



The Gleaner

November 2010

Immanuel Lutheran Church

The Gleaner

A publication of
Immanuel Lutheran Church
320 S. Bradley
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.

Layout and Editor: **Andrea Redmond**
Interim Pastor: **Matt Deames**
Youth Director: **Gail Caleca**

The **Deadline** for submitting articles and information is the **1st** 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.

INSIDE:

Page 2 --	Pastor's Page
Pages 3,6,7	News & Upcoming Events
Page 4 --	Serving This Month
Page 5 --	Immanuel Youth

Hello! My name, as most of you know, is Pete LaBlance, your Church Council President for the next year. I have been a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church for about five years. Deb and I moved to Mt. Pleasant in 1993 when I took a position with the Casino and continue to work for the Saginaw Chippewa Gaming Commission. I pray that as council President I can at least follow in the foot steps of all the previous Council Presidents who have dedicated so much of their time and talents. Our immediate past President Mr. Burke has set us up (Immanuel Lutheran Church) to succeed and to renew our commitment to serve our faith family.

In the year to come your Church Council's main objective will be to carry out our Ministries, to stay within the budget, to increase giving and grow our church family. With the assistance from the Synod, Pastor Deames, Church Council and all members of Immanuel's family we will embark on the journey of selecting a Pastor. This process will take time and your Church Council will not rush to make a choice. We will weigh all the information that is provided and make a call to the candidate that best fits Immanuel Lutheran Church here in Mt. Pleasant. Hopefully, this can be done in the next year, if not, then the next council will carry on the search. We will search for a candidate that will provide a balanced ministry of preaching, teaching, pastoral care and leadership to our congregation to allow it to grow to its full potential in membership and spirituality.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a word of gratitude to the outgoing members of the council. The time they dedicated to serve on the council is much appreciated. They have demonstrated commitment, innovation and responsibility together with the ability to function effectively in a team whose members are drawn from diverse backgrounds and expertise.

Mr. Charlie Burke: I only wish to aspire to the things you've achieved. Telling you that you're "appreciated" does not do your service justice. You're the heart and soul of this team. I appreciate your dedicated commitment.

Mrs. Billie Plouff: You have devoted considerable time, knowledge and experience to the Church Council. God bless you for always being there to cheer and to guide.

Mr. Ian Kabell: Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your commitment. You were a valued member of our Church Council and I hope you continue to be committed to the service of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

I would like to welcome Mr. Dave Simon, Ms. Sarah Gallaher, and Mrs. Lisa Wegener to our Council. Dave brings many years of experience and knowledge to the Council having served Immanuel for many years. Sarah, thank you for coming forward and adding the voice of Immanuel's youth to the Church Council. What a giant first step this Council has already taken in having the youth being acknowledged as an integral part of Immanuel. Lisa is a new member of our Immanuel family who brings fresh ideas, energy, and talents to your diverse council. I look forward to working together with all of you!

Sincerely,
Pete LaBlance



Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

We are now about midway through our *One-To-One Interviews*. However, there are still a number of openings left, if you haven't yet had the opportunity of meeting with one of our *Pastoral Transition Team* members. The following dates and times are still available:

- Monday, November 1, 3:30-5 PM
- Tuesday, November 2, 4:30-6 PM
- Friday, November 5, 10-1:30 AM
- Saturday, November 6, 9-10:30 AM
- Sunday, November 7, 12:30-2 PM
- Thursday, November 18, 4:5:30 PM

Please keep in mind that these interviews take about 30 minutes to complete. All confirmed members of the congregation are invited to participate. Couples can also sign up to be interviewed together, so long as both are active members of the congregation.

These interviews are an important part of the interim process, as we prepare the congregation's profile for the synod and churchwide office. If you would like to set up an appointment, please contact Andrea at the church office, 773-4204, during our regular hours.

Shalom,

Pastor Matt

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Dear Father,

We gather together to give thanks and praise for who You are and all You have done for us, for our friends and family both near and far, for Your mercy, grace, and forgiveness, and most of all for the gift of salvation through Your Son Jesus Christ.

