



The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

Pr. Rick & Ellen Scholarship for Music Education

Many of you have been asking how we will honor Pastor Rick and Ellen in the form of a gift. After much consideration, they have asked that a scholarship be established in their names. This fund would provide assistance to families of high school and middle school students to develop their musical talents by taking private lessons and then using their abilities in service to God and the church.

Pastor Rick and Ellen are promoters of everyone using our gifts and abilities for God. They especially love music, both vocal and instrumental. Pastor Rick continually want our youth to know they could both serve and lead us at church. The proceeds from this (hopefully growing) fund will provide partial assistance to families whose children are taking private lessons. In return, the youth will give back to the congregation's worship and mission by joining choirs, musical groups, doing solo or ensemble performances, accompanying the choir, participating in special services.

If you wish to contribute, you can make a donation to the Rick and Ellen McKenzie Scholarship for Music Education. Please make sure any monies you want directed to that fund are clearly marked on your check or envelope. The total donated will be revealed at the celebration dinner on January 15. The church council will establish procedures for future management of this fund.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Staff:

Rev. Dawn Donato, Pastor
Denise Lund,
Office Administrator
Sue Schnarr,
Director of Education
Lyn Danes,
Director of Kid's Hope
Debora DeWitt, Choir Director
Jim Espie, Organist
Carmen Karkau, Organist
Jim & Kristin Crooks &
Carol Espie, Maintenance

Immanuel Lutheran Church
501 S. Clinton Street
Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone: (517)627-6310
Website: immanuel-gl.org
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Sunday Worship Services:
8:00 am & 10:30 am
Sunday School:
9:15 am

MESSAGE FROM PR. DAWN

There are many ways for people to be unhappy, but happy people have common characteristics. That's why a good way to be happy is to learn the common characteristics of happy people and apply them. In this New Year, let's resolve to consistently practice one of the following secrets of happy people.

1. Forget the past - You won't be happy if you carry the burden of the past. Did you make mistakes? Did you have terrible experiences? Whatever they are, you should let them go. There's nothing you can do about the past, so you'd better let them go and focus your energy on the present.

2. Take responsibility for your life - To be happy you should have freedom and the most essential freedom is the freedom to choose. No matter how bad a situation is, you can always *choose* how you respond to it. People can annoy you, but it's up to you whether or not you will resent.

3. Build relationships – A relationship is where we find true happiness in life. The reason is simple: only through relationships can we *love* and *be loved*. Make relationships your [top priority](#) and you are on your way to true happiness.

4. Be who you are - You can only be happy if you become who you are. Don't live other people's life by trying to meet their expectations. People may expect you to have certain job or certain way of living but don't be intimidated by them. Find who you are and be yourself.

5. Count your blessings - Being happy is easy if we are grateful. Unfortunately, seeing what we *don't* have is often easier than seeing what we *have*. Sometimes we need to experience loss before appreciating what we have. So don't take things for granted. Look at what you have and soon you will have plenty of reasons to be happy.

6. Make others happy - This is my favorite secret of happiness. *The way to being happy is to make others happy first*. The more you help other people and make them happy, the more you will be happy. Happiness doesn't come through selfishness but through selflessness.

7. Practice compassion - Compassion is perhaps the highest level of selflessness we could have. Practicing compassion can make both *others* and *you* happy. But of course, it requires *practice*. Start with thinking about the people around you. Look at their needs and find ways to meet them. Even if you don't do it out of compassion in the beginning, your compassion will grow over time.

It's *you* who decide whether or not you are happy in life. I *choose* to be happy. What about you?

Serving Christ with you,
Pr. Dawn Donato

This article is largely based on an internet piece by Donald Latumahima. There are more ways to practice happiness; if you care to research further, take a look at www.StumbleUpon.com.



MESSAGE FROM PR. RICK

FINAL WORDS:

Paul wrote in Philippians, his letter of joy:

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.” (Phil. 3:7)

Paul had just listed his personal assets, according to worldly standards. (3:4-6) Then he turned to his spiritual assets. This Christ-centered focus was Paul’s way of keeping his priorities straight in the whole profit/loss accounting system.

Rick Warren (“The Purpose Driven Life”) says that we are created to praise God. He must have been raised under the Heidelberg Catechism which has the question, “What is the chief purpose of Man?” Answer: Our chief purpose is to praise our Creator. (Or words to that effect.)

The more mature I become in years and the more intimate I get in my daily walk with the Lord I realize that in the end it is indeed all about our praise of God-who-loves-us and the world (i.e., Christ) and our enjoyment of his gifts.

So as I think about what has been gained and lost over our time together, I would love to stop and thank each one of you. Each one has given some things of lasting value to my life. With each one there are enduring memories to fill up a lifetime. And you, I suspect, have some of the same.

