



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

September 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.



Mark your calendars!

The Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday, Sept. 24 at 11:15am,
with a picnic following!!

We hope to see you there!

Supporting Pastor Dana

If you would like a visible way to support Pastor Dana, wear a bracelet (available in the Narthex) and/or purchase a t-shirt or sweatshirt from Bonfire. We're encouraging people to wear the shirt/sweatshirt to church to show our support of Dana.

We would like to do a group photo of us wearing our shirts to the Picnic after the Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 24. We encourage anyone who has a shirt to please wear it to the picnic.

Please use the link below to purchase a shirt.

www.bonfire.com/store/immanuel-lutheran-church---mt-pleasant-mi/?utm_source=copy_link&utm_medium=store_page_share&utm_campaign=immanuel-lutheran-church---mt-pleasant-

Council Connections....

Rejoice in Our Community

This has been a long several years! Just as we thought things were getting better, Pastor Dana got sick, had surgeries and is battling lymphoma. And now Paster Soyster's 40-year-old son has died from a massive heart attack. It seems like we keep getting battered and bruised. We feel pain and despair. We keep hoping this will end soon but we must prepare for the long haul. Sounds scary. BUT

We're Immanuel. We're joyfully Christian, Humbly Serving and Boldly loving. "We love, because God first loved us" (1 John 4:19). God is with us for the long haul, not just for the next few months. When God told Moses to lead the people to the promised land, Moses didn't realize it would take forty years and he wouldn't even be allowed into the promised land.

We will get through this and it won't take forty years. We are not alone; God is walking alongside us on this journey. We have to support each other, find opportunities to engage with each other, and keep track of each other.

We encourage people to attend Church in person so we can connect with each other. We encourage you to participate in fun activities we've scheduled. The annual meeting and picnic is Sunday, September 24 (wear your Pastor Dana shirt if you have one). Attend the Beer, Brats and Hymns on October 18. Sing loud and joyfully. Attend the Food for Thought Luncheon on September 7 and then each month. You can meet with friends, enjoy a meal and learn about Immanuel's Reach Out Program. For something completely different, attend the Self Defense Tactics class led by the Mt. Pleasant Police Department on September 21. If this isn't your cup of tea, attend the art journaling class on November 16. If you have ideas on how to connect with people or ideas for community building, let one of the congregational council know. We want to be together in His name. And let's remember that Immanuel means "God with us".

Let's rejoice in our community! Remember "When two or more are gathered in my name, I am there." (Matthew 18:20).

Sarah Gilbert, Linda Wicander

Women's Retreat- November 3-4

Please join us as we discover "Who am I? - Who Has God Called Me to Be?". All women 18 and over are welcome. It begins at 7pm Friday and ends following dinner on Saturday around 6pm. We will be going to Eagle Village and stay overnight at their "hotel" style rooms. There will be 2 to a room and we will be provided a snack and 3 meals on Saturday. You will have time to walk the trails, relax and fellowship with each other. The cost is \$70 and will be payable to Immanuel Lutheran. Questions??? Contact BethMundwiler bmundwiler@gmail.com

Ministry with Community & World



**God's work.
Our hands.**



On Sunday, September 10th, Immanuel will participate in **“God’s Word. Our Hands.”** Sunday!

This year, we will be using our new “Reach Out” ministry at Immanuel to do God’s work throughout the month of September. We have chosen to help out the **CMU Food Pantry**.

After a discussion with this organization, we have learned that approximately one in three CMU students faces some sort of food insecurity, whether it be skipping meals, eating poorly, or having to “bum” food off of friends or roommates. Although they do have the ability to reach out to other local food pantries, CMU has made it easier by providing a pantry right on their own campus. Non-perishable food items and personal care items, such as toilet paper, shampoo, and feminine products are much needed items.

On Sunday, Sept. 10th during church, you will hear more about this opportunity to help this fantastic organization right here in our own community. Bags will be available and our goal is to **STUFF** our new Golf Cart with items throughout the month of September!!!



Please wear your yellow “God’s Work. Our Hands.” shirts to church on Sunday if you have one. A sign-up list will be available in the narthex if you would like to order one!

Ministry with Each Other

FUNDRAISING FOR PASTOR DANA

We are a kind, loving and generous congregation that is eager to help Pastor Dana. Many have been asking if we will be doing fund raising activities to help Pastor Dana with her medical bills and other expenses. For the next few months, we WILL NOT do any fundraising because the Personnel Committee and Pastor Dana are working through her insurance plan and her disability coverage to determine what will be covered. We DO NOT want to jeopardize her coverage in any way by sending money to her and/or her insurance companies.

We want to protect her and provide for her during this illness. The best way to do that right now is to let her disability plan and insurance cover her costs.

We can still help her in other ways. Please keep sending cards and keeping Pastor Dana in your thoughts and daily prayers. For a more visible reminder, wear a bracelet (available in the Narthex) and/or purchase a t-shirt or sweatshirt from Bonfire. Please see details about purchasing a shirt. (front page of Gleaner)

Sarah Gilbert and Linda Wicander



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

During this time of Pastor Dana's absence, you may wonder whom to turn to in order to share a concern in prayer. Our Stephen Ministers are available after each service to pray for and with you should you so wish. They will be located at the front of the church on the left of the altar immediately following the service.

