



THE MANGER ~ August 2007 **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

Our Vision: To be a welcoming Spiritual community that nurtures an intimate relationship in our daily walk with Jesus and invites participation through sharing our spiritual gifts to the glory of God.

Office: 501 S. Clinton St., Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone: 517.627.6310; Website: www.immanuel-gl.org

Worship Schedule:

Thursday 7:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

Staff & Team Leaders:

Pr. Rick McKenzie, *Pastor*
rmckenzie@immanuel-gl.org
Denise Lund, *Office Administrator*
dlund@immanuel-gl.org
Donna Gibbons, *Parish Nurse*
dgibbons@immanuel-gl.org
Sue Schnarr, *Director of Christian Education*
sschnarr@immanuel-gl.org
Lyn Danes, *Director of Kids Hope USA*
ldanes@immanuel-gl.org
Ellen McKenzie, *Choir Director*
emckenzie@immanuel-gl.org
Gregg Vicary, *Gathering Team Leader*
gathering@immanuel-gl.org
Sue Schnarr, *Preparing Team Leader*
preparing@immanuel-gl.org
Den Graeber, *Serving Team Leader*
serving@immanuel-gl.org
Larry Kruth, *Support Team Leader*
support@immanuel-gl.org

Please call a team leader with your questions/concerns or call the church office.

The church Office is open
Monday – Thursday
from 8:00 – 3:30.

FROM SABBATICAL...

A pair of worn out “tennis shoes;” soles are held on with duct tape; one can hardly discern the original color. A pair of worn out work gloves; stained with paint and other things, holes in the thumbs. They are hardly useful any longer. Certainly they are nothing that anyone else would give a second glance at other than to ask why they haven’t as yet been tossed out.

Except consider why such worn out items are worn out. What work have they done? What purposes have they served? *These particular* shoes and gloves have been to New Town, North Dakota. They have cleaned hazardous materials and indescribable waste from a yard. They have sawed down trees and hauled brush to the dump. They have sided and painted and done a dozen other jobs.

These old worn out shoes and gloves have a story to tell about service to God and some of his children, Karen White Owl and her 3 granddaughters whom she is raising. They are nothing to look at, yet they are beautiful. They are not very useful, but they have value. I don’t think I will be tossing them aside very soon. They may show up in a sermon. The stories are numerous from the LYO Mission Trip.

What a privilege to travel, live with, and work with these youth. Parents and elders in our congregation, you can be very proud of them. They worked hard without complaint or discouragement. They prayed, witnessed, and learned grace and Christ! They accomplished a lot.

But now, consider some of your old, worn out things: jeans, shirts, tools, utensils, etc. Are there not stories to tell? Consider some people you know. Are they not beautiful and of great worth? What stories they have to tell of service to country, of service to community, of service to Christ, to family.

How wonderful to be valued in our aged years. How wonderful to be recycled, remade, rejuvenate, resurrected.

Pastor Rick



Summer vacation is here for our students, and most of our mentors are taking a well deserved rest before September. Some of the mentors are maintaining contact with their students during this break. Two, Chris Frysinger and Scott Hoornstra, were able to take their students to the Immanuel Lugnuts game. Maybe you saw them there having a great time.

You've heard and read several of the mentor stories during the last six months, but I thought that this might be a good time to share my Kids Hope story. When Pastor Rick asked me to organize this program I had just retired from a 34 year career in teaching. I had always loved working with children and helping them to learn and grow, but during the last years of my career I became disturbed and disillusioned by the emphasis on testing, testing, testing. I felt that we had somehow lost sight of what was developmentally best for each child. When I attended the Director Training I became excited by this program. It put the children first and what was best for their hearts, minds, and souls. After just six months I can tell you that I was right to get excited. Kids Hope does make a difference. I've seen how God can change hearts and make them new. There are smiles on the faces of the children when they talk about their relationship with their mentor. Wonderful volunteers with faithful hearts have come forward to "...be Jesus with skin on." The congregation has bolstered this mission with its prayers and support. It is truly AWESOME!

Please consider joining us by being a mentor or a prayer partner. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every child in need had a special friend they could count on? Wouldn't it be great if we had a waiting list of mentors instead of children? Think about it, pray about it, and then call the church office, or contact me at 543-8661.

God's peace be with you,
Lyn Danes



Choristers Wanted:

We need singers...green singers, aged singers, reader and non-reader singers, higher singers, lower singers, and maybe even one or two Der Meistersingers for our ILC adult choir this fall. All who are interested in sharing your faith through singing in worship services on Sunday mornings are welcome. We currently rehearse at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday evenings. We usually sing twice a month at the 10:30 a.m. worship service—more during Christmas and Lent. We enjoy singing a cantata each year and participating in a concert format worship and praise service once or twice a year. If you are interested in becoming a part of this small group gathering ministry, contact Ellen McKenzie, at rdmcken@attglobal.net, or at 517.627.6202. (Friendship and spiritual support are free.)

