



## ***THE MANGER ~ January 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)



Every Sunday at  
8:00 am or 10:30 am  
Christian Education  
Sunday @ 9:15 am  
for all ages.

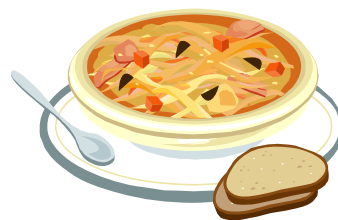
#### **Staff & Team Leaders:**

Pr. Rick McKenzie, *Pastor*  
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### **Empty Bowl Supper** **Sunday, January 13** **5:00 ~ 7:00 pm** **Immanuel Fellowship Hall**

Immanuel will host it's second annual Empty Bowl Supper. The pottery soup bowls were designed by our youth and leaders. A limited number of pottery bowls will be available. The supper will include soups, salad, and bread plus a beverage. The profit will go to the Grand Ledge Food Bank. 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.

## AMONG OUR MEMBERS:



Welcome  
Our New  
Members

### NEW MEMBERS:

#### **Bill, III, and Deb DeWitt Greg**

The DeWitts transferred into Immanuel from Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Manchester, Indiana. Bill and Deb have come back to the Grand Ledge area to help look after Bill's Father. They are GLHS grads. Bill is a computer guy. Deb has her PhD from MSU in Music Composition. In Indiana, she taught at a Christian College. Currently she is running her own piano studio. Greg is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Beagle Middle.

#### **Bill DeWitt, Jr.**

Bill, Jr. is father to the whole clan. A Grand Ledge resident his whole life, he currently lives at Independence Village. He is retired from MDOT. Bill is transferred to Immanuel from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational UCC.

#### **Suellen (Sue)DeWitt Brandon**

Sue also comes to us from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational UCC, where she is in the Handbell Choir. Now she is in both. Deb works as a Customer Service Rep. for Chapman Insurance Agency. Brandon is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Beagle Middle School.

#### **Bob and Sheryl Liss Lauren**

Bob and Sheryl join us by reaffirming their faith and baptisms. Bob has a Lutheran background and Sheryl a Roman Catholic. Bob works for the Community Action Agency as a Weatherization Inspector. Sheryl is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the state. Sheryl has been appointed a teller during the absence of her Sponsor and friend, Carol Weigel. Lauren is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Beagle Middle.

#### **Dave and Stacey Hofmeister Amelia**

Dave is transferring to Immanuel from Trinity Lutheran in Lansing. Stacey is joining by reaffirming her faith and baptism into the Lord. Dave is the service manager for GL Ford. Stacey is Dental Hygienist with an Okemos dentist. Amelia attends Okemos Montessori Academy.

We have some very talented and faith-filled new members here. The Lord has blessed us and them. Welcome to each and every one.

**Congratulations!**



### BIRTH:

Michael Wheeler was born to Jim and **Amy and Katelyn**. Congratulations

### GRADUATION:

**Becky Fryinger** graduated in December from MSU with a BS in Human Biology. Congratulations.

### DEATH:

#### **Calvin Austin**

Cal was a resident of Independence Village. Formerly he was an Air Force pilot (retired) and a Sales Manager for Nabisco. He was lifelong Lutheran and husband to Shirley. Services for Cal were held on November 20<sup>th</sup> at Deepdale Chapel.

### **PARKING SPOTS CONTEMPLATED**

In a desire to keep the Entry Way cleaner, Professional Party Planners (Teresa Barcy) have been asked to use the back stairs to the basement. However, there are no parking spaces there. So some folks are looking into a poured cement area off the paved alley by the back door. Expenses would be paid by the company not the congregation. If you have questions, please contact a member of the Property Team.

### **FIRE REPAIRS COMPLETED**

Repairs to the Women's Restroom have been completed. Damages were the result of an exhaust fan that overheated, causing a small fire in early December. Repairs were done Sunrise. Costs were covered by the church's insurance policy, minus the \$1000 deductible (which came from the Major Maintenance Fund). Thanks for your patience. Thanks to those on the Support Resource Team who saw the project through.

### **NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT (NCD)**

I hope you will read this as more than information because it is about our ministry at Immanuel. NCD is an internationally used process to assist congregations to grow. The process takes about 3 years to work through and during that time the goals of NCD become the common focus of unity in our congregation.

