



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

May 2023

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Summer Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9-3:30
(these will begin on May 22)

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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.



Synod Assembly 2023

We return to in-person synod assembly this year after meeting virtually for a one-day business only virtual event for two years. This year's assembly will be held May 7 – 9 at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mt. Pleasant. The theme will be "It's about Jesus!". This is an opportunity for participants to meet together in person, to worship together, to feel connected and inspired and at the same time conduct business!

Pastor Dana, Ted Tuma and Sarah Gilbert will represent Immanuel at this event. Beth Mundwiler will coordinate all the display tables and help the groups set up. She will have opportunity to meet with members of important ministries including Living Waters Ministries, the Environmental Stewardship Task Force, and Disability Ministries. Linda Wicander is attending as a member of Synod Council and the Executive Committee. She is also on the Nominating Committee

So, what happens at Synod Assembly? We have the opportunity to worship together, to reconnect with friends and fellow Lutherans and to hear about important trends in our synod and the ELCA. We conduct important business including elections of the vice president, Synod Council members, and members of the Discipline Committee and the Consultation Committee. We will vote to adopt the 2024 Budget and approve Compensation Guidelines for pastors and deacons.

We'll also participate in workshops on "it's about Jesus", "the Real Church: Church Buildings," and "Honduras: Health for Life."

We recognize anniversaries including Pastor Dana who is celebrating 15 years of ordination. In addition, we are also recognizing congregations celebrating significant anniversaries including four churches that are celebrating 150 years! (Bethlehem, Grand Rapids, Settlement, Gowen, Grace, Alpena and St Peter, Unionville).

It will be a busy and joyful coming together of our Synod's congregations and members.

A letter from Pastor Dana...

Friends in Christ,

In November of 2022, C.J. Clark, executive director of Living Water Ministries reached out to us about a fundraising effort to build a church in Papua New Guinea (PNG). I have included a flyer that he created during the effort to raise the funding. Immanuel has a long-standing relationship with PNG. We have had a number of members who have been there, the latest being Mike Piatek-Jimenez in August/Sept of 2019.

We also have helped fund disciples from PNG to come and work for Living Water Ministries as counselors during the summer months. Some of you may even recognize Sammy in the flyer; he was one of the counselors that we funded and he did come and preach at Immanuel the summer he was here. The council looked at the request prayerfully and Mike worked with our Churchwide Offices to make sure the steps are in place to know that the funding will be used as requested.

I am happy to announce that we sent \$2,000 from Immanuel to help make this church building in PNG a reality! We did make sure that it was fully-funded before deciding on the amount that we would send. The total that they need has been raised and I give thanks to God that we got to be a part of it.

May God's Spirit breathe life into their congregation and surround them with love. It is a gift that we get to be (even if it's small) a part of spreading God's love in this world.

In Christ,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

If you are interested in a small group discussion, please join Pr. Dana's Theological Discussion on Thursdays at 11am in the Capital Room or via ZOOM. (The link is on our website)



Ministry with Each Other

Thank you to all who attended the Easter Breakfast!

We raised \$329 to go towards the ELCA Youth Gathering 2024 in New Orleans! We appreciate your support!! Special shout out to Donna and Dale Hendershot for donating biscuits and gravy!! The youth appreciate you!!



- 2 **Beth Mundwiler**
- 6 **Donna Parr**
- 7 **Jennifer Gallaher**
- 10 **Kathy Marshall**
Tony Powell
- 11 **Leah Wicander**
- 13 **Matthew Strandskov**
- 14 **Julia Hoffman**
- 16 **Haylee Geisthardt**
Gabe Goodrich
- 20 **Trudy Staples**
- 22 **Chris denHeeten**
- 23 **Kennedy Brauker**
- 25 **Michael Deaton**
- 27 **Peggy Burke**
- 29 **George Dunn**
- 30 **Ryan Ferguson**



If you're interested in receiving occasional texts of scripture, song and prayer from Pastor Dana, text "Trinity" to 474747.



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.

Financial Monthly Report – YTD as of March 31, 2023

Spending Plan 2022-2023: \$384,524

Actual Expenditures: \$171,885

Income-To-Date: \$162,985

Lawn-Mowing Volunteers Needed

We are looking for more people to become part of the church lawn-mowing team. If you are interested, please contact Chuck Clise at 989-463-5292.

