



My soul will
rejoice
in the LORD and
delight
in his salvation.
Psalm 35:9, NIV

The Manger

April 2011

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Holy Week – April 17-23

PALM SUNDAY ~ APRIL 17

8:00 am and 10:30 am services with Palms and Holy Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ APRIL 21

7:00 pm Institution of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 22

1:00 pm Tre-Ore at Trinity Episcopal Church
(E. Jefferson St. across from GL City Hall)

7:00 pm Grand Ledge Community Good Friday Service
at St. Michaels Roman Catholic Church
(345 Edwards St., east of the football field)

HOLY SATURDAY ~ APRIL 23

7:00 pm The Vigil of Easter with baptisms
All Christians renew their Baptismal/Confirmation
Vows to God.

EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 24

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 am
Easter Breakfast at 9:00 am

Who will you be bringing with you on Easter Sunday? Let's fill both services for our Lord.

EASTER PRAISE CONCERT ~ May 1 during 10:30 am service
(only one service on May 1)

Marty Miller:

Singer, Song writer, Guitarist, Keyboardist

Marty was here a couple of years ago. His style is eclectic and his songs come from his own faith and walk. They range from praise to soul searching in nature. There will be one service only this Sunday and we will celebrate Holy Eucharist in Easter joy. Don't miss this happy time. Start inviting your friends to come to church with you.

Immanuel Staff:

The Rev. Richard McKenzie
Denise Lund,
Office Administrator
Sue Schnarr,
Director of Education
Lyn Danes,
Director of Kid's Hope
Jim Espie, *Organist*
Carmen Karkau, *Organist*
Jim & Kristin Crooks &
Carol Espie,
Maintenance/Custodian

Team Leaders:

Bill DeWitt, *Gathering*
Sue Schnarr, *Preparing*
Den Graeber, *Serving*
John Van Hoesen, *Support*

Immanuel Lutheran Church
501 S. Clinton St.
Grand Ledge MI 48837
(517) 627-6310

Website: Immanuel-gl.org
E-mail: dlund@immanuel-gl.org
Sunday Worship Schedule:
8:00 & 10:30 am
Christian Education for all ages:
Sundays at 9:15 am
Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: Easter

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the feast. (An Invitation to Holy Communion)

For many, Easter is about the renewal of life-signs in the earth, e.g: flowers and bunnies. For the Church, Easter is a stirring combination of two feasts: the Passover (OT) and the Resurrection (NT). Both occurred at exactly this time of the year. These feasts are the great covenants of the two parts of The Bible. God saved Israel (lamb's blood) and made them a nation (OT). God saved all people (Christ's blood) and made them a kingdom of priests (NT). Easter celebrates our salvation and sends us forth renewed with living faith in a living Lord, Jesus.

The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad.

The Passover of gladness. The Passover of God.

From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,

Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory. (John of Damascus, ca. 696-754)

Please, fast in Lent; remember in Holy Week, celebrate on Easter!

LENT

CONGREGATION ENERGY FAST for Lent

Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation for God's acts of salvation in Christ. For 40 days, we practice fasting and special prayer. Often people give up a food or personal item. We also are doing a congregation-wide Energy Fast. We fast from using some of God's resources: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

St. Paul wrote that the earth eagerly looks for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8). A community-wide Energy Fast reminds us of our spiritual need; God's saving gift, and our call to be stewards. The following are still to come:

*Week 4: April 3: Water Fast – We will shorten our shower length
(Perhaps set a timer. Water is in world-wide shortage.)*

Then add: *Week 5: April 10: Plastic Fast – We will take our reusable bags shopping.
(Store them in your car. Use them for other shopping besides groceries)*

Then add: *Holy Week: April 17: Energy Fast – We will turn off the TV, Electronics, Cell phones, etc.
(Do non-energy using activity: read, walk, play board games, etc. even pray!)*

- Each Sunday, Pastor's class will provide a Scripture and a prayer for home use for each week day.
- Each Sunday, a display will provide further information and activities.

Energy-fasting together can build us up, help us change our habits, make a difference. We will walk more gently upon the earth. It might also prove to be fun. We invite your feedback and experiences.

LENT Mid-Week: "Earthbound"

Wednesday night prayers are built around an ELCA World Hunger DVD series, "Earthbound." These informative presentations are Biblical and theological and make for good discussion. Weekly themes are:

April 6: *Me/We*

April 13: *Enough/Too Much*

Soup and Bread Supper at 6:15 and Evening Prayer at 7 p.m.