The NCD process surveys a cross section of the congregation, identifies its weakest area of ministry, and sets about strengthening that area under the supervision of a trained Coach. The coach is appointed by the Synod Committee. The benefits go beyond the one weakest area.

The Church Council has been considering this program for two years. Presentations have been made at Council Retreats by Pr. (now Bp.) John Schleicher and at Council meetings by Bruce Belanger, a Synodically Authorized Minister and NCD Coach. We are ready to focus our congregation on it. We hope to use this process to further our Vision: to be a community that helps members grow closer to Christ and use their gifts for him.

I encourage you to attend the Annual Ministry Meeting in February to learn more about the process, how we will benefit and how you might help.

*Pastor Rick*

### **FOOD BANK UPDATE**

Thanks to you, there was seldom a week this past year that I didn't need to make a trip to the Food Bank at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. You gave generously and thoughtfully – not only food, but also clothing.

The Soup supper was supported by everyone from the kids of Immanuel who made bowls and soups as well as served it up to the not such young folks who came out to buy bowls and soup mix and bought supper for a good cause. Together we raised over \$1000 in cash and donated much-needed canned goods to the bank as well.

The clothing bank was in great need of warm winter clothing and when I mentioned this, you took a look at your closets and drawers to find items that you could share with our friends who didn't have warm stuff. I suspect that we warmed more than their bodies.

One Sunday the SNL group went on a scavenger hunt – for canned goods. When I took them to the food bank, a gentleman who volunteers there met me at the door and said "I really thank you for all of this." When I lightly told them it was our pleasure, he responded, "No – you really don't understand, we couldn't fill the orders on Tuesday, we were out of a lot of stuff." God was really talking to our kids, and they listened and followed through. I am still amazed with His timing.

The Sunday School "filled the wagon" at the close of the school year with all sorts of food and paper products. When I delivered your gifts, the shelves were looking pretty bare. You made a difference!

The families involved with this year Bible School (The Great Bible Reef) generously "filled the boat" so abundantly that your gifts spilled out onto the floor in the entryway. When Sue and I delivered them, we helped stock the shelves and saw what a difference Immanuel again made.

Over the summer you continued to quietly drop off food and paper products as well as soaps and personal care items into the food bank box. I made trips to deliver and Linda (the coordinator) expressed gratitude to our Immanuel family for their continuing support.

Now that it's gotten cold and more of the income in every household is directed to heat and lights, you have stepped up your giving and I have been able to take even more to them.

Thank you for being God's hands and letting His love flow through into our community. I can truly see love at work here. May you feel His real presence as you represent Immanuel – God with us.

*Pat Graeber*



## EPIPHANY SEASON SERMONS

Epiphany...

...begins each New Year when the 12 days end;  
 ...means reveal or show forth or make manifest;  
 ...asks "In what ways was Jesus revealed as God's Son?";  
 ...encourages us to witness and make him known;  
 .....like the Magi who bring gifts;  
 .....and the Father who tells everyone that Jesus is his Son;  
 ...is about candles and stars; water and wine, missions and visions.

Epiphany is a short season this year - just 5 Sundays, and 3 of those are holy days. I hope this makes it enjoyable. Here's a schedule:

*Jan. 6: Epiphany Day*

Theme: Light from Light  
 The 12 days are completed.  
 Come help un-decorate the church from Christmas.

*Jan. 13: The Baptism of our Lord*

Theme: Faith Alone

*Jan. 20: 2<sup>nd</sup> after Epiphany*

Theme: Grace Has a Human Voice

*Jan. 27: 3<sup>rd</sup> after Epiphany*

Theme: Finding Your Voice

*Feb. 3: The Transfiguration of our Lord*

Theme: Behold, the Lamb of God

Epiphany ends and we move into Lent already this year.

May the Lord shine his light and truth to our hearts this Epiphany season.

*Pr. Rick*

### AWAKENING TO GOD'S CALL TO EARTHKEEPING

Through our Baptism, we all are called to seek to know what God calls us to in our ministry in daily life. We are called to prayerfully reflect upon "What actions flow from faith?" Awakening to God's Call is a four week ELCA Bible study. This study will be held for four consecutive Monday nights at the church (Pr. Rick's Sunday School room) at 7:00 p.m. starting on January 7, 2008. Materials are provided.

