



## ***THE MANGER ~ February 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](http://www.immanuel-gl.org)



Worship with us every Sunday  
at 8:00 am or 10:30 am  
Christian Education  
Sunday @ 9:15 am  
for all ages.

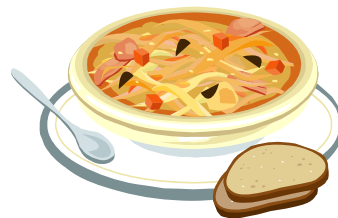
#### **Staff & Team Leaders:**

Pr. Rick McKenzie, *Pastor*  
[rmckenzie@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:rmckenzie@immanuel-gl.org)  
Denise Lund, *Office Administrator*  
[dlund@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:dlund@immanuel-gl.org)  
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Gregg Vicary, *Gathering Team Leader*  
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Larry Kruth, *Support Team Leader*  
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### **Empty Bowl Supper** **Sunday, February 24** **5:00 ~ 7:00 pm** **Immanuel Fellowship Hall**

Yes, the date changed, due to the basement situation. The empty bowl supper is a chance to give to the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Pottery soup bowls designed by our youth and leaders will be available to purchase. The supper will include soups, salad, and bread plus a beverage. The cost of a pottery bowl plus supper will be \$25.00. If you donate a non-perishable food item to the food bank, the cost for the bowl and supper is \$20.00. The cost to those not wishing to purchase a bowl is \$5.50 for supper. If you donate a non-perishable food item to the food bank the cost is \$5.00. Once again, the folks from Immanuel's SNL group will be preparing some of the soups and serving at the supper.

**ALL PROFITS WILL GO TO THE  
GRAND LEDGE FOOD BANK.**



The church office is open Monday-Friday  
from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.  
The staff and team leaders at Immanuel are here to serve you.  
If you have any questions or concerns,  
please call or e-mail us; we will be happy to talk to you.

### “ALL READY” LENT!

One said, “We just got him born. Now we are getting ready for him to die!” True. An early Easter makes Lent begin February 6<sup>th</sup>. But we have been preparing since before Advent and Christmas. Wednesdays and Sundays and Holy Days are all planned or in process. If you come with openness, you will be ready, too.

By tradition, Lent is a season to pay attention to our faith-walk through fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor. Jesus taught us to practice these in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6). Christians the world over join in these disciplines.

Lutherans encourage all disciples to fast, that is deny ourselves something important. Usually people choose a food. This year, *we are encouraging to fast from a habit: complaining*. The Gathering Resource Team and I are asking each of us to join in this fast: Not to complain at work or home or school or the game or church; not to complain about work or people (teachers, boss, the President) or health or weather.

Consider that the repeated complaints of the children of Israel on the Exodus grated on God. Some pretty serious consequences are laid at the feet of their grumbling such as poisonous snakes and a threat to give up on them. He considered them an ungrateful, unbelieving lot. So this can be an important habit for disciples to break.

Ash Wednesday will be our beginning with bracelets, instructions, and sermon. A Sunday lectionary-based sermon series will make frequent references to breaking the habit.

It’s your choice, of course, but won’t it be good to make a common gift/sacrifice to our Lord? Won’t it be good to ask him to make a change in your daily living? Won’t it be good to come out of Lent into Easter with a brighter heart?

Or I suppose one could complain about the whole idea...

*Pastor Rick*

Lent 1: Feb. 10	The Dead Do Not Complain Text: Romans 5:12-19
Lent 2: Feb. 17	The Complaint of Abraham Text: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
Lent 3: Feb. 24	Faith and Complaints Text: Romans 5:1-11
Lent 4: March 2	What Pleases the Lord. Text: Ephesians 5:8-14
Lent 5: March 9	What You Get Text: Romans 8:6-11

### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT:

#### In the Shadow of the Rock

Each Wednesday at 7 p.m., our community will gather to pray Vespers, the evening prayers of the Church. The prayers will be preceded by a soup and bread supper at 6 p.m. Our theme for meditation will be “In the Shadow of the Rock” with the rock referring both to Golgotha/Calvary and Christ. The NT says the rock that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Week 1: February 13 Mark 14:17-21  
The Shadow of Betrayal

