



Immanuel Lutheran Church

The Gleaner

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

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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,

As I write this New Year message my brother Robert has informed me that his son Matthew is being deployed to Afghanistan as part of the 1st Infantry 1/26A Co.. This is not how I want to celebrate the New Year. This reminds me of a young man I knew. He also was sent off to war as a young man around the same time over forty years ago. He went because he felt it was his duty to serve his country, which he did with honor. Here, in another time, my nephew has the same sense of duty and honor and I know that whatever happens he will serve with distinction. But like that young man forty years ago, Matthew and all our service men and women need our prayers that their New Year will be bring them home safe to be with their families. Right now my brother Robert and his wife Marianne wonder if God is listening to their prayers. I can only respond by saying that their son is in our prayers daily and that the young man forty years ago knows what they are going through. My brother and his wife are reaching out to me to help them understand what Matthew's life will be like in a combat zone. How do you explain to a parent what the reality of war is? Forty years ago I came home a very different person than when I left. Matthew's family will spend Christmas with him then on December 29th he will be deployed. I told his parents to hold him tight and tell him they love him over and over.

As we celebrate the New Year let us all take the time each day to pray for our service men and women. They are in harm's way and we trust in God to protect them. I know this is not what you may have expected for a article for the Gleaner for the New Year but this news hit me like a ton of bricks and my own fears of forty years ago have come back to me.

Immanuel Lutheran Church was well represented, giving a helping hand as well as organizing Christmas Outreach. There were so many members of Immanuel Lutheran Church at Christmas Outreach that it should make us all proud to be such a big part of this ministry and our community. Thank you to all the volunteers from the Mt. Pleasant area who were a big part of the success of Christmas Outreach.

THANK YOU PAUL AND JAN KRUSKA FOR THE MANY HOURS YOU PUT IN TO MAKING CHRISTMAS OUTREACH A SUCCESS.

Peter LaBlance
Church Council President

the Pastor's Page

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

I'm sure that many of us, either publically or privately, are contemplating some resolutions for the coming year. According to *mygoals.com*, there are some things that we can do to make our New Year's resolutions a reality and not just wishful thinking. Here are some of their best tips on how to make good New Year's resolutions:

1. **Create a plan:** In order for any resolution to have resolve (as the word "resolution" implies), it must translate into clear steps that can be put into action.
2. **Create your plan IMMEDIATELY:** If you're like most people, then you'll have a limited window of opportunity during the first few days of January to harness your motivation. After that, most people forget their resolutions completely.
3. **Write down your resolution and plan.**
4. **Think "year round," not just New Year's Day:** Nothing big gets accomplished in one day. Resolutions are set in one day, but accomplished with a hundred tiny steps that happen throughout the year. New Year's resolutions should be nothing more than a starting point. You must develop a ritual or habit for revisiting your plan.
5. **Remain Flexible:** Expect that your plan can and will change. Life has a funny way of throwing unexpected things at us, and flexibility is required to complete anything but the simplest goal. Sometimes the goal itself will even change. Most of all, recognize partial successes at every step along the way. Just as a resolution isn't accomplished the day it's stated, neither is it accomplished the day you reach your goal. Rather, it's accomplished in many small increments along the way. Acknowledge these incremental successes as they come.

As your intentional interim pastor, one of the things that I hope you will also include in your list of resolutions is to take part in Immanuel's self-study that is currently underway. Beginning this month, and continuing on through most of February, we will be offering a series of "Cottage Meeting" that will take place in various people's homes. This is yet another opportunity for you to offer to the *Pastoral Transition Team* some important insights and feedback that will assist them in putting together an accurate congregational profile. Please check the Sunday bulletin, or call the church office, to learn more about where and when these events will take place. We have currently passed the midway point in the interim process, which means that the time is fast approaching when the congregational profile will be completed and sent in. If you haven't yet had a chance to meet with one of the members of our *Pastoral Transition Team*, please make it one of your New Year's resolutions to attend one of these cottage meetings.