"There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land . . . Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, and even the fish of the sea are perishing." (Hosea 4:1b, 3)  
 Hope to see you for the "green" study during the winter month of "white!"

### JANUARY HOLY DAYS for home devotions

January 1 Name of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

*Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

January 18 Confession of St. Peter

Acts 4:8-13; Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19; 1 Corinthians 10:1-5; Matthew 16:13-19

*Almighty God, you inspired Simon Peter to confess Jesus as the Christ and Son of the living God. Keep your Church firm on the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

January 25 Conversion of St. Paul

Acts 9:1-22; Psalm 67; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 21:10-19

*O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

NOTE: The week between the 2 holy days is designated "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity." Please pray for the whole Church catholic (holy, catholic, apostolic Church) that together our relationships would honor Christ.

### SMALL GROUP MINISTRY COORDINATOR POSITION



The new church structure is progressing well with the Gathering, Preparing, Serving, and Support Teams. The new structure is ideal for new small group ministries to get started to connect our members beyond gathering for worship and Sunday School. A small group ministry coordinator will help build, direct, coordinate and promote small groups. If you are interested in applying for this position stop by the church office for a complete job description and application before January 16.

## COUNCIL CORNER

### Overview of the December Meeting

*Support Team:* Bids have been received for replacing three furnaces. Low bid is \$8,495 to replace all three. Low bidder is Ryan Electrical & Mechanical who has offered to provide labor for free. One furnace has a gas leak and must be fixed. Dehumidifiers and UV disinfectors will be added to all three furnaces. Support proposes to pay for this with Major Maintenance funds. There is \$14,938.18 in the Major Maintenance line item at the end of November.

*Fire & Insurance:* There was a small fire in the downstairs women's bathroom exhaust fan. The fire occurred a few days before the December 2, 2007 service, which was Commitment Sunday, and Hanging of the Greens. Mike Proper authorized immediate clean up which amounted to about \$1,000, the amount of Immanuel's insurance deductible. It looks like the total cost of replacement will be \$3,500. A claim will be made against our insurance carrier for the additional \$2,500.

*Parsonage:* The Synod has requested use of the parsonage for Dan Smith, the director of Living Water Ministries. Dan, his wife and their two daughters would live at the parsonage through September through May and will live at Michi-Lu-Ca the other months. Mike Proper to begin conversations with the Synod

*Small Group Ministry Coordinator:* Dennis presented an update from the Small Group Ministry Team. They are now recommending a new part-time position with a salary around \$4,400. Dennis suggested adding an agenda item on the February Council meeting to keep this issue in front of the new Council. Small Group Ministry Team would like a person hired by March 2008.

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES CAN BE LOCATED ON THE IMMANUEL WEB PAGE OR ON THE CEDENZA LOCATED IN THE CHURCH ENTRYWAY ONCE THEY ARE APPROVED.

### COUNCIL RETREAT

The Church Council's Planning Retreat will be Friday night and Saturday, January 25/26. It will be working weekend for our leaders as we plan out the goals for 2008. Please pray for them, that the Holy Spirit will give them unity of minds and hearts and will guide them.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### A FRESH START

It's that time of year again where the holidays take so much of our time. It's great to get together with family and friends. Share well wishes and thoughtful prayers. And yes the thought of a new year, new beginnings, and new resolutions. So throw out the old calendars and bring on the new.

Now is time to think about the things that God has gifted us with. We will have a new council that needs our support, new team members to help guide our church, new ministries, and ongoing ones.

I was recently on a Mid December Grouse hunt up north, and on the second day we were greeted by a fresh 6 inches of snow. I took in the beauty around me before we set out. Fresh snow clinging to the pines and the scenery was great.

I watched, as my dog Fritz was as giddy as a little girl or boy on Christmas morning. Out we went and away he dashed straight to the woods with his nose to the ground. It was about half way into our jaunt that it hit me. Here was my dog excited about doing just what he was bred for, nose to the ground without a care in the world, never complaining about the foot of snow he had to trek through. Not worrying about where we were but carefully checking back every now and then to make sure I was with him. By now you might think what hit me?

