



Immanuel Lutheran Church

The Gleaner

A publication of
Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
(989) 773-4204
www.immanuelmp.com

If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please let us know.

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Layout and Editor: Andrea Redmond
Youth Director: Gail Caleca

The Deadline for submitting articles and information is the 20th of each month.

Mission

We **welcome** you into faith in Christ Jesus, we **equip** you with a faith that works in real life, and **send** you to serve in the name of Christ.

Vision

Jesus is Lord! Every person is nurtured in building a strong relationship with God. Our response to God's grace is to faithfully care for each other, our community, and the world.

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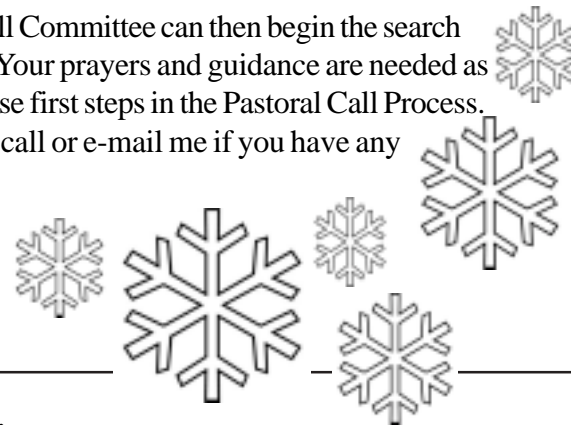
Dear members of Immanuel,

Wow! Here it is the end of January, the weather outside is cold, the wind is blowing and it's snowing... what a perfect time to get things done while we are in the warmth of our homes and our church!

Your church council is taking advantage of the warmth of the church home to jump start the Pastoral Call Process. There are several cottage meetings scheduled in February to begin work on our congregational profile. The data collected from each of these meetings will be reviewed, along with the congregational surveys and the one-on-one interviews. Pastor Matt will then create the profile. Hopefully that will be completed before our March council meeting. A nominating committee will then find six qualified members to represent the congregation in the call process. Once that is done the Church Council will call a special meeting to elect the Call Committee, who will then meet with representatives from the Pastoral Transition Team and Pastor Julie Bailey from the synod office. The Call Committee can then begin the search process for Immanuel's next pastor. Your prayers and guidance are needed as Immanuel Lutheran Church takes these first steps in the Pastoral Call Process.

Please do not hesitate to give me a call or e-mail me if you have any questions regarding the process.

Blessings,
Pete LaBlance



Dear Friends of Christmas Outreach,

Thank you for making it possible for us to touch the lives of 705 families, including 1,125 children, in Isabella County. The community support during these hard economic times continues to be very generous. Cash donations to Christmas Outreach 2010 totaled over \$32,000!

Once again, we were privileged to have the contributions of CMU's Finch Field House, Community Compassion Network's food expertise, and The Salvation Army's help with toy purchases. Many service groups, churches, businesses, student organizations, and individuals donated money, gifts for the families in need, food to sustain the volunteers, advertising, logistical support, and much more to this year's Christmas Outreach effort, and we appreciate every donation.

Our motto at Christmas Outreach is "It works because of you" and once again, you did it! This is especially true to the members of Immanuel. You really came through... donated items, financial gifts and most of all, your time! Numerous members stepped up to help out when we were short on volunteer help for sorting and escorting. Our lives are enriched as we witness each year the Isabella County community coming together to serve our neighbors.

Thank You & God Bless,
Paul & Jan Kruska & Christmas Outreach Committee 2010



Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

I am often reminded of how easily we can pass along certain pieces of information, thinking that it's clear to everyone, only to discover later on that there are still some folks who are a bit confused.

In fact, one of my favorite stories about confusion has to do with a young pastor, right out of seminary, who was asked by the local funeral director to hold a graveside service at a small church cemetery for someone with no family or friends. The pastor started out early enough, but quickly got lost, making several wrong turns. Eventually, about a half-hour late, he saw a small rural church with a backhoe and its crew at the far end of the church's parking lot, but the hearse was nowhere in sight and the workmen were eating their lunch.