Week 2: Feb. 20 John 13:1-5  
The Shadow of Servant Leadership

Week 3: Feb. 27 Luke 22:54-62  
The Shadow of Denial

Week 4: March 5 John 18:25-19:1  
The Shadow of False Accusations

Week 5: March 12 Luke 23:32-33, 39-43  
The Shadow of a Last Chance

Week 6: March 20 (Maundy Thursday)  
Matthew 26:43-56  
The Shadow of Misunderstanding

March 21 (Good Friday)  
John 19:31-42  
The Shadow of Death



### FEBRUARY Holy Days for Home Devotions

Feb. 2: The Presentation of our Lord  
1<sup>st</sup>: Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 84 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hebrews 2:14-18  
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

*Almighty and ever-living God, your only begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

## AMONG OUR MEMBERS

### DEATH:

#### Carl Malkewitz

completed his life and work among us on January 7, 2008 and was transferred to the saints in light. Carl witnessed always to the sufficiency of Christ's grace and our faith. He was a relentless advocate of our stewardship of time, talent and treasures as our response to grace. Services for Carl were January 12. We support Carolyn and family in their time of grieving.



### TRANSFER:

**Lee and Sandra Bair** to Trinity Lutheran Church, Bradenton, FL  
Lee and Sandy have moved to FL for health reasons. She is much improved. We rejoice with them. They promise to see us in the summer.

### BIRTH:

Megan Delia to Steve and Monica Dyke and Ben, friends of Immanuel  
*Congratulations! We share your joy.*



### JOINING IMMANUEL CHURCH

- Know someone who would like to become a member of our church? Perhaps you?
- Know anyone who is interested in becoming a Christian, and a follower of our Jesus?
- Know anyone who would like to be baptized?
- Or would like to take a fresh look at their own Lutheran roots?

Pastor's New Member Class is for them/you. The Class starts on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> and will meet on Tuesdays during Lent. Those who join will confess their faith or be baptized on Holy Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be studying "Reclaiming the 'L' Word", a book on 5 teachings basic to Lutheran beliefs and life. Letting Pastor know you will be attending will help him prepare.



*The Drama Team would like to thank all those who volunteered for the Live Nativity. Sorry our run was cut short but...that's show biz! The one night we did perform we had close to 150 people through. It was a great night and hopefully we touched many hearts that evening with the true meaning of Christmas! Thank you, for with out you it would not have been possible.*



### Save the date

Women of Immanuel  
Sunday, April 27, 2008

We hope you will be our guest  
for a afternoon of fun fellowship.

Secret Prayer Pals  
will be revealed.

Invitations to follow.

### IN THE KNOW

Have you felt out of the loop – that you didn't know information that everybody else seemed to know? Did you found out about a need too late to help? We suggest one of two things.

1. Join [news@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:news@immanuel-gl.org) You can sign up on our website. You can enter a prayer request, a thanksgiving or share information at anytime. Everyone who is signed up will receive the news at the same time.
2. Join the Telephone Prayer Chain. Contact Marge Galvin, 627-7494. She maintains the chains and will put you on one of them. She also starts the information going through the chains.

Of course, being a regular attendee at church and reading the newsletter helps, too. You can be in the know as soon as you act.

## ISN'T IT GREAT! ISN'T IT GRAND!

Okay. So you walk into the church sanctuary...right up the center aisle...all the way to the altar. Now turn right. (More like a military "right face".) And it's right there. Staring right back at you. All 6'4" of it. Mahogany. Little brass bands around its sturdy legs. 1000 pounds in weight. Complete with climate-control system. (Yup. We have to "water" it.) An American eagle stamped on the inside...Mason-Hamlin in lettering on the outside. With its top down it looks like any other grand piano except it's reddish-brown. (What's up with that?) Final cost? \$26,990 including cover, stage dolly, and that climate-control system thing. What do we owe on it? Nothing. (Amazing!) It's paid for in full thanks to over 54+ ILC families and friends. Some paid with widows' and widowers' mites and others with tithing, inheritances, or remodeling bathrooms, or nights out, or in remembrance of loved ones, or simply out of gratefulness for blessings received—financial and not. Some gave with pledges of keys...others in monthly payments or pennies in the offering plate...sacrificial gifts above and beyond regular giving. All seeing the beauty of future congregational worship and community service through a "singing" instrument...this "grand" piano.