It was the fact that God intended that dog to do just what he was doing, hunting and pleasing his master. What hit me was the thought that "am I doing what God has intended me to do? And as a Christian am I doing what pleases my Master?"

It is time to breath deeply, take a snapshot of where I am in the big "woods" and hunt for the next opportunity to serve my church and my world. And my dog that checks back ever now and then to find his master, I know that I too must stop and check back to make sure that my Lord is also with me in all that I do. For I represent him in all that I do.

My time as this churches President is winding down as I write this and I look for the next challenge in my church life. I will have plenty of opportunity to serve in other ways and do what God directs me to do. So as the calendar gets turned over to a new year it is time to look forward to what can be done in the coming year, and look for ways to please my Lord. I hope we all can do the same.

In god's peace , *Mike Proper*



### KIDS HOPE CORNER

A Happy and Blessed New Year to All!

December 13<sup>th</sup> was the night of our Christmas party. Several students and their families attended. We watched a video, did Christmas crafts, frosted cookies, and ate hot dogs. Everyone had a great time. It was especially nice to have a chance to meet and talk with the parents of our children. I want to thank all the mentors and prayer partners who attended our event and helped with the activities.

Big thanks go to Sheryl Kurtycz for organizing and preparing the food and cookie decorating and to Cheryl Pitchford for helping with the cooking, serving, and clean up. Amy Kurtycz, Emily Zipple, and Amanda and Michelle Pitchford were a great help with the crafts. We couldn't have done it without all of you! You are the BEST!

**January is National Mentor Month**, and January 27<sup>th</sup> is National Kids Hope Recognition Sunday. On that Sunday we will join with over 400 churches nationwide to honor our mentors and prayer partners who give so much to make a difference in the life of one child. They are truly AWESOME folks. May to Lord bless you in this new year,  
*Lyn Danes, Kids Hope Director*



### 2007 Grand Ledge Crop Walk

raised a total of \$10,413 this year, and we did this with three fewer churches participating. Great Job Everyone! Remember 25% of the money raised stays right here in Grand Ledge. Thank you again for all you participated in this much needed event.

*Melissa Goschka*



### Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

January 3 Wilma Bryant, William Hill  
January 4 Mark Wolf  
January 6 Emily Clarke  
January 7 Jaren Scoggins

Charles & Tea Peiffer

January 9 Marilyn Berner, Julie Cardinal  
January 11 Emily Fracker, Josh Hengesbach  
January 15 Elaine Mattson  
January 17 Ed Dykstra  
January 19 Fred Koos, Drew Karkau  
January 20 Joan Nolff  
January 22 Allison Sterling  
January 24

Mike & Cheryl Pitchford  
Brad & Mary Matzke

January 25 Stephanie Ayoub, Nick Morrall  
January 26 Orv Erickson  
January 29 Sidney Rosier, Greg Ketola  
January 30 Becky Frysinger  
January 31 Judy LaFay

Robert & Ruth Buckley

Dave & Barb Rinckey  
Joe & Patty Riley



The goal of the environmental task force is to educate the congregation on how to be better stewards of God's earth. Here are 101 simple things you can do to protect the earth.

### **Live Green: 101 Green Things You Can Do**

1. Recycle newspaper, glass, plastic, cardboard, and metal
2. Recycle motor oil
3. Use cloth diapers
4. Reuse egg cartons and paper bags
5. Buy cloth bags for all your shopping needs – groceries, clothes, and home goods
6. Buy locally-grown food and other foods, from local merchants
7. Discover where the food and goods you buy came from
8. Avoid using Styrofoam. When you do, save it for yearly recycling event.
9. Take containers when you go out to dine. You'll have your own "doggie bag"
10. Avoid using disposable plates, cups and utensils. Rent or borrow for large events
11. Use rags instead of paper towels
12. Recycle unneeded items
13. Donate old clothes and clean rags to Value Village or Goodwill.
14. Use the back of paper for scratch paper
15. Be responsible and creative with leftover food
16. Use water from cooking vegetables to make soup
17. Put all food waste and food-soiled paper into your yard waste containers
18. Mend and repair, rather than discard and replace
19. Invest in well-made, functional clothing
20. Buy bulk and unpackaged rather than packaged goods
21. Purchase goods in reusable or recyclable containers
22. Buy organic, pesticide-free foods and eat low on the food chain
23. Buy foods without additives and preservatives
24. Use non-toxic pest control
25. Grow your own food – plant a small kitchen garden
26. Volunteer to start or help with a community garden
27. Avoid highly-processed food
28. Support food co-ops
29. Volunteer to maintain local parks and wilderness
30. Buy living Christmas trees
31. Plant trees in your community
32. Be a responsible pet owner – clean up after dogs and keep cats indoors
33. Learn about the plants and animals in your region
34. Learn about the cultural diversity of your bioregion
35. Explore and learn about your bioregion
36. Discover your watershed and work to protect it
37. Oppose the use of roadside defoliants in your area
38. Use non-toxic, biodegradable soaps and detergents
39. Put in a water-conserving showerhead
40. Learn where your waste and sewage goes
41. Avoid the use of hazardous chemicals
42. Keep hazardous chemicals in spill proof containers
43. Turn off the water when you brush your teeth
44. Buy a water conserving toilet
45. Shop by phone first, then pick up your merchandise
46. Learn where the energy for your home comes from
47. Support your local utility's conservation program
48. Hang your clothes out to dry
49. Be sure your home is well insulated
50. Thoroughly weather-seal your home

