



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 2022

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

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Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00
***Closed Nov. 24 & Nov. 25**
for Thanksgiving

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.



FOOD 4 THOUGHT

Join us as we gather for lunch & friendship

Noon on Wednesday, 11/9 at Immanuel

RSVP to Andrea/church office

Mindfulness Class

Calm and quiet your mind

Two Sessions

Tuesday, November 15th
Tuesday, November 29th

6pm-7pm at Immanuel
RSVP to Andrea/Church Office to attend

Home for the Holidays
AT IMMANUEL

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
HOT COCOA BAR
COOKIE DECORATING
& MORE

AFTER SERVICE ON 12/18

A letter from Pastor Dana...

Friends in Christ,

In these next weeks, we are knee-deep in serving our neighbors with Christmas Outreach and housing the homeless (ICRH)! Thank you for making these ministries run smoothly year after year. As we have witnessed throughout the years, these ministries make a difference in people's lives! If you're someone who has not had the opportunity to serve at either Christmas Outreach or ICRH, I pray this is the year the Spirit moves you to join us.

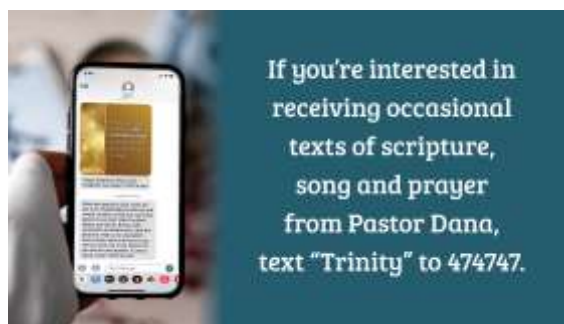
Speaking of opportunities, I am excited to share with you a few new things coming up on the horizon. **The ICRH has made a big decision to spend the next few years transitioning from a rotational model to a permanent emergency shelter.** This way, those experiencing houselessness will not have to move week after week. The ICRH is in the beginning phases of looking at property and buildings. This will take a great deal of fundraising, finding the right place, time, and other resources. ICRH has inquired about the 2.3 acres behind Immanuel Village that we own. I am taking steps to figure out the details and will work with ICRH and Immanuel Village to consider giving or selling our land. If you'd be interested in being at the table for this conversation, please reach out to me.

Speaking of being in the spirit of giving, we are already planning Advent and Christmas 2022! There are two new things to look forward to in the 2022 year. First, we will be hosting a brunch following the Lessons & Carols service on Dec 18. Second, since Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sundays this year, we are going to move worship to online only. We historically have low attendance on those days, so the worship ministry decided to take some of the positive learnings of the pandemic and move online. Since, many of you have plans for Christmas Day and New Year's Day, you don't even have to be in Mt. Pleasant to worship with us! You can join us in your pajamas from anywhere, and this also frees up our assisting ministers, ushers, altar guild, and musicians while our staff can be super creative with the worship service. I'm sure most of you remember my sermon from Podolsky's barn... so get those Christmas Day matching PJ's out and join us online!

Looking forward to the work of the Spirit and the upcoming holidays!

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot



Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, Dec 11 – 10:00 am (Children's Program)

Sunday, Dec 18– 10:00 am (Lessons & Carols)

Saturday, Dec 24 – 7:00 pm (Christmas Eve)

Sunday, Dec 25 & Jan 1 – **online worship ONLY** – Christmas Day and New Year's Day we will live stream a service at 10 a.m. – no communion – online only (read Pastor Dana's letter for more details)

Ministry with Each Other

Adult Theological Education – Linda Wicander

Our synod (the North/West Lower Michigan Synod) is excited to announce a new series of theological education courses! For five semesters beginning in Winter 2023, our synod will offer several six-week Zoom courses led by seminary professors. These courses are open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers, and are free of charge.

The synod is starting the series off with a bang with a course on Paul taught by the Rev. Dr. Walter F. Taylor, Jr, Professor Emeritus of New Testament Studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital university. Dr. Taylor taught regularly in the Lay Ministry Training program (the ELMM) and was very popular with the students. He is smart, funny, kind, compassionate, interesting, and knowledgeable!

This first course offering will be *Corinthian Correspondence: Conflict, Case Studies, Contemporary Congregations, and Christ*.

The goal of this six-week Zoom study is to learn from Paul and his house churches in the ancient Greek city of Corinth—both how they fell into conflict and how Paul sought to move them to reconciliation and ministry. The class sessions will also focus on problems facing believers today:

- how to deal with divisions within a congregation
- how to live together in a congregation in positive ways
- how to live as physical bodies
- how to live in intimate relationships
- who should lead congregations, including the roles of women and men
- how believers can look beyond themselves
- what really is the resurrection and how does it affect life today?

Each session will be self-contained so that participants could miss a week and still take part in later sessions. Are you concerned that you might have a time conflict but don't want to miss a class? The synod is exploring recording the sessions to make them available to registered participants who might have missed a session.

Resources for the sessions will be available on the synod's website.