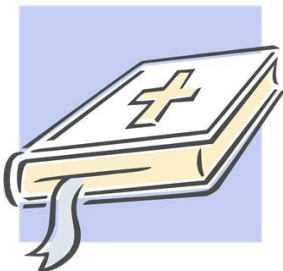
We thank You for our country, the United States of America, founded upon the sacrifices and hard work of many before us. You have granted to us this beautiful and bountiful land, filled with the fruits of freedom, worship, and hard work. Help us to be truly thankful for the many blessings in our lives; Remind us to be humble in our abundance, and guide us to live a life that is pleasing to You.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen.



December Worship Schedule

- ✦ Sunday, December 5: Traditional Worship at 9:00 am; Contemporary Worship at 11:15 am
- ✦ Sunday, December 12: Worship Service at 10:00 am with Children's Christmas Program (No JAM!)
- ✦ Sunday, December 19: Traditional Worship at 9:00 am; Contemporary Worship at 11:15 am
- ✦ Friday, December 24: Family Christmas Eve Worship at 6:00 pm; Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship at 9:00 pm
- ✦ Sunday, December 26: Traditional Worship at 10:00 am (No JAM!)



CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING

On Saturday, October 16th, the following persons completed the American Red Cross CPR/AED class:

Peggy Burke
Gail Caleca
Ann Ferguson
Dana Mielke
Rose Prasad

We are grateful for instructor Mary Pattison, who donates her time and talent to Immanuel.

ADVENT FESTIVAL



After Thanksgiving, as we rush to Christmas, take time to pause and prepare. Join our Immanuel family for the annual Advent Festival. It is held on the first Sunday of Advent, this year on Sunday, November 28th. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00-8:00 pm. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!**

We will be making Advent wreaths, fresh greens door wreaths, and decorating grapevine wreaths. There will also be ornaments to make, cookies to decorate, and snacks to enjoy.

Help is needed at the craft tables. We also need someone to supervise the kitchen and arrange for snacks. If you can help, please contact Annette Foster at 989-400-6567.

This year's theme is "SNOW". Do you think it will be snowing that weekend? In any event, we will look forward to fun and



Lutheran World Relief Items

On Monday, October 18th, the following items were delivered to Lutheran World Relief Collection site in Saginaw:

Four quilts
Seven health kits
112 School kits
81 Pounds Soap

Many thanks to Betty Koenig, who sews the quilts and makes the school bags. These items are delivered to those in need around the world.
"God's work, Our Hands"

Christmas Outreach Stockings

200 Stockings are ready for the children thanks to the many seamstresses:

Char Lytikainen
Cheryl Strandskov
Marcia Schmidt
Donna Swenson
Barb McCollom
Ruth Magnell
Ann Sheldon
Alma Dickerson

Thanks so very much for your help!

—Betty Koenig



Immanuel Lutheran's Twenty-Fifth Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and Immanuel is looking forward to again providing a Thanksgiving Day dinner to the community at 12:00 noon on November 25! This year is our 25th annual dinner. We anticipate many attendees this year so please help by providing items for the dinner and/or serving/cleaning up. Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex if you wish to attend, help prepare or serve the dinner, and/or provide a dish to pass. Please be a part of this significant annual Immanuel event! If you have any questions, please contact Jim Ferguson at 773-3035 or Dan Hess at 772-7024.

Serving This Month

Assisting Ministers—Contact Ruth Magnell (772-5896)

- 7th Rose Prasad
- 14th Mark Strandskov
- 21st Sarah Gallaher
- 28th (9:00) Gail Caleca & (11:15) Joe Caleca

Ushers—Contact Larry Leemaster, Nov. Captain (772-2289)

- 7th (9:00) Jim & Diane Phillips, Larry & Helen Leemaster (11:15) Jim & Ben Ferguson
- 14th (9:00) Tad & Laura Richards, Deb & Pete LaBlance (11:15) Elmer Beach, Al & Sue Shock
- 21st (9:00) Larry & Helen Leemaster, Tad & Laura Richards (11:15) Jim & Ben Ferguson
- 28th (9:00) Jim & Diane Phillips, Deb & Pete LaBlance (11:15) Elmer Beach, Al & Sue Shock

