



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 2022

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

**The office will be closed
December 26, 27, 29 & 30**

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.



**Sunday, December 11 - 10:00 am (Children's Program)
Youth Bake Sale following**

**Sunday, December 18- 10:00 am (Lessons & Carols)
"Home for the Holidays" Brunch following**

Saturday, December 24- 7:00pm (Christmas Eve)

Sunday, December 25 - 10:00 am (ONLINE ONLY)

Sunday, January 1 - 10:00 am (ONLINE ONLY)

A Letter from Pastor Dana....

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Faith,

Happy New Year! Yes, it actually is the New Year already, that is, in the church. And for those who were in worship on Advent 1 (Nov. 27), we sure did start it off with a bang! I'm not sure I'll live that one down for some time. Thanks to everyone who kept the fire contained and cleaned up the mess! All that hope (which is what the candles represented) is contagious. If you missed it, feel free to watch online. The sermon explains the candles. As for the fire? It's at the end... watch closely about 1:03-1:04, the flame ignites! You may also notice Thomas, in the sound booth, getting the fire extinguisher ready. Luckily we were able to snuff it out quickly without the extinguisher (thank you Mark)!

As I preached on Sunday, "What kind of Christmas are you ready for?" To be ready for Christmas in the biblical story does not involve relaxation, but upheaval. I ended the sermon saying, "It's time to be startled by Jesus again."

Anticipation! Expectation! Hope!

In Advent, we wait with eager expectation and live in hope. Eager expectation is like someone standing in the dark, scanning the horizon—leaning forward—afraid to blink, not wanting to miss a moment—waiting for the first sign of dawn. Knowing that dawn is coming, the expectant watcher doesn't fear the darkness. They simply try to see through it—watching, waiting, and knowing that the light will come. It's not a watcher who thinks "maybe the light will come," it's a watcher who **knows** that light will soon return.

It's like the pelican who stands at the end of the dock waiting for the fisherman's boat to return, knowing they will be fed.

It's like the pregnant mother and father who just found out their due date.

It's like a child watching a cocoon, waiting for the caterpillar to break free as a butterfly.

This Advent we wait with eager expectation.

We wait with eager expectation to obtain this freedom and glory of the Kingdom come.

In hopeful anticipation,
Pastor Dana Hendershot



Ministry with Each Other



Poinsettia Order forms

If you would like to order a poinsettia for our Christmas Eve service, order forms are available in the narthex. Please turn your order form and payment into the office no later than Sunday, Dec. 18th.



Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?



**Going through a tough time---emotionally or spiritually?
Struggling with a crisis in life? 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.

Ministry with Each Other

Sunday Morning Adult Study

On Sunday, December 4, Pr. Dana will be leading a session about Advent following the 10am service.

Please join in the Fellowship Hall!

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

Thursdays at 11am

(We're going hybrid – offering in-person and online – the link to join via zoom is on the website) This month, we will NOT meet on December 22 or 29.

If you would like to occasionally receive scripture/inspirational texts from Pastor Dana, please text "Trinity" to 474747 to sign up.

January 29 following the 10am service...

Please join Jonathan Shotwell, Sponsorship Coordinator for Samaritas – New Americans West Michigan, for a round-table discussion about refugee resettlement in Michigan. Learn about the path to resettlement and how you can help Ukrainian, Afghan, and other refugees achieve self-sufficiency as they make a new home in our great state.



- 1 Kathy Wyman
- 6 John Lorand
- 8 Annette Foster
- 10 Lorraine Tubbs
- 12 Ruth Magnell
- 16 Luke Douglas
Laney Douglas
- 18 Syd Smith
- 20 Carter Hoffman
- 21 Diane Clise
- 22 Chuck McCollom
Sandy Warriner
Billie Plouff
- 27 Kip Ferguson
- 28 Emily Little



Children & Youth



Youth Corner

The youth would like to invite the congregation to church on Sunday December 11th for this year's Christmas program! This year, the children will be performing "Wise Guys", a program about the three magi and their gifts for baby Jesus. Following service that Sunday, the Youth Group will be having a bake sale to help raise money for our future trips. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Dec 3rd – Youth Bake Sale at Santa's Workshop at Renaissance School

Sunday, Dec 4th – Decorate the church for Christmas after church (all are welcome)

Saturday, Dec 10th – Christmas program practice 10am-12pm

Sunday, Dec 11th – Christmas Program and Youth Bake Sale

Sunday, Dec 18th – Youth Christmas Party and Gift Exchange following brunch

Sunday, Jan 8th – Undecorate the church (all are welcome)



Youth Bake Sale
Sunday, December 11
following Christmas Program

*all proceeds will help our youth
attend future mission trips

Ministry with Community & World



Did you know that Immanuel has a Medical Loan Closet???

For years, Immanuel has stored medical equipment in out in our pole barn....items such as canes, walkers, crutches, commodes, wheelchairs and shower seats.

If you or someone you know ever needs to borrow one of these items, please contact the church office and we'll see if we can help!

On the other hand, if you or someone you know just had surgery or an injury and acquired one of these items through your insurance carrier or elsewhere and would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to Immanuel and we'll be sure to pass them on to the next person who might be in need.

Please note that we cannot accept any type of electrical equipment, medications or disposable items, such as oxygen tubing or syringes etc.



Immanuel will host the ICRH rotating homeless shelter from February 5-12th.

We will, again, need volunteers to help us make this happen!

Watch for sign-ups coming in January!

The Care Store

is always in need of household items!
When you buy one for your home, consider buying one for someone in need. Place these items on the shelf in the hallway by the office and we'll get them delivered to those who need them.

Christmas Outreach

On December 12, 13 & 14 Christmas Outreach will hold their Distribution dates at the Campus Life Bldg. on West High St. to many families in need.

Volunteers for escorting are still needed on these dates.

Please visit their Facebook page Christmas Outreach of Isabella County if you are able to come help out!

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 years-old

If you are over 72 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.

Financial Monthly Report- YTD as of 10/31/22

Spending Plan 2022-2023: \$384,524
Actual Expenditures: \$27,834
Giving to Date: \$22,225

In-Kind Giving

If you have receipts for gifts to the church (other than your offering), such as gas for the lawnmowers, building supplies, bread, wine, etc. Please turn them in to Paul Kruska so that he can add it to your annual giving statement.

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 _____