



THE MANGER ~ June 2009

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.

501 S. Clinton St.
Grand Ledge MI 48837

Phone: 517.627.6310
Website: www.immanuel-gl.org



Worship with us
Sundays at 9:30 AM
or
Thursdays at 7:00 PM

Staff & Team Leaders:

Pr. Rick McKenzie, *Pastor*
rmckenzie@immanuel-gl.org
Denise Lund, *Office Administrator*
dlund@immanuel-gl.org
Sue Schnarr, *Director of Education*
sschnarr@immanuel-gl.org
Lyn Danes, *Director of Kids Hope USA*
ldanes@immanuel-gl.org
Ellen McKenzie, *Choir Director*
emckenzie@immanuel-gl.org
Jim & Kristin Crooks, *Church Maintenance*
Carol Espie, *Office Custodian*
Bill DeWitt, *Gathering Team Leader*
gathering@immanuel-gl.org
Sue Schnarr, *Preparing Team Leader*
preparing@immanuel-gl.org
Den Graeber, *Serving Team Leader*
serving@immanuel-gl.org
John Van Hoesen, *Support Team Leader*
support@immanuel-gl.org



**Church
Office Hours**
Monday ~
Thursday
8:00 am ~
3:00 pm



SUNDAY NEWS:

June 7: GRADUATION SUNDAY
Our high school graduates will be blessed during the service.

June 14: CONFIRMATION CAMP BEGINS.
Those going to camp will be prayed over.

June 21: FATHER'S DAY
Fathers will be remembered before God.

June 28: OLD FAVORITE HYMN SUNDAY
You will be invited to pick the hymns during the service.



WITH THANKS TO OUR DADS

Only a dad, with a tired face
Coming home from the daily race....

Only a dad, with a brood of four
One of ten million men or more....

Only a dad, neither rich nor proud,
Merely one of the searching crowd....

Only a dad, but he gives his all
To smooth the way for his children small
To do, with courage stern and grim
The deeds his father did for him,
This is the line that for him I pen,
Only a dad, but the best of men.

Unknown Author

ONE CHURCH, ONE CHILD, ONE FAMILY

Are you a child of God? Do you claim a place in God's kingdom and know a place at his Table of Grace? It is *only* because your heavenly Father has adopted you in Christ Jesus. Galatians 4:5 actually translates from the Greek, "God sent his Son...to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons."

If any religious people understand the importance of every kid having a home and a family it is Christians because each of us is adopted. (*Selah*).

In addition, there are few congregations that are as sensitive to the needs of displaced children as Immanuel. We have many adopted children among our congregations' homes. We have adults who were adopted children. We have foster-family homes and people whose birth-families were also foster families for others.

We know from our experiences that adoptions come with special concerns. We also know that the members of this church family help out in ways that are seldom, if ever, heard about or published.

Lutheran Adoption Services (ELCA and Missouri Synod) has 60 older children completely ready to be adopted. All the legal issues are settled. The children want a home to belong to forever. This state helps those who adopt special kids with subsidies for medical and counseling care. Why? Because we know that children without stable homes get into trouble, cause trouble and have trouble building stable homes as adults. God knows, our society needs stable homes.

This is a holy task. God is an adoptive Parent; you are an adopted kid. God is holy. Be holy as your heavenly Father is holy. He blesses those who adopt.