SPECIAL LENTEN OFFERINGS TO BE SPLIT

1) SIREN/Eaton Shelter –

Our Eaton County project to house homeless families and protect abused women and children. It is not a government agency. It is countywide, non-profit with a board. There are houses for shelter, programs for learning life skills, assistance with putting things together to begin being self-sufficient again.

2) IMMANUEL'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY -

Projects will be chosen to reduce the amount of electricity by increasing our efficiency in the church and the 501 Building. Upkeepers and Earthkeeping teams will let you know as they progress.

PASTORAL TEACHING: The Resurrection of Jesus

Something happened on that Sunday. The tomb of Jesus was empty. Sources outside of the Bible said so. Nobody knows quite what happened. Nobody saw it. The women discovered it. Messengers/angels told them that Jesus was alive. The disciples, women and men, saw him, talked with him, touched him, ate meals with him. All through the generations and centuries, various people have had encounters with Jesus.

He has form. He has life-transforming love. He has healing, saving power. He is Lord in and over the Church. Something happens. We don't know quite what. We just know he once was dead and is alive again, now.

Thus God confirmed Christ's work, his teachings, and his death on the cross. We submit to him in faith; we follow his way in hope. Easter makes all the difference about who we believe in. Though I wish I knew how it happened.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Through our tithes and offerings we gave to God's work *over and above* our own church needs in the following ways:

- ELCA Mission Giving: \$1,636.
Herb Schaefer, 92, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from John Ball Zoo. He lives at MapleCreek, a residence of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. A part of our offerings go there. ELCA Disaster Response is active in Japan, New Zealand, Haiti, Egypt, Libya, Indonesia, Cambodia and Thailand.
- ALTERNATIVE Mission Giving: \$410
- PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: \$2,370.
This fund provides confidential assistance to members in special need. Contact PR for information.
- TRANSITION FUND: \$,1970
What a blessing to reach out to the lost and needy in Christ's name.

FEBRUARY 2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

General Fund		Building Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 2,966	Beginning Balance	\$ 5,832
Income	16,507	Income	\$ 2,382
Expense	<u>(18,121)</u>	Expense	\$ <u>(2,606)</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 1,352	Ending Balance	\$ 5,608

THANK YOU NOTES

From Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop ELCA
"Thank you to the members of Immanuel for \$22,414 for Mission Support to Synodical and Churchwide ministries of the ELCA" in 2010.

Thank you to everyone who attend the "Bells, Brats & Bikes" event on March 20 – it was a great afternoon. We raised \$218.00 toward the purchase of new equipment, and Brandt Ayoub entertained us with his presentation on the bike trip across the country, while working with Habitat for Humanity. What a wonderful day!
Immanuel Handbell Choir

Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers. I am at home now, and on the mend! I mostly want to thank everyone who supported my family through this ordeal. It was a difficult time for them, and your kind words and support had such an impact on them. You were each a unique blessing in our time of need.
Thank you, *Kelly White*

Thanks to Frank LaFay for the recent painting he has done around the church.

Thanks to Jerry Marcus for the work he did on the communion table.

Thanks to Jim & Kristin Crooks for their work on keeping our church building clean.

Dick Berner, Upkeeper coordinator

LUTHER LEAGUE II
Monday, April 11 at 1:00 pm
Swedes restaurant in Mulliken



Margie and David Houseman would like to extend an invitation to everyone at Immanuel:

Open House and Celebration
English High Tea
for Nickie Nicholson
on the occasion of her 80th birthday!

When: Sunday, April 24 (Easter afternoon)

Where: Serenity Place Community Room
216 S. Clinton, Grand Ledge

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Cards welcomed



ANNUAL LUGNUT OUTING

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 24, 2011 for Immanuel's next Lansing Lugnuts outing. It's Country Night (free pony rides for the kids and a pre-game country concert) as well as LAFCU fireworks. Tickets are \$9 a seat for reserved seats or \$10 for box seats and can be reserved by calling Orv Erickson at 517-645-2865, emailing him at norsky148@sbcglobal.net or just see him after church some Sunday. Tickets must be ordered and paid for by Sunday, May 8, 2011. We have 30 reserved seats and 30 box seats all in the same area but we can get more of each. Come join us this year for a great night out with the family. Go Nuts!!!!