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 Each Other



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.

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you for all the cards, well wishes and the gift from Immanuel. It has truly been my pleasure to serve as treasurer for the past 16 years. I was truly blessed to work with so many wonderful people over the years.

Thank You,
Judy Emmons

Tea & Talent

(previously scheduled for May 13 at 1:30 in the pavilion)



has been **postponed** until August. Stay Tuned!!

Worship Ministry

May Worship Helpers

Altar Guild

7 Pat Podoll
14 Donna Parr
21 Rose Prasad
28 Karen Graef

Assisting Ministers

7 Natalie Douglas
14 Sarah Gilbert
21 Dan Digmann
28 Amy Powell

Ushers

7 Dennis & Kathy Marshall
14 Dennis & Kathy Marshall
21 Dennis & Kathy Marshall
28 Volunteers needed

Lawn Mowing (front)

5/1-5/6 Plouff, Berthold, Tuma
5/8-5/13 Eversole
5/15-5/20 Keller, Clise
5/22-5/27 Gilbert
5/29-6/3 Podolsky

Lawn Mowing (back)

5/1-5/6 Plouff, Berthold, Tuma
5/15-5/20 Keller, Clise
5/29-6/3 Plouff, Berthold, Tuma



Memorial Day

On Sunday, May 28 we will be honoring the fallen men & women of our Armed Forces. There is a sheet in the narthex to list the names of those you would like to honor during the service.



THANK YOU
to ALL who participated in
Spring Clean Up Day
on April 26th!!!

New Members Class

Pr. Dana will hold a New Members Class following worship on Sundays, May 7, 14 & 21.
Please contact her if you are interested in joining!

Council Minutes from March 16, 2023

Present: Ted Tuma, Beth Mundwiler, Linda Wicander, Sarah Gilbert, Penny Endres, Staci Couch, Dan Digmann, Gabe Goodrich, Pr. Dana Hendershot (via Zoom)

Absent: Mark Strandskov, Rose Prasad

Guests: Steve and Jan Podolsky, Denise Kaiser

Opening Devotion: Sarah

Five Minutes of Positive Talk

February Minutes

Feb. minutes accepted with 3 changes, which Denise will correct and send to exec team.*

Consent Agenda

All reports accepted as submitted.

Tech/Coordinator of Youth Report

No report submitted

Pastor's Report

Pr. Dana is recovering from surgery

Financial Report

Jan and Steve introduced a new streamlined report. Council voiced approval for this report.

Jan explained that two funds have been left as is for several years. One was from the Heifer Project Fund for \$550 and the other was from the Mission Service Fund for \$304.16. Pr. Dana suggested Beth might take the Heifer Fund dollars to Youth Group and let them decide how they would like to donate this to the Heifer Project. Beth said she present this at the next meeting.*

Pr. Dana suggested that the \$304.16 be transferred to the Undesignated Memorial Fund from the Mission Service Fund. Council approved.

Financial Report accepted as submitted.

New Business

T Shirt designs

Pr. Dana presented graphics of shirt designs. Offering sweatshirts and both long and short sleeved T shirts. The congregation will be given a chance to order after Easter.

Old Business

Personnel Update and Welcome

Leonard Smith will be joining us as our new organist April 23rd. Karen Graef offered to host a welcome for him on April 30th.

Refrigerator

Ted spoke with Chuck McCollum and explained that a commercial refrigerator costs between 15 and 20 thousand dollars, plus maintenance is costly as well. Chuck also recommended buying a 30 cubic foot fridge for approximately \$2000.

Ted moved to take up to \$3000 from Capital Improvement for purchase of fridge, Gabe seconded, motion passed.

Papua New Guinea Update

Beth reported that C.J. and Amanda added \$3500 to both Immanuel and New Era Donations, enabling the building of a new ELCA church in Papua New Guinea.

Council Retreat – April 22nd

Other

Penny discussed assisting Clothing Inc. with a \$1000 donation.

Penny moved to give \$1000 to Clothing Inc. from Mission Endowment, Dan seconded, motion passed.

Assignments*

Beth will present Heifer Project to Youth Group, Denise will correct Feb minutes, Ted will purchase fridge

Next meeting – April 20th

Dan moved to adjourn meeting, Ted seconded, motion passed. Beth adjourned meeting and we closed with prayer at 6:50 pm.