



*THE MANGER ~ June 2007*  
*IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER*

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 Schedule:**

Thursday 7:00 pm  
Sunday 9:30 am

**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)  
Donna Gibbons, *Parish Nurse*  
[dgibbons@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:dgibbons@immanuel-gl.org)  
Sue Schnarr, *Director of Christian Education*  
[sschnarr@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:sschnarr@immanuel-gl.org)  
Lyn Danes, *Director of Kids Hope USA*  
[ldanes@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:ldanes@immanuel-gl.org)  
Ellen McKenzie, *Choir Director*  
[emckenzie@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:emckenzie@immanuel-gl.org)  
Gregg Vicary, *Gathering Team Leader*  
[gathering@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:gathering@immanuel-gl.org)  
Den Graeber, *Serving Team Leader*  
[serving@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:serving@immanuel-gl.org)  
Sue Schnarr, *Preparing Team Leader*  
[preparing@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:preparing@immanuel-gl.org)  
Larry Kruth, *Support Team Leader*  
[support@immanuel-gl.org](mailto:support@immanuel-gl.org)

**RECEPTION FOR PR. RICK &  
GRADUATING SENIORS**

Join us on  
Sunday, June 3, 2007  
for  
Commissioning service  
for Pr. Rick's sabbatical  
&  
Recognition of  
our Graduation Seniors  
during Worship Service  
at 9:30am

Stay for a reception after the service  
for Pr. Rick and our seniors.

*Hope to see you on this special day.*



The church office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.  
The staff and team leaders at Immanuel is 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.

## FATHER'S AND MOTHER'S DAYS

William J. Bennett in "The Moral Compass" writes, "Letters can be messages of love that draw parents and children together." I know that some moms and dads have written their thoughts and dreams to their children on the day of their birth or adoption. Some continue to do so at various steps such as starting school or becoming a teenager or at the time of marriage. Here's a letter from Martin Luther to his son, Hans, (1530) from Bennett's book.

*To my little son, Hans, grace and peace in Christ,*

*I hear that you learn well and pray diligently. Continue to do so, my son. When I come home I will bring you a fine present from the fair.*

*I know a lovely garden, full of joyful children, who wear little golden coats and pick up beautiful apples and pears and cherries and plums under the trees. They sing and jump and make merry. They have also beautiful little horses with golden saddles and silver bridles.*

*I asked the man who kept the garden who the children were. And he said to me, "The children are those who love to learn, and to pray, and to be good.*

*Then said I, "Dear sir, I have a little son, named Hans Luther. May he come into this garden, and have the same beautiful apples and pears to eat, and wonderful little horses to ride upon, and may he play about with these children?"*

*Then he said, "If he is willing to learn, and to pray, and to be good, he shall come into this garden; and his friends Lippus and Justus too. If they all come together, they shall have pipes, and little drums, and lutes, and music of stringed instruments. And they shall dance, and shoot with little crossbows."*

*Then he showed me a fine meadow in the garden, all laid out for dancing. There hung golden pipes and kettle-drums and fine silver crossbows; but it was too early to see the dancing, for the children had not had their dinner.*

*I said, "Ah, dear sir, I will instantly go and write to my little son Hans, so that he may study, and pray and be good, and thus come into this garden. And he has a little cousin Lena, whom he must also bring with him."*

*Then he said to me, "So shall it be. Go home, and write to him."*

*Therefore, dear little son Hans, be diligent to learn and to pray; and Lippus and Justus to do so, too, that you may all meet together in that beautiful garden. Give cousin Lena a kiss from me. Here with I recommend you all to the care of Almighty God.*

Other parents write stories for their children in which the heroes have their children's names. "Pen to paper" directly from parents to their children, what a lasting way to bless our children with our love, faith and values. Like pictures in a picture album or scrapbook, letters and stories can be taken out again and again, even when we are gone, and the blessing relived. In introducing two letters from Amos Bronson and Abigail Alcott to their children, Bennett says, "With loving words like these, mothers and fathers not only raise little bodies but also lift little souls." A gift for "parents' days."