We are so grateful to each of you who contributed to the Grand Piano Fund. You only have to listen to MH#1 (Mason-Hamlin #1) with the "top up" to know why we fell in love with it in September of this year. We tried a small one—a beautiful instrument but one which did not seem to fill the sanctuary. Immanuel is a singing congregation. MH#1 "sings" and fills the sanctuary. We seem to fit each other. Thanks be to God! (We are in the processing of planning a dedication concert on Good Shepherd Sunday 2008. Details to follow.)

In His Service, The Gathering Team and Lisa Baptista, Carmen Karkau, Jim Espie, and Ellen McKenzie

*Dear Immanuel Family,*

*During Carl's three months of illness we felt the presence of Pastor Rick., our Immanuel family and our Lord Jesus Christ. That gave us peace, comfort, and strength those many days. Together we talked about how blessed we were to have shared God's love these many years and to belong to the Immanuel Family. Thank you for loving Carl and celebrating his life with us.*

*Love, Carolyn Malkewitz and family*



Relay for Life will be May 16 -17 at Beagle Middle School. We hope to have another "Junk in the Truck" sale on May 3, 2008. Mark your calendar, clean out your closet and join Relay's fight against cancer.



## Kids Hope Corner

National Mentoring Month may be over but our mentors and prayer partners 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 Greenwood 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. The following Kids Hope story illustrates this point.

When I started to mentor Susan, my KIDS HOPE USA child, I was sometimes overwhelmed by her needs and lack of grade level skills," said a mentor. "My grandchildren are two years younger, but so far ahead of her. I tried to tutor her and help her learn more. I also asked Susan's teacher about her special needs and asked what I could do to help."

Her teacher responded kindly and gently of what she had told me at the beginning of the school year, "Susan doesn't need another consultant. You can help Susan most by loving her, supporting her, and mentoring her."

"Now, I just try to love Susan and be her friend."

If this sounds like something you feel called to do, please let me know (Lyn Danes, 543-8661), or call the church office. Mentors are needed any time of the year.

## PRESIDENT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES ANNUAL MEETING

January 25, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I want to encourage each member to attend the Annual Ministry meeting of the Congregation to be held on February 10 following the 10:30 service.

This is the second year we have separated the Budget meeting from the Ministry meeting and the new format allows us to focus more clearly on the task at hand. We will be discussing and deciding on the direction of our outreach ministry for 2008 and truly need the input of as many members as possible.

Immanuel's 2008 Council met for the first time on January 14 and will meet again at our annual retreat the weekend prior to the congregational meeting. The annual Council retreat is a time for us to dedicate ourselves to preparing our ministries for 2008. The annual Ministry meeting is the time for *all* members to voice their opinions on the direction of our outreach for 2008. God has blessed us in many ways. How will we spread that blessing in 2008?

I ask each of you to pray and reflect on how you can spread the grace of Christ in our congregation, our community, and beyond in 2008. Will this be the year you try something different? Our new structure has teams for Gathering, Preparing, and Serving. Each team wants and needs new participants. What is God calling you to?

Minutes from last February's meeting are available in the narthex. I encourage everyone to review them in advance of this year's meeting so we can quickly approve them and move on to new business.

I look forward to seeing each of you on February 10. Let's crowd the basement as we have been crowding the Sanctuary!

God's peace,

Matt Cermak  
Council President 2008

### **TWO DELEGATES SOUGHT**

The annual Synod Assembly will be held Sunday, May 18 through Tuesday, May 20. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in south Lansing. (We will commute from our homes.) All congregations may send one female and one male delegate. Please consider this. You will be spiritually challenged and renewed. Your awareness of the ELCA's exciting ministries will be greatly expanded. Speak with our President or Pastor Rick.

As ELCA Christians, we do not need to "re-invent the wheel" or search for our own information regarding Christian environmental stewardship. The ELCA has an Environmental Education and Advocacy office in Washington, D.C. which has a substantial amount of information on all aspects of Christian stewardship. Attached is an article written by the ELCA Advocacy personnel, fellow ELCA Christians.

## **When Traveling, Bring Your Own (Reusable) Bottle!** **JUNE 2007**

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Using a reusable plastic water bottle instead of buying bottled water will save you money and help protect God's creation.

"...and the spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:2)

"[A]s people of biblical faith, who live together in trust and hope, our primary motivation is the call to be God's caregivers and to do justice...As members of this church, we commit ourselves to personal lifestyles that contribute to the health of the environment."  
(Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice ELCA Social Statement, adopted by 1993 Churchwide Assembly)

Bring a reusable bottle when you travel instead of buying bottled water.

Bottled water creates trash and uses energy. Bottled water creates more trash and uses more energy than a re-useable bottle refilled from the tap. Disposable plastic bottles fill our landfills and take up to 1000 years to biodegrade. They also require substantial energy to manufacture, fill and transport. The majority of the energy used comes from fossil fuels like oil and coal, which emit carbon dioxide and are a primary cause of global warming.

Tap water in the U.S. is clean and safe. In the U.S. we are blessed with a system to provide safe tap water, which is subject to dozens of state and federal regulations and testing requirements. Testing standards for bottled water are much less strict. Although the majority of bottled water is safe and pure, a Natural Resources Defense Council study tested 103 brands of bottled water and found that 34 of them exceeded either a state-enforceable standard for bacterial or chemical contamination, or a non-enforceable microbiological-purity (HPC) guideline, or both. Please note that not all countries have tap water that is safe to drink. When traveling abroad, refer to travel guides and web resources to determine how safe the tap water is.

Bottled water is expensive. Bottled water can cost as much as \$10 per gallon—much more than a gallon of gasoline. A 2006 report found that globally we spend \$100 billion on bottled water.

Advocate for clean water for all.

Advocate for environmental sustainability through the ONE Lutheran Campaign at [www.elca.org/one/](http://www.elca.org/one/). Ensuring environmental sustainability is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are eight interrelated development goals that flow from the Millennium Declaration of 2000 adopted by all members of the United Nations, including the United States. Within the goal of ensuring environmental sustainability is the target to cut in half the number of people who lack access to safe drinking water supplies by 2015.

Join the ELCA e-Advocacy Network at [www.elca.org/advocacy/](http://www.elca.org/advocacy/) to learn more about opportunities to advocate for clean water for all, as well as other important issues.

Join the ELCA Shareholder's Network at [www.elca.org/corporate](http://www.elca.org/corporate) to receive periodic updates on water issues, as well as other issues involving corporations.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Council Retreat	2 Council Retreat
3 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	4 6:30 Church Council 10:30 Frozen Chosen	5 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	6 <i>Ash Wed.</i> 6:30 God's Crusader's	7 7:15 Choir	8 8 pm AA	9 8 am AA
10 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship	11	12 9:30 Staff 10:00 Memorial 7 Boy Scouts	13 10 Toddler Time 2 Hope Circle 6:30 Handbells	14 7:15 Choir	15 8 pm AA	16 8 am AA
17 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	18 7 Team Meetings 10:30 Frozen Chosen	19 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	20 10 Toddler Time 2 Hope Circle 6:30 Handbells 6:30 God's Crusader's	21 7:15 Choir	22 8 pm AA	23 8 am AA
24 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 5-7 Soup Bowl Supper	25	26 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	27 10 Toddler Time 6:30 Handbells	28 7:15 Choir	29	

### Happy Birthday to:

Feb. 1 Pete Zipple  
 Feb. 2 Hanna Espie, Mike Danes  
 Feb. 3 Wendy Lewis  
 Feb. 5  
 Feb. 6 Samantha Flanders  
 Feb. 7 Callahan Riggs  
 Feb. 9 Sandi Graeber, Sarah Cermak, Blaine Teahan  
 Feb. 10 Jan Jussila  
 Feb. 11 Ellen Flanders  
 Feb. 12 Bev Lass, David Kuntzsch  
 Feb. 13 Michelle Pitchford, Emma Landry  
 Feb. 14 Barb Wickerham, Melissa Goschka  
 Feb. 15 Herm Kruger  
 Feb. 16 Joy Powis  
 Feb. 17 Emily Jussila  
 Feb. 19  
 Feb. 21 Steve Karkau, Kim Zipple  
 Feb. 22 Gwyneth Ketola  
 Feb. 23 Linda Hubert  
 Feb. 24 Dennis Martinich  
 Feb. 25 Sharlean Saxton  
 Feb. 27 Lisa Bower

### Celebrating an Anniversary:

Tony & Margo Holland  
  
 John & Melissa Kingsley  
 Jay & Julie Cardinal  
 Jack & Kris Hernden  
  
 Jeff & Brenda Everts  
 Jim & Marlaine Teahan  
  
 Tom & Angela Blake