



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

September 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-Friday 9am-3pm

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.



This month's Gleaner is LOADED with dates that you'll want to mark on your calendars!!!!

**Here are two....
Please read the entire newsletter to find more!!**

SAVE THE DATE

Immanuel's Annual Meeting
Sunday, September 22nd
following service

 Picnic after meeting

SAVE THE DATE

Beer, Brats & HYMNS
OCTOBER 17
MORE INFO TO COME...



A letter from Pastor Dana...

Friends in Christ,

As fall approaches, I can feel the energy and momentum building. This feeling was clear when Sherry and I sat at Mainstage, engaging with CMU students returning to campus. I felt spirit-filled as I rang the chimes with our children and listened to the congregation sing, "Jesus Loves Me." Soon, we kick off a Worship Wednesday program and our nursery will be open on Sunday mornings!

As we begin new programs this fall, the council is also starting a **strategic planning process**. Please remember to **complete the survey before Sept. 15**. There are pink printed copies in the Narthex, or access the online survey through the link provided on page 6.

Our mission statement says, "We are blessed with a beautiful church home filled with a wealth of resources. We continue to share it with individuals and groups who serve, and also to make it accessible and welcoming to all." Here are a few ways you'll see us carrying out this part of our mission this fall:

- We host an 8-cap playgroup for Early Head Start families.
- We host the Mid-Michigan Community Action food distribution once a month.
- This fall, we will host the Cub Scouts while Community Church is under construction.
- We host Suzuki Sprouts, a music class for babies.
- We will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, Sept. 19.
- Our parking lot is available to the Middle School teachers to make their walk more convenient.
- We have opened our shed to Christmas Outreach and Immanuel Village during their renovation.
- We will provide parking for Immanuel Village while their parking lot is under construction. Additionally, they will use our golf cart to shuttle residents between our parking lot and theirs. (Construction is set to start on Sept. 30).
- During the last week of October, we will house ICRH guests.
- Soon, we will begin bathroom renovations, including making our single bathroom ADA compliant.

Our building is a gift, and I am grateful that we continue to make it part of our mission to share it with organizations that serve and transform lives. I am praying for the strategic planning process to energize our mission and ministries. God is good! Today, I pray that everyone who enters our doors experiences Christ's love. May we be a beacon of light in the darkness, a source of hope for the hopeless, a comforting space for the weary, a safe space for those in crisis, a place of healing for the sick, and a place of love amidst dissent. In all these things, may Christ be revealed.

In Christ,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

Pr. Dana will be on vacation the week of Oct. 6
(Rev. David Sickelka will preach and preside)

She'll be attending her 25th College Reunion at Wittenberg University's Homecoming!

Ministry with Each Other

FALL Children & Youth Fellowship, Fun & Friendships

September - Welcome! Every Wednesday, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Worship on Wednesdays - Begins September 11, 2024

Dinner, Education, Singing in Choir, Ringing in Bells! Please join us as you are able. (Program runs from September through May)

October - Family Fun!

Sunday, October 27, 2 - 4pm

Papa's Pumpkin Patch! Come meet the staff for a Hay Ride, Corn maze, Carmel, corn, Hot cider, & friends! Fun for the **WHOLE FAMILY!**

November - "Thankful Hearts" respond in Mission! **Service Projects!**

Sunday, November 17 - **Children Sing & Ring for 10AM service!** Children can stay for lunch and a service project. Details to follow but please reserve 11:30am - 1:30pm on your calendars!

Sunday, November 24 - **YOUTH mission Project**

December - Children & Youth!

Saturday, December 14 - **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal!** 9am - 12noon.

12noon - Pizza Party!! Christmas parties to follow. Children in Fellowship Hall / Youth in Narthex.

Ministry with Each Other



MINISTRIES

CHILDREN, 1st – 6th GRADE!

On Wednesdays we have a FREE program for you that offers a 5:00pm dinner for you and your family! Then at 5:30pm, we have a fun Christian **Education time** with various teachers from the church. During this time you will explore stories from the bible with games and discovery to “dig deeper”!

At 6:15pm, **Music:** We offer a **Children’s Choir**, where you will learn to sing songs for worship with other children your age and we sing in Worship once a month. At 7:00pm, **Beginning Chimes/Handbells** an inter-generational choir, we will continue to develop your love for music as we learn many musical basics and beginning handbell ringing techniques.

