



## Immanuel Lutheran Church

### The Gleaner

A publication of  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
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If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please let us know.

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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 fellow members of Immanuel,

I have two questions to ask you pertaining to Stewardship:  
Question one: Why should you be a steward?  
Question two: Why shouldn't you be a steward?

Take your time and think about what you have answered in the past and what you will answer today.

Reality shows are all the rage on TV (in my opinion there isn't much reality with a whole TV crew filming). You want reality? We live it everyday. The day to day stress of living pay check to pay check and matching our income to expenses. I know many of us are "Living on a Prayer". We don't know how we are going to make it, and yet we look back, and here we are. Does this sound like your day to day life? I know it does mine and most likely it resembles yours to some degree.

In fact, fundamentally the budget of Immanuel Lutheran Church is no different than what we do with our incomes and expenses. It's a simple fact that the church needs to have some idea of its income in order to plan ahead. It is how the church carries out its mission, its ministries, its business, takes care of its facilities and staff. It's how we transact the business of God's work.

It is often said that what we spend our time and money on is a good indication of our priorities. How big a priority is God, and our church, to each of us?

Trusting in God and in your Faith, which question would prefer to be answer?

--Pete LaBlance,  
Council President

May 30<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day, a day to Honor all of our men and women who have sacrificed everything to preserve the freedoms they so valiantly have given their lives for. Take at least an hour out of your day to remember those that made this possible.



#### THE FALLEN SOLDIER

Don't weep for me  
O' Land of the free  
When it was my time to fall  
'Twas for my country's call  
'Twas for the land that I loved,  
That I gave my all  
And for the land that I loved,  
I did freely give  
And in her freedom  
And her courage  
I'll continue to live  
c. 1993 Patricia Krull

# the Pastor's Page

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Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

As most of you are probably well aware, Immanuel has passed another milestone in its search for a called pastor this past month. With the election of a call committee on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the congregation now moves into the next stage of the call process. This generally goes along much quicker than the self-study. My congratulations go out to your newly elected call committee: Charlie Burke, Sarah Gallaher, Paul Geisthardt, Sue Keilitz, Beth Mundwiler, and Rose Prasad.

Just for your information, the work of the Pastoral Transition Team over the last nine months allowed for 148 people from the congregation to offer thoughts and input into the process toward the calling of your next pastor. From this data, a "Ministry Site Profile" was created and approved by the council on April 18<sup>th</sup>. It was then sent to the churchwide offices in Chicago and was approved by them on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Now the synod also has a copy of the profile and will soon arrange a meeting with your call committee members to begin the process of interviewing candidates. My heartfelt thanks go out to the members of the Pastoral Transition Team for all of their hard work and hours of time spent in interviews, cottage meetings, and pouring over data.

This also now means a shift in my role as your Intentional Interim Pastor. I will no longer be involved in any future work with either the call committee or congregation in your pastoral search. This means that I will only receive information about your call process as it is made public to the congregation through your call committee. Nor will I have any influence with either the synod or call committee over which pastoral candidates will be considered. In other words, I'm out of the loop. Therefore, my new responsibility will simply be to assist Immanuel with what you can do, as a congregation, to prepare yourself for the arrival of your next called pastor.

So over the next few months my articles for the Gleaner will focus on some of the ways that Immanuel can begin working toward a positive and smooth transition. In the meantime, continue to include the members of your call committee in your prayers and especially pray that the Holy Spirit guide and direct their work in the months ahead.

Shalom,  
—Pastor Matt

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Many Thanks to our Pastoral Transition Team  
for all of their time and hard work!!!!



Dan Eversole, Joe Caleca, Hans Fetting,  
Bill Gallaher, Rose Prasad, Bonnie Schaeffer  
& Cheryl Strandkov

# News & Upcoming Events

## Spring Clean-Up Day

Come out and help make Immanuel beautiful on Saturday, May 14 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. There will be many types of work to be done and all skill levels can participate. Everyone is welcome to pitch in. Call John Emmons at 772-3831 if you have any questions.



