



The Manger

January 2010

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Pastor's Word: A Spirituality Resolution

A male church attendee wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. (*NOTE: He either must have attended twice each Sunday to hear that many sermons or it just seemed like that many.*) But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. (*NOTE: My sympathies to this long suffering lady!*) But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

We have a need for passionate spirituality in our congregation. We have a hunger to be more acutely aware of God and serving him in our daily lives. A vital, lively faith-walk is what the members need and hunger for most, according to those members who were surveyed by the Natural Church Development team.

We can have this. God wants us to have this passion.

Most New Year resolutions point toward self-improvement. Better health. Better nutrition. Better personal discipline. May I suggest that along with those resolutions you make a spiritual one. Better nutrition in your spirituality will be as rewarding to your overall health as physical discipline. Be wholistic.

You will be healthier. Our church will be healthier. God promises.

Pr. Rick

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Staff:

Rick McKenzie, Pastor
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

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Barb Felberg
1900 Redbug Ln., Lansing, 48917

NEW MEMBERS:

Nancy Case

You might know Nancy as daughter to Herm Kruger. Her husband of 33 years, Gary, recently succumbed to cancer. She is very involved in Special Olympics, as was her husband. Immanuel was one of the congregations in which she went to Sunday School, so Nancy says she has come back home.

Dick and Julie Stornant

Dick is a “retired” electrician. His friends, and friends-of-friends, keep him pretty active around the area. Julie is one of the crossing guards at Neff School. He has a Roman Catholic background and she has a Congregational Church background. Both are happy to have found a church home here.

Megan Williams
Connor

Megan moved back to GL just prior to the birth of her son, Connor. He was baptized in October. Megan is an RN working in the Sparrow Health System. She was raised at GL 1st Congregational and is happy to have this church to raise her son in.

BAPTISM:

Jarred Barcy

Jarred is a freshman at GLPS. He came to live with his aunt Teresa after his mother died last February.

Welcome to our new brothers and sisters in Christ and our church family! We are blessed and so are you.

JANUARY HOLY DAYS (for home use)

(Epiphany Day will be transferred to Jan. 3rd.)

January 1: The Name of Jesus

1st: Numbers 6:22-37 Psalm 8d 2nd: Galatians 4:4-7 Gospel: 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.

January 18: The Confession of Peter

1st: 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 Messiah 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.

January 25: The Conversion of Paul

1st: 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.

LUTHERAN FAITH 102: LAW AND GOSPEL

Taken together, "Law and Gospel" form the basic framework Lutherans use to interpret the Bible. Taken together, "it" is our point of view about what God says and does. Moreover, they are pretty simple concepts to learn.

Pastor's Sunday School class will be an opportunity to become a more knowledgeable Lutheran. Starting January 31 and continuing in February, you will: 1) Learn and discuss the concepts; 2) Find them in the Bible; 3) Practice them in study.

Along the way, you may learn big words, such as hermeneutic and dialectic...or not. You may learn the secret message of almost every one of my sermons. I will even award a "Lutheran 102 Completion Certificate," if you wish. But you've got to come.



LINKED UP WITH CHRIST
Results from our Stewardship program will be coming soon.

USHERING ...

Here's your chance to serve by Ushering. There will be ushering training (approx 1-1/2 hrs) Monday, January 18 in the church Narthex at 7:00 pm. Additional ushers are greatly needed. Please feel free to come for refresher training, too. Call Larry Kruth (626-2383) if you have any questions and if you plan to attend or call Bev Becker (627-2025). Larry and Geoff White will be doing the training. Let us know by January 11 or just show up!

ANNUAL LUGNUT OUTING

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 25, 2010 for Immanuel's next Lansing Lugnut outing. Bobblehead Giveaway Night at Oldsmobile Park as well as a LAFCU fireworks night. Tickets are \$9 a seat this year (\$1 increase) and can be reserved by calling Orv Erickson at 517-645-2865, emailing him at oerickson@sbcglobal.net or just see him after church some Sunday. Tickets must be ordered and paid for by Sunday, May 23, 2010. We have 70 seats reserved but we can get more. Come join us this year for a great night out with the family.

