



THE MANGER ~ August 2008 **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 – 3:00

LAZY HAZY CRAZY?

*Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer;
Those days of soda and pretzels and beer...*

This Nat King Cole pop song from the late 50's praises the dream of summer: hammocks and beaches, drive-in movies and convertibles, and, most of all, lots of happy, leisure time.

Well in the Church schedule, I find leisurely pace to be more a state of mind than a fact. Activities change but the pace does not slow. Plans for fall and winter have to be made. Deadlines have to be met. It takes as much time to plan for two services on two different days as it does for 2 services on Sunday. It takes as much preparation to proclaim the Word to 130 as it does to 230.

And all those who assist behind the scenes – altar care, acolytes, coffee hour, nursery staff, etc. - actually have a harder job during the summer. (Please go back and re-read that sentence.) Why? Because we are out celebrating those *lazy, hazy, crazy (weekends) of summer*. We say "yes" less since we have vacations and weekend plans - or at least we have plans to have plans. Consequently we tend not to want to be tied down by a commitment to serve at church.

Fact is, though, I still need acolytes to serve with me. Parents still need capable volunteers in the nursery. Coffee Hour should continue each Sunday. We need these for our own vision "to be a welcoming, spiritual community.

And here's a second reason. (Now hear this *please*.) Families go church shopping during the summer. We are being checked out by visitors each and every Sunday. Our hospitality is being tested each Sunday as visitors ask, "Is this a place I would like to return again or even join?"

I don't think we put our best foot forward if there is no Coffee Hour fellowship; or if they go to the Nursery and there is no one there to watch over their child; or if before church people are scurrying around seeking youth to robe up at the last instant. If I were a visitor, I would ask myself if this is a well-organized place or not.

Fellowship, hospitality, and evangelism – these are important values at our services, especially during the summer. We come to worship the Lord, true - yet always with others. So worship is meant to benefit ourselves *and* those others. Some are visitors who might return.

By the time you read this we will be into the Dog Days of the lazy, hazy, crazy days – not much summer remains. Nevertheless, you can still help. Just one time won't spoil the summer state of mind. Our congregation has many pairs of hand. And many hands make light work. Please keep this in mind for this summer and next summer...and for the seasons in between. Our volunteer coordinators will really appreciate you.

(Written from my vacation hammock, July 10)

Pastor Rick

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

BAPTISM:

Eric Fenstemaker
6088 Grand River Dr. GL.

Eric is in the Air Force Reserves and is studying welding at LCC. He is going to be married in August in California. He and his bride, Shannon, want their home to be founded in Christ. They will be living in the Grand Ledge area.

BIRTH: Timothy Tyler Hubert was born to Tyler and Erin Hubert. This is their first child, but not the 1st grandchild for Tim and Linda. What a blessing!

RETIREMENT: Dale Hoffman retired from GM after more than 30 years of service.

GRIEVING: The Dan Landry, Bob Shilton, and Betty Williams families all had mothers die last month. The whole body of Immanuel senses your loss. We grieve with you in the hope we share as fellow members of Christ.

Have you signed up for news@immanuel-gl.org yet? Have you used it to share your joys or your prayer requests or seek information? Go to our church website and find "Sign ups." This is a good way to be in the loop about church stuff.

JOIN
★ us at ★
Sunday
school

September 7, 2008
9:15 am
for all ages

SNL ORIENTATION MEETING SCHEDULED

The catechism program orientation will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26. Catechism (We call it Sunday Night Live or SNL) is a 3 year study program leading to Confirmation of Faith. SNL is for all students in grades 6, 7 & 8.

The Orientation meeting is for all students and a parent, both new students and those who have already been in SNL. We will go over this year's curriculum, expectations and goals. We will try to get organized in Huddles (Small Groups) and get a Parent Support Team set up.

If you know a middle school student who is not a member of our church but wants to learn about God and join an active church youth group, this would be the time to invite them.



COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Are you returning to or starting college before Labor Day? Here're some things we would like:

1. **A Blessing:** We would like to send you off with a blessing for the school year. Let us know which Sunday is just before your move and then come to church.
2. **Email:** Give us your email address. We will make sure that you get the Church newsletter sent to you on-line. And Pastor will send you a prayer around mid-terms and finals.
3. **Care Packages:** Give us your mailing address. We may recruit a member to support you with care packages from home. Yum, yum!

AUGUST HOLY DAYS (for home devotions)

August 15 Mary, Mother of our Lord

Isaiah 61:7-11 Psalm 34:1-9

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 1:46-55

Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your Word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

August 24 Bartholomew, Apostle

Exodus 19:1-6 Psalm 12

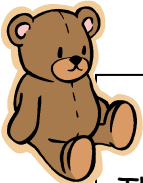
1 Corinthians 12:27-31a

John 1:43-51

Almighty and everlasting God, you gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and courageously to preach your Word. Grant that your Church may proclaim the good news to the end of the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Thank you to everyone who tithed on their stimulus checks. We have received over \$7000.



IMMANUEL TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY

The Teddy Bear Ministry is a part of our outreach ministry that glorifies the Lord by bringing comfort, smiles, God's love and care to those in need. Thanks to the entire congregation for your support of this ministry. When you give a bear to someone, if you can, please replace with a new, non-talking, non-musical teddy bear or put \$10 in a pew envelope marked 'Teddy Bear Ministry'. Please let us know any feedback you may receive after giving a teddy bear. Contact Annette Ryan 627-9511.





JUNE GARAGE SALE A SUCCESS



Thank you to the many families and individuals that donated their "used treasures" and their valuable time to our garage sale. We do not know how many households donated but we do know that we had 33 volunteers. Thank you to all.

The sale generated \$4471 go towards the demolition of our parsonage. We are demolishing the parsonage because it has outgrown its use and we have no organizations interested in using the space anymore. The cost is approximately \$15,000 to demolish the parsonage.

Just think of the possibilities that we have as a church to expand our ministries with the extra land. We are on the brink of furthering our Church's mission statement and reaching out to our community to the glory of our Lord. This is an exciting time for us to dream big and have it realized.

With that being said, we are having a SECOND garage sale. Please start saving up and storing away those items that you do not need, do not want to see around anymore, or would like to see them in someone's home that can use it at a reasonable price. Furniture, children's toys and clothes, books, electronics, kitchen stuff, anything you can think, we will sell it for you and to a good cause.

Our team of expert volunteers have learned a lot about how to handle such a large production and truly believe the second one can generate even more sales.

Our sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20th. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.** We especially need **YOUR DONATIONS**, help with initial setup on Thursday, September 18th, setup and tear down volunteers for Friday and Saturday. Sales help is always needed.

Your donations will be accepted during the week of September 14 after church at the Church Parsonage garage. If you are able to, please price your items. If not, we will handle it. Clothing items do not need to be priced.

Please contact Lisa Baptista, Garage Sale Coordinator, to volunteer your donation or your time or both. Please consider how you can help with your time and treasures. Please contact Lisa either on the cell or email listed below.

Your Sister in Christ,
Lisa Baptista
517/230-6769 or lisa.baptista@avon.com





"ET" (Earthkeeping Team) Perspective

“Earthkeeping is as basic as picking up your own litter, and teaching others to do so as well, and as complex as impacting climate change or other complicated issues.”

One of the biggest environmental lifestyle changes you can make is switching to reusable bags. The saying goes, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We should first reduce the usage on a single use bag. When you think about it, the life of that bag could be 10 minutes between the time we leave the store and get home. The vast majority are not used again, ending up as waste, landfill or litter. Because plastic bags are light and compressible, they constitute only 2% of landfill, but since most are not biodegradable they will be there for decades. Plastic bags have only been around since the 1970's, so the habit isn't so old that we cannot break it. Plastic bags, like all plastic products are made from petroleum. Americans use over 380 billion bags every year, throwing away millions of barrels of oil. The petroleum in 14 plastic bags could drive a car a mile. A reusable bag replaces 4 plastic bags each time it is used. When used once a week for two years, it will prevent 416 bags from being sent to the landfills, enough to drive a car 30 miles.

