



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

August 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.



Please join us for our Community Family Fun Day on Sunday, August 13th in the pavilion following worship!
We encourage you to invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to this community event!

Please contact Sherry Pulverente with any questions!



Council Connections....

Greetings to each of you from your Congregational Council. Yes, the name sounds different; at this year's Synod assembly, the Synod leaders suggested that each church begin to make use of the new name. We believe it better represents who is representing you at Immanuel.

Since Pastor Dana is away for her medical treatment and healing, the Council has been given the task of keeping Immanuel's people updated on what is happening on council.

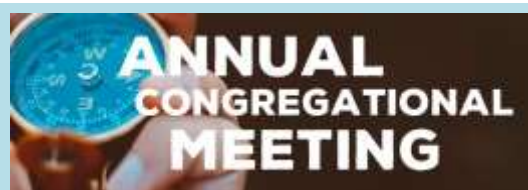
We are in the midst of finding new council members; if this is something that interests you, please contact Beth Mundwiler, Ted Tuma, or Sarah Gilbert. The congregation will elect new members to council at Immanuel's annual meeting on Sunday, September 24th after worship. What's involved in being on council? Attendance at one meeting a month – traditionally the third Thursday at 6 pm at the church. Sometimes additional meetings, either in person or online, are needed. The biggest need is the desire to serve, to prayerfully consider the items on the agenda, and to listen to diverse opinions and points of view.

Council is also hearing from all of those who have stepped up to help in Pastor Dana's absence. Stephen Ministry, led by Gail Mitchell, has taken on some of the home visits that Pastor had been doing. Karen Graef has graciously agreed to help coordinate ushers, coffee servers, altar guild and more – if you have not used her SignUp Genius site to volunteer, please talk with her on Sundays. If you aren't familiar with SignUp Genius, people are available to help. No volunteer is turned away!

Welcome to each of the new members! It is exciting to see people who have chosen to be part of Immanuel's faith family. Take time to greet them, find out a little (or a lot) about them, and share a story or two of how you came to be a part of our church.

If you are a veteran volunteer, consider asking someone new to be your "sidekick". Enlist them to help serve coffee, take a turn as an usher, or perhaps read Scripture when you are the assisting minister. Sometimes it is easier to step up to volunteer if someone has had a chance to see what the commitment involves. And as Violet Nelson has showed us, age is not a barrier to volunteering. It is wonderful to see Violet singing as part of Take Joy!

As Pastor Soyster reminded us, we are God's people tasked with serving others and spreading the Good News. Go in peace, serve the Lord.



Mark your calendars!

The Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday, Sept. 24 at 11:15am

Ministry with Each Other



Heavy heart? Stressed? Worried? Overwhelmed?

Stephen Ministers would like to pray for you and with you. We are available after each worship service to pray one on one (privately) with any who like to be touched with God's love through this caring prayer time. Look for a Stephen Minister near the fireplace following worship!



- 1 Barb McCollom
- 6 Jan Podolsky
- 7 Helen Leemaster
Jeanette Noch
- 8 Kara Watters
- 10 Sarah Keller
Larry Leemaster
- 11 Daniel Keller
Steve Podolsky
- 13 Pam Fultz
- 14 Tom Mueller
- 16 Abbie Powell
- 17 Sophia Powell
- 18 Thomas Ferguson
- 19 Shirley Howard
- 22 Audrey Douglas
- 26 Cheryl Geisthardt
- 30 Charlie Burke

The Care Store

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!

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 – Unified Budget YTD as of June 2023

Spending Plan 2022-2023: \$384,524

Actual Expenditures: \$267,794

Income-To-Date: \$270,990

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 _____

Church Council Minutes –June 2023

Present: Rose Prasad, Gabe Goodrich, Linda Wicander, Staci Couch, Mark Strandskov, Sarah Gilbert, Ted Tuma, Beth Mundwiler, Penny Endres. **Absent:** Dan Digmann **Guests:** Denise Kaiser, Steve and Jan Podolsky

Opening Devotion: Ted

5 Minutes of Positive Talk

May Minutes

2 corrections needed. Ref. Synod Assembly. *Denise will correct.
Minutes accepted with corrections.

Consent Agenda

There were no reports this period.

Financial Report

Please see attached report. Steve reported that we are up \$10,000 from last year at this time. Jan asked Council's permission to begin paying bills online. Council gave their approval.

Pastor Dana's Absence

Mark reported on behalf of the Personnel Committee. Pr. Dana underwent genetic testing and the results came back very good.

Supervision of staff will most likely be done by Dan Eversole.

Pastoral coverage for Sunday's only is complete through the end of the year.

Funerals – Ron Vredevel, Margaret Vredevel, Andreas Teich, Andrew Miller have offered to coverage.

Boundaries will need to be established with the entire congregation. Pr. Dana will not be able to text, call, or otherwise conduct work as she will be on long term disability. Mark said that someone from the Personnel Committee will provide updates as needed to the congregation after Sunday services.

*Linda will contact David Sprang to ask who in the Synod might be able to provide grief counseling as the needed.

Mission Endowment Request

Ted reported that Mission Endowment wants a donation for Youth Group when they travel to Appalachia in order to help with home repairs. Mission Endowment would like to donate \$2144 for registration fees and food.

Rose motioned to pay the \$2144, Penny seconded, motion passed.

Vision Planning

Discussion about the possibility of holding cottage meetings in order to receive input from congregation on vision planning. This will be discussed next during next month's meeting.

Annual Congregation Meeting will be September 24, 2023 after service.

Assignments

Linda will contact David Sprang

Denise will correct May minutes

Penny moved to adjourn meeting, Gabe seconded, Beth adjourned meeting at 7:27.

Respectfully,

Denise Kaiser