Pastor Rick

## JUNE HOLY DAYS (for use in home devotions)

JUNE 11: ST BARNABBAS, APOSTLE

1<sup>st</sup>: Isaiah 42:5-12

Psalm 112

2<sup>nd</sup>: Acts 11:19-30, 13:1-3

Gospel: Matthew 10:7-16

*We praise you, O God, for the life of your faithful servant Barnabas, who, seeking not his own renown but the well-being of your Church, gave generously of this life and possessions for the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel. Grant that we may follow his example and by our actions give glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen*

JUNE 24: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

1<sup>st</sup>: Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 141

2<sup>nd</sup>: Acts 13:13-26

Gospel: Luke 1:57-67 (68-80)

*Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

JUNE 29: STS. PETER AND PAUL,  
APOSTLES

1<sup>st</sup>: Acts 12:1-11

Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7

2<sup>nd</sup>: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Gospel: John 21:15-19

*Almighty God, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your Church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and Forever. Amen.*



### Island Art Fair Display and Hospitality Day

This year's Island Art Fair will be held Saturday, August 4. This is a great opportunity for an exhibit showcasing the artistic gifts and talents of the Immanuel Community.

Our church parking lot has been used for several years as a shuttle lot to the art fair. Why not open up our church and display some of the many artistic gifts and talents of the Immanuel Community and greet our visitors with some Immanuel hospitality.

In order to put the day together we are going to need a variety of spiritual gifts. Gifts that we know Immanuel members have to share with the community.

We need people with the gift of organization to help with planning and bringing the actual event together including set up on Friday afternoon/evening. We are also going to need help directing traffic to keep the traffic flowing well. We need people with the gift of hospitality to help for a couple of hours on Art Fair day greeting and assisting our visitors.

We are going to need:

Strong Bodies to help move tables and displays.

Artists who would like to have their work displayed.

Crafters who would like to display their crafts.

Quilters who would like to display their beautiful quilts.

Woodworkers who would like to display their works.

Musicians who would like to play their music for periods of time through out the day.

If you are interested in displaying any of your artistic gifts and talents and using some of your spiritual gifts to assist with greeting, providing music or directing traffic contact Bob and Ruth Buckley (649-2314) or Den Graeber (627-3116).



### KIDS HOPE CORNER

*"The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him."*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

When I read this quote I immediately thought of the thirteen children who have been mentored since January. Because of the dedication and love of their mentors and prayer partners they now know that someone believes in them and trusts them. They in turn can learn to trust others and grow both academically and spiritually.

Here's a story to illustrate this: It was January 30<sup>th</sup>, the very first day of mentoring for Bill Frysinger, and he wanted to find a way to show his student (we'll call him Sam) that he would be there every week. After the initial introductions Bill took out his palm pilot to show Sam how he used it to schedule appointments. Bill told Sam to look on that day, and, sure enough, there was Sam's name. Bill then demonstrated how he could schedule that time with Sam every week through June. Sam was thrilled to know that he was so important to Bill that he would be there every week. The story continues when Bill and Sam were seen returning to the classroom hand in hand. When Sam's kindergarten teacher asked who this big person was next to him, he beamed, "This is my special friend!"

What a great, concrete way to show Sam that he could put his trust in Bill. Their relationship has grown since that day, and Sam's classroom behavior and work has also improved.

If this story touched your heart you need to think about becoming a mentor or prayer partner. There are many more children who need the trust and love of a caring adult.  
**YOU COULD BE THE ONE!**

Yours in Christ,  
*Lyn Danes*



Do you have a couple hours to donate to the church one or two weeks this summer? Volunteers are needed to water the plants on the church grounds. We ask you to sign up for one week (or as you more if you feel called) and that week you will be responsible for watering the plants outside the church. The frequency depends on the weather. This is a great way for families to serve. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex. For more information please call Barb Roush or Vera Ford. Thank you in advance!