## May Birthdays

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Beth Mundwiler  
Rob Faleer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sam Riley
- 4<sup>th</sup> John Zolynsky  
Jan Kruska
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tricia Boerma
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Gallaher
- 8<sup>th</sup> Michael Hetzman
- 9<sup>th</sup> Tom Freeland
- 10<sup>th</sup> Kathy Marshall  
Tony Powell  
Ryan Wood
- 11<sup>th</sup> Leah Wicander
- 12<sup>th</sup> Bert Krueger
- 13<sup>th</sup> Caleb Ross  
Matt Strandkov
- 14<sup>th</sup> Julia Hoffman
- 15<sup>th</sup> Alan Hanley
- 16<sup>th</sup> Gabe Goodrich  
Haylee Geisthardt
- 19<sup>th</sup> Emily Zolynsky
- 20<sup>th</sup> Trudy Staples
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Carson Mitchell
- 24<sup>th</sup> Justin Oswald  
Peggy Schuette
- 25<sup>th</sup> Carole Kahkonen  
Jeremy Hunt
- 26<sup>th</sup> Amy Moore
- 27<sup>th</sup> Peggy Burke  
Joe Ross
- 29<sup>th</sup> Ashley Shellenbarger  
George Dunn
- 30<sup>th</sup> Katie Caleca
- 31<sup>st</sup> Joe Caleca



## Stewardship Sunday is May 15!

God promises us that He will always give us what we need, and we pray that he will provide for our church through you. Take time over these next few weeks to ask God what He is calling you to do to build up Immanuel.

To help you commit to God's call and enable Immanuel's Church Council to best prepare for our future, this special day presents an opportunity for you to celebrate all of God's gifts you have received.

Members of your Stewardship Committee are planning to distribute Faith Commitment cards before church services each Sunday before and on May 15. Cards and envelopes also are available in the Narthex if you didn't receive one.

Please take these cards and prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and how you will respond. Then return your completed card in a sealed envelope by placing it in the "Faith Commitment Cards" basket in the Narthex or giving it to Dan or Jennifer Digmann.

Your participation and support in this year's stewardship appeal is important to our ongoing ministry together.

To celebrate our commitment to Immanuel Lutheran Church, a light brunch will take place in the Fellowship Hall between services on May 15. Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex if you can bring a dish to share. Please contact Dan or Jennifer Digmann if you have any questions.

## A Mother's Day Prayer

Loving God, we thank You for the love of the mothers You have given us, whose love is so precious that it can never be measured, whose patience seems to have no end.

Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**WE LOVE YOU, MOM!**



# Serving This Month...

## Assisting Ministers—Contact Ruth Magnell (772-5896)

1st Ian Kabell  
8th Confirmands  
15th Rose Prasad  
22nd Sandy Warriner  
29th Bill Gallaher

## Ushers—Contact Carl Graef (772-5228)

1st (9:00) Gary Schwerin , Bill Jensen (11:15) Allen & Susan Shock  
8th (10:00) Allen & Susan Shock, John & Cil Lorand  
15th (9:00) Gary Schwerin, Rose Prasad (11:15) LT March  
22nd (9:00) Rose Prasad, George & Barb Dunn (11:15) Harry Plouff & Janice Fox  
29th (9:00) Pete & Deb LaBlance, Bill Jensen (11:15) Tom Endres & Janice Fox

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

1st (9:00) (11:15) Harry & Billie Plouff  
8th (10:00) Allen & Susan Shock, Donald Poynter  
15th (9:00) (11:15) Allen & Susan Shock, Donald Poynter  
22nd (9:00) (11:15) Rose Prasad  
29th (9:00) (11:15) Janice Fox

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

1st Gail Caleca  
8th Maddie Ebert & Katie Caleca  
15th Dennis Marshall  
22nd Sarah Gallaher  
29th Joe Caleca

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

1st Paula Krueger & Bonnie Berthold  
8th Marilyn Zorn & Linda Hoedt  
15th Ruth Magnell & Ann Ferguson  
22nd Jan Kruska & Linda Wicander  
29th Denise Little & Judy Emmons