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

- 7th (9:00) Bob & Carolyn Hoffman (11:15) Harry & Billie Plouff
- 14th (9:00) Wayne & Linda Hoadt (11:15) Sue French
- 21st (9:00) Allen & Susan Shock (11:15) Len & Jacque Jackson
- 28th (9:00) Pete LaBlance & Kate Henry (11:15) Allen & Susan Shock, Donald Poynter

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

- 7th Mark Sprang
- 14th Joe Caleca
- 21st Totally His
- 28th Sarah Gallaher

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

- 7th Judy Emmons & Linda Hoedt
- 14th Paula Krueger & Marcella Armstrong
- 21st Deb Reimer & Linda Ferguson
- 28th Denise Little & Billie Plouff

Counters—Contact Hans Fetting (773-9514)

- 7th Chuck McCollom & Ian Kabell
- 14th Hans Fetting & Pete LaBlance
- 21st Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
- 28th LT March & John Warriner

Dear Friends,
Please allow me to express the gratitude of LSSM for Immanuel's generous donation of \$555.00. LSSM appreciates your members' commitment to serving people as an expression of the love of Christ.

Cordially,
Richard K. Martin, vice-president
Lutheran Social Services of Michigan

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Many thanks for the use of Immanuel's sanctuary for our memorial service. I especially appreciated the presence of Pastor Matt with us at this service.

-Peace,
Nancy (Woodland Hospice)



Attention All Middle School Students
(5th-8th Grade)



You are invited to attend our first Murder Mystery Night. The setting of our mystery evening is on a train leaving Paris France at the beginning of World War II. We will all be gathering in the dining care for pizza and cider as we try to solve the mystery that is about to unfold.

When: November 7, 2010

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM

Where: 4793 Rivers Edge Trail, Mt. Pleasant MI (Charlie & Peggy Burke's Home)

Attire: Costumes appropriate for the 1940's

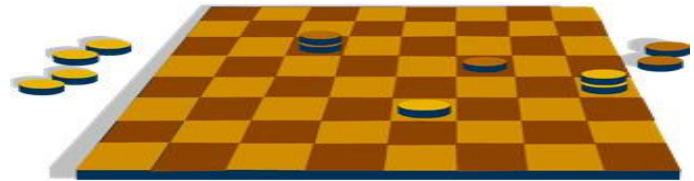
You will receive an invitation telling you about your character, but we must know if you plan to come. To come you must RSVP by November 1st. When you RSVP please leave an email where we may send your invitation. We hope you will come and let us know if you want to bring a friend.

RSVP to: Peggy Burke at peggybur@gmail.com or phone 775-0774.

"Christmas or Else" Rehearsals

It's time to begin preparing for our Children's Christmas program! We will be presenting the musical *Christmas or Else* during the 10:00 worship service on December 12th. Our children's choir is going to be learning music for the program. All Worship Wednesday students pre-K through eighth grade who would like to join in the singing portion of the program are invited to attend Totally His rehearsals from 5:00-5:30 on the following Wednesdays: November 10, November 17, December 1 & December 8.

A regular rehearsal for the Christmas program will be held during Worship Wednesday on December 8. There will also be a full rehearsal for the entire cast and choir on Saturday, December 11 at 10:00-1:00. If your child/children are participating in the program, please set aside this time for rehearsal. Please contact Gail Caleca, 773-4204 for further information.



JC's Café Schedule

November 7th MS.....Burke's Home

November 21st MS & HS.....3:00-5:00

November 28th MS & HS.....3:00-5:00

Contact Beth Mundwiler with questions at (989) 330-9529

Upcoming Events

For the past 31 years, Christmas Outreach has assisted thousands of children and their families through your generosity. With your help we can do it again. In 2009 we served 819 households in Isabella County, including over 1,200 children. We expect an even greater need this year. Christmas Outreach will provide coats, boots, mittens, hats, books, Christmas stockings, winter clothing, linens, care kits, and used toys. The Salvation Army will join us again in distributing new toys, and the Community Compassion Network will assist with food distribution.

