



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 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 9-3:00

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.



\$10 Tickets are available after worship OR in the office!

2024-2025 Church Council

Linda Wicander, President
Dan Digmann, Vice-President
Sarah Gilbert, Past President

Staci Couch
Gabe Goodrich
Dianna House
Rachael Nelson
Rose Prasad
Mark Strandskov
Diane Thomas

Treasurers: Steve & Jan Podolsky
Recording Secretary: Denise Kaiser

A letter from Pr. Dana...

Friends in Christ,

At the annual meeting, I shared the story of how the bathroom remodel project came to fruition. For those who weren't present, Jan Strickler had been asking me for years to suggest projects around the church. I finally sat down with her and shared three ideas that the congregation had been discussing. She agreed (as most of us would) that the bathrooms are outdated, and the plumbing could use some TLC. Our next step was to get a quote, which came back at \$52,860—leaving us all wide-eyed.

During further discussion, I pointed out that our current handicap bathroom is not ADA-compliant. I suggested that addressing that issue should be our first priority, and Jan agreed. The quote for that work was \$15,000, and Jan generously offered to donate that amount.

The business ministry met and decided to approach this project more "in-house," allowing us to ideally achieve more with less money. Josh Nelson, a member and contractor, has agreed to lead the project. As we discussed the plan with the council and the business ministry, momentum grew. The Simons pulled me aside, saying they felt called to donate \$2,000. A few weeks later, the Wicanders called to offer \$5,000. And then... and then...

The response to the bathroom remodel has been a joyful outpouring of generosity, with \$28,000 pledged as of the time I'm writing this letter.

At the same meeting, we also addressed a financial shortfall for our current fiscal year. A few more members, feeling God's call toward generosity, pledged an additional \$6,000 to help cover the unified budget deficit. Alleluia!

I want to be clear: we are not conducting a capital campaign at this time, but I'm happy to make informal requests. If you'd like to contribute to either the deficit or the bathroom project, please indicate that on your gift. Your generosity reflects your excitement about both the bathroom renovation and the mission of keeping our ministry running through our unified budget. Our goal is to have the bathroom remodel completed by Christmas.

And just for fun, I thought I'd ask ChatGPT for some "liturgical puns about a bathroom remodel":

- "Let there be light fixtures, and it was good."
- "We must wash away our sins... and maybe that old sink."
- "Renovation is the Lord's work, but I think we'll need more than just prayer for this grout."
- "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive the contractor for being late."
- "Let the waters flow freely, as long as the pipes hold steady."

May these bring a little humor to the renovation process! God is good.

In Christ,

Pastor Dana Hendershot

Worship Ministry



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

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

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

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

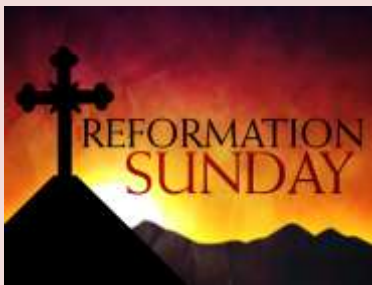
Greeter/Welcome Center [Immanuel Lutheran Church: Greeters \(signupgenius.com\)](http://Immanuel Lutheran Church: Greeters (signupgenius.com))

Sign up through Christmas!!!



All Saints' Sunday is November 3rd. During worship, we will honor and remember those we've lost over the past year. Please submit names and photos to by Oct. 27.

There is a sign up list in the narthex and photos should be emailed to office@immanuelmp.com

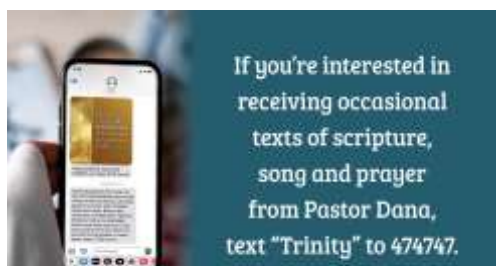


Reformation Sunday recognizes and commemorates Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. Remember to wear RED on October 27th!



Immanuel will host the ICRH rotating homeless shelter from Oct. 27- Nov. 3

Volunteers and food donations will be needed. Sign up links will be sent out in the near future!



Christmas Outreach of Isabella County

MUST LIVE IN ISABELLA COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE

**COATS, HATS, MITTENS, BOOTS, LINENS,
CHILDREN'S BOOKS, CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS,
STOCKINGS & HOUSEHOLD TOTES**

REGISTRATION DATES

Mon - Fri Oct 28 - Nov 1

Mon - Wed Nov 4 - Nov 6

Registration is Open 8am-4pm

TO REGISTER CALL

989-773-4204

PLEASE NO EARLY CALLS

**DISTRIBUTION
WILL BE BACK AT
MOREY
COURTS
NEXT TO ICE RINK
& CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

**SHOPPING
DAYS
DEC 13 & 14**

5175 E REMUS RD • MT PLEASANT MI

Ministry with Each Other



This year, Fall clean-up day will take place on Sunday, October 20 following worship (11:30-1:30).

Please consider staying after church to help with some of our annual fall chores! (There are jobs for all ages!)

Bring a change of clothes, your gloves and your rakes!

A pizza lunch will be provided in the Fellowship Hall following our work session!

Please see Harry Plouff if you have any questions!