ILC Choir Members:

Choir rehearsals for this coming year will begin again at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 30th, 2007, in the church sanctuary. This will be a time of renewal, introduction to many new choir members (☺), and planning for the coming year. Please bring a friend who wants to sing. Any questions, call Ellen McKenzie, at 517.627.6202.

Reading Report:

I completed "Eight Concepts of the Bowen Theory" in June. I completed "Generation to Generation and "Friedman's *Fables*" by Edwin Friedman in July. *Fables* are composed by the rabbi to illustrate principles of Systems Theory in individuals and congregations. "Generation to Generation" is especially for pastors to begin to think in terms systems terms as leaders of congregations. Congregations are extended families and the pastoral and ministry leaders are very important to the health and success of the community and its mission.



PR

Among Our Members:
Marriage:

Chris Hengesbach-Davis and Mark Morrall were married at their home by Mark's father, an officer in the Salvation Army on July 28. May the Lord Christ work in their relationship and their step-families to grow love, grace and peace.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

No Thanks

I really was not sure what to write about in this issue of the newsletter. Then I was discussing all the things that I had going on in a conversation with a member of the church, and everything that I seemed to be dealing with as of late, (mission trip, sabbatical, new structure, etc...) when they said "hey it's a thankless job at times isn't it?" And then it hit me.....

Well of course it is at times and I don't think I surprise many by saying this as I am not the first to have this role. Thanks are not the reasons we all do what we do. We are a church that must rely on volunteers, oh we have paid staff, but we need to look no further than them to see that even they put in time volunteering above and beyond the call of duty for the sake of the church.

What is it about volunteering that brings out the best in people?

On our mission trip to North Dakota our youth volunteered their time to help others less fortunate by choice. This was a hard concept for a few other kids on the exact same trip from a church in North Dakota to understand; for they were there as part of the confirmation classes. They asked us a couple of times about what our kids were working towards. You see there participation was tied into a class while ours were not. When our response was that they volunteered to do this, it was a confused look we received but as the week went on I firmly believe these younger youth looked at the situation a bit differently for it was the feeling of a job well done in the name of Christ that fed the heart and soul of each and every participant.



Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!

Each year we host VBS and each year the volunteers that show up work and make it happen always amaze me. The stories that get told about this kid or that, what was said or done to make everyone smile and laugh. Each person giving of themselves for the goodness of God to put a smile on a Childs face.

Well done Immanuel. We have planted many seeds to God's kingdom though our combined volunteering. We walk for cancer and hunger, read to kids, share an hour a week with youth, spend time with others less fortunate, lend an ear, a heart and a shoulder at times. And I am sure there are many other ways that cannot be captured in this letter.

Don't get me wrong; I appreciate the pat on the back of thanks as much as the next. But when doing God's works I am constantly reminded that I do not do it for myself but to the glory of God.

So to that member who started this letter: Thank You.

Thank you for reminding me that I write this letter to the glory of God.

In God's peace,

Mike Proper

COUNCIL CORNER

New Grand Piano: Jim Espie and Carmen Karkau made a proposal for a fundraiser for a new grand piano. Their "first choice" piano will cost \$26,000. The Gathering Team is proposing a "buy-a-key" fundraiser with other fundraising options to allow more members to participate.

New Hymnals: Pr. Paul and Denise made a presentation on the new red hymnal published by the ELCA. Staff proposes not to purchase the red hymnals, only the CD which contains the entire hymnal electronically. The intent is to print the complete service from the CD, including all hymns; each week in the bulletin

Buckley Sign: Bob Buckley will be placing a magnetic sign on his car advertising his FBI Reading Club. He has asked to use Immanuel's name on the sign. The sense of Council is that Immanuel's name should not be used. Mike will advise Bob of this.

GLHS Swim Team Fundraiser: GLHS Swim Team has asked to use Immanuel's parking lot for a carwash fundraiser on August 25, 2007. An Immanuel member will be participating in the fundraiser.

In Genesis God said, "Let the land produce vegetation" and it was so.

Around in the church grounds there are flowers, plants and trees. A special "Thank You" is presented in this to the many members of Immanuel who care for the beautiful flowers, trees, and plants around here. The trimming, weeding and watering work that is done by you is truly appreciated. Thanks to all who are active in keeping our church grounds looking nice. Please continue your "good works".

Thank you. The Church Mouse

CALLING ALL OLD WORN-OUT ATHLETIC SHOES



Old athletic shoes, are you feeling worn out, rejected, tossed aside? Do you feel as if there is no longer a purpose to your life? Take heart, even in your miserable state, there is still a new life for you! Old shoes can be recycled into something new and useful. Immanuel Lutheran Church will collect old athletic shoes to recycle. A bin will be located in the COAT ROOM during the month of August.

