



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 2023

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
320 S. Bradley St.
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: (989) 773-4204
Email: office@immanuelmp.com
Website: immanuelmp.com

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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.



Prayer Around the Cross

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall
on Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30pm.
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



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.....

Siblings in Christ,

Time is an interesting notion. I've been experiencing it in so many ways these past 2 months. The whole month of January is a wash for me. I really don't remember most of it. February has lingered, as I long to get back to Sunday morning worship and routine. We all experience time differently depending on the circumstances. Standing in line at the grocery store for five minutes can seem like twenty. Sitting next to a loved one for five minutes can seem like two seconds. I'm sure you've heard the quote or have even stated it before, "time is relative."

A scientist would argue, what makes time relative starts with the assumption that the speed of light is the same for all observers...bear with me here. If a baseball was thrown by someone on a moving train, the speed of the ball depends upon the situation of the observer. A passenger on the train would rate the ball's speed one way, while someone on the ground, watching the train go by, would rate the ball at a different speed. The speed of light, then, must be relative, depending upon the speed of the observer.

Are you still with me? When we are standing in line at the grocery store, our mind is racing about everything else we could be doing. February, for me, has been slow because I keep thinking about what else I could or should be doing. When we're sitting with a loved one, our mind is in the present moment and not wandering onto the next task. In January, I was just surviving each moment.

These experiences change our state of mind. Just as the speed of the ball depends on the speed of the observer, the speed of our day depends on the state of our mind. In that moment, we can be anxious about the future or remain right there in the present moment.

So, as we spend this Lent seeking, my hope and prayer is that we can actually live in the moment. May we encounter God in each moment. May we soak up this Lenten season as we soak up sitting with a loved one. May this Lent draw you more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot

LENTEN
Almsgiving
**MISSION
ENDOWMENT**

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund was set up under the By-Laws of our Church Constitution in 2003. It has been designated to enhance the Mission Outreach of Immanuel apart from the general operation and the contributions to the Unified Budget. No portion of this Fund is to be used for the annual operating expenses of the Congregation. Your gifts and bequests to this fund become part of its principal. Income from investment of the principal represents the amount available for allocation for the activities of the mission which have included:

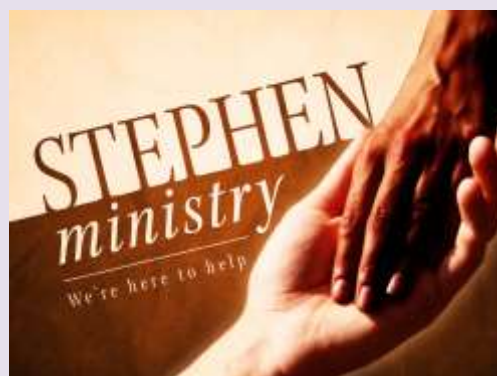
.....

- Flooding in Kentucky through ELCA
- Hurricane in Puerto Rico (Bill White efforts)
- ILC youth trip
- Hurricane Ft. Myers
- Graduating Senior Stipend
- Stephen Ministry training
- Puerto Rico Relief
- Advent Lutheran Church Lake Ann
- Living Waters Ministries
- ILC Youth Group Gatherings
- ILC Youth Group Mission trips
- Sarah Keller Uganda Mission trip
- Annual Graduating Seniors gift
- Amy Henderson Mission trip
- Katrina Relief
- Christmas Outreach
- ICRH Isabella County Restoration House
- LSSM Samaritas
- AIM Association Inter-Faith Ministries
- Campus Ministry

Ministry with Each Other



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings time begins on March 12. Don't forget to Spring Forward!



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.

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

These are on pause until Pastor Dana's return

Upon return,
the plan is to read *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr: Many of us feel disconnected by difficult times, longing for ways to awaken God's love in ourselves and the world. The reality we face is simple yet difficult – the healing of the world hinges upon honoring the inherent sacredness of the world and every one in it. We hope that as you rediscover Jesus and learn to experience Christ in everything.

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

Ministry with Community & World

thrivent

It is with GRATITUDE that Thrivent donated more than \$750 to help with the purchase of warm children's coats, blankets, boots, mittens, etc. for Christmas Outreach of Isabella County this past December. Thanks to many, including the LaBlances.

If you are a Thrivent member, please support continued success by logging in to Thriventchoice.com. Choice Dollars lets eligible clients with membership choose where Thrivent distributes a portion of it's funding each year. Your eligibility is based on insurance premium values. If you prefer not to go online, you can call: 1-800-847-4836- when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice" or "Choice Dollars". A representative will assist you and you may qualify for free \$. The dollars can be directed to Immanuel Lutheran in Mt. Pleasant or a designated charity of your choice. The password of our church is "God with us".

-This request for Thrivent donation must be made by the end of March. If there are questions call Carolyn Hoffman at 989-506-3763.

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.



Thank you to ALL who helped out with our ICRH weeks this season. Whether you volunteered for a shift, brought in food or supplies, helped to set up or clean up, checked the bathrooms every day, YOU are appreciated!!

Special thanks to Ryan Douglas for keeping us organized and stocked for these weeks!
You are a ROCK STAR!!

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 _____

Business Ministry

Financial Monthly Report YTD as of December 2022

Spending Plan 2022-2023
\$384,524

Actual Expenditures:
\$117,347

Giving to Date:
\$125,970

Easter Flowers



If you would like to purchase Easter altar flowers, order forms will be available in the narthex SOON!!

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.