- 3 Sarah Gilbert**
- 4 Paul Geisthardt
Kathy Smith**
- 5 Cindy Keller**
- 9 Craig Kreiner**
- 10 Abby Geisthardt
Josie Muniz**
- 11 Holly Hoffman**
- 12 Cheryl Strandskov**
- 14 Roxanne Lueder**
- 16 Dana Mielke**
- 17 Eric Podolsky**
- 19 Pete LaBlance
Natalie Douglas**
- 23 Patty Jo Bugh**
- 28 Pat Podoll**

CARING MINISTRY

(Formerly Visitation Ministry)

"...you can be sure that any act of care done in Christ's name is never wasted." (Ministering to Inactive Members, p.95)

A Caring Ministry is more than a visitation ministry. It is a way to recognize that every person in our congregation may need some extra support along the way. Reaching out to others in their time of need strengthens our connection as community of faith.

Examples of ways we can offer care to those in need include making quick trips/errands, writing notes/cards, providing rides to medical appointments, hospital visits, home communion, surgery companion, personal visitations, and giving rides to church.

We have members who have already volunteered to assist with one or more of these areas. Volunteers do not commit to any schedule and may say yes or no when an opportunity is offered. We would like more volunteers. If you are interested please talk with Pastor Dana or fill out the Time and Talent sheet on line.

An orientation meeting for volunteers is planned for Sunday, October 20, 1:30 in the Capital Room. All members who would like to learn more are welcome.

Ministry with Each Other



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- up is available in the narthex.



Youth Group

October 13th - Youth Group 2-4pm

October 27th - Youth Group (Papa's Pumpkin Patch)

November 8-10th - The Charge at Great Wolf Lodge (6-12th Grade) Talk to Thomas or Beth for more information
(thomas@immanuelmp.com)

November 24th - Youth Group (Making Tie Blankets)

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!

After countless hours of dedicated service to Immanuel, specifically in the gardens, the church council has voted to dedicate our memorial garden as the

"Robert E. Hoffman Memorial Garden"

A special thank you to all who prepared/served a very fine meal and to all who came to celebrate Bob's life.

~The Hoffman Family

Ministry with Each Other

Systems Theory

Congregations often struggle to begin conversations that have to do with priorities and direction, sometimes fearing the process more than the answers to their challenges. Difficult people need to be appeased and there is usually a sizeable contingent that withholds their opinions until the plan is being implemented, then raises opposition to it. Unwritten rules and unvoiced expectations make difficult conversations nearly impossible. How can leaders of congregations foster wide participation and facilitate honest expressions of hopes and dreams when anxiety and apprehension accompany every step of the process? Systems Theory offers some insights as to the roots of our discomfort and the things leaders can do to encourage members to embrace the process of changing course. As an adjunct to Immanuel's engagement of a strategic planning process, the Rev. David Sickelka will offer a series of conversations on the benefits of applying Systems Theory to the relationships and interactions of a faith community. During the month of October, the following topics will be addressed in 1-hour sessions following worship:

REV. DAVID SICKELKA WILL OFFER A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS ON THE BENEFITS OF APPLYING SYSTEMS THEORY TO THE RELATIONSHIPS AND INTERACTIONS OF A FAITH COMMUNITY.

Oct. 6 - A brief history and overview of Systems Theory and its main concepts.

Oct. 13 - Identified Patients/Problems, and What to Do about Them

Oct. 20 - Communicating ideas that matter without fracturing community

Oct. 27 - Committing to Relationship without sacrificing your identity

following service at Immanuel

For any who cannot attend on Sundays, there will be a two hour crash course on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 10:00 to noon

Bio: The Rev. David Sickelka was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1985 and has since served congregations in Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. Systems Theory came into his professional life when he was certified to do interim ministry by The Interim Ministry Network. The lens of Systems theory helped him to sort out issues in congregations that had histories of misconduct, malfeasance, dysfunction, or were just plain "stuck." Now mostly retired, Pastor Dave has a passion for helping communities of faith unleash the power of their common faith as they discover their passions and develop strategies for meeting the needs of their communities. He lives in Mt. Pleasant with his spouse, Susan, and two incredibly noisy canines, Zippy and Fiona.

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 – YTD as of August 31, 2024

Spending Plan 2023-2024: \$384,308

Actual Expenditures:
\$299,822

Giving To Date:
\$291,247

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

Compelling Preaching Study

We are excited to announce our participation in a groundbreaking, nationwide project in collaboration with Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. This initiative aims to enhance how we understand and experience sermons in our rapidly evolving world.

In today's post-pandemic era, the landscape of faith and communication has shifted dramatically. We're asking the crucial question: What truly makes a sermon compelling and impactful in the 21st century?

This is where your voice becomes invaluable. We're reaching out to you, to help shape the future of preaching. What resonates with you in a sermon? What transformative power do you seek in these messages? Your insights are at the heart of this innovative research.

Participating is simple yet powerful:

1. Sunday, October 13, listen attentively to the sermon by Megan Floyd.
2. Scan the QR code for a quick survey or click the link here:
https://luthersem.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Ay8FLFgziLBmfA
3. Share your honest thoughts and experiences.
4. Sign up for the follow-up survey.

In the survey it will give you an option to put the date: 10/13/2024 and then will ask you where you heard the sermon. There will be an option to choose Megan's name. Then you'll proceed with your comments. It looks to be about a 5-minute survey.

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. Book samples are available in the narthex.

- 1) First Monday of each month: 6:30-8:00pm at Karen Graef's. Enjoy charcuterie, desserts, and wine. (This month, the group will meet on October 7)
- 2) First Thursday of each month: 10:00-11:30am with Linda Wicander at the church, serving coffee and treats. (This month, the group will meet on October 10)



Please be sure to update your Time & Talent sheets by clicking here:
<https://immanuelmp.churchcenter.com/people/forms/821336>