



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 2023

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.



April 2 – 10am
Palm Sunday service

April 6 – 6pm
Maundy Thursday service

April 7- 6pm
Good Friday service

April 9- 7am
Easter Sunrise service

April 9- 8:30am
Easter Breakfast

April 9- 10am
Easter Festival Service

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Friends in Christ,

In talking with someone, they shared with me that they don't have a need for an embodied God. They are spiritual and believe in God, but felt limits to an embodied God. I mean it does seem a little ridiculous. Why would God break through those glorious heavens to come here? Eek.

The embodied God versus a non-physical God has been a debate people have been having for ages. I find myself, at times, on both sides of the argument. There are times when I picture a God so immense in creating this cosmos that there is no way that God would bother to experience full humanity. That just seems silly.

But then, then, I got sick. And again, I found myself bouncing to the other side of the argument. Some new thoughts found me. In dark times, we like happy words and laughter; however, the words that found me were a bit dark. I don't feel good. I don't trust my body. I don't feel safe in my body. And as with most seismic shifts in life, getting my gallbladder removed was not the end to all health issues, it was simply the beginning. So, what do I do with this new reality and troubled embodiment?

I become grateful that we have an embodied God. We have a God who experienced brokenness, sickness, death, physical pain, emotional pain. And God didn't let that chapter end the story. Jesus wasn't above suffering or too good to suffer. He wasn't too righteous— he didn't have to be better than suffering. God didn't fight it. God dove right into it. God embraced suffering. Yes, even the dark stuff.

In churchy terms, we like to say that Jesus went to the cross to die for our sins. People of God, I believe Jesus went to the cross so God could show us that He has experienced brokenness to the max, brokenness to its end. The body didn't feel good. The body could not be trusted to take another breath. The body was extremely vulnerable. And that was just the beginning of the story.

This Holy Week is not an ending.

It is just the beginning!

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot

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



Ministry with Each Other

Easter Flowers



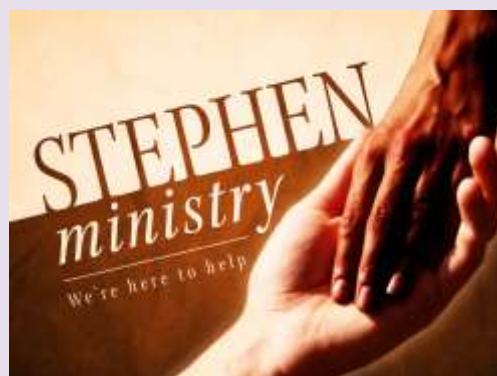
If you would like to purchase Easter altar flowers, order forms are available in the narthex and should be turned in with payment by April 3!

**Theological Discussions
with Pr. Dana**
will RESUME on
Thursday, April 20th
on
Thursdays at 11am
in the Capital Room

**Immanuel will host its Annual
Easter Breakfast**
on Sunday, April 9th at 8:30am in the
Fellowship Hall.



Please sign up in the narthex if you are able to provide a coffee cake!



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 Gail Mitchell.

Tea & Talent

May 13 at 1:30 in the pavilion



Come share your talents!
Deb LaBlance, Jordan & Emma Heinrich
and Laney Douglas will provide tea and
tasty tidbits. Bring your favorite tea pot
and tea cup and let us know if you need
a table/display area for your talent!

Ministry with Community & World



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.

Fall Education Opportunity- Would you like to learn more about Martin Luther?

The Synod is offering its second adult theological education course this fall. It will be Luther's Small Catechism for Adults and it will begin October 24, 2023. This course will be led by Dr. Kit Kleinhans, Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, and will be held via Zoom. More details will be published on the Synod's webpage. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Wicander at wican1lc@cmich.edu

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

Bishop's Satterlee's new books

Did you know that Bishop Craig Satterlee is one of just a few ELCA bishops who writes books? He published two books in 2022. In November he published [You Are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus](#) to assist Christians to feel comfortable and competent sharing the story of Jesus. This book is co-written with Chesley Satterlee and is available primarily from Amazon. This book was distributed to all Synod Council members and a copy will be provided to everyone attending the synod Assembly.

Synod Council uses this book at our meetings and 10 congregations are using the book as a resource. It is very interesting, well written and has prompted very meaningful discussions. It would be a good book to use for Bible Study. Bishop Satterlee is happy to visit via Zoom with groups using his book!

Bishop Satterlee and Pastor David Sprang are leading a retreat especially for lay people to discuss the book, September 17 – 18 at St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt, MI.

Bishop Satterlee also published [My Burden is Light: Making Room for Jesus in Preaching](#). Because of a generous gift, the Synod distributed complimentary copies to 100 pastors and deacons. A three-day retreat (October 16 – 18) will be held at St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt, MI to discuss the book.

If you have any questions about the books and/or the retreats please contact Linda Wicander at wican1lc@cmich.edu.

Interested in Learning about Our Synod?

I am honored and blessed to serve on our Synod Council and the Council's Executive Committee. I also chair the Seminary Debt Reduction Assistance Committee which awards grants to our pastors and deacons to assist in paying off their seminary debt. So how did I get interested in our Synod? Well, it was pretty easy...I searched the web, found our website www.mittensynod.org and began exploring. I found lots of information about activities, events and resources. I even started receiving weekly email updates, plus a monthly newsletter from the Bishop. Are you interested in learning more about our Synod? Our Synod has several ways to keep people informed. I've copied for you below the information from the Bishop's Report to the Synod Assembly.

A Weekly Update is sent to the email list every Tuesday morning and it contains news for the week. The Bishop's Newsletter is published on the 15th of each month and it is also sent to the Synod's email distribution list. It includes longer articles, snapshots of upcoming events, call process updates, and an update on the Synod's finances. You can subscribe to receive both these resources using the sign-up form on the homepage of the Synod's website.

Our Synod is also on Twitter, Instagram, You Tube and Facebook.

And if you still want more information, Bishop Satterlee has a personal webpage at <https://craigasatterlee.com> which includes news and updates, information on his books, links to his published articles, and writings, and a public schedule.

Business Ministry

Financial Monthly Report YTD as of February 2023

Spending Plan 2022-2023
\$384,524

Actual Expenditures:
\$143,546

Giving to Date:
\$143,171

Lawn Mowers Needed!!

For more than twenty years, members of the church have mowed the lawn. The church has several riding lawn mowers including two zero-turn machines. The front lawn is mowed about 25 times each season while the back lawn is mowed about 15 times. The front takes about two hours to mow and the back about the same two hours. A group of two on riding mowers and one doing the trim work can be done in an hour and a half.

A mowing schedule will be published in mid-April. We hope to assemble about six groups to do the mowing.

If you are able to help with the mowing, please contact Chuck Clise at 989 330-4751.

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 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.