Horrocks, Kroger, and Meijers offer an earth-friendly alternative to disposable shopping bags for only \$.99. Reusable shopping bags will decrease the use of paper and plastic as well as reduce litter and waste in our landfills. Do your part by being good stewards of the environment and use reusable shopping bags. The next time you're asked the paper or plastic question, answer neither. Instead B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Bag).

ET Spies: George and Annette Ryan running around the church picking up recycling which they kindly take to the Grand Ledge area center. Thanks, George and Annette, for helping our church to keep trash out of landfills!

GIVE SMALL CHANGE TO MAKE A BIG CHANGE!

This summer the Environmental Team is providing calendars with daily ideas to “Live Green”. While doing things like recycling and generally being a steward of our own resources, we will also give extra pennies, nickels and dimes toward The Heifer Project. By making small change, in our pockets and in our habits, our congregation can make big change in the world.



Kids Hope USA Corner

Wow! The summer is just flying by! By the time you read this VBS will be over and we will be in the month of August. That means that it is time to gear up and recruit new mentors for the coming school year. Right now we need at least three new mentors. We have two girls and one boy entering first grade who would really benefit from having a “special friend” to support and guide them. They need help in academics, self esteem, and making good choices. **Could YOU be the one to make a difference?**

Here is what one KIDS HOPE USA mom wrote about the mentoring process: "Having a KIDS HOPE USA mentor like Brett helps out my son's self-esteem. For Tom to have someone who really loves him but is not **required** to love him gives my son a **huge** advantage in life. How wonderful for someone to step in and be willing to love a stranger and that stranger is my son."

To be a mentor you must be 16 years of age or older, be a member of Immanuel, and be willing to give one hour a week to meet with your student. Training is provided before you begin. If you think that you would like to be “Jesus with skin on” for one of His little lambs please contact me through the church website, or the office, or at 543-8661. Your caring and love will revolutionize their lives and OUR world.

Lyn Danes, Kids Hope Director

AUGUST 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 VBS 9-12 8 PM AA	2 8 AM AA ISLAND ART FAIR
3 9:30 WORSHIP	4	5	6 10 TODDLER TIME	7 7:00 WORSHIP	8 8 PM AA	9 8 AM AA
10 9:30 WORSHIP	11 6:30 COUNCIL	12	13 10 TODDLER TIME	14 7:00 WORSHIP	15 8 PM AA	16 8 AM AA HS SLEEP OVER
17 9:30 WORSHIP 2-5 H.S. ICE CREAM SOCIAL	18 7:00 TEAM MEETING	19	20 10 TODDLER TIME	21 7:00 WORSHIP	22 WEDDING REHEARSAL 8 PM AA	23 8 AM AA 9-1 GLPS CAR WASH EVERT/THOMAS WEDDING
24 9:30 WORSHIP 4:00 CONCERT	25	26 7:30 SNL ORIENTATION	27 10 TODDLER TIME	28 7:00 WORSHIP	29 8 PM AA	30 8 AM AA
31 9:30 WORSHIP						

Happy Birthday to:

August 1 Caleb Buckley
 August 2
 August 3
 August 4 Amy Osburn
 August 5 Lauren Blasko
 August 6 Madison Osburn
 August 7 Jordan Sullenberger, Garrison Reed
 August 8 Jay Cardinal Ernst Floeter,
 August 9 Gregg Vicary, Braeden Riggs
 August 10
 August 12 Shari Burg, Kaitlyn Anderson
 Samantha Becker
 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, Ben Dyke
 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 Hoonstra
 Greg & Amy Osburn & Mathew & Tonya Bonette
 Roger & Sandy Love
 Mike & Lyn Danes
 Pr Rick & Ellen McKenzie
 John & Sandy Crambell
 Steve & Wendy Bower John & Fay Boerger
 John & Lori Van Hoesen
 Gilberto & Lisa Baptista
 George & Annette Ryan
 Bill & Barb Paulins
 Duane & Sandy Cory
 Jack & Sharon Wolf
 Fred & Judy Koos