However, perhaps the best way to express these are not in our personal profit and loss ledgers but in the praise and the experience of God’s love that turns even our losses into gain.

So let us place ourselves there, looking ahead in God’s plans. To this future, I have one more thing to mention. It has come as a shock to some that Ellen and I are departing from Immanuel for a year. This 12-month time was not in the time line of the plan projected by Transition Team. It was not in our personal plans either. It came as a request from our Bishop.

Recall that the Time Line did state that we would be gone for a period. No specific time was given, but it was talked about as a couple of months or more. The bishop has requested that the “couple of months” be 12 months. Ellen and I respect his wisdom. We are looking at this through the same faith-eyes as all the rest of those things mentioned.

And yes, a lot of life will be lived in those months; a lot of things will change. However in the end, all of life is consumed in praise. So I ask you to consider this as God’s plan. And if you absolutely need to, let the Bishop know. He has big shoulders and the same even-bigger Lord.

One of Ellen’s favorite songs sums it up:

*My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth’s lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing!?* (ELW 763)

In Christ’s love,
PR

ANNUAL LUGNUT OUTING

Mark your calendars for Friday, August 10, 2012 for Immanuel's next Lansing Lugnuts outing. It's a LAFCU fireworks night. Tickets are \$9 a seat for reserved seats or \$10 for box seats and can be reserved by calling Orv Erickson at 517-645-2865, emailing him at norsky148@sbcglobal.net or just see him after church some Sunday. Tickets must be ordered and paid for by Sunday, June 24, 2012. We have 20 reserved seats and 20 box seats all in the same area but we can get more of each. Come join us this year for a great night out with the family. GO NUTS!!!!

TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, February 25
Immanuel Fellowship Hall
Potluck dinner at 5:00 pm
(bring a dish to share and your own table service)
Team Trivia will follow dinner. Our plan is to have
6-8 people per team compete against each other.
RSVP to Mike Fedewa (327-7719)

FINANCIAL NEWS

A note from the tellers:

Please discard or recycle your 2011 unused envelopes as your number changes each year. Giving is posted by number not name.

When filling out your envelope any monies designated in the "other" column need to show a designation (i.e.: transition fund, youth, food bank etc.). If there is no designation it will go into the General Fund.

NOVEMBER 2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<u>General fund</u>		<u>Building fund</u>	
Beginning Fund	\$ 2,404	Beginning Balance	\$ 1,967
Income	17,068	Income	1,940
Expense	<u>(23,051)</u>	Expense	<u>(2,606)</u>
Ending Balance	\$ (3,579)	Ending Balance	\$ 1,301

ELCA Good Gifts

Twenty-six families / individuals contributed a total of \$1,462, by selecting the following gifts: 10 pigs (\$300), 8 goats (\$400), 24 sets of 10 chicks (\$240), 3 ducks (\$60), 11 mosquito nets (\$110), 5 fruit trees (\$50), 2 sets of 7,000 water purification tablets (\$100), 1 set of six water jugs (\$12), 3 blankets (\$30), 5 feed ten people at a soup kitchen (\$100), 1 text books for a child (\$15), 1 health and dental care for a child (\$15) and 1 "give where needed most" (\$30)

If you are interested in donating to ELCA Good Gifts for other occasions (birthdays, anniversaries, etc) as a way to honor someone during other parts of the year you can use the web site:elca.org/goodgifts.

FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Dear brothers and sisters of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

This is an excellent time for us to rejoice. I am writing this in the Advent season, anticipating the coming of Jesus the Christ. By the time you read this we will have entered the Christmas season, celebrating the coming of our Lord. Traditionally, this time in the liturgy of our church and of the calendar is also a time when we reflect on our past year, or years, and consider our future.

The last year has been momentous for the Lutheran church in Grand Ledge. We have examined ourselves individually and collectively, and asked how we would best serve in our community and our church. The preparation, study, teamwork, prayer, communication and downright hard work have served us well. We rejoice in having called and installed Pr. Dawn Donato as our pastor, to guide us in our faith journey. We are on the move, together and it feels good. At the same time we are celebrating with Pr. Rick and Ellen McKenzie, rejoicing in our many years of study, prayer, service and friendship. It feels good.

This is a time to wrap up 2011 and start 2012. Each team and ministry will be preparing their annual report on 2011, which will be presented as a single church document. Council will meet on January 10, and the first order of new business will be to elect officers for 2012. Council will also appoint others serving as Tellers, on Memorial Committee, as Good Samaritan Fund directors, and on Nominating Committee. Council needs to recruit two delegates for the synod assembly. If you are interested in serving in any of these roles let me know. The newly constituted Council will also attend a Council Retreat January 27 – 28, where they and Pastor Donato will come together to reflect, pray, discuss, set goals, plan and set a tone for the coming year.