September Birthdays



| | |
|----|---|
| 7 | Mark Strandskov |
| 8 | Sandy Davidson |
| 11 | Mark Johnson Deb LaBlance |
| 14 | David Sprang |
| 15 | Sue Foote |
| 17 | John Keller |
| 20 | Tanner Goodrich |
| 24 | Dan Digmann |
| 25 | Katrina Piatek-Jimenez Nicole Ferguson |
| 26 | Nolan Kaiser |
| 28 | Joan Langlois |
| 29 | Carolyn Hoffman |
| 30 | Sandy Deaton Jacque Jackson |

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!

Dear Immanuel Family,
I have been seeking to find a way to bless the congregation. I am rather limited to do much but I can pray and offer a Bible verse as well as words of encouragement. My plan is to share a Bible verse once a week during the work week with those who are interested. My phone # is 989-433-0150 extension 50327. Please leave your name and phone # which I can call you at.
Thank you. Patty Jo Bugh

Ministry with Each Other

Hello Everyone!

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer! The youth here at Immanuel had a fantastic, fun-filled summer. To start off the summer, Beth took Thomas F. and Isabel to Bridgebuilders at Stony Lake. This camp raises young leaders by exploring systematic racism. They had an amazing week full of fun and fellowship. In July, the youth group traveled with Trinity Lutheran in Grand Rapids to East Bank, WV for our mission trip. We spent the week split up into service crews helping on service projects at people's homes. We built wheelchair ramps, painted houses, built decks, and lots more! We had a blast helping the community of East Bank and making new friends. And speaking of friends, to end our summer, we invited our friends from Trinity Lutheran and St. Johns Lutheran in Celina, OH to a lock in here at Immanuel in August. It was so much fun hosting them here for a great night of laughter and fun.

To hear more about our summer, the youth will be talking about our experiences this summer, at worship on Sunday, September 24th. We are so excited to share what our youth learned this summer with you all! ~Thomas



Sunday School
Sundays at 11:00am

Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sundays at 1:00pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays at 6:00pm

Ministry with Each Other



Immanuel will host a Blood Drive on
September 28th.
We will be looking for volunteers and DONORS!!
Please mark your calendars!

When Luther wrote that familiar question, "What does this mean?" he meant it! He wanted Christians to understand their faith and to see how God was at work in their lives, in the church, and in the world. Join the Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, for a six-week study of Luther's catechisms. Let's dig deep into what God means *for us!*

Before she was Dean at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Dr. Kleinhans taught religion, including Lutheran Confessions and History of Christianity, at Wartburg College for 25 years. A fifth-generation Lutheran pastor and a brilliant theologian and Luther scholar, Dr. Kleinhans cares about her students, the Church, and what it means to be Lutheran today. She has a pastor's heart and is capable of both the deeply esoteric and the foundationally concrete.

The class will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings: October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21, 28 from 7:00 – 8:15pm ET. This course is open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers, and is free of charge. Sessions will be recorded and available to registered participants. **Registration is required and will close on October 19, 2023.**



[Register Now](#)

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 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 Aug. 2023

Spending Plan 2022-2023: \$384,524

Actual Expenditures: \$315,132

Income-To-Date: \$322,499

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 –July 2023

Present: Sarah Gilbert, Ted Tuma, Beth Mundwiler, Dan Digmann, Penny Endres, Rose Prasad, Linda Wicander

Absent: Mark Strandskov, Staci Couch, Gabe Goodrich

Guests: Steve and Jan Podolsky, Denise Kaiser

Opening Devotions - Dan

Five Minutes of Positive Talk

June Meeting Minutes

*Denise will add Andrew Miller and Andreas Teich to the list of pastors willing to assist with funerals.

Consent Agenda

No reports this month.

Tech/Coordinator of Youth Report – accepted as written.

Pastor's Report

Financial Report

Steve – month of June we were in the hole \$1450.

New Business

Budget – Pastor's salary reflects what we would pay if she was here. Overall, the budgets requested by each ministry were slightly less this year than last. We will table the approval of budget until August meeting. This will enable Council to review the proposed budget thoroughly.

New Council Members – We will welcome 15 new members this coming Sunday.

Letter from Schusters – leaving Immanuel.

Old Business

Pastor Dana Update – Chemo starts on Monday the 24th in Midland. Beth reported that Dana and Ryan Douglas have created a website and will post the address on FaceBook when it's up and running. Beth will give an update to the congregation after Sunday service.

Annual Meeting September 24, 2023

Excellence in Service – Judy Emmons is Council's nominee and has requested the Soup Kitchen to receive her donation. *Denise will send Beth email some words of love re: Judy.

Next Council Meeting August 17, 2023

Assignments

*Ted will correct budget wording, and email Penny the congregation's birthdays

*Beth will talk with Pr. Dana about what Beth may share with the congregation.

*Sarah to write letter for the Gleaner.