



# The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

May 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.

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**Mission**  
**Joyfully Christian.**  
**Humbly Serving.**  
**Boldly Loving.**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
IS COMING SOON!!!**

**SAVE THE DATES:**  
**JUNE 24-28**

**READ MORE INFORMATION  
INSIDE THIS MONTH'S GLEANER!**

## A letter from Pastor Dana...

Friends in Christ,

If you have looked back by our pavilion, you may have noticed something is missing. The playscape is gone, and it's quite a different view. For years we have been updating it, trying to keep it safe for children to play. However, after serious discernment, the business committee and council agreed that it was time that the playscape rest in peace due to safety and liability issues.

To back up a bit, it is important for us to acknowledge those who helped bring the playscape into existence in the first place. With Thrivent grants and in stages over time, the playscape developed. They started out with a simple tower, and as our mission to care for youth and families grew, so did the playscape! So, this month, I want to shout out the team of people who made it happen:

Jodi and Elmer Beach  
Randy Bennett  
Ed Berthold  
Bill Gallaher  
Paul Geistardt  
Dave Hand  
Cindy and John Keller  
Paul Kruska  
Cliff Moss  
Steve and Jan Podolsky  
Gary Schwerin

The playscape created fun memories for many of your kids and lots of community children! It is always hard and sad to see such a physical change.

As it was being deconstructed, and I was distracted by this and that, Jan Podolsky shared with me some of the stories about the creation of the playscape—including its first picture! What a gift! As I walked away that day, I realized that I have witnessed the generation that brought this congregation into existence were still diligently working with their hands and feet to keep Immanuel Lutheran Church a holy ground. I was humbled.

And now, it is time to build again! I'm not talking about another playscape. I am talking about Immanuel Lutheran Church. This is a place where God is at work, and I feel the Spirit getting restless, breathing so much life into us. Let's follow the witness of those who brought this congregation into existence and keep this place a sacred, holy ground. The call of the church is to spread far and wide the message of the Gospel. The Good News of Jesus Christ. As we worship on this sacred, holy ground we take with us the message of God's profound love into the world. I cannot wait to see what the Spirit is up to among us!

Witnessing God among you,  
Pastor Dana Hendershot

# 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](mailto:karenskeyboard@hotmail.com)



**SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

# Ministry with Each Other



## Youth Rummage Sale

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 starting on June 2. The sale will take place in the Fellowship Hall from June 6-8<sup>th</sup>. Spread the word!!



- 2 Beth Mundwiler
- 5 Erin Smith-Gaken
- 10 Kathy Marshall
- Tony Powell
- 13 Matthew Strandkov
- 14 Julia Hoffman
- 16 Haylee Geisthardt
- Gabe Goodrich
- 20 Trudy Staples
- 25 Michael Deaton
- 27 Peggy Burke
- 29 George Dunn
- 30 Ryan Ferguson



Thank you to ALL who came to help with Spring Clean-Up Day!!! We appreciate YOU!



# 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.

### Financial Monthly Report – YTD as of March 31, 2024

Spending Plan 2022-2023:  
\$384,308

Actual Expenditures:  
\$153,600

Income-To-Date:  
\$182,049

### Chippewa Watershed Donation & Tree Planting



Immanuel ended up donating more than \$1000  
and on Saturday, April 20, 475 trees were planted!

Alleluia!!

## 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

## Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl Group has been a quiet but vital part of Immanuel's ministry team for decades. You may have even been a recipient of a prayer shawl or have a pocket prayer cloth. The team's numbers have dwindled over the years due to the age of its members and it needs assistance!

Can you knit or crochet? Are you getting God's nudge to you can be a part of this team which gives others the ability to pass on pocket prayers cloths or prayer shawls? Please contact Annette Foster at 989-400-6567 as she heads this ministry and would love to have your help!!!

Can't knit or crochet but still getting the nudge to help with this ministry? Consider donating to the prayer shawl fund so more yarn can be purchased. Thank you so much!



On Sunday, May 12, we will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation for:  
Audrey Douglas, Ryan Ferguson, Emma Muniz, Alana Piatek-Jimenez and Sophia Powell.

## 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>

## 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.



## Witnessing to Christ and Love for Neighbor in an Election Year

Join the Rev. Amy E. Reumann, ELCA Witness in Society Senior Director, for a six-week study on civic engagement intersections and opportunities in our faith journey!