SATURDAY, APRIL 16
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

We will have coffee & donuts in the morning, at noon we will have the grill fired up for hot dogs with sodas & beer. Bring the whole family for some fun as well fellowship. We will have plenty to do for all, from picking up limbs & trash, spreading mulch, putting new shingles on the outdoor storage shed, cleaning flower beds & more. We will have indoor projects as well. All materials will be supplied. Questions/contact: Dick Berner or Carol Weigel







Kids Hope USA Corner

Maybe some of us have the winter doldrums, but not our Kids Hope USA volunteers. They continue to work tirelessly to make a difference in the heart of one child. Their commitment is the strength of this program. Every day they can be seen in the halls of Beagle and Wacousta Elementary armed with books, games, and a big smile. They spend the mentoring hour reading with their child, playing games, doing puzzles, and talking. Talking and sharing are the most important aspect of this relationship, and sometimes God's plan comes shining through when we least expect it. Here's what happened to one mentor last month.

When DJ met with his student they decided to build something with Lincoln Logs. They spent the hour making structural plans, sharing ideas, and working as a team. Construction didn't always go smoothly since both had their own ideas of how the cabin should look, but they discussed the pros and cons and eventually made compromises. Their final result was a "log castle" to be proud of. Even better, when the teacher saw the final result she declared it to be beautiful. She also let DJ know that she had been stressing working as a team in the classroom. DJ's student actually lived this principle when building his cabin with his special friend. It will be something he will always remember.

Lyn Danes, Kid's Hope Director

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8 pm AA	2 8 am AA
3 8:00 Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 Worship	4 10:30am Frozen Chosen 4-6:00 pm Community Soup Night	5 6:30 am Men in the Morning 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00am Quilting	6 6:15 pm Soup & Bread 7:00 pm Lent Service	7 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	8 8 pm AA	9 8 am AA Baby Shower 1-5:00pm
10 8:00 Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 Worship	11 4-6:00 pm Community Soup Night	12 6:30 am Men in the Morning 10 am Memorial 4:00 pm 4-H 7:00 pm Church Council	13 6:15 pm Soup & Bread 7:00 pm Lent Service 6:30 pm God's Crusader's	14 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	15 8 pm AA	16 8 am AA Spring Clean-up Day 9:00-1:00
17 Palm Sunday 8:00 Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	18 4-6:00 pm Soup Night 7:00 pm Team Meetings	19 6:30 am Men in the Morning 9:30 am Staff 11:00 am Quilting	20 1:00 pm Hope Circle 7:00 pm Bread for the Journey	21 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Service	22 Good Friday 1:00 pm service- Trinity 7:00 pm service @ St. Michael 8 pm AA	23 Holy Saturday 8 am AA 7:00pm Service
24 Easter Sunday 8:00 Worship 9:30 Breakfast 10:30 Worship	25 4-6:00 pm Community Soup Night	26 6:30 am Men in the Morning	27 6:30pm God's Crusader's	28 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	29 8 pm AA	30 8 am AA LME 10-3:00 High School Sleepover

Bill Frysinger (4/3)
Barb Roush (4/5)
Annette Ryan (4/7)
Fred Gehlhaar (4/8)
Elaine DeClercq (4/9)
John Van Hoesen (4/9)
Vanessa Crambell (4/10)
Jeff Everts (4/11)
Gil Baptista (4/11)
Tom Sullenberger (4/12)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Sean Riley (4/12)
Avery Riggs (4/14)
Jason Morrall (4/14)
Pat Graeber (4/17)
Lucas Smith (4/17)
Katie Bryant (4/23)
Mike Pitchford (4/24)
Erin Hubert (4/24)
Delaney Fedewa (4/24)
Anna Baribeau (4/25)

Owen Smith (4/26)
Chris Frysinger (4/27)
Allan Blaske (4/27)
Alan Goschka (4/29)
Angie Blake (4/30)
Donna Gibbons (4/30)
Abby Osburn (4/30)
Ritch Lewis (4/31)



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Bill & Donna Gibbons (04/01)
Rick & Linda Merrifield (04/07)
Tom & Nicole Sullenberger (04/17)
Tim & Linda Hubert (04/19)
Jim & Carol Espie (04/28)