The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Taking out his book, he began to conduct the graveside service. However, feeling rather guilty because of his tardiness, he decided to preach an impassioned and lengthy sermon as well, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style.

But as he was returning back to his car, he overheard one of the workmen say, "I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years and I ain't never seen nothin' like that."

Well, in an attempt to head off any confusion, let me go over with you what's currently happening this month, as it relates to the work of the *Pastoral Transition Team*.

Out in Immanuel's narthex there is a series of sign-up sheets for the various "cottage meetings" that are taking place in member's homes throughout the month of February.

- **What is a cottage meeting?** It's a small gathering of folks (usually not more than twelve people) who are coming together to discuss some of their hopes and dreams for Immanuel Lutheran Church, as well as some of the gifts and skills that they hope to see in their next called pastor?
- **Who's running these cottage meetings?** Members of the *Pastoral Transition Team* (who are also members here at Immanuel) will both facilitate and take notes at these cottage meetings. They will anonymously record your responses to various questions and the information you share will then assist the rest of the team with putting together the congregational profile (a document used by both the synod and churchwide office to assist congregations with matching up prospective pastoral candidates.
- **Who should attend one of these cottage meetings?** All confirmed members of Immanuel are invited to attend one of these meetings. However, if you've already participated in the earlier "One-To-One" interviews, you are not obligated to attend (although you are welcome to take part in both if you wish).
- **How do I sign up for one of these cottage meetings?** You can sign up any time during the first half of February. However, keep in mind that once we reach the maximum number of twelve participants, we will have to close the meeting. So the earlier you sign up for the one you would like to attend, the better. You can also call the church office (773-4204) for available meeting dates and times.
- **What if I'm not able to attend one of these cottage meetings?** Those members who have not participated in either the "One-To-One" interviews, or one of the "cottage meetings," can still fill out a written survey that will be sent by mail around the end of the month.

I hope that this clears up any confusion that might still be out there. Please don't hesitate to speak with me, if you have any other questions.

Shalom,
—Pastor Matt

News & Upcoming Events

February Birthdays

- 1st Diane Thomas
Sid Smith
- 2nd Wade Johnson
- 3rd Ethel Stevenson
Becky Wang
Alana Johnson
- 4th Lisa Wegener
Ted Lueder
Pattie Anderson
Alan Lee
- 5th Nancy Stabenow
Carole Heydenburg
- 7th Travis Danielson
Betty Evans
Ann Finein
Melody Ferguson
- 9th Deven Minke
- 10th Craig Boulter
- 11th Jamie Davis
Elizabeth Scott
- 12th Kathy Gallaher
Macayla Saraiva
- 13th Scott Redman
- 16th Kris Kirby
Scott Mindel
- 18th Jason Robinson
- 19th Chuck Clise
Mark Heinrich
Cristi Caleca
- 20th Al Wood
- 21st Emma Heinrich
- 22nd Ed Berthold
Terry Recker
Jack Karr
- 23rd Bonnie Berthold
Bill Gallaher
- 24th Allen Shock
Donna Swenson
- 25th Doug Schuette
- 28th Stephen Marshall



Newcomer's Orientation

Immanuel will once again offer a Newcomer's Orientation class on **Sunday, February 20th, 1-2:30 pm** (first half), and on **Monday, February 21st, 6:30-8 pm** (second half). If you have recently been attending our worship services and would like to explore the possibility of becoming a member, we invite you to register for this next orientation class. To sign-up, please call the church office (989-773-4204) on or before February 17th.

ATTENTION:

Did you know that our church will be the host for a Hunger Gathering? Please reserve Saturday, March 19th from 9:30 am to 3 pm at Immanuel. We will be hosting this event which is sponsored by ELCA's North/West Lower Michigan Synod's Hunger Team. The focus is on "Real People, Real Food, Real Hope". The keynote presentation, "The Eucharist and Feeding of the World" will be given by Dr. Craig Nesson, a professor at Wartburg Seminary. There will also be special workshops on Food Pantry Best Practices.