Shalom,
—Pastor Matt

Dear Members of
Immanuel,

A special word of appreciation to all of you for the warmth and grace you have extended to me since coming to serve as your intentional interim pastor. I especially wish to thank you for the cards and gift that I received at Christmas. I have enjoyed getting to know many you and working with all of you as you go through this process of discernment and transition. God's peace be with you all.
Shalom,
Pastor Matt



Dear Immanuel family,

Thank you for your generosity and support during the Christmas season. We very much appreciate your gifts to us and would like to wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year!

—God Bless,
the staff at Immanuel

News & Upcoming Events

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Johnnie Savage
Michael McCallum
- 3rd Pam McClintic
Marcella Armstrong
- 4th Tami Schwerin
Scott MacGregor
- 5th Kyle Behenna
- 6th Shae Skop
Madison Skop
Matthew Oswald
- 8th Mary Katt
Tanner Shellenbarger
Fred Koenig
- 10th Tonya Hanby
- 11th Jill Fultz
- 13th John Tyler
Karl Mikko
Dan Hoffman
Allison Karr
- 14th Debi Mikko
Jim Erickson
- 15th Judy Ramsower
Sam Hanby
- 17th Ernie Spycher
- 18th Emil Boasson
Chris Danielson
Felicia Bassett
- 19th Reed Polanco
- 22nd Tom Hunt
- 23rd Lauren Rogers
Tara Chilcote
- 24th Lauren MacGregor
- 26th Victoria Davis
- 27th Rob Wang
Dave Wyman
- 28th John Warriner
Judy Emmons
Joel Jurick
- 29th Asher Watters
Bill Jensen
- 31st Blaine Chilcote



LWR Fair Trade Items

Check out the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Organic Fair Trade items available on the stand in the Narthex. We are currently selling the following items:

- *Dark chocolate bars
- *Green tea, English breakfast tea, and Ceylon Chai.
- *"Breakfast blend" drip coffee (as served on Sundays at Immanuel) and other varieties!



If you would like larger quantities of these products, we are able to order them for you by the case. The LWR Coffee Project ensures that more of the money you spend on coffee reaches the farmers who actually grow it. Fair Trade coffee is a simple solution that means the difference between surviving and not surviving for small-scale coffee farmers.

Try some!! You might like it. Call Carole Heydengerg (772-4783) or cCil Lorand (772-5694) if you have any questions!

Celebrate This Baptism

Ryan Mitchell Hammond, son of Todd & Kara Hammond, was baptized on Sunday, December 26th at Immanuel. Proud sponsors for the baptism were Brian and Rachelle Mitchell.



Where Is the Noisy Offering Going?

During the months of January, February, and March, Immanuel's monthly "Noisy Offering" of loose change will be sent to Immanuel Village. Remember the Noisy Offering takes place during the last Sunday of each month at both worship services. If you are unable to attend any of these Sundays, you may place your change in the jar in the Narthex. Save your spare change for helping this organization. Contact Jennifer or Dan Digmann at 775-8475 if you have any questions.



Serving This Month...

Assisting Ministers—Contact Ruth Magnell (772-5896)

2nd.....Susan Shock
9th.....Dan Eversole
16th.....Ian Kabell
23rd.....Chuck Clise
30th.....(9:00) Gail Caleca (11:15) Joe Caleca

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

2nd.....(9:00) LT March, Cliff Moss, Sam Staples, Kathy Gallaher
(11:15) Allen Shock, Carl Graef
9th.....(9:00) Paul & Jan Kruska, Tom Endres, Bill Jensen
(11:15) Susan & Allen Shock
16th.....(9:00) Rose Prasad, Bill Jensen, Kathy Gallaher, Sam Staples
(11:15) Chuck & Barb McCollom
23rd.....(9:00) Paul & Jan Kruska, Cliff Moss, LT March
(11:15) Tom Endres & Carl Graef
30th.....(9:00) Rose Prasad, LT March, Cliff Moss, Sam Staples
(11:15) Chuck & Barb McCollom