51. Heat your home responsibly with renewable energy
52. Don't burn green wood
53. Put a catalytic converter on your wood stove
54. Turn off lights when not in use
55. Turn down your hot water heater
56. Lower your thermostat and wear warmer clothes
57. Take shorter showers
58. Buy energy-efficient electrical appliances
59. Drive a fuel efficient car
60. Conserve gas by walking, bicycling and carpooling
61. Use rechargeable batteries
62. Research socially responsible investments
63. Support local credit unions
64. Support local shops and restaurants, not chains
65. "Adopt a grandparent" from the local senior center
66. Volunteer to cook for senior citizens
67. Hold a community potluck to meet your neighbors
68. Volunteer to help with neighborhood children
69. Pick up litter along highways and your home
70. Sponsor a clothes swap
71. Become involved with community projects and events
72. Organize or participate in community sports
73. Speak out about your values in community groups
74. Participate in sister city and cultural exchanges
75. Educate yourself on global and third world issues
76. Support politically active groups
77. Spend time visualizing global peace
78. Learn how your senators and representatives vote
79. Be an active voter – attend Town Meetings
80. Vote for candidates who support Green Values
81. Write letters to your representatives
82. Become involved with your child's school
83. Encourage your child's natural talents and interests
84. Organize or join a neighborhood toy co-op
85. Put toxic substances out of the reach of children and pets
86. Teach your child ecological wisdom
87. Listen to their needs and support their dreams
88. Communicate openly with your friends and co-workers
89. Acknowledge someone who provides quality service
90. Work to understand people with different views
91. Be conscious of the struggles of oppressed people
92. Work to unlearn cultural sexism and racism
93. Acknowledge spirituality in yourself and others
94. Donate blood if your health permits
95. Explore ways to reduce the stress in your life
96. Practice preventative health care
97. Exercise regularly and eat nutritious foods
98. Bring music into your life
99. Practice responsible family planning
100. Take time to play, relax and go into nature
101. Have fun and be joyful

# January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 	4  8 pm AA	5 8 am AA
6 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	7 10 Frozen Chosen 7 Bible Study 	8 6:30 am Men's Group 9:30 Staff 11-3 Quilting 7 Boy Scouts	9 10 Toddler Time 6:30 God's Crusaders 6:30 Handbell	10  7:30 Choir	11  8 pm AA	12 8 am AA
13 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship Soup Bowl Supper	14 6:30 Church Council 7 Bible Study	15 6:30 am Men's Group 9:30 Staff 5 - 4-H 7 Boy Scouts	16 10 Toddler Time 6:30 Handbell 	17  7:30 Choir	18  8 pm AA	19 8 am AA 
20 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	21 10:30 Frozen Chosen 7 Team Meetings 7 Bible Study	22 6:30 am Men's Group 9:30 Staff 11-3 Quilting 7 Boy Scouts	23 10 Toddler Time 6:30 God's Crusaders 6:30 Handbell	24 7:30 Choir 	25  8 pm AA	28 8 am AA
29 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	30 7 Bible Study 	31 6:30 am Men's Group 9:30 Staff 7 Boy Scouts				

