



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

June/July 2024

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:

Monday-Thursday 9:00-3:30

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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 24-28



A letter from Pastor Dana...

Friends in Christ,

There is a shift in energy I feel in all of us when the daylight sticks around longer, the colors of creation come to life, the temperatures make us long to be outside, and the breeze prompts us to open up our windows. It is also a time when the flow of a school year shifts and some have more time to play.

Speaking of playing, I am excited to share some of the special ways we get to play this summer as a church!

We will have three opportunities for **worshiping outside this summer**.

1. Sunday, June 16th at Immanuel
2. Sunday, August 18th at Immanuel

Bring a chair if you're able, but we will have some available if do not have a chair to bring. We have decided to move worship to the pavilion area to make it more accessible (e.g., no walking on the grass).

3. Sunday, August 25th at Island Park

Worship in the Park is returning! I met with Rev. Andrew Miller at the Presbyterian Church, and we will be having an Ecumenical Worship Service on **August 25** at Island Park with a potluck following.

And there's more!

- **Open House for the congregation at Pastor Dana's.** Saturday, June 22 from 4 PM – 7 PM/ Rain back up: Sunday, June 23 from 2 PM – 5 PM. See more details on page 3.
- Third annual **Community Family Fun Day** is on **Sunday, June 23** from 11:30 AM- 2 PM. Join us for a bounce house, ice cream & games!
- SCUBA themed Vacation Bible School is the week of June 24-28
- Church Camp is the week of July 8-12
- ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans is July 15-21

And finally, starting Wednesday July 24, we will gather from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for a light dinner and beverages while we learn about ***Six Women from Church History that You Need to Know About***. It is taught online by the Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder, an ELCA pastor, and Professor of Church History at Capital University. She also teaches in the Department of Religion and Philosophy and Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Please hold all of these opportunities in prayer even if you cannot participate. May God's Spirit awaken us in all our fun this summer. May we learn more about God's love and feel the power of living in community together. God created us to live an abundant life, and for this summer season, let us play!

In Christ,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

More from Pastor Dana...



Open House at Pastor Dana's

Saturday, June 22 from 4 PM – 7 PM

(Rain back up: Sunday, June 23 from 2 PM – 5 PM)

Come check out her newly renovated home. A Taco Bar will be provided along with a few beverage options. If you'd like to bring food, please talk with Pastor Dana. If you've already seen her home come and join in an afternoon of fellowship and fun!

The original plan was to host an open house for the congregation when my renovation was complete. However, when it was completed last summer it was the same time I got my cancer diagnosis. So, it never happened. Now, it's a new year and I will have just went in for my 6-month PET scan (June 19). I may not have the results yet, but I plan on it being a celebration!

Pastor Dana's Out of the Office Summer Schedule

June 19	6-month cancer check-up PET Scan (PLEASE PRAY!)
June 26 –29	Vacation (my God son is graduating from High School)
July 1 – 7	Vacation (annual 4 th of July gathering) *Rev. John Soyster presiding on July 7
July 8 – 12	Confirmation Camp
July 15 – 21	ELCA Youth Gathering *Rev. Jim Couser presiding on July 21
Aug 13 –15	Vacation (but I will be back for the council meeting on the 15 th)



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

A letter from the Congregational Council...

From Congregational Council

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

- Proverbs 16:9

Make no mistake, this article is not about asking members of the congregation to increase their giving to the church.

It is about us as the Immanuel Lutheran Congregational Council being transparent about the status of the church's finances so there are no budgetary surprises at our Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 22nd.

As is standard every year, Congregational Council and members of the congregation's ministry teams have spent the past few months evaluating the church's finances in order to plan and budget for next year. This includes working together to best navigate and provide for Immanuel's congregational and spiritual needs in the response to the volatile economy we and the rest of the nation are facing.

Truth be told: Immanuel Lutheran Church is currently financially stable and has what it needs to operate and position itself for the future. However, some of the "rainy day" funds will soon be needed to cover where giving will fall short of what is budgeted for monthly expenses.

And this is why we as a council are sharing this news here in June so that there isn't any shock come September 22nd that Immanuel was operating "in the red" for three months and that the budget was tighter than previous years. As a church, Immanuel is strong and is in a good place.

We as a congregation, are merely making plans for our future while asking for God's guidance to help lead the way. In this spirit, we want to inform you that at the annual meeting in September, the council will present a plan for addressing our financial shortfall and strategic planning. Currently, we are revising the budget to accurately reflect our expenditures, envisioning a congregational strategic plan, and exploring alternative funding sources such as grants and new giving opportunities. A financial ask may eventually be part of this process. Please pray for our continued guidance.



Mark your calendars!
Sunday, September 22
11:15am

Vacation Bible School

JUNE 24 – 28, 2024

Immanuel Lutheran will be underwater exploring God's word with children in first through sixth grade.