GO NUTS!!!!

CROP WALK

The final numbers for the 2009 Grand Ledge Area Crop Walk are finally in. The grand total raised for Grand Ledge was \$10,283. Immanuel Lutheran raised \$2,798. And 25% of the total money raised (\$2,570.75) will stay right here in our area and be divided up between Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program, Grand Ledge Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, and SIREN. Thank you to everyone who walked or supported a walker by pledging. What a difference we are making!!

Melissa Goschka and Den Graeber

NCD ACTION TEAM UPDATE

As reported in last month's The Manger, the NCD Action Team continues to determine ways people of Immanuel can implement their desire to live our vision with passionate spirituality by putting it into action.

Members of our church are in the process of completing our stewardship drive. Not only were we given an opportunity to tell what we planned to give monetarily to our church, but also what we planned to give of our time. Was that easy for you, or did you question where your talents fit best?

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Do you remember taking a spiritual gifts inventory, or has it been a while? The NCD Action Team is working on a link to Immanuel's website where you can take a spiritual gifts inventory for you to help identify your spiritual gifts. We plan on working with the resource teams to identify contacts for areas in which you would like to volunteer or opportunities for you to lead or organize a new or vacant ministry our church might need. We're looking into opportunities for our youth, bible study, devotions, suggestions, and themes.

As you can tell, this is in the planning and organizational phase right now, but it is moving forward. Be patient. It's coming! When it's ready for a preview, the NCD Action team will plan to have you view this during a coffee hour sometime early in the spring.

FROM THE HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

2010! How fast this new year has snuck up on us. We celebrated, once again, the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Now we are looking forward to the new beginnings, the new possibilities that are before us. We look forward to our Healing Prayer Ministry group growing with new members joining us. As we open our hearts and minds we need to ask and listen to the Lord's guidance for our lives; to see the new door that he may be opening. We have prayed with you for the challenges you faced, for health, for thanksgiving and for the blessings you have received. We pray for our congregation, our Church and its mission. We pray for those who ask us to lift them up to the Lord. We know that there may be new challenges and we know that faith in God, who is the source of our strength and gives us peace, is there for us. He wants us to release our concerns into his loving care and your prayer ministers are always there for you, whatever your need might be. In your own prayers or those joined with ours we know that God's compassionate love is responding. We are all joined together and never need to feel alone.

Joan Noff, Healing Prayer Ministry

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Do you read the Bible daily? Here are daily readings from the Newer Testament for the week days in January. After each reading, ask, "What one thing will I take with me today (tonight)?"

Christmas:

Jan. 1 (see above)

Jan. 2: James 3:13-18

Jan. 3: Luke 8:16-21

Jan. 4: Acts 7:44-53

Jan. 5: John 1:10-18

Epiphany

Jan. 6: Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 7: Ephesians 4:17-5:1

Jan. 8: Ephesians 5:15-20

Jan. 9: Luke 1:67-79

Epiphany 1

Jan. 11: Ephesians 6:10-17

Jan. 12: 1 John 5:13-21

Jan. 13: Luke 11:33-36

Jan. 14: Acts 8:18-24

Jan. 15: 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Jan. 16: Luke 11:14-23

Epiphany 2

Jan. 18: Romans 12:9-21

Jan. 19: 1 Corinthians 3:3-17

Jan. 20: Luke 5:33-39

Jan. 21: Romans 7:1-6

Jan. 22: Romans 12:1-8

Jan. 23: Luke 2:39-52

Epiphany 3

Jan. 25: 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Jan. 26: 2 Corinthians 7:2-12

Jan. 27: Luke 4:38-44

Jan. 28: Acts 10:44-48

Jan. 29: Acts 19:1-10

Jan. 30: John 1:43-51

KIDS HOPE USA CORNER



January is National Mentor Month. This is the time that thousands of mentoring programs and volunteers are recognized for their efforts to improve the lives of children and young adults across the nation. Commercials on television will emphasize the importance of these quiet heroes for the future of our country.