A light lunch with homemade soups, salad, assorted breads and cookies will be served. Please call Carolyn Hoffman at (989) 772-3408 if you are planning to attend this workshop OR if you are able to provide soup or other items needed for this event.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Retirement Celebration

Chief Petty Officer (SW/AW) Lucio S. Saraiva cordially invites you to share in the celebration of his retirement. The ceremony will be held at Immanuel in the sanctuary on March 25th at noon. A reception will follow immediately in the fellowship hall. We would love for all of our friends at Immanuel to join us, but please RSVP by March 4th so we may know how many we're feeding! You can call Carol at 546-5451 or email her at notfudge@yahoo.com.



Serving This Month...

Assisting Ministers—Contact Ruth Magnell (772-5896)

6th (9:00) Dave Simon, (11:15) Dan Hess
13th Allen Shock
20th Carol Saraiva
27th Dan Digmann

Ushers—Contact John Lorand (772-5694) or Dennis Marshall (989) 463-5874

6th (9:00) Tom Freeland, Ian Kabell John Lorand, Cliff Moss (11:15) Jim & Austin Ferguson
13th (9:00) Tom Freeland, Bill Jensen, John & Cil Lorand (11:15) Janice Fox & Paul Geisthardt
20th (9:00) Tom Freeland, Ian Kabell, Cliff Moss Bonnie Schaeffer (11:15) Jim & Austin Ferguson
27th (9:00) Bill Jensen, Bonnie Schaeffer, John & Cil Lorand (11:15) Janice Fox & Paul Geisthardt

Greeters—Contact Deb LaBlance (772-7899) for 9:00 am, Billie Plouff (772-0323) for 11:15 am

6th (9:00) Bonnie Schaeffer & Marcella Armstrong (11:15) Sue French
13th (9:00) The Geisthardt family (11:15) Janice Fox
20th (9:00) Dan & Jan Eversole (11:15) Allen & Susan Shock, Don Poynter
27th (9:00) The Powell family (11:15) Dana Mielke

Cantors—Contact Ted Brauker (517-677-2283)

6th Kathy Gallaher
13th Mark Sprang
20th John Lorand
27th Bill Gallaher

Altar Guild—Contact Bonnie Schaeffer (773-9738), Marcella Armstrong (772-2497)

6th Marilyn Zorn & Paula Krueger
13th Bonnie Berthold & Ann Ferguson
20th Jan Kruska & Judy Emmons
27th Linda Wicander & Marcella Armstrong

Counters—Contact Hans Fetting (773-9514)

6th Hans Fetting & Pete LaBlance
13th Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
20th LT March & John Warriner
27th Harry Plouff & Marcella Armstrong



Address Change:

Jerry & Lorraine Tubbs
173 Palm Harbor Drive
Harbor Isles Mobilehome Park
North Port, FL 34287
(941) 426-1094

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan

touches the lives of thousands of people every year through 70 programs in 40 cities across Michigan. Of every dollar contributed, 92.5 cents goes directly to client care. Your gift will go a long way towards supporting our ministry. Send your gift to Sonia Bankston, Lutheran Social Services, 8131 East Jefferson Ave., Detroit, Mi 48214. Thank you for supporting our mission: serving people as an expression of the love of Christ.

Staying Connected

On behalf of the Pastoral Transition Team I want to thank the 38 congregational members who met with us to talk about their hopes for Immanuel's future. We've enjoyed talking with you and listening to your stories. A series of Cottage Meetings are planned in February to provide an opportunity for us to talk with each other about where God is leading Immanuel and the gifts we should look for in Pastoral leadership. The meeting schedule is:

- Thurs. 2/3 7:00pm @ Fetting home
- Sun 2/6 3:00 pm @ Bennett home
- Tues 2/8 7:00 pm @ Simon home
- Thur 2/10 7:00 pm @ Prasad home
- Sat 2/12 6:00 pm @ Digmann home
- Tues 2/15 7:00 pm @ Staples home
- Sat 2/19 6:30 pm @ Kelller home
- Sun 2/20 3:00 pm @ Strandskov home (Youth group)
- Thur 2/24 7:00 pm @ Bugh home



After collecting this information the team will compile the Congregational Profile to be provided to the Church Council. The profile will be used by the Synod to help identify candidates to recommend for the church to consider. Our goal is to complete our work in April. A Call Committee then will be formed and the formal call process will begin. A comprehensive profile of the congregation has significantly shortened the time needed to call a Pastor.