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

2nd.....(9:00) needed
(11:15) Harry & Billie Plouff
9th.....(9:00) needed
(11:15) Sue French
16th.....(9:00) needed
(11:15) Jim & Ann Ferguson
23rd.....(9:00) needed
(11:15) Ian Kabell
30th.....(9:00) needed
(11:15) needed

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

2nd.....Ted Brauker
9th.....Ted Brauker
16th.....Dennis Marshall
23rd.....Gail Caleca
30th.....Deb LaBlance

Counters—Contact Hans Fetting (773-9514)

2nd.....Jacque Jackson & John Lorand
9th.....LT March & John Warriner
16th.....Harry Plouff & Marcella Armstrong
23rd.....John Emmons & Tom Endres
30th.....Chuck McCollom & Ian Kabell

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

2nd.....Judy Emmons & Linda Wicander
9th.....Jan Kruska & Denise Little
16th.....Linda Hoadt & Billie Plouff
23rd.....Ruth Magnell & Deb Reimer
30th.....Sandy Warriner & Bonnie Schaeffer

THRIVENT= COMMUNITY OUTREACH for Central Michigan Chapter

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans touch millions of lives each year by approving grants and donating matching funds for many community causes. Volunteers work with their local chapter (Central Michigan Chapter) through the “Care Abounds in Communities Program. The program may be a fund-raiser or “hands on service” project. An application can be completed to receive approval for matching funds. For more information, go to the website: www.thrivent.com.

This past year the Mt .Pleasant region has benefited from three activities: Mt. Pleasant Area Crop Walk, the Red Cross Holiday Tea and Christmas Outreach. Key leaders for each are shown below.

- 1) **Thanks to all** participants/supporters of the Mt. Pleasant Area Crop Walk that was held in October. The grand total raised this year was \$23,348.38 which included \$1,600 matching dollars from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for Care Abounds in Communities. Many churches, groups, organizations supported this endeavor...all walked with a purpose. Proceeds from this year’s Crop Walk will be used by Church World Services to make a difference in our hurting world, including right here in our own community.



L to R: Rose Prasad & Eric Podolsky

2) Thrivent has, also, given support to the American Red Cross. The Central Michigan Chapter of the Red Cross has responded to 11 single-family fires with emergency shelter, clothing and food for 21 adults and six children at a cost >\$3,839. In addition, American Red Cross connects deployed service members with their families through emergency communications and our Chapter assisted 11 military families through our Services to the Armed Forces Program. Our chapter provided five days emergency food to 1288 families in Isabella County at a cost >\$18,136 according to Deb Birkam, Executive Director of our chapter of Red Cross. There was, also, assistance to 166 babies through the Brockman Infant Pantry and our local chapter held 32 blood drives, collecting 1097 units of blood. The Red Cross, also, provides health, safety and preparedness training and sponsored First-Aid and CPR/AED and water safety for more than 1489 students. Internationally, immunizations for measles are given and emergency care received for many following a disaster.



L to R: Deborah Birkam, Executive Director and Barbara McCollom, Chair, Red Cross Holiday Tea

Staying Connected

- 3) Support has, also, been given to Christmas Outreach. For the past 32 years, Christmas Outreach of Isabella County has assisted thousands of children and their families through your generosity. This year ~800 households, including 1,200 children were served. Christmas Outreach has provided coats, boots, mittens, hats, books, Christmas stockings, winter clothing, linens and toys. The Salvation Army joined in distribution of new toys and the Community Compassion Network assisted in food distribution.



Left to right: Jan and Paul Kruska, co chairs

A genuine thank you to all volunteers, supporters and participants in these important programs!

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

JANUARY 2011