The class will meet on six consecutive Tuesdays beginning Sept. 3  
from 7:00-8:15pm ET via Zoom



The North/West Lower Michigan Synod announces the next session of our Adult Theological Education program: Witnessing to Christ and Love for Neighbor in an Election Year. Join the Rev. Amy E. Reumann for a six-week study starting September 3, 2024!

The Rev. Amy E. Reumann serves as ELCA Senior Director for Witness in Society in Washington, D.C. Her leadership directs staff and church advocacy in federal public policy, through the ELCA-affiliated state public policy office (sppo) network, at the United Nations through Lutheran Office for World Community representation, and with the ELCA Corporate Social Responsibility program.

“Witnessing to Christ and Love for Neighbor in an Election Year” is an opportunity to hear from the Rev. Amy E. Reumann on civic engagement intersections and opportunities in our faith journey. Core affirmation of our baptism is to “serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus” and “to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” Informed by our discipleship, “We have a responsibility not only to fulfill our private roles and functions in life, and to pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2), but also to be civically engaged,” relays the ELCA social message on government and civic engagement. Dive in with six Tuesday evening sessions!

**To register:** <https://mittensynod.org/docs/BishopNewsletterApril24.pdf>

## **Council Minutes from March 2024**

**Present:** Linda Wicander, Gabe Goodrich, Diane Thomas, Staci Couch, Rachael Nelson, Pr. Dana Hendershot, Mark Strandkov

**Absent:** Dan Digmann, Rose Prasad, Sarah Gilbert

**Guests:** Jan Podolsky, Steve Podolsky, Denise Kaiser

**Opening Devotion** – Dana

**5 minutes of positive talk**

**February Minutes** – accepted as submitted.

**Youth and Tech Coordinator Report** – accepted as submitted

**Pastor Report** – accepted as submitted

Discussion regarding Immanuel hosting Dominic Thrasher in April. Pr. Dana wrote in support of Dominic on Immanuel's Facebook site.

### **Financial Report**

Steve shared that he and Jan were able to get a 6-month CD at 5.25% and they moved 100,000 into a cd.

Discussion followed as to what to do with the profit. It was decided, Council will revisit this towards the end of the 6-month period.

Steve proposed that by using a Money Market Account in addition to the regular Checking Account, we could be earning 2.4%. He explained that the Account has enough fluidity that we could pay bills directly from Money Market without penalty. He and Jan asked Council for approval to take monies from the Checking Account and put it into the Money Market Account.

Motion from Mark – to approve the Treasurers taking monies from Checking Account and depositing into Money Market and moving money as necessary. The signatures for this will be Pr. Dana, Linda Wicander, and Steve and Jan Podolsky.

Staci seconded, motion carried

### **Old Business**

**Audit** – Sarah is still talking with people and will report next month.

**AED Training.** Rachael explained that Josh Nelson, through his work with CMU, is taking a Train the Trainer Course in April and will become our AED point person.

**Calendar** – Beth put together a calendar and Linda will email this to Council.\*

**Council Retreat** – April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Committee is planning the retreat. Pr. Dana asked that creating budgets for the ministries be put on the agenda.

### **New Business**

**Synod Assembly** is May 11<sup>th</sup> at Pr. Dana's house.

Council responsibilities, to ensure that budgets and mission vision are communicated with the Chairs of the Ministries. Ensure that Chairs are given their monthly budget. Jan and Steve offered to print up the last two years of each of the individual Ministry's budget and make available to the Chairs.\*

Discussion and brainstorming about how to fund the Church in alternate ways. Pr. Dana asked that this be put on the retreat agenda.

**Excellence in Service Awards** – each ministry will nominate one person who will be given the award at the Annual Meeting.

**Child Protection and nursery opportunities.** Susan Stendal is working on updating the policy as well as offering a training. Roger Gilbert offered to help get the nursery up and running again.

**New Council Members** – Mark has agreed to another term. Council needs one person for next year.

### **Assignments**

Linda will email calendar to Council

Steve and Jan will print the last two years of each ministry's budget and give to Chairs.

### **Next Meeting – April 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mark motioned to adjourn, Beth seconded, Linda adjourned meeting at 7:15. We closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by, Denise Kaiser