From **9am to 12pm**, we will be hearing bible stories and then acting them out through science, physical energy, singing, eating snacks, and more!

Please invite your children, grandchildren and your nieces and nephews. All are welcome to this fun, FREE program! This year's registration is easier than ever, and it is all online! (See code at bottom of page)



VOLUNTEERS! Do you love God? Do you love children? Then we need you to help us instruct children at VBS about the love of God and Jesus! We need people on Monday, June 24 to work registration. We need a camp nurse for the week, and we need people to help in the kitchen but most of all, we need ten individuals to be on the CREW team. A Crew member is an individual who will stay with the same five kids all week. You can be a teen, a college student, a parent, or a grandparent – you just have to love being with kids and having fun! Register to volunteer online at the code below.

Questions? Please call Karen Graef @ #989-330-0399 / karenskeyboard@hotmail.com



SEE YOU THERE!!!!

Ministry with Each Other



We will celebrate our graduates from Immanuel during worship on Sunday, June 9th.

Congratulations to Isabel Goodrich & Abbie Powell~
Reach for the Stars!!!

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=09CBAD98FC58B167B0A640F5BC09BCDFDB5>



We're bringing back the Rummage Sale! If you have items you would like to donate to our Sale, you can drop them off and sort them in the Fellowship Hall anytime before June 5th. The sale will take place in the Fellowship Hall from June 6-8th. Spread the word!! All proceeds will go to the Youth National Gathering Fund for our trip this summer!



2	Ryan Douglas
6	Jocelyn Strandskov
7	Bob Hoffman
8	Dana Mielke
9	John Emmons
11	Rose Prasad
	Dave Simon
12	Lily Piatek-Jimenez
16	Lori Kreiner
19	Kathy Gatten
23	Isabel Goodrich
26	Andrea Redmond
29	Dorothy Fetting
	Sue Knight



1	Susan Stendel
14	Nancy Simon
	Val Austin
15	Aaron Smith
	Reed Wicander
20	Linda Wicander
22	Penny Endres
23	Chris Brown
25	Karen Graef
26	Matt Couch
27	Dennis Marshall
28	Dave Keilitz

CONFIRMATION

Essays



Audrey Douglas

I am so thankful to have the opportunity to be confirmed, affirming my baptism is a big step into faith and one I'm very excited about! Some ways I will deepen my relationship with Christ are by giving God my frustrations, pains, thanks, and everything else through prayer. While I am so sad to leave Immanuel due to my family and me moving, I will be sure to involve myself in our new church. Our confirmation classes taught me how much there is to learn about the traditions and practices of Christianity. There is so much to understand and interpret that I had never even thought about before! I want to continue to learn new things and to thank God for them! I will carry out my confirmation throughout my life by treating others with kindness and using the awesome gift of life that God gave me to help others through service.



Ryan Ferguson

After confirmation I will be able to identify with the Christian community more deeply by participating in voting in elections and finally having a deciding factor in the church. Also I will be able to feel more comfortable being a Christian knowing that I have finally affirmed my baptism.

Confirmation to me is me being able to say yes I believe in Jesus Christ and I'm a Lutheran. Confirmation also means a lot to me because I was supposed to take it last year but it was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and I have had a lot of time to think about my faith and everything to do with religion so it has been a long ride and I have finally been able to settle with Lutheranism. I will carry out my confirmation by going to church every Sunday I'm available and helping with the church as much as I can.

CONFIRMATION

Essays



Alana Piatek-Jimenez

What does Confirmation mean to me? To me, Confirmation is where I choose to share with the congregation my belief in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Confirmation feels like a stepping stone in my relationship with God. I feel the closest with God when I am in nature. Being in nature helps me find my center, my inner peace. I experience God through the trees and wildlife in the forests, and the sound of the waves at a beach. How can I carry out my faith throughout my life? I will be there for people when they are experiencing tough times. I will help people in need. I will speak out against things that are inequitable. Also as I get a bit older I look forward to doing service projects like going to the youth gatherings to help build houses or other projects for communities. I am also looking forward to having a vote in things at our church.



Sophia Powell

I will continue to attend youth group and church, with every opportunity available. This is very important to my faith journey, so I can keep relationships with the community and other youth.

To me, confirmation is renewing and strengthening my relationship with God and others in the church. The church is not only the building of people, it is the full embodiment of humanity. This means that I will be getting a choice and showing that I want to renew, not only my faith, but also my commitment to living life as a good Christian.

I will remain dedicated to do good things for God and all the people around me. For example, I will continue with my projects to help those in need. I will also put my best effort into being a good citizen and caring for all living creatures, the environment, and the Earth. This is something that I am very passionate about, as I have been conducting research in hopes to one day make an impact on these issues surrounding the environment.