★ Financial Gifts:

Your financial gifts may be deposited directly into the Christmas Outreach account at any branch of Isabella Bank. You may also choose to mail your donation to:

Christmas Outreach
c/o Immanuel Lutheran Church
320 South Bradley
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Please make checks payable to: Christmas Outreach

Donation of Items:

We will accept as donations the following new and/or clean gently-used items:

- | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|-------|---|---------------------|
| • | Winter Clothing | • | Boots | • | Bedding & Towels |
| • | Mittens & Gloves | • | Coats | • | Books |
| • | Hats | • | Toys | • | Non-Perishable Food |

You may bring these donations to CMU's **Finch Fieldhouse** (on the corner of Preston & Franklin Streets) on

- December 1-3 from 1:00-7:00 pm
- December 6- 8 from 1:00-7:00 pm

Volunteering:

We will need many volunteers to help make Christmas Outreach work again this year during the dates and times below.

- **Distribution of Items:** December 13 between 8:00 am-4:00 pm
December 14 between 8:00 am-6:00 pm
December 15 between 8:00 am-11:00 am

We ask that you **sign up ahead of time and dedicate at least 2 hours of your time** when coming to help. Young people under the age of 18 who are **not** volunteering as a part of a service organization must bring with him/her a work permit from his/her school. If you would like to volunteer, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at christmas_outreach@yahoo.com or 989-773-4204. Many time slots and departments fill up quickly. Please be flexible when scheduling your volunteer hours.

Large groups can be of service by organizing a collection of needed items (listed above) and bringing them to Finch Fieldhouse on one of the designated drop off days. Service organizations, churches, clubs, government agencies, schools, campus organizations, businesses, and individuals all join together in this community effort that we call Christmas Outreach.

Thank you for your participation in this partnership.

In the true spirit of Christmas,

Paul & Jan Kruska
Christmas Outreach Chairpersons

News & Upcoming Events

November Birthdays

- 1st Christian Jurick
Endy Saraiva
- 3rd Leah Faleer
- 4th Avery Pendell
- 6th Homer Lee
Deb Reimer
Jennifer Digmann
Ben Holochwost
Sonia Lee
- 7th Matt Keller
Matt Minke
- 8th Matt Ahlswede
- 9th Andrea Wood
- 10th Mary Pattison
Ed Haney
- 12th Harry Plouff
- 13th Jonathan Jurick
- 14th Hans Fetting
Dan Eversole
Sarah LaBelle
- 15th Alicia Podolsky
Frieda Lee
- 16th Jeff Reimer
- 18th Robin Decker
- 19th Charlie Schwerin
Shenan Davidson
Ben Ferguson
- 20th Marcia Schmidt
Rebecca Umphrey
- 21st Joyce Davis
Myrna Zolynsky
Betty Kirby
- 22nd Kristin MacGregor
Todd Umphrey
- 23rd Tom Lavoie
- 24th Peggy Recker
Whitnee Foote
Melanie Ordiway
- 26th Len Jackson
John Foote
Amy Powell



Save the Date!!!
2010 Bethlehem Boar's Head Festival
A Christmas Celebration!
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
808 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI
Dec. 2, 7:30 pm
Dec. 4, 7:30 pm
Dec. 5, 4:00 & 7:30 pm



Mark your calendars and join us for this yearly medieval Christmas production featuring more than 200 costumed actors, singers, and musicians.
Groups and buses welcome!



Please Join Us!!!!

See the play "Into the Woods" at CMU on Sunday, November 14th at 2:00 pm. We will then meet at Jim & Annette Foster's home following the play to "meet the director" and enjoy some wine and cheese.

The price for senior tickets is \$7.00 and is **DUE BY OCTOBER 31st** to Carole Heydenburg. The ticket office is holding a block of tickets for our group.

We are planning on doing one Senior Activity a month and welcome any suggestions that you may have. Call Annette at 400-6567 or Carole at 772-4783

Annual Mayaworks Sale

This will take place on Sunday, November 21 from 10:15-11:15 and 12:30-2:30 in our Narthex. This is an opportunity to make purchases that directly benefit the artisans who are paid FairTrade prices for their work, thus increasing the health and welfare of their communities. Enjoy buying woven jackets, bags, badge holders, glasses cases, jewelry, table linens, and many other items. There are many new items available this year and some prices have been lowered on traditional items. Contact Cil Lorand at 772-5694 or Carole Heydenburg at 772-4783 if you have any questions.