Please sign up to attend one of these Cottage Meetings to offer your thoughts to the Pastoral Transition Team and listen to the stories of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank You again for your continued prayers and thanks to Pastor Matt for his guidance and leadership in the transition process.

Sincerely,

Your Pastoral Transition team,

Joe Caleca, Dan Eversole, Hans Fetting, Bonnie Schaeffer, Cheryl Strandskov, Bill Gallaher and Rose Prasad

Health Care Changes

*On September 23, 2010 some important changes took effect in healthcare reform through the Affordable Care Act:

*Kids up to age 26 (and their spouses) can be added to your insurance.

*Insurers must cover routine preventative care. (like mammograms)

*Insurers will not be able to charge you more for using out-of-network hospitals for emergency services.

*Lifetime limits on your insurance go away.

*All plans will now be required to let you appeal denials.

*You can't be dropped from coverage because of errors in processing your paperwork.

This is great news for individuals, families, congregations, and communities.

Where Is the Noisy Offering Going?



During the months of January, February and March, the Noisy Offering collection will be given to Immanuel Village. The proceeds will be designated for resident activities and holiday meals throughout the year. HUD discourages the use of operating funds for these items. If you have any questions regarding the Noisy offering, please contact Dan or Jennifer Digmann at 775-8475.

Immanuel Youth



TEXTING: Today EXist Totally IN God

The Michigan Gathering took place on December 27-30, 2010. We had three high school youth attend from our church. It was in Novi that we focused on worship. We explored a new format as we discovered new ways to experience God through worship. The youth experienced three different styles of worship, rhythm, reflection, and action. There were 250 people in each group and they rotated through the different styles of worship. One youth said that “the best part of the reflection worship was having friends/peers pray for me” another youth stated that “having 250 people having their own personal reflection was awesome”. It was truly an experience of “totally existing in God”.

HOPE: Honest, Open, Persevere, and Expectations

On January 7-9, 2011, ten 6th-9th graders and three adults traveled to Lansing for the Quake. We focused on Psalm 33:16-22 especially verse 20-22 “We wait in hope for the LORD, he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name”. We praised God through music, prayer, and devotions with Captive Free and the Todd Miller Band. Dani and Henry were our key speakers, who lead us in honest, open discussions about our faith. We learned a lot, had loads of fun, and danced our socks off at the crazy out fit dance!



Road Trip Adventures – Senior High Mission Trip July 16-21, 2011 – Charlotte, West Virginia

Any high school student or those who will be in 9th grade next Fall can join us for an adventure! We will be serving others in Charlotte, staying at different churches. Last years adventure to Columbus was an amazing trip! We served at a food bank, Habitat for Humanity Restore, Nursing Home, and then went white-water rafting. The cost for this all inclusive service opportunity is \$460 if you register and pay in full by Feb 9th. Please get a registration form from the church or online at www.elcalivingwater.com Contact Beth Mundwiler if you have any questions. Registration forms are due by Feb. 10th. bmundwiler@chsd.us or call 989-330-9529.



Dates to remember:

Friday, February 11th.....Lock-in at church 8:00 pm-7:30am
Sunday, February 20th.....Youth Cottage Meeting at Strandskovs
Friday, February 25th.....Bye Bye Birdie at High School 7:30 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church

320 South Bradley
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Office Hours:

9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 989-773-4204

Fax: 989-772-1804

E-mail: office@immanuelmp.com

Website: www.immanuelmp.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

