



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

January 2025

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
320 S. Bradley St.
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

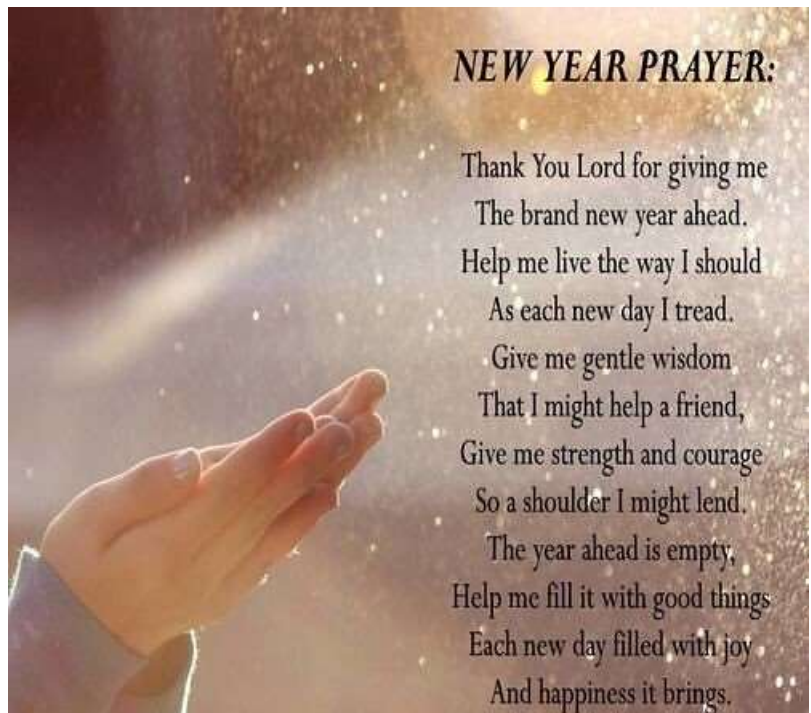
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Immanuel has an online church directory. Visit our website and check it out!
Contact the office for your username and password.

Mission
Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.

A Letter from Pr. Dana.....

Friend in Christ,

As the New Year dawns, we find ourselves at the threshold of new opportunities and fresh beginnings. This is a time when many of us set resolutions, create goals, or reflect on the changes we'd like to see in our lives. It's a beautiful practice—to pause, dream, and aim for better. But have you ever considered that long before we began setting intentions for ourselves, God set intentions for us?

In the opening verses of Genesis, we witness the Spirit of God moving over the chaos and darkness, bringing forth light, life, and order. Creation itself was an act of divine intention—a purposeful and loving expression of God. From the very beginning, God's intentions for us have been rooted in love, grace, and the promise of abundant life.

Even when humanity faltered, God's intentions remained steadfast. Through the covenant with Abraham, the liberation of the Israelites, the words of the prophets, and most profoundly, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has consistently called us back into relationship and renewal. God's good intentions for us are eternal and unwavering.

As we enter this New Year, let us ground our own intentions in the faithfulness of God's promises. What might it look like to align our goals with God's desires for us? Perhaps it means committing to practices that deepen our relationship with Christ—like prayer, worship, or acts of service. Maybe it's about seeking reconciliation in a strained relationship or embracing rest and self-care as sacred acts. Whatever your intentions may be, let them be infused with trust in God's guidance and a willingness to step out in faith.

This year, I challenge you to lean into your faith in a new and bold way. Take time to listen for the Spirit's leading, and dare to believe that God is doing something new in you and through you. As Paul reminds us in Philippians 1:6, "The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

May 2025 be a year where God's good intentions and our faithful responses weave together a tapestry of hope, love, and renewal. Happy New Year!

In Christ,
Pastor Dana Hendershot

Pastor Dana will be out of the office from January 23 -30, 2025

She, along with Thomas and Beth, will be attending the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza as part of her continuing education.

Please pray for safe travels!



Ministry with Each Other



We would like to thank you for the very generous Christmas bonuses that were given to us from the Immanuel congregation. We are all truly humbled! We wish you all a very Happy & Healthy New Year!