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 73 years-old

If you are over 73 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, 2024

Spending Plan 2023-2024:
\$384,308

Actual Expenditures:
\$188,762

Giving To Date
\$202,420



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

Graduate ABBIGAIL POWELL

2024
SHEPHERD HIGH SCHOOL



ABBIE'S OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024 FROM NOON-3PM
320 S. BRADLEY ST.
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858

Our entire Immanuel family is invited to celebrate Abbie's graduation. Please join us.

**OUTDOOR
WORSHIP**

**Sunday, June 18 &
Sunday, August 16**

(weather permitting)

Bring your lawn chairs!!

**CHURCH
IN THE PARK**

On Sunday, August 25, we will meet at Island Park to worship with fellow congregations in town, like our brothers and sisters at First Presbyterian, with a Potluck following!

NWLM Synod

Summer 2024 – Six Women from Church History that You Need to Know About – Let's learn together in six evenings of fellowship.

Approximately 150 men and women attended our Synod's Adult Education program on Six Women from Church History that You Need to Know About. This lively, interesting and informative class was taught by the Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder, an ELCA pastor, is Professor of Church History at Capital University, where she teaches in the Department of Religion and Philosophy and Trinity Lutheran Seminary

This class was recorded and the Synod has given Immanuel permission to use these classes in our Adult Education Program. We are inviting men and women to attend the classes this summer. We will meet 5:30 – 7:30 for a light dinner and beverages. We will watch the videos and then engage in discussion.

The class will meet on six consecutive Wednesday evenings. Each class is a stand alone session. You do not have to attend all the classes.

Ever since the beginning of Christianity, women have been teachers, writers, and preachers of the Gospel. Learn about the struggles and accomplishments of six exemplary women from church history:

The schedule for the program is:

- July 24 Perpetua (d. ca. 202), North African martyr and visionary writer
- July 31 Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), Saxon nun and theologian
- August 7 Argula von Grumbach (ca. 1492-ca. 1554), Bavarian Lutheran reformer and pamphlet writer
- August 14 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648-1695), Mexican nun and poet
- August 21 Jarena Lee (1783-1864), African American preacher
- August 28 Pandita Ramabai (1858-1922), Indian Bible translator and founder of women's shelters

We ask that you sign-up for this class so we can determine the amount of food and beverages we will serve. Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex or contact the Church office at 989 773-4204.

One lucky person will receive a copy of Dr. Schroeder's book Voices Long Silenced – Women Biblical Interpreters Through the Centuries.

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL RETREAT

APRIL 27, 2024

PRESENT: Dan Digmann, Beth Mundwiler, Rachael Nelson, Diane Thomas, Rose Prasad, Pr. Dana Hendershot, Sarah Gilbert, Gabe Goodrich, Mark Strandskov
ABSENT: Linda Wicander, Staci Couch

- The retreat was called to order at 9:05 am.
- The retreat was opened by Pastor Dana with a devotional that focused on symbols of the Christian faith and how each of us viewed a symbol.
- We then broke into pairs or triads for cares and/or concerns, prayers, and blessings.
- NEXT, council discussed the future of Stephen Ministry at Immanuel and what the Stephen Ministry leadership thought would be best. After discussion, council supported Gail Mitchell, Stephen Ministry coordinator, and the other Stephen Ministers to create a model that might better fit Immanuel.
- Council then broke for a breakfast brunch provided by council members.
- Chuck Clise presented on the possibilities for solar energy for Immanuel. He presented scenarios for locations of solar panels, the amounts of energy each configuration would generate, and upkeep/maintenance. He also discussed the tax credit available for providing solar energy to the electric grid.
- Dave Simon presented on budget issues, effective uses of Immanuel's funds and how the endowment funds work. Many of us in council were not familiar with the endowment funds. Dave educated council on how the endowment funds provide income and then how that income is distributed.
- BUDGET will be a major concern for our congregation as we move into 2024-2025 budget year. Ted Tuma, Steve and Jan Podolsky and Pastor Dana continue to discuss budget projections along with anticipated giving. Discussion ensued on how to plan for the next five years including a capital campaign and growing the endowment fund. Also discussed were ideas about living legacy giving.
- In the budget discussion, it was moved by Rose and seconded by Mark to provide the \$400 for the Senior Stipends for graduating high school seniors Isabel Goodrich and Abbie Powell, and \$3450 for the ELCA Youth Gathering from the Mission Endowment Fund. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- It was suggested that the Community and World mission group take a larger role in distributing \$\$ to community groups such as ICRH, Community Compassion Network and others.
- The retreat closed with a discussion about what council members thought Immanuel was "missing". Members wrote ideas and then shared them with the larger group. This discussion will continue at the next council meeting.
- Adjournment at 12:35

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Gilbert ILC Congregational Council president

