



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 2025

The Gleaner is a publication of:

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

Phone: (989) 773-4204
Email: office@immanuelmp.com
Website: immanuelmp.com

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9-3:00

Pastor: Dana Hendershot
Layout and Editing:
Andrea Redmond

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.



\$15 Tickets are available after worship OR in the office!



Rain location for this event will be
Veteran's Memorial Library

A letter from Pr. Dana...

Friends in Christ,

Fall always feels like holy ground to me. The air shifts, the leaves show off, and the earth whispers, *"change is possible."* In the middle of it all, I can't help but hear Jesus' parable of the mustard seed.

You know the one—smallest of all seeds, yet it grows into something strong enough for birds to perch in its branches. That's God's kingdom. That's us. It's good news that the work of God doesn't depend on us being big or flashy or having it all figured out. God delights in the small stuff. A whispered prayer. A casserole dropped off at the right time. A child's giggle in the pews. These little things matter.

And here's the kicker: we don't always get to see the full harvest. Seeds take time. But God is stubbornly faithful, growing hope and love in places we never imagined. This fall, as acorns scatter and gardens go quiet, let's remember that unseen roots are still stretching deep, preparing for the seasons ahead.

I see mustard seed moments all over Immanuel. I see them in the ways you show up for each other, in laughter after meetings, in the grace you extend to strangers who wander through our doors. These small, holy acts are how God is growing something big among us.

So let's keep scattering seeds. Trust that God will do the growing. And let's watch with wonder as our tiny offerings become a tree where all can find rest.

In Christ,
Pr. Dana Hendershot



Pastor Dana will be out of town on vacation from
October 6-13.

Pr. Jackie Rau will be preaching and presiding at
worship on Sunday, October 12th.

Worship Ministry



WE have many opportunities to volunteer and get involved Immanuel. Some direct opportunities to help with our life are through signing up! A job summary is on each page...

Assisting Minister [Immanuel Lutheran Church: Assisting Ministers \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

Altar Guild [Immanuel Lutheran Church: Altar Guild \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

Coffee host [Immanuel Lutheran Church: Coffee Hosts \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

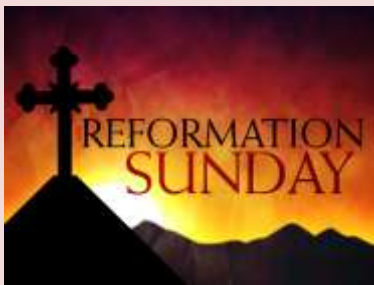
Greeter/Welcome Center [Immanuel Lutheran Church: Greeters \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

Sign up through Christmas!!!

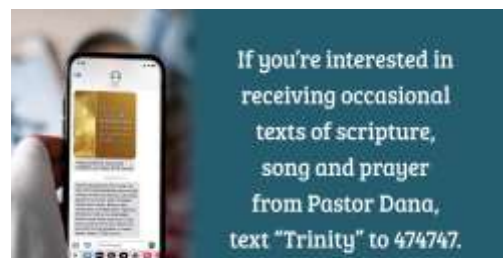


All Saints' Sunday is November 2nd. During worship, we will honor and remember those we've lost over the past year. Please submit names and photos to by Oct. 27.

There is a sign up list in the narthex and photos should be emailed to office@immanuelmp.com



Reformation Sunday recognizes and commemorates Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. Remember to wear RED on October 26th!



If you're interested in receiving occasional texts of scripture, song and prayer from Pastor Dana, text "Trinity" to 474747.

Ministry with Community & World

Supporting Our Neighbors through ICRH

Our church will again partner with the Isabella County Restoration House (ICRH) this fall and winter to support our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Our assigned weeks are:

- Sunday, October 5 – Saturday, October 11, 2025
- Sunday, January 18 – Saturday, January 24, 2026

A New Chapter for ICRH

In the past, ICRH relied on a rotating shelter model, where churches hosted guests overnight for a week at a time. Thanks to the blessing of a permanent shelter, our neighbors experiencing homelessness now have an address to receive mail and a consistent bed. They no longer need to move weekly between the day shelter and different host sites.

Local churches like ours are now called **Supporting Churches**. Instead of housing guests, we focus on providing meals, fellowship, and encouragement.

How We Can Help

During our support weeks, our main responsibilities include:

1. Serving Dinner (highest priority)
 - 3–4 volunteers (one serving as dishwasher)
 - 5:30 – 7:00 pm, with dinner served at 6:00 pm
 - Assist with serving and cleanup each night for our guests
 - After the main serving is complete, church members are encouraged to sit and eat with the guests to share fellowship and conversation
2. Providing the Meal (2nd priority for Sunday, Friday, and Saturday only)
 - Prepare and provide the dinner (main dish, sides, and dessert)
 - Meals can either be prepared at home and brought ready to serve or prepared in the shelter's kitchen.
 - If you would like to use the shelter's kitchen, please let me know ahead of time so I can help coordinate your access.
 - For October, local restaurants will provide meals on Monday–Thursday
3. Breakfast Setup and Cleanup
 - 2 volunteers
 - 7:00 – 9:00 am
 - Set out breakfast items and clean up afterward for our guests
4. Evening Fellowship
 - 2 volunteers most nights, 7:00 – 10:00 pm
 - Visit with guests, play games, and share conversation
 - On one night, churches are encouraged to host a special evening activity, such as board games, live music, or another fun event.

The shelter can accommodate up to 35 guests, but the exact number of neighbors we will serve will be communicated in the days leading up to our week.

