiped outside for the months of July and August
- The Immanuel Lutheran Church Endowment finally reached the amount at which we can begin distributing earnings
- We hired Thomas Standskov full-time as the Youth Ministry & Technology Coordinator (July 11, 2022)
- We had a successful, first ever Community Fun Day with over 75 people from the community in attendance
- The personnel handbook has been updated
- The sound booth in the sanctuary has been renovated

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A letter from Pastor Dana... *(continued)*

It has been a year of change, death, and life. I really enjoyed putting the year together at a quick glance and became overwhelmed with how much we accomplished together. I also want to offer space to grieve some of the deaths we have experienced. We witnessed the pause of the Thanksgiving Dinner and Vacation Bible School. These are two important ministries that have deep historical roots within both our church and our community. We have said goodbye to a full-time employee, Craig Torgerson, and miss their whole family. We have said Godspeed to a number of families with children who have relocated to other areas in the country. We celebrated the life of Hans Fetting, who joined the Church Triumphant, and without him, this church would not have been founded in 1977. And for the first time since my arrival in 2011, inflation is hitting all of us hard; the church is beginning to feel the pinch too.

As I said, a year of change, death, and life. It's a good thing we are people of resurrection. I have been thinking a lot about the Scripture about pruning:

John 15: 1-4

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me."

I feel like even some of our fruit-bearing branches have been pruned. So, I'm curious to see what God has in store for us! All we have to do is continue to abide in Christ and who knows?!? Maybe the fruit of things like VBS and the Thanksgiving dinner will turn into something that bares even more fruit! I am honored to be called as your pastor.

In joyful gratitude and grace,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

Theological Discussion

Pastor Dana's mid-week Theological Discussion will resume in-Person and via Zoom on Thursday, September 15 at 11 a.m. The link to join via Zoom will be on the website (immanuelmp.com).

I hope you will join us!

Annual Congregational Meeting

This meeting will take place on Sunday, September 18th right after the 10am worship service, with a Picnic to follow!! Packets for this meeting will be available on September 4th.

Please be sure to mark your calendars!

Ministry with Each Other

The Samaritas's Youth Art Show Traveling Exhibit
Hosted by Art Reach of Mid-Michigan
September 2 - 27
The Morey Family Gallery
111 E. Broadway St., Mt. Pleasant
Monday-Friday: 10 am – 5 pm
Saturdays: 10 am – 4 pm

The Youth Art Show features art pieces created by youth in Samaritas's Refugee Foster Care program. These youth have lost or been separated from their families while fleeing their home countries. They eventually come to the United States where loving families welcome them in as foster parents and Samaritas provides the services they need to pursue the safe and bright future that should be every child's right.

On September 11, Beth Birkholz, Director of Congregational Engagement with Samaritas will be preaching and later that day offering an exhibit tour at ArtReach with explanations and stories. We will have a reception for Immanuel members at ArtReach following the service with light refreshments.

If you cannot make it on September 11th then please check out the traveling exhibit when time allows.

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
Oct. 23: Determining Right from Wrong
Nov. 6: The Many Meanings of the Bible
Nov. 13: Devotional Bible

Ministry with Each Other



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Sunday, September 11th marks the kick off day of God's Work, Our Hands. This year at Immanuel, we will be giving individuals the opportunity to dig deep and give back over a 4 week period. The best part? Each individual is in the drivers seat and can choose what cause to tackle and in what particular fashion you choose to give back. Lots and lots more details to come. So get ready and stay tuned! Full explanation during service on Sunday, September 11th.

If you own a yellow God's Work. Our Hands. shirt, please wear it on the 11th. If not, you'll have the opportunity to order one!

Chancel Choir Returns!!!

Our first rehearsal is Thursday, Sept. 8 at 6:30. (This is a change from previous years.) Please join us for a lot of new SAB music and a lot of singing and fellowship!

Previous musical experience helps, but is not a requirement! For more info call me or catch me on Sundays.

Mernie Bidstrup,
Choir Director
989-772-5546



***Tickets will be available starting
September 18th.**

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 July 31, 2022

Spending Plan 2021-2022: \$379,162
Actual Expenditures: \$256,808
Giving-To-Date: \$252,585

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



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.

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



Immanuel will host a Blood Drive on September 29th. We will be looking for volunteers and DONORS!!



Church Council Minutes – July 21, 2022

PRESENT: Ted Tuma, Penny Endres, Gabe Goodrich, Rose Prasad, Pr. Dana Hendershot, Kip Ferguson, Sarah Gilbert, Beth Mundwiler, Natalie Douglas

ABSENT: Mark Strandskov

GUESTS: Judy Emmons, Denise Kaiser

FIVE MINUTES OF POSITIVE TALK

JUNE MINUTES

Corrections – Rose gave devotion, Sarah wrote 2 Thank You notes, under Personnel Changes use Thomas Strandskov and make 3rd to last sentence in paragraph simpler.

Rose moved to accept June minutes with corrections, Penny seconded, motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Gabe moved to accept agenda, Beth seconded, motion passed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Dana asked council members to attend one of the Stephen Ministry Lookout trainings.

FINANCIAL

Judy presented report.

Penny moved to accept report, Rose seconded, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Congregation Feedback - Sarah requested this be tabled until August Council Meeting.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ted presented budget, and asked Council to take budget home to study, email questions, and vote during August meeting.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT/COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kip and Natalie's terms are complete and Jim Hageman has left. Council needs 2-3 new members. Pr. Dana requested names for possible candidates as well as Vice President suggestions. Dana and the Executive Team will proceed with recruiting.

OLD BUSINESS

Living Waters – Beth talked with LW. However, at the time they spoke, there wasn't enough information as it was still early in the camping season. Dana will contact LW and discuss the following: How many churches donate, how many no-shows, how many campers with scholarships? This was tabled until August meeting.

Kip brought to Council the possibility of rehousing of the **Boy Scouts** to Immanuel. Kip will gather specific information and bring to August meeting.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING – August 18, 2022

ASSIGNMENTS – Denise will correct June minutes. Dana will contact Living Waters. Sarah moved to adjourn, Rose seconded and meeting adjourned at 7:30 with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Denise Kaiser