Here at Immanuel, we have our own group of dedicated people who spend one hour a week meeting with a child at Greenwood or support that mentoring relationship through prayer. Please take a moment this month to thank them personally for their devotion and caring. They are: **Mentors** - Susan Anderson, Teresa Barcy, Bob Cermak, Jean Folk, Bill Frysinger, Chris Frysinger, Julia Hoornstra, Bev Lass, Allison Landry, Denise Lund, Mark Morrall, Chris Morrall, Denise Proper, Britten Riggs, Mike Pitchford. **Prayer Partners** – Carolyn Drown, Matt Cermak, Kris Hernden, Barb Roush, Fred Roush, Bob Buckley, Sue Schnarr, Cheryl Pitchford, Russ Riggs, Sharon Catey, Donna Gibbons, Lynn Colby, Fay Boerger, Patsy Galvin, Pastor Rick and Bev Becker. Sheryl Kurtycz and Sharon Catey assist with planning and celebrations. All of these folks are a blessing to this congregation and this community, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their devotion.

If you would like to join this list of illustrious persons we still have two first grade boys who are waiting for a mentor. Please give this some prayerful consideration. Try it for the remaining six months of the school year – you just might find that you like it.

Lyn Danes

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY WISHES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



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

January 8 Neven Byers
January 9 Marilyn Berner, Julie Cardinal
January 10 Dave Hofmeister
January 11 Emily Fracker, Josh Hengesbach,
Conner Blake, Edward Williams

January 15 Elaine Mattson
January 17 Tom Blake
January 19 Fred Koos, Drew Karkau
January 20 Joan Nolf
January 22 Allison Sterling
January 24
January 25 Stephanie Ayoub, Nick Morrall
January 26 Orv Erickson, Kelli Cardwell
January 29 Sidney Rosier, Greg Ketola
January 30 Becky Frysinger, Todd Byers
January 31 Judy LaFay

A BLESSED ANNIVERSARY TO:

Charles & Tea Peiffer

Mike & Cheryl Pitchford,

Robert & Ruth Buckley

Dave & Barb Rinckey
Joe & Patty Riley

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  8:00 pm AA	2 8:00 am AA
3 8:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	4 10:30 Frozen Chosen 4-6 pm Soup Nite	5 6:30 am Men in the Morning 9:30 Staff 1:00 Upkeepers	6 10:00 Toddler Time 6:30 God's Crusaders 6:30 Handbell Choir	7  7:15 Choir	8 8:00 pm AA	9 8:00 am AA
10 8:00 Worship 9:15 School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	11 4-6 pm Soup Nite 	12 6:30 am Men in the Morning 9:30 Staff 7:00 Church Council	13 10:00 Toddler Time 6:30 Handbell Choir	14 7:15 Choir	15 8:00 pm AA	16 8:00 am AA
17 8:00 Worship 9:15 School 10:30 Worship	18 10:30 Frozen Chosen 7:00 Team Meetings 4-6 pm Soup Nite	19 6:30 am Men in the Morning 9:30 Staff 11-3 Quilting	20 10:00 Toddler Time 6:30 God's Crusaders 6:30 Handbell Choir	21 7:15 Choir	22 8:00 pm AA	23 8:00 am AA
24 8:00 Worship 9:15 School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	25 4-6 pm Soup Nite	26 6:30 am Men in the Morning 9:30 Staff	27 10:00 Toddler Time 6:30 Handbell Choir	28 7:15 Choir	29 8:00 pm AA	30 8:00 am AA
31 8:00 Worship 9:15 School 10:30 Worship						