(continued on next page)

Ministry with Community & World

Orientation and Support

I, Nicole Ferguson, ICRH Coordinator for Immanuel Lutheran Church, will organize an opportunity for members to tour the shelter before our October supporting week. This tour will help you become familiar with the layout, facilities, and expectations so you feel comfortable serving. Additionally, between myself and Steve Polodosky, we have agreed to assist in leading the kitchen each night. You can feel confident knowing that guidance and support will be available as you serve.

Living Out Our Mission

By providing meals and fellowship, we live out Christ's call to love our neighbors. Please prayerfully consider how you can help—whether by cooking, serving, visiting, or sharing your talents through an evening activity. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors experiencing homelessness, offering not only food but also the gift of friendship.

Please use the following Sign Up Genius link to let me know where you can help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0948A5AF2DA5FF2-58317714-immanuel>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (989) 329-5911 (text is ok) or

Nicole.ferguson@cmich.edu



Simply scan this QR code to sign up to help with the ICRH!!

Christmas Outreach 2025 Registration

will take place at Immanuel from November 3-7 & November 10-12.

Please share this information with people in need!

We would also like to remind you that if you need to call Immanuel for “church business” during these dates, you will want to call Andrea’s cell phone or Pr. Dana’s cell phone, as the church phone lines will be busy!
(These numbers will be emailed out.)

The Care Store

The shelves at church for The Care Store are in need of more items!

Please consider picking up a few items at the store the next time you are there.

Let’s help those in our community who most need help!

Ministry with Each Other

Stay Curious T-shirt Orders

The t-shirts are ordered! If you have not paid you can give the money to Pastor Dana, Andrea, or make it as "Stay Curious" shirt and put it in the offering basket.

T-shirts are \$20.

Whether you're navigating a new chapter or simply wondering what Jesus might be nudging you toward next... **Stay curious.**



3	Sarah Gilbert
4	Paul Geisthardt
	Kathy Smith
5	Cindy Keller
9	Craig Kreiner
10	Abby Geisthardt
	Josie Muniz
11	Holly Hoffman
12	Cheryl Strandskov
14	Roxanne Lueder
16	Dana Mielke
17	Eric Podolsky
23	Patty Jo Bugh
28	Pat Podoll



Save the date!

November 7-8th at Eagle Village

Cost \$77

Questions: ask Beth Mundwiler

Sign up in the narthex today! Payments should be made to Immanuel.



**Reminder to set your clocks
back one hour on November 2**

Ministry with Each Other

Looking for Something Deeper? Come Explore the Wisdom Jesus.

Ever feel like there's more to Jesus than what we learned in Sunday School? Something deeper, wiser, more transformative?

This fall, Pastor Dana invites you to join a new spiritual book study exploring *The Wisdom Jesus* by Cynthia Bourgeault. Together, we'll explore Jesus not only as Savior and teacher, but as a **mystic and wisdom guide** – offering a way of life that leads to transformation, compassion, and radical love.

This group is for anyone men, women, seekers, skeptics, and curious minds who long to connect faith with real life. You don't have to be a mystic, monk, or master of meditation. Just bring your questions, your story, and your willingness to go a little deeper.

We'll explore:

- How Jesus fits within the ancient wisdom tradition
- What contemplative practices like centering prayer can awaken in us
- How to live with more clarity, love, and spiritual groundedness in our everyday lives

Whether you're drawn to heady reflection or heartfelt prayer, spirited dialogue or quiet presence this is a space for you.

Choose your time:

Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Sundays 11:15 – 12:15 PM

See full reading schedule below.

Come once or come each week this isn't just a book club; it's a spiritual journey.

Let's meet the Jesus who invites us not just to believe but to become.

Wednesdays at 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Oct. 1: Chapters 5-6
Oct. 8: Pastor Dana Out of Town
Oct. 15: Chapters 7-8
Oct. 22: Chapters 9-10
Oct. 29: Chapters 11-12
Nov. 5: Chapters 13-14
Nov. 12: Chapters 15-16

Sundays at 11:15 – 12:15

Oct. 5: Chapters 5-6
Oct. 12: Pastor Dana Out of Town
Oct. 19: Chapters 7-8
Oct. 26: Chapters 9-10
Nov. 2: Chapters 11-12
Nov. 9: Chapters 13-14
Nov. 16: Chapters 15-16

Business Ministry

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 pay no taxes on the gift? Due to the tax changes that include a higher standard deduction and the elimination of the personal exemption, you may receive the best tax benefit if you donate directly from your retirement account.

Immanuel Offers Electronic Giving

Immanuel Lutheran Church is pleased to offer an electronic option for making regular or special offerings.

Visit our website,
www.immanuelmp.com click "Give".

Financial Monthly Report – YTD as of August 31, 2025

Spending Plan 2024-2025:
\$388,029

Actual Expenditures:
\$344,253

Giving To Date:
\$386,663

Community Input: Praises and Pinches

To be a healthy, faithful community, Immanuel needs to be open with what we expect in all areas of life. If there is anything in our community life that brings joy or causes concern, please share any feelings and questions. Thank you for taking the time to communicate ways we are doing well in our ministry at Immanuel and the areas that need attention. Your Mutual Ministry Team needs your feedback. If you would like a personal response to your "praise" or "pinch," please be sure to sign this form at the bottom.

To discuss a concern directly with the Mutual Ministry Team or one of the Team members, please indicate below.

Praises: _____

Pinches: _____

Desired Outcome: _____

Is it OK to publish in Gleaner? ___ Yes ___ No (Name must be posted if you wish for this to appear in Gleaner.)

A specific question I would like answered: _____

Name _____