The Grand Ledge Food Bank is in need of just about everything. The shelves are looking pretty spare. Linda mentioned that they especially need fruit juice. As you pull out you warmer-weather clothes, you may have some you don't think you'll use this summer. maybe they are too big or small, or just don't work for you anymore. Please consider putting anything you don't plan on using into the clothing bank box in the church entry. Clothing should be clean and in good repair. Your unneeded or unwanted stuff could be just what someone else needs.

Thank you!

*Pat Graeber*, Immanuel Coordinator

**Luther League II ~ Monday, June 11**

This is a Mystery Dinner Trip full of tantalizing special memory teasers, flashbacks and happy thoughts for both men and women. We'll meet at the Church parking lot at 11:15 p.m. to car pool. We hope you'll join us for a fun, relaxing time

Have you noticed the great wooden Teddy Bear Ministry box by the coatrooms? This is here thanks to Raymond Harris, who shared his woodworking talent with us. Please don't forget our bear ministry and the comfort these bears have brought to many people. To keep the ministry alive, if possible, when you give a bear either purchase another and put it in the box or give me a donation to purchase one for you. Thank you for your support in this ministry.

*Annette Ryan*

**CALLING ALL OLD WORN-OUT ATHLETIC SHOES**

Old athletic shoes, are you feeling worn out, rejected, tossed aside? Do you feel as if there is no longer a purpose to your life? Take heart, even in your miserable state, there is still a new life for you!

Old shoes, you can be recycled into something new and useful. You will have a new life as tracks, basketball courts, playgroup padding.

Immanuel Lutheran Church will collect old athletic shoes to recycle them. Please SAVE YOUR OLD ATHLETIC SHOES. They will be collected 3 times a year and taken to the appropriate destination for recycling.

People of Immanuel: A bin will be located in the COAT ROOM during the month of August. Please save these shoes until August and look for it (or perhaps you might be able to follow your nose) in August.

Environmental Task Force

AMONG OUR MEMBERS:

**BAPTISM:** May 27<sup>th</sup>

**Reid Alan,**

son of **Brad and Hollie Rusthoven**, brother to **Elsa**.  
The Rusthovens joined Immanuel at Easter this year.  
They reside in DeWitt.

**MARRIAGE:**

**Tyler Hubert and Erin Curtice**

were married at Immanuel on May 12, 2007. Tyler has completed his degree at Olivet College and Erin works for MESSA. God's rich blessings in your home.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:**

Congratulations to our High School graduates this year:

**Brandt Ayoub:** Home School and St. Johns HS, attending Alma College

**Scott Covert:** GLHS

**Ashley Erickson:** Potterville HS, attending LCC, then transferring to MSU

**Lauren Moran:** GLHS, Kalamazoo College

**Collen Rosier:** GLHS, valedictorian, attending Georgetown U.

**Jordan Sullenberger:** GLHS valedictorian, attending LCC, then transferring to Grand Valley U.

*Such an important rite of passage, graduation is also a faith step. Thank you to those who will come to our Recognition Sunday so that your church family can celebrate with you and prayerfully support you.*

**CONFIRMATIONS:** May 6th

The promises of God's grace and our faith in it are deep and lasting. Our youth who have publicly confessed faith are: **Lisa Bower, Maggie Clarke, Dan Edwards, Joe Espie, Adam Fracker, Jason Morrall, and Don Willems III.** Jesus promised, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." (Mark 16:16) The Lord grant this to us all.

**COMMISSIONING:** May 27<sup>th</sup>

**Bob Buckley** was commissioned as a Lay Missionary of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod at Immanuel. Bob's mission is to promote literacy and the necessity of reading. He works directly with children and youth in the GL schools. He and Ruth have worked with the Lay Missionary Training Program of the Synod for three years. This program provides deeper training in Bible, theology, history, and prayer, along with helping people discover the Lord's calling to serve in a committed, long-term ministry. Participating in his commissioning were the Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study, and various supportive friends from Bob's life. (If you are seeking a more focused service, explore becoming a Lay Missionary.)