The class will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings: January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7, 14, 2023 from 7:00 – 8:15pm ET.

Registration will close December 1, 2022.

Register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXCwVFjc8q8U1Dzhrf8UI-Ymxo8BFpLbQmsq1VDoS78Sjv6g/viewform>

Ministry with Each Other



Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Nov. 20th Youth Group 3-5 at the church

Sunday, Dec 4th - Decorate the church for Christmas after church

Saturday, Dec 10- Christmas Program practice 10-12

Sunday, Dec 11 - Christmas Program and Youth Bake Sale

Sunday Dec. 18th - Youth Christmas Party Gift Exchange following brunch

Calling ALL YOUTH....it is time to plan for the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 11th. Please let Thomas Strandskov know if your youth would like to participate. thomas@immanuelmp.com



Please pray for our Youth group as we travel to Traverse City for The Charge at Great Wolf Lodge.

We will be serving, praising and learning together with a few hundred 6-12 graders on November 4-6. We have 8 youth heading there Friday, along with Beth and Thomas!

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!

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.

Nov. 6: Determining Right from Wrong

Nov. 13: The Many Meanings of the Bible

Nov. 20: Devotional Bible

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 September 30, 2022

Spending Plan 2021-2022: \$379,162
Actual Expenditures: \$301,818
Giving-To-Date: \$288,472

Thank You!!!

Thanks to all who donated their time and energy to help with Fall Clean-Up Day and also Shed Clean-Up Day!!
Your assistance was greatly appreciated!!!

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

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH of Isabella County

MUST LIVE IN ISABELLA COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE

REGISTRATION DATES

Mon - Fri Oct 31 - Nov 4

Mon - Fri Nov 7 - Nov 11

Registration is Open 8am-4pm

**NEW
PHONE
NUMBER**

TO REGISTER CALL

989-773-4204

PLEASE NO EARLY CALLS

**DISTRIBUTION WILL
BE BACK AT**

CAMPUS LIFE

(FORMER COCA-COLA BUILDING)

1200 W HIGH ST • MT PLEASANT MI

SHOPPING DAYS DEC 12, 13 & 14

**COATS, HATS, MITTENS, BOOTS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS, LINENS,
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, STOCKINGS & HOUSEHOLD TOTES**



**Just a reminder to set your clocks back before
you go to bed on Saturday, November 5th!**

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!



The rotating homeless
shelter is currently being
held at Immanuel until
November 6.

Thanks to all who are
helping us make this week
possible!!

A "PUP-DATE"

Many of you met Future Leader Dog Xena, a yellow Labrador retriever, when she worshipped with us at Immanuel. Occasionally, she was even known to sing along to organ music or contemporary songs! Last May Xena returned to Leader Dog for more advanced training and progressed through the training levels.

On Saturday October 15th, Roger and I got to say goodbye to Xena and also meet her new person, Stephen. The big news is that Stephen lives in London and last weekend Xena flew across the pond to be Stephen's new eyes in London. She will learn to ride the tube, deal with cars driving on the left, and experience big city life. Stephen said he cannot wait to tell his church friends about Xena's willingness to sing along!

And soon you will meet Gracie, our third Leader Dog for the Blind. Hopefully she will be able to carry a tune as well!

Roger and Sarah Gilbert

Dear Immanuel,

Thank you for your generous support of Clothing INC as we strive to provide clothing to anyone in need. We appreciate your support and partnership by golfing in our golf outing

-Bryan

Dear Immanuel,

On behalf of the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for your donation in the amount of \$204.41. Your donation will go directly towards helping us complete our mission of providing free meals to the community.

Sincerely,

Sara Schafer,
Executive Director

Address Update:

Keith Allen
Green Acres
1805 E. Remus Rd.
Buidling #4, #407
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Stop by or write!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

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

Guest: Denise Kaiser

Opening Devotions – Kip

5 Minutes of Positive Talk

AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Sarah's name needs correction.

Rose moved to accept August minutes with above correction, Mark seconded, minutes approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no ministry reports this month.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Business Committee scheduled the fall clean-up for Thursday October 13th from 12:30-4:30.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dana presented this report. Please see attached.

Ted reported something he read from the N\W Lower Michigan Synod about creating, "A Culture of Generosity." He will bring this up for further consideration/discussion during October's meeting.

Rose moved to accept the above reports, Penny seconded, reports approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Minutes for Annual Meeting – Denise

Tech Update – Pr. Dana

Email and printer issues have interfered with daily office operations. The printer is up and running, the email should be working by next week.

Beer, Brats and Hymns – October 19th at the Little Flower Barn on Coldwater Road.

Tickets are \$15 and will be on sale beginning Sunday at Annual Meeting. Rose volunteered to sell these.

OLD BUSINESS

Review sign-up for Annual Meeting

OTHER

NEXT MEETING – October 20, 2022

ASSIGNMENTS – Denise will correct Sarah's name in August Minutes

Rose moved to adjourn meeting, Gabe seconded, meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 7:45.

Respectfully,

Denise Kaiser