On a personal note I have found the last two years to be enjoyable in many ways. It can be very rewarding to work with such a diverse group of spiritually guided thinkers, leaders and doers. It can be challenging, of course, and it can test each of us. Our congregation has shown they are up to the test. I look forward to 2012 with confidence, and an opportunity to worship with my friends.

Yours in Christ,
Bill Frysinger



KIDS HOPE USA CORNER

Hope for the Heart

"There comes a special moment in everyone's life, a moment for which that person was born. That special opportunity, when he seizes it, will fulfill his mission—a mission for which he is uniquely qualified. In that moment he finds greatness. It is his finest hour."

Winston Churchill

During January, National Mentoring Month, we say **THANK YOU** to our Kids Hope USA volunteers who are living their "finest hour" every week when they meet with or pray for a young child in our community. They are part of a program helping more than 12,000 children across the country. Please take a moment to thank them personally for their dedication and please remember to lift them up in your prayers. They do an **OUTSTANDING** job of caring for, supporting and making a difference in the life of a special child.

They are: Sarah Baribeau, Sue Schnarr, Lyn Danes, Lynn Colby, Jean Folk, Kris Hernden, Bill Frysinger, Bob Buckley, Julia Hoornstra, Barb Roush, Allison Landry, Donna Gibbons, Bev Lass, Sharon Catey, Chris Morrall, Carolyn Malkewitz, DJ Osborn, Patsy Galvin, Mike Pitchford, Fay Boerger, Denise Proper, Cheryl Pitchford, Britt Riggs, Russ Riggs, Mike Folk, Dennis Graeber, Pastor Rick, Fred Roush, Haley Kingsley, John Kingsley, Raymond Harris, Fred Gehlhaar, Orv Erickson, Dianna Dunn, and Carolyn Drown.

When you change a life, it's no small change.

Kids Hope USA motto

EARTHKEEPING

Immanuel's Earthkeeping Committee has reformed. Members include Reva Swanson, Carol Weigel, Bill Frysinger and David Houseman. The committee intends to present an article related to the *Covenant for the Care of Creation* (adopted by Immanuel's Church Council in May, 2011, from a model developed by the NW Lower MI Synod in 1999) in each monthly issue of the Manger. What follows is an excerpt of an article which will be continued in February.

ELCA social statement (1993) *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* (studied in Pastor Rick's Sunday Bible study class) "Christian concern for the environment is shaped by the Word of God spoken in creation, the Love of God hanging on a cross, the Breath of God daily renewing the face of the earth. We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society. Even as we join the political, economic and scientific discussions, we now care for the earth to be a profoundly spiritual matter."

www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org "is a grassroots movement with the ELCA, seeking to foster care for God's good creation in all expressions of our church's life".

Covenant for the Care of Creation (adopted by Immanuel's Church Council in May, 2011, from a model developed by the NW Lower Michigan Synod in 1999. "...Make congregational and individual lifestyle changes to better model our concern and care for creation, and get involved in our communities, our state, our nation, and the world, to promote policies that foster justice and the wholeness of God's creation".

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY WISHES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

January 3 Edward Hill
January 4 Mark Wolf
January 7 Jaren Scoggins

January 8 Neven Byers
January 9 Zachary Shilton, Marilyn Berner, Julie Cardinal
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 Nolff
January 22
January 24
January 26 Orv Erickson
January 29 Greg Ketola
January 30 Todd Byers
January 31 Judy LaFay

A BLESSED ANNIVERSARY TO:

Charles & Tea Peiffer

Mike & Cheryl Pitchford,
Brad & Mary Matzke

Dave & Barb Rinckey
Joe & Patty Riley



JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Worship	2 Office Closed 10:30 am Frozen Chosen 4-6 pm Soup Night	3 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11-3 pm Quilting	4 6:30 pm God's Crusaders 7:00 pm Bread for the Journey	5 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	6  8:00 pm AA	7 8:00 am AA
8 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:15 pm SNL	9 4-6 pm Soup Night	10 7:00 pm Church Council	11	12 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	13 8:00 pm AA	14 8:00 am AA
15 9:30 Worship 4:00 pm Pr. Rick Celebration Dinner	16 4-6 pm Soup Night 7:00 pm Team Meetings	17 11-3 pm Quilting	18 6:30 pm God's Crusaders 7:00 pm Bread for the Journey	19 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	20 8:00 pm AA	21 8:00 am AA
22 8:00 Worship 9:15 School 10:30 Worship 6:15 pm SNL	23 4-6 pm Soup Night	24 	25	26 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	27 8:00 pm AA	28 8:00 am AA
29 8:00 Worship 9:15 School 10:30 Worship 6:15 pm SNL	30 4-6 pm Soup Night	31				