High School Graduation Open Houses

Ashley Erickson

Sunday, June 10 3:00 - 7:00 pm  
at her home, 209 N Church St. Potterville

Brandt Ayoub

Sunday, June 10 12:00 - 4:30 pm  
at his home, 6252 West Walker Rd, St. Johns

**MISSION TRIP:** New Town, ND

Doing work assigned by Lutheran Camp of the Cross and the church in North Town, our youth and adults will meet families and individuals who live on the Berthhold Indian Reservation. Going are:

Youth: Lindsay Bryant, Maggie Burnham, Bob Cermak, Hanna Espie, Jacob Hickok, Nick Morrall, Michelle Pitchford, Garrison Reed, Sean Riley, Brandt Ayoub, Kira Ayoub, and Allison Sterling,  
Adults: Julia Hoornstra, Pastor Rick, Mike and Denise Proper,

## LUTHERAN PRAYERS: Confession of Sins

This article over the last months has presented Luther's meal time, waking and bed time prayers. This month, I add our prayer for the confession of our sins. We are familiar with it from the "*Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness*" in our hymnals. Many of us have it memorized. It is the one that includes, "We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed; by what we have done and what we have left undone."

This prayer does not belong to Lutherans. Other Christians also pray it. If you were worshiping in an Episcopal Church you would pray the familiar words. However, when you got to the part that says, "We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves," you would likely stumble. They add "new" words before you come back to the familiar. Each tradition has its peculiarities. You can learn a lot by paying attention to the small differences.

The Lutheran difference in this confessional prayer comes at the beginning of the confession. We pray, "We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves."<sup>1</sup> Only we Lutherans start this way. It is connected to one of our Lutheran doctrines. These words help us, we believe, to give all the glory to God. We believe these words help prevent us from playing religious games with God (and so steal his glory) or spiritual games with ourselves (and so miss his lifting the burden of our sinfulness from us). It is Jesus alone who redeems us. It is grace alone that even allows us to be contrite and repent. His blood alone saves and forgives us. We cannot free ourselves from sin or from its consequences. He can. We confess it. We seek him Thanks be to God.

Letter from the President

### Focus On the Future

I was reminded just recently that we are about half the way though the church year working on the focus and the goals that were set down by the congregation at the annual congregational ministry meeting back in February.

I as well as council with the help of Pastor Rick went over these once again to measure where we were at; I thought it important to once again remind you of these goals/thoughts/ideas that we shared at the meeting:

**Schedule Natural Church Development for 2008**  
**Continue to support and grow Kid's Hope USA**  
**Support and be encouraged by Pastor's Sabbatical**  
**Start a long-term task force for property re-development.**  
**Raise funds for a replacement Grand Piano**  
**Build faith clubs and include multi-religion bridge builder clubs**  
**Develop "bigger picture" ministry projects**  
**Assess the need for a youth Pastor**  
**Support and continue support of the MiCafe program**  
**Continue to be a WELCOMING spiritual community.**  
**Become financially stable**  
**Re-paint the basement**  
**Obtain transportation to expand ministries**  
**Establish an environmental awareness team**

As we went over these it was quite apparent that the congregation had made quite an effort in most of these areas that we chose to lift up, and all have cause to be proud in assessing the needs, raising the awareness, and acting upon them as a congregation.

As we head into the summer months there are changes that are happening: we will be moving to our summer schedule, Thursday evening services for those away on weekends, and one service on Sundays at 9:30. Pastor will be taking his sabbatical, familiar faces will be filling in while he is away. Sunday school will take a recess, VBS will be gearing up, the youth will be heading out on a mission trip, and kids will be heading off to confirmation camp.

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<sup>1</sup> Our new book, ELW, reads, "We confess that we are *captive* to sin and..."

As we head into summer I wanted to remind all members that we truly are a blessed community with focus and a great direction.