Children 1 st – 6 th	Youth 7 th – 12 th	Adults
5:00pm to 5:45pm Dinner Fellowship Hall		
5:30pm – Children’s Education Classrooms 1 & 2 Various Teachers	6:00pm - Youth Time Youth Room Thomas	6:00pm - Chancel choir Choir room Leonard
6:15pm – Children’s choir Sanctuary Karen		
7:00pm – Beginning Chimes/Handbells Choir room, Karen	7:00pm - Intermediate Handbells Sanctuary Leonard	7:00pm – beginning Chimes/ Handbells, Choir room, Karen
Program closes at 8:00pm		

YOUTH, (6th) 7th – 12th GRADE! (6th graders may choose Youth Time)

On Wednesdays we have a program for you that offers a 5:00pm dinner for you and your family! Then at 6:00pm, you will join Thomas (ILC Youth Leader) in the youth room for discussions on deepening faith and applying them to daily living. Applying faith to everyday life and friends at school, problems, etc., this will be a lifelong pursuit.

At 7:00pm, Intermediate Handbells is an inter-generational group of handbell ringers who have previous ringing experience or have gone through the beginning chimes program. This group rings at Sunday worship services monthly.

If you are interested in joining us for these activities, please fill out the registration form (at the Church Welcome desk) and return it to the church office by September 8th. You can also register online at our website [immanuelmp.com]. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays and having fun together with God's word and music!

ADULTS, 18 & Older (Shhh! Don’t tell us your age!)

Please join the fun at dinner, anytime from 5:00 to 6:00pm! At 6:00pm, Adult Choir will be held in the choir room. This Choir is a non-auditioned choir and is for anyone who loves to sing! At 7:00pm, we hope you will join us at beginning chimes and handbells, and you can just remain in the choir room for the fun!

Ministry with Each Other

Music for All Ages



Join our choirs and handbell groups!

Do you love to sing or play handbells? Do you want to share your musical gifts with others and worship God through music? If so, we have a place for you at Immanuel. We offer a variety of musical groups for children, youth, and adults of all skill levels and musical backgrounds. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced musician, you will find a welcoming and supportive community of music lovers at our church.

Adult and Youth Vocal Choir

This choir is open to anyone in 7th grade or older who enjoys singing a diverse repertoire of uplifting songs. The choir is directed by Leonard Smith, a talented and experienced musician who will help you improve your vocal skills and have fun. The choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm to 7:00pm in the choir room. You are also invited to join us for a free dinner and fellowship at 5:00pm before the rehearsal. The choir performs regularly in our Sunday worship services and special events throughout the year. For questions, please call Leonard, our Music Director, at #970-443-9189.

Children's Vocal Choir

Our children's choirs are part of our "Worship on Wednesdays" (WOW! at 5:00pm) program for kids, which includes fun and interactive Christian education sessions. The children's choirs focus on learning songs that express joy, faith, and love, as well as basic vocal training. The choirs are led by Karen Graef, a dedicated and caring teacher who loves working with kids. The vocal choir meets on Wednesday afternoons from 6:15 – 7:00pm in the choir room. For questions, please call Karen at #989-330-0399

Handbells for all ages

If you are interested in playing handbells, we have two, inter-generational, groups for you to choose from. The chime choir is open to anyone (6 years and up) who wants to learn about handbell ringing techniques, have fun, and create music for worship. The chime choir meets on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the choir room. After a semester of chimes, individuals older than 12 years may join the Intermediate handbell choir, which is open to anyone who has ringing experience or a semester of chime choir. The handbell choir meets on Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Both groups will guide you through a variety of musical styles and challenges. The handbell groups perform regularly in our worship services and special events throughout the year. We hope you will join us in making music for all ages at Immanuel. For more information, please visit our website or contact our traditional music director Leonard Smith at #970-443-9189.

ELCA Social Statement

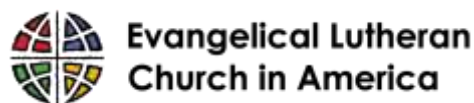
The ELCA is developing a social statement on **civic life and faith**, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Pastor Dana would like to offer a time to review this so we may offer our feedback as Immanuel Lutheran Church. We will meet following worship at 11:30 AM (give me some time to greet people) on **Sunday, Sept. 8, 15 & 29** (the 22nd is our annual meeting). No need to do research ahead of time unless you'd like to.

Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection, shape conscience and set forth the ELCA's teaching and policy on the major social issues and questions of contemporary life. Social statements are developed by task forces, using an established process of study and widespread participation across the church to guide theological and moral deliberation.

At this time the task force encourages you to study and give feedback on a [draft version of the social statement](#). They provide us a way to share our feedback after discussing this draft statement.

To download the draft in Spanish, please [click here](#).



Strategic Planning at Immanuel

It is time to look at our current ministries and set some goals for our future! To start, Immanuel Lutheran Church Council created a survey for congregational insight on the current and future direction of our ministry. The goal of this survey is to get your perspective on what Immanuel Lutheran Church is called to do. Please know that this survey includes open-ended questions that require thought and prayer to answer fully. Consider reading through a paper copy of the survey (available at church), taking notes, and then filling out this survey (or just turning in a paper copy). Feedback from the congregation will go a long way to help guide decision making (e.g., budgetary decisions and resources) to meet God's calling for our church. Please know that this will be a process starting with this survey (August 15 – Sept. 15) and moving to focus groups. We will present preliminary findings from this survey at our Annual Meeting with the congregation on September 22 following worship.