-Pr. Dana & the Staff of Immanuel



The Immanuel Youth appreciate your support at our holiday bake sale in December. From baking goodies for us to sell at Santa's Workshop and our annual bake sale after the Christmas Program, we raised over \$1000 to send our youth to Work Camp in Ashby, MN this summer! We are so blessed with the support of our congregation.

Thank You!!!



- 1 Gary Ordiway
- 11 Dianna House
- 13 Karl Mikko
Dan Hoffman
- 14 Debi Mikko
Jim Erickson
Bill Edmondson
- 15 Judy Ramsower
- 20 Margo Jonker
- 27 Dave Wyman
- 28 Judy Emmons
- 29 Bill Jensen
- 30 Elias Gaken

A note from the Personnel Committee...

Yearly staff evaluations will be done in the upcoming month for Pr. Dana, Andrea, Thomas, Leonard, Bill and Sherry.

If you would like to offer any input regarding these evaluations, please reach out to one of the following personnel committee members:

Dan Eversole
Gail Mitchell
Amy Powell
Mark Strandskov

Ministry with Each Other

Campus Ministry Sunday, January 12th
3 part invite

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| 10am | Noon | 2pm |
| CHURCH SERVICE AT IMMANUEL | LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP WITH PASTOR DANA | HELP PASS OUT GIFTS TO FOSTER KIDS |

Immanuel Lutheran Church 320 S. Bradley in Mt. Pleasant.

Details

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|--|--|
| 10am Church Service | Join us for Sunday Morning Service. All are welcome. |
| Noon Fellowship Lunch | Join us for Campus Ministry with Pastor Dana. We will enjoy lunch and fellowship. |
| Handing Out Gifts to Foster Children 2pm | Immanuel will be traveling to Rosebush to take part in the Foster Care event. Immanuel will be giving out hair care items, small gifts and raffling off two bikes. We would love if you came with us and helped. |

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.



Our next host week is Feb. 2-9.
Watch for details.....

Looking Ahead at the Book Group

Immanuel's book group is meeting throughout the winter with meetings on Monday evenings and Thursday morning. Reader's choice as which day and time to attend, we're reading the same book at both meeting dates.

In January we're reading a non-fiction book Sisters of Sinai: How Two Lady Adventurers Discovered Hidden Gospels by Janice Soskice. It's the true story of two Victorian Women who traveled to St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Peninsulas and discovered the earliest known copy of the Gospels in ancient Syriac, the language Jesus spoke.

In February we are meeting to discuss Isadore's Secret: Sin, Murder and Confession in a Northern Michigan Town by Mardi Link. This is a real page turner. It's a true crime novel set in Northern Michigan in the town of Isadore which is in Leelanau County. Isadore was a small farming community with a traditional Catholic and Polish speaking population. In 1907 a nun disappeared from the Holy Rosary Convent. A full-scale search took place with hundreds of men and women searching the woods, farms, swamps and ponds. A bloodhound tried to find her scent, a clairvoyant couldn't find a trace of her, the mother house in Detroit didn't hear from her. It was a national mystery...and then a national scandal!

In March, we're reading a novel that is also set in Northern Michigan. It's The Recipe Box by Viola Shipman. It's a feel-good novel and a sweet romance, filled with good recipes. It follows several generations of women who live, love and work to save the family orchards. It's a vivid picture of life in Northern Michigan.

Business Ministry

2024 Giving Statements

Your 2024 giving statements will be emailed. If we do not have an email on file for you, we be "snail-mail" it to you. If we send yours by email, but you would still like to receive a hard copy, please email Andrea at office@immanuelmp.com.

Financial Monthly Report YTD as of November 2024

Spending Plan 2024-2025
\$388,029

Actual Expenditures:
\$63,641

Giving to Date:
\$52,633

2025 Offering Envelopes

These are available in the narthex.
If you are able, please pick yours up on Sunday
OR
if you are not able, please contact the office and
we will mail yours to you!

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.