## Counters—Contact Hans Fetting (773-9514)

1st Hans Fetting & Pete LaBlance  
8th Jacque Jackson & John Lorand  
15th LT March & John Warriner  
22nd Harry Plouff & Marcella Armstrong  
29th John Emmons & Tom Endres

## Lawn Mowing

5th John Keller & Matt Keller  
12th Paul Geisthardt & Abby Geisthardt  
19th Steve Podolsky & Amy Powell  
26th Jim Ferguson & Austin Ferguson

# Staying Connected

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

We have successfully completed another year of providing meals for those attending church activities on Wednesday evenings. Without assistance from many at Immanuel this would be impossible to do.

We would first like to thank those faithful helpers who come each week to help make the meal a success. These people have returned year after year to offer their assistance: Bonnie Berthold, John Emmons, Annette Foster, Carole Heydenburg and Marilyn Zorn. Two lovely ladies remain on call and will come anytime we need them. They are Carolyn Hoffman and Trudy Staples. This year we were blessed to have Jan Podolsky step in when either Bonnie or I were not able to be there. We really appreciated her input and willingness to help.

We also would like to thank all of you who were so generous with the meal. For those of you who prepared a meal or two, thank you.

Several others chose to help by donating money so that we could purchase items to make a meal. Again we thank you for your generosity. Since there is no money in the church budget for this program we could not continue without your contributions.

Those of you that supplied us with cookies each week, we thank you also. Everyone looked forward to them after each meal.

If there is any one or two who are younger and would like to help in the coming years, we would appreciate it. Several of us that work in the kitchen are reaching the age that we would like to follow rather than lead. We would be happy to train others to take our place in the coming years.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Bonnie Schaeffer and Marcella Armstrong.  
Co-chairs of Midweek Meals



## Thank you.....

to everyone who participated in all of the Lenten and Easter worship services, the Midweek Lenten soup suppers, as well as those who helped with the Easter Breakfast.

It is all very much appreciated!!!!

## Coming Soon.....

### PRAISIN' IN THE PARK!!!

June 16th

July 14th

August 11th



More Information to Follow

## Where Is the Noisy Offering Going?



During the month of May, the Noisy Offering collection will be taken on Sunday, May 29th. If you have any questions regarding the Noisy offering, please contact Dan or Jennifer Digmann at 775-8475.

# Immanuel Youth

## Vacation Bible School Needs You!

We have a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the children of our community during this year's Vacation Bible School, Adventure: Road Trip. VBS will be held during the week of July 11-15, from 9:00-12:30 each week day, with kids enjoying a daily Bible story, music, drama, crafts, recreation, and much, much more! If you have a passion for working with children and spreading God's Word while you are having a great time, please consider volunteering. We will need teachers, assistants, actors, dancers, recreation leaders, cooks, and more! If you are interested in helping, or if you have any questions, please contact Gail Caleca, 773-4204.



9:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.



## Confirmation Sunday

We will have a single worship service on May 8 at 10:00 am due to Confirmation. Refreshments will be served following the service. Our confirmands for 2011 are Katie Caleca, Eric Decker, Jamie Decker, Madeline Ebert and Abigail Geisthardt. Photos and information on these students will be featured in next month's *Gleaner*. Contact Gail Caleca



The Youth Group would like to **THANK EVERYONE** who purchased **Pizza Kits** and **Cheesecakes!!!!**

All proceeds went toward the Youth Scholarship Fund and will help us to get to the 2012 National Gathering in New Orleans!!!!

If you have not picked your items up, they are located in the freezer in the kitchen. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Mundwiler.

# We have Hearts for Haiti

Key rings!

Bookmarks!

Brighten someone's day!

Surprise Mom!

Immanuel's Worship Wednesday Students will be sponsoring a fundraiser to help the people of Haiti\*



For a freewill offering you will receive a beaded gift created by our children.

Sunday, May 8, 2011

\*all proceeds to benefit the Haiti Earthquake Relief Effort: ELCA Disaster Response



# Immanuel Lutheran Church

320 South Bradley  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

## Office Hours:

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

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