Environmental Task Force

KNEELERS

Before Pastor Rick left on his Sabbatical, he requested that members of our congregation be surveyed to see how many would be interested in having kneelers in our church pews. Initially, not every pew would have kneelers. More kneelers could be added later if members so desire.

Please complete the form below and put in Marge Galvin's mail box at church or call her at 627-7494 if you have questions. Thank you.

Re: Kneelers

Yes _____

No _____

Undecided _____

Comments: _____

Name (optional) _____



You are invited to the marriage of
Paul Theodore Pretzlaff &
Sheryl Lynn Kashmerick

Sunday, September 16, 2007
at Four O' Clock in the Afternoon
At Immanuel Lutheran Church
Grand Ledge

Buffet Reception following at
Grand Ledge Country Club
St. Joseph Highway, east of M 100

Please sign the reservation list in the church entry by August 12





Senior Adults Picnic

**Immanuel Lutheran League II &
St Michael Jets**

**Monday, August 13, 2007 ~ 11:00
am – 3:00 pm**

**Francis Park Pavilion (2600
Moores River Dr. Lansing)**

**Luther League II members
please provide main dishes.
Jets members will provide salad
and desserts.**

**Bring your own table service,
beverage, dish to pass, and
walking shoes.**

MEALS IN THE FREEZER - Did you know that the *Frozen Chosen* have made meals for you and the *Helping Ministry* will deliver them to your door?

Frozen Chosen began as a women's Bible study group two years ago during Lent. We have remained together as a Bible and book study group. In addition, we have been making main dishes and putting them in the church freezer to be used by people in need. If you see a need for a meal for yourself or someone else, such as post-surgery or illness, please feel free to sign out and take a meal(s). This does not have to be limited to church members. The meals are located in the church freezer in the storage room off the kitchen. If the supply of meals gets low, please alert the church office so more can be made.

Helping Ministry is a ministry to assist members in time of need. If you want a meal delivered Helping Ministry will see you get it.

Call: Joan Nolff 627-3883, Denise Lund 627-6310, or Annette Ryan 627-9511.

Name Tags are Coming

The first part of our vision is to be a welcoming spiritual community. To help us achieve this name tags will be available to wear during Worship Services starting this Fall.

This project will be funded through a special donation.

If you are interested in helping to kick off this project please call the church office (627-6310).





*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13*

** Encouragement **

*What a wonderful promise! God promises hope, love, joy, and peace.
Trust in that promise, and receive the hope that the Spirit brings.*

** Prayer **

*Dear God, thank you for giving me joy and peace.
Thank you for filling my life with your hope.
Help me to overflow with your love, Amen.*

AUGUST 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 VBS 9-12:00	2 VBS 9-12:00	3 VBS 9-12:00	4 Art Fair Hospitality Station
5 9:30 Worship	6 10:30 Frozen Chosen	7	8	9 6:30 Women Bible Study 7 Weekender Service	10 8 pm AA	11 8 am AA
12 9:30 Worship	13 6:30 Church Council	14	15	16 7 Weekender Service	17 8 pm AA	18 8 am AA
19 9:30 Worship	20 7:00 Team Meetings 10:30 Frozen Chosen	21	22	23 7 Weekender Service	24 8 pm AA	25 8 am AA 10-2:00 GLPS Swim Team Car Wash
26 9:30 Worship Koo's Wedding	27	28 7:00 SNL Orientation	29	30 7 Weekender Service	31 8 pm AA	

Happy Birthday to:

August 1	Caleb Buckley
August 2	
August 3	
August 4	Amy Osburn
August 5	Lauren Blaske
August 6	Madison Osburn
August 7	Jordan Sullenberger, Garrison Reed Karl McCormick
August 8	Jay Cardinal Ernst Floeter,
August 9	Gregg Vicary, Braeden Riggs
August 10	
August 11	
August 12	Shari Burg, Kaitlyn Anderson Samantha Becker
August 14	Sue Moran
August 16	Richard Catey, Sandy Cory
August 17	
August 18	Dorothy Foltyn, Rick Merrifield
August 20	Den Graeber
August 21	
August 22	Mike Fedewa
August 23	Haley Kingsley
August 24	Scott Becker
August 25	Mary Danes
August 26	
August 27	Mary Gehlhaar
August 29	Redmond Riggs
August 31	Dave Brown

Happy Anniversary to:

Pete & Kim Zipple
Dave & Kim Brown
Scott & Julia Hoornstra
Greg & Amy Osburn
Mathew & Tonya Bonette
Roger & Sandy Love
Mike & Lyn Danes
Pr Rick & Ellen McKenzie
Dave & Connie Edwards
John & Sandy Crambell
Steve & Wendy Bower & John & Fay Boerger
John & Lori VanHoesen
Gilberto & Lisa Baptista
George & Annette Ryan
Bill & Barb Paulins & Duane & Sandy Cory
Jack & Sharon Wolf
Fred & Judy Koos