



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

March 2024

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.



Prayer Around the Cross

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall
on Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30pm.

March 6, 13, 20



March 24- 10am
Palm Sunday Service

March 28- 6pm
Maundy Thursday Service (& meal)

March 29- 6pm
Good Friday Service

March 31- 7am
Easter Sunrise Service

March 31- 8:30am
Easter Breakfast

March 31- 9am
Easter Egg Hunt

March 31- 10am
Easter Festival Service

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Friends in Christ,

Every Lent, we choose different places to share our Lenten Almsgiving. What is this word, alms?

The roots of the word “alms” can be found in ancient Latin and Greek words meaning mercy/pity, *eleēmosyna* derives from Ancient Greek *eleēmosýnē* meaning, compassion. So, the “almsgiving” is a reminder that we give out of compassion.

This year we thought we’d give back to the earth; this place we call home. We’re partnering locally with Chippewa Watershed to help plant trees.

There are plans to do some spring tree planting at our Mill Pond Natural Area (located on High Street—east of Chipp-A-Waters Park) in April. When we plant trees, we are attempting to restore Creation. You see, this area was adversely impacted by an emerald ash borer infestation. This resulted in rapid growth of an invasive species which has wreaked havoc. So, the Chippewa Watershed hosts regular work sessions to remove these invasive species from this property. This clears the way for planting both native trees and wildflowers, and grasses—plenty of volunteer opportunities available throughout the year!

As we endeavor on this Red Letter Challenge together, let us learn again what it means to be a disciple and to follow Jesus. It is a gift that our Lenten Almsgiving provides us an opportunity to not just give, but to show up and serve. Please continue to watch for updates as opportunities become available.

I leave you with a tree planting prayer:

As its branches open wide to the sky, may our arms open wide to embrace the greatest and smallest of your creatures. As its leaves provide food and oxygen, may we provide food for the hungry and hope for the lost. Bless this tree as a living reminder of your love and grace always among us. Amen.

In Christ,
Pr. Dana Hendershot



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

Lenten Opportunities at Immanuel

The Red Letter Challenge

Following Jesus should be practical and straight forward.

There are hundreds of books and bible studies on following Jesus, but few are practical and proven. Jesus modeled a whole life and even told us how to follow Him in HIS OWN WORDS (the red letters found in many Bibles). **The best way to follow Jesus is simply to follow the words of Jesus.** Red Letter Challenge eliminates the fluff and has helped thousands of people grow closer to God in only 40 days.

There are a number of ways to participate this year. You get to decide how deeply you want to dive into this Red-Letter Challenge. It is also a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend to participate!

- Sunday mornings, we will learn and hear about the weekly themes.
- Pick up the 40-day challenge book at church, *Red Letter Challenge*, and read the daily devotionals.
- Join a small group to dive deeper into relationship with one another and the weekly themes.

Devotionals

It's never too late to start! The *Red-Letter Challenge* book has 40 days of devotionals. You are invited to pick one up at the church.

Small Groups

You are welcome to stick with the same one each week, or if your schedule gets crazy feel free to switch what time you attend.

*Put in the list of small groups and times.

Lenten Service

Prayer around the cross on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent 5:30 p.m. (last one is March 20)

Faith in Action

Faith in Action at Immanuel



November

We had our third Art Night at Immanuel. A group of 12 came together for fellowship, friendship and art!

We collected non perishable food items and personal hygiene items and donated them to the CMU Student Food Pantry. By the time of our donation day, we had enough donations to fill SIX Dorm Move In Carts!



December

We collected school supplies for the students and teachers at 3 area schools. This was a huge project! By drop off day, we were able to pack a SUV full of our donations. Donations went to MPHS, MPMS and Oasis.



January

Our BEAUTIFUL humankind sign was proudly put up.



February

We gave out 200 little wooden Pocket Hugs. These act as a comfort stone and remind us that we are not alone. We also gave out 20 carnations to 20 different community members. Attached to each flower was the 'you are perfect' message.



March 28th at 6pm

We will gather around a meal of soup, salad, and bread. We join in liturgy around the holy meal as Jesus did on his way to the cross. We put bread and wine on each table and instead of a little nibble like we get on Sundays, we will feast.

We celebrate together in this life-giving meal!

Ministry with Each Other

Sunday Helpers needed!!

Each Sunday, we need volunteers to serve in the following capacities:
Altar Guild, Assisting Minister, Coffee Host, Greeters & Ushers.

Please sign up by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/?go=c.SignUpSearch&eid=08C6C8DCF5C8F6630C&cs=09CBBAD98FC58B167B0A640F5BC09BCDFDB5>



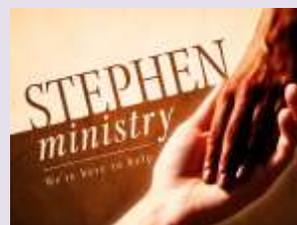
PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Abbigail's Senior Project Recital

APRIL
6
1:00 P.M.

320 S BRADLEY ST
MOUNT PLEASANT, MI

RSVP ABBIE POWELL AT
989-854-9362



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.



**VIRTUAL WELCOME
CENTER**



SCAN QR CODE FOR:
ONLINE GIVING
CONNECTION CARDS
PRAYER REQUESTS

Ministry with Community & World



Just a reminder that Daylight Savings time begins on March 10th. Don't forget to spring forward!



This Lent our almsgiving will go to The Chippewa Watershed to help plant trees locally. You can donate in the offering basket provided on Wednesdays at Prayer around the Cross, online by choosing "Lenten Almsgiving," or by marking any Sunday donation or mailed in donation as, "Lenten Almsgiving."

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.



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



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 and Sarah Gilbert for going above and beyond!

Financial Monthly Report YTD as of January 2024

Spending Plan 2022-2023
\$384,308

Actual Expenditures:
\$89,694

Giving to Date:
\$128,193

Easter Flowers



If you would like to purchase Easter altar flowers, order forms will be available in the narthex and should be turned in no later than Sunday, March 24th.

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.