In God's peace,

Mike Proper

*Immanuel Lutheran Family,*

*Words can not express my sincere appreciation for the many prayers, get well wished, phone calls, thoughts and concerns for me during my recent hospital stay & illness.*

*A special thank you to Pastor Paul and Sheryl Kashmerick for their hospital visit and most comforting words.*

*I am feeling much better and on the road to a full recovery.*

*God's blessing to all of you.  
Elaine Mattson*



great

Wow the library is done and a wonderful place to live. Thank you for doing all this remodeling for me. I see a lot of books on the shelves but do not see anyone reading or borrowing them. I strongly encourage all of you to come look around and borrow a book. Now that the weather has warmed up I been adventuring farther from my home. Last Sunday I went downstairs to enjoy the music and Sunday School lesson. I find the Bible stories

taught in the classrooms downstairs easier to understand. My favorite part was when Sue gets the kids up and singing. I love the enthusiasm and energy the kids and Sue too. I saw the red wagon overflowing with food. Boy it looked good and was very tempting but I overheard that it was going to the Grand Ledge Food Bank to help people in need. Plus, thanks to the crumb the kids leave on the floor I eat pretty well.

*A. Nony Mouse*

# JUNE 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Wedding Rehearsal 8 pm AA	2 Wedding 8 am AA
3 9:30 Worship	4 10:30 Frozen Chosen	5 6- 7 Kid's Hope Party	6	7 6:30 Women Bible Study 7 Weekender Service	8 8 pm AA	9 8 am AA
10 9:30 Worship	11 6:30 Church Council	12	13	14 7 Weekender Service	15 8 pm AA	16 8 am AA
17 9:30 Worship	18 7:00 Team Meetings 10:30 Frozen Chosen	19	20	21 7 Weekender Service	22 8 pm AA	23 8 am AA
24 9:30 Worship	25	26	27	28 7 Weekender Service	29 8 pm AA	30 8 am AA

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

June 1 Eileen LaCombe, Sherry Wellman  
 June 2 Morgan Bonette, Dana Scoggins,  
       Barb Walker, Evan Landry  
 June 3 Nadene Emery  
 June 5 Claire Blaske  
 June 6 Glenna Miller  
 June 7 Lori Van Hoesen, Maggie Burnham,  
       David Reed  
 June 9 Teresa Barcy  
 June 10 Benjamin Kuntzsch  
 June 11 Jean Folk, Barb Danes  
 June 12 Emily Martinich, Mary Jo Stein  
 June 13 Pat Anderson, Alisha Green, Bob Cermak  
 June 16 Tonya Bonette, Duane Cory  
 June 18 Kim Brown, Delaney Fedewa  
 June 19 Christopher Teahan  
 June 20 Richard Wellman  
 June 21 Patsy Galvin  
 June 22 Patrick Moran  
 June 23 Carl Galvin, Scott LaViolette  
 June 24 Evan Jussila  
 June 25 Peg Hellsten  
 June 26 Jim Espie, Jackie Fedewa  
 June 27 Jim Drown, Wayne Christiansen  
 June 28 Lauren Moran, John Burg  
 June 29 Lynne Erickson, Rachel Kuntzsch

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Lee & Sandra Bair (6/5)  
 Richard & Sherry Wellman (6/7)  
 Bob & Dawn Shilton (6/8)  
 Ernie & Nancy Zakrajsek (6/11)  
 Fred & Mary Gehlhaar (6/12)  
 Mike & Joyce Wesley (6/12)  
 Bob & Kathy Carter (6/15)  
 Carl & Carolyn Malkewitz (6/16)  
 Fred & Barb Roush (6/18)  
 Scott & Felicia Becker (6/21)  
 Richard & Sharon Catey (6/22)  
 Greg & Karlene Ketola (6/22)  
 Tom & Betty Williams (6/23)  
 George & Elizabeth Ayoub (6/25)  
 Gary & Bev Lass (6/25)  
 Ritch & Wendy Lewis (6/28)  
 Russ & Britten Riggs (6/29)