To fill out survey, click here:

https://cmich.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Nt6OR07yFfBlqu

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 July 31, 2024

Spending Plan 2023-2024:
\$384,308

Actual Expenditures:
\$274,738

Giving To Date:
\$275,641



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 _____

Worship Ministry



Starting Sunday, September 8, 2024 our church nursery will be back up and running! Your child/infant (newborn to 4 years old only) will be cared for every Sunday by two students from Central Michigan University who are majoring or minoring in Early Childhood. The nursery is maintained (cleaning & supplies) according to the State of Michigan 2024 guidelines. For more information, please visit the nursery! The Nursery hours are 9:30 am – 11:30 am unless otherwise posted.



WE have many opportunities to volunteer and get involved at Immanuel. Some direct opportunities to help with our Worship life are through signing up! A job summary is on each page...

Assisting Minister [Immanuel Lutheran Church: Assisting Ministers \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

Altar Guild [Immanuel Lutheran Church: Altar Guild \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

Coffee host [Immanuel Lutheran Church: Coffee Hosts \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

Greeter/Welcome Center [Immanuel Lutheran Church: Greeters \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

Sign up through Christmas!!!

September Birthdays



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



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

Ministry with Each Other

Adult Confirmation Class

Calling everyone from the lifetime Lutherans to the brand new ones! Curious what the middle schoolers are being taught in confirmation class these days? Pastor Dana is planning to lead a confirmation class for all ages this year.

The classes will be held on the **second Sunday of every month from September 8 - March 9 from 1:30 PM - 3 PM**

Sign up in the Narthex by the end of August if you'd like to join.



Immanuel will host its annual Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, September 19 from noon-5:45pm. We need donors AND volunteers! If you are able to help out, please contact Billie at 989-506-4581



November 1 & 2

You are invited to attend a Women's Retreat at Eagle Village on Friday, November 1 to Saturday November 2nd. Our theme will be Worthy- talking about the difference between self-confidence and self-worth and how God has created us and we are WORTHY. The cost is \$73 which includes the overnight stay and 3 meals on Saturday. It will start at 7:30pm Friday to 6pm on Saturday. You can write a check to Immanuel and sign-ups will begin the end of September.

Questions? Contact Beth at bmundwiler@gmail.com

Visitation Ministry

At the recommendation of the Stephen Ministers, the council agreed that our congregation would be better served by a caring ministry program that offered more flexibility and timeliness to meet a variety of needs.

Thus, our Stephen Ministry is transitioning into a visitation ministry, and everyone is welcome to participate. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Dana.

We still have our trained Stephen Ministers among us even though the program is inactive with no one currently serving. I, Pastor Dana, want to give a heartfelt shout-out to them for their faithful care, listening, and learning. They have truly been an amazing gift to us all. I also want to recognize Gail Mitchell and Denise Kaiser who are heading up the visitation ministry. Thanks be to God for their service.

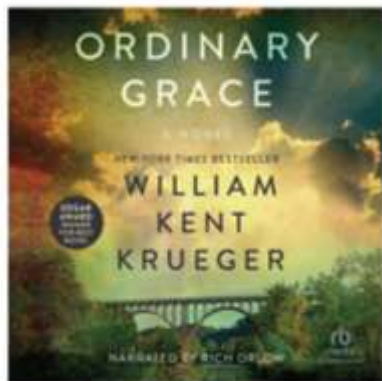
Ministry with Each Other

BOOK CLUB!

Attention all book-loving ladies! Join our monthly gatherings for engaging discussions on new books and great companionship. Each session lasts 90 minutes. If you can't make one meeting, drop in at the other since both groups cover the same read.

- 1) First Monday of each month: 6:30-8:00pm at Karen Graef's. Enjoy charcuterie, desserts, and wine.
- 2) First Thursday of each month: 10:00-11:30am with Linda Wicander at the church, serving coffee and treats.

OCTOBER -



Description

Award-winning author William Kent Krueger has gained an immense fan base for his Cork O'Connor series. In *Ordinary Grace*, Krueger looks back to 1961 to tell the story of Frank Drum, a boy on the cusp of manhood. A typical 13-year-old with a strong, loving family, Frank is devastated when a tragedy forces him to face the unthinkable - and to take on a maturity beyond his years.

NOVEMBER -



Following in the footsteps of Brian McLaren and others, Marcus Borg – popular scholar and author of Jesus Seminar fame – has written a novel. *Putting Away Childish Things: A Tale of Modern Faith* (Harper, 2010) tells the story of professor Kate Riley, a liberal Christian in an academic setting. Her secularist constituents (including some of her colleagues) view her as too religious, while her conservative students (and their parents) view her liberal beliefs with suspicion.