



The Manger

February 2010

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Pastor's Word:

February means Lent begins

If it's February, it must mean Lent. Strange, don't you think? The word Lent comes from an **OLDE ENGLISH** word meaning Spring. And February, at least in Michigan, is like the dog days of winter; it just seems to drag on forever! Yup. It is February and Lent begins February 17.

If it's Lent, it must mean get ready for slow, dry, sad hymns - even slower, drier, sadder than usual. Strange, don't you think, for a time that brings in spring! Or does Lent *prepare* for Spring? Easter is the real Spring. We'll have to wait and get our hearts ready. We'll have to work through the end of winter for these 40 days. We'll have to turn back to the Lord. We'll have to fast, pray and give alms (charity and justice).

Now wait! What if, "We'll *have* to..." becomes "We'll *get* to!" We *get* to turn back to the Lord. We *get* to fast, pray and give alms. It sure seems better. So, I invite you to Lent....and all those hymns. We get to prepare for Spring/Easter! Woohoo!

Pastor Rick

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 17

This day of special devotion calls all Christians to remember that we are created mortal. It is the first call of Lent to return to the Lord. Services are everywhere that day. Please attempt to attend.

7:00 a.m. A Brief Prayer and Scripture Service at Immanuel

Come before school or work.

Especially for those with evening commitments.

12:00 p.m. Holy Communion at Trinity Episcopal (next to the GL Library downtown)

Slip away at lunchtime. Worship in the daylight hours.

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion at Immanuel

Please make an effort to attend a service. Many Christians will fast until they have received Holy Communion or ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Staff:

The Rev. Richard McKenzie

Denise Lund,

Office Administrator

Sue Schnarr,

Director of Education

Lyn Danes,

Director of Kid's Hope

Ellen McKenzie, *Choir Director*

Jim Espie, *Organist*

Carmen Karkau, *Organist*

Jim & Kristin Crooks,

Carol Espie, *Maintenance*

Team Leaders:

Bill DeWitt, *Gathering*

Sue Schnarr, *Preparing*

Den Graeber, *Serving*

John Van Hoesen, *Support*

Immanuel Lutheran Church

501 S. Clinton Street

Grand Ledge MI 48837

Phone: (517) 627-6310

Website: immanuel-gl.org

E-mail:

dlund@immanuel-gl.org

Sunday Worship Services:

8:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School:

9:30 am

**ASH WEDNESDAY MEANS
SHROVE TUESDAY: February 16**

And Shrove Tuesday means Pancake Supper, especially potato pancakes (latke), applesauce and/or sour cream, and sausage. This traditional German Shrove Tuesday fare will be served up and cleaned up with smiling and happy faces by the catechism classes. All the proceeds will help send them to summer church camp. So come early, stay late, bring a friend, eat a ton and remember – Lent starts the next day!

Cost: Adults - \$5.00 Children - \$2.00



**Valentines
Dinner**

Have you been wondering what to do on Valentine's Day for your "Special Someone"? Well here is an idea. The High School Youth are hosting a Skyline Chili Valentines Day dinner on Saturday, February 13, 2010. It will be held at the church and we will be having 2 sittings - one at 6 pm and one at 7 pm. There will be space for 36 people at each sitting. The menu will be Skyline Chili, salad, bread, beverages and dessert. Cost will be done by donation. There also will be entertainment throughout dinner. If you would like to make a reservation for one of the sittings, please see Sue DeWitt, or contact her at sdewitt64@netzero.net or contact her at 517-627-1007.



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT:

February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Soup and Prayer each Wednesday with Trinity Episcopal Church at Immanuel.

6:15 pm Soup

7:00 pm Prayer Service

Discussion topics: The Small Catechism (Baptism, Communion, Ten Commandments, the Creed and Lord's Prayer), Learn to use these to deepen your spirituality.

LUTHER LEAGUE II TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

(Note: Tuesday not Monday this month)

Meet in church parking lot at 11:30 am to car pool to The Boondox Restaurant in Wacousta.

LADIES DAY

Ladies - we have a fun day planned for Saturday, February 20 from 10:00 – 3:00 at the church, where we can share some of our own skills and learn new skills from other women in the congregation. Please register on the bright yellow sign-up sheet and we will have a great day of fellowship and learning things such as knitting, bread making, mending or other items that you may be interested in. For more information, contact Barb Roush @ 852-0119.

**DECEMBER 2009
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ (15,259)
Income	24,793
Expense	<u>(19,309)</u>
Ending Balance	\$ (9,775)

Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,037
Income	7,092
Expense	<u>(2,606)</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 7,523

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

BIRTH:

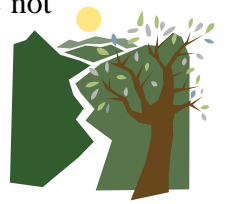
Zachary Robert Shilton

was born to Dawn, Bob and Emma on January 9. God has blessed them with new life, a son. We celebrate with them. Congratulations!

DEATHS:

Karl Berner

passed from this life to the next on Monday, December 14 at the age of 94. Though not our oldest, Karl was the longest member of Immanuel. He was a member here from his infant baptism through Confirmation, Marriage, and until his death. His grandfather, Johannes (John), and family were among the founding families of our church back in 1871. Karl and his wife, Orma, farmed the family land on Willow Hwy at "Dead Man's Curve." Now, of course, there are subdivisions there where some of our member families reside. These later years, Karl has lived between the houses of his sons Dick, Jerry and Jim in various other states, so we have not seen him often at church. His youngest son, Roger, resides mostly in Central America, working for church-based orphanages. Our congregation continues to be blessed by the faith and service of this family. We commend our brother to God and celebrate with him the promises of Scripture to the faithful. Services for Karl will be scheduled at church in March.



*Called Home
to Heaven*

Ernie Zakrajsek

died early on December 31, 2009. He entered the heavenly home as we prepared to enter the new year. What a gift Ernie was to Immanuel Church and to the GL community. His willing spirit, humor and faith touched us all. In GL, he was Postmaster and an active Lion. At Immanuel, he was in the choir, on Property Committee and Church Council, in Luther League II and helped in numerous behind the scenes ways.

FROM THE HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

The Valentine candy is already in the stores as are the various and many reminders to care for those we love. Your Healing Prayer Ministers have been blessed with a special love, a love that comes with a responsibility. That responsibility is to love as we are taught to love by His Word. Isaiah 54:10 reminds of the compassion and love that our Lord has for each of us. It is in faith that we open ourselves as we pray for and with you. We know we are never alone, that the love of our Lord is with us. He is with us as we pray for and with you. The needs can be of thanksgiving, a loss, a fear, illness, pain. It can be a prayer for someone you care for. Most of us at some time have felt peace, love and comfort as we lift our hearts in prayer with another. We're thankful for the compassionate love given to us and are grateful when you allow us to share his love with you in serving Him as we have promised to do.

February is the month reminding us to share our love with those we care for. We are praying that some will want to join us as the need is great and the workers are few.

Joan Nolff, Healing Prayer Ministry



February Holy Days (for personal home use)

February 2: The Presentation of our Lord (aka Candlemas)

Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 89:1-29 Hebrews 2:14-18 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.



DAILY BIBLE READING

Do you read the Bible daily? Here are daily readings from the New Testament for Year C. Let's strive to read the Bible each day during Epiphany and Lent. After each reading, ask, "What one thing will I take with me?"

4 Epiphany

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Feb. 1: 1 Cor. 2:6-16

Feb. 2: 1 Cor. 14:13-25

Feb. 3: Luke 19:41-44

Feb. 4: Acts 9:19b-25

Feb. 5: Acts 9:26-31

Feb. 6: Luke 4:42-44

5 Epiphany

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Feb. 8: 1 Cor. 14:26-40

Feb. 9: 1 Timothy 3:1-9

Feb. 10: Luke 5:27-32

Feb. 11: Acts 13:26-34

Feb. 12: 1 Peter 1:17-2:1

Feb. 13: Luke 11:24-38

Transfiguration

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Feb. 15: Acts 10:9-23a

Feb. 16: Acts 10:23b-33

Ash Wednesday to Lent 1

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Feb. 18: Acts 7:30-34

Feb. 19: Acts 7:35-42

Feb. 20: John 12:27-36

1 Lent

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Feb. 22: 1 John 2:1-6

Feb. 23: 2 Peter 2:4-21

Feb. 24: Luke 21:34-22:6

Feb. 25: Phil. 3:2-12

Feb. 26: Phil. 3:17-20

Feb. 27: Matthew 23:37-39

The NCD (Natural Church Development) action team continues working on developing the new “Spirituality Web Links” for the Immanuel Lutheran website. Stay tuned for the spring when we will give you a “peek preview” to the links.

Meanwhile, there are many ways to grow spiritually in our every day lives. Many people love to read, but in today’s hectic schedules, it is sometimes daunting to browse through the bookstore to find really good, well written, Christian-focused books.

Here are a few of the top sellers compiled by the Christian Booksellers Association and the Library Journal. The reviews were found on About.com. Happy Reading!



1. Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God by Francis Chan

Francis Chan is a pastor and the president of Eternity Bible College in California. He's written *Crazy Love* as a challenge to make believers really think about God's love for us and how the Creator of the Universe demonstrated crazy, passionate love through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ. Each chapter asks a thought-provoking, self-examining question to help you carefully consider your beliefs and actions toward God and about the Christian faith.

David C Cook; Paperback; 186 Pages.

2. Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear by Max Lucado

Is fear holding you prisoner? As always, the bestselling author and pastor of Oak Hills Church in Texas, Max Lucado, has a timely message for people facing a real problem in today's unsettling economy, overwhelming atmosphere of anxiety, growing violence, and media-driven fear. Turning our doubts and fears into hope and faith in Jesus is the answer, and Lucado illustrates how to do this with lessons from the life of Jesus, as well as his own personal experiences in beating fear.

Thomas Nelson; Hardback (Also in Paperback); 221 Pages.

3. The Shack by William P. Young

This book has stirred a great deal of interest, both positive and negative. As a literary work, I don't think it compares to *The Pilgrim's Progress*, as some have said. It did challenge me spiritually and caused me to draw closer to God. Dealing with the question, *Where is God?* in the midst of tragedy, it presents the path to healing in a beautiful way. It made me think deeply about my false perceptions of God. It didn't revolutionize my life or change my course in a dramatic way. I questioned some of the theological concepts it conveys, but I took into account it is a work of fiction. In the end, I couldn't see what all the fuss was about. My conclusion: it's a good book, worth reading.

Windblown Media; Paperback; 256 Pages.

The Purpose-Driven Life by Rick Warren

This timeless guide for living the Christian faith includes 40 short segments for daily study. Warren proposes an approach to life based on understanding and fulfilling God's purpose. The basic principles are worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism.

Zondervan; Paperback; 334 Pages.



LINKED UP WITH CHRIST

We have results from *Linked Up With Christ*, our 2009 stewardship program. It took a while, but now (almost) all the links have been completed.

- 113 households responded in some way.
- 66 households made a financial commitment: a percent, an amount or a pledge to do their best.
- 70.3% of the budget was pledged:
\$5,120 is needed weekly. \$3,601 has been pledged.
Add in those 47 households who pledged a percent and those who will do their best, we believe we will be pretty solid financially this year.
- 45 households marked the Time and Talent forms.
Many indicated they were already serving. Those willing to serve will be directed to the Resource Teams.

Our Link Captains were Mary Gehlhaar, Gary Lass, Melissa Goschka, Ernst Floeter, Jean Folk, Fred Koos, Mary Jo Stein, John Van Hoesen, Scott Hoornstra, Amy Wheeler, Tom and Nicole Sullenberger, Bob Carter, Patty Riley, Cheryl Liss, Steve Colby, Mark and Chris Morrall and Denise Proper. We thank them for their essential service.

We had our challenges along the way, but accomplished much, too, with this new program for a new year and a new decade. "Linked Up With Christ", our congregation is strong and dynamic. Everyone who participates using their spiritual and financial gifts is helping to make us so. Thank you. Let us praise and glorify the Lord.

Linked Up With Christ Stewardship Team: Bob Shilton, Rick Merrifield, Bill Gibbons, Jim Drown, Dale Stein, Steve Baribeau, Patsy Galvin and Lisa Baptista.



Happy Birthday to:





- Feb. 1 Pete Zipple
- Feb. 2 Hanna Espie
- Feb. 3 Wendy Lewis, Christian Thomas
- Feb. 5 Sheryl Kurtycz, Maggie Baribeau
- Feb. 6
- Feb. 7 Callahan Riggs
- Feb. 9 Sarah Cermak, Blaine Teahan, Sandi Elowski
- Feb. 10 Matthew Corbett jr.
- Feb. 11
- Feb. 12 Bev Lass, David Kuntzsch, Rachel Huson
- Feb. 13 Michelle Pitchford, Emma Landry
- Feb. 14 Barb Wickerham, Melissa Goschka
- Feb. 15 Herman Kruger
- Feb. 16 Joy Powis, Dawn Byers
- Feb. 19
- Feb. 21 Steve Karkau, Kim Zipple
- Feb. 22 Gwyneth Ketola, Ken Turner
- Feb. 23 Linda Hubert, Kanan Byers
- Feb. 24 Dennis Martinich
- Feb. 25 Sharlean Saxton, Cheyenne Dunn, Dakota Dunn
- Feb. 27 Lisa Bower

Happy Anniversary to:

- Tony & Margo Holland
- John & Melissa Kingsley
- Jay & Julie Cardinal
- Jack & Kris Hernden
- Dale & Joan Hoffman
- Jeff & Brenda Everts
- Jim & Marlaine Teahan

Tom & Angela Blake

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:30 am Frozen Chosen – 501 4-6 pm Soup Nite	2 9:30 am Staff 11-3 Quilting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	3 10:00 am Toddler Time 6:30 pm Handbells	4 7:15 pm Choir	5 8:00 pm AA	6 8:00 am AA
7 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	8 4-6 pm Soup Nite	9 10:00 am Memorial 9- 5 Wellman 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	10 10:00 am Toddler Time 6:30 pm Handbells	11 7:15 pm Choir	12 8:00 pm AA	13 8:00 am AA 10-3 ME 6 -8:00 pm Valentine Dinner
14 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship	15 10:30 Frozen Chosen – 501 4-6 pm Soup Nite 7:00 pm Team Meetings	16 9:30 am Staff 11-3 Quilting 5-7:00 pm Pancake Supper	17 <i>Ash Wed.</i> 7:00 am Service 10 :00 am Toddler Time 7 pm Service	18 7:15 pm Choir	19 8:00 pm AA	20 8:00 am AA Women’s Skill Day
21 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	22 4-6 pm Soup Nite	23 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	24 10:00 am Toddler Time 6:15 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	25 7:15 pm Choir	26 8:00 pm AA	27 8:00 am AA
28 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship						



KIDS HOPE USA CORNER

Sometimes it's the little things in life that touch our hearts the most. It's the feeling of a child's hand in yours, the smile of a loved one, a glistening tear, or an unexpected hug. For our mentors these little moments add up to an experience that they love and enjoy. In fact, all of our mentors have been seeing children for over two years or more. That is an **AWESOME** commitment! I thought that you would like to hear a couple examples of what goes on between mentor and student from the mentors themselves.

Chris Frysinger writes about setting up an experiment for rock candy with Noah, her student. "After adding the blue food coloring to the sugar water the wooden spoon turned blue. I stated that the blue would eventually come out. Noah said, 'It will be a memory of our time together.'"

Or one day Bill Frysinger was running behind because of work obligations, so he ended up 30 minutes late for his mentoring session with TJ. He writes, "We shook hands, while looking each other squarely in the eye, something we've always done. On the way to the gym, I ruffed his hair and apologized for being late. I said I will be late again, I am sure. His response: "Who cares? You're here, that's what counts." And that's what did count. We had a relaxed, comfortable and enjoyable 35 minutes, talking in the gym while dribbling & shooting. The important thing to TJ is that I am there. We show each other mutual respect, genuine interest, concern. It's good."

If this sounds like an experience you would like to have, please contact me. You don't have to wait until the next school year. You can start as soon as you complete training. We are still looking for someone to meet with a first grade boy. Precious moments will follow.

Lyn Danes
Kid's Hope Director

Just a reminder.....

Registration forms for Elementary Camp (3rd – 5th grade) at Stony Lake are due to Denise Proper by February 05, 2010. If you have any questions please call 626-2408 or email Denise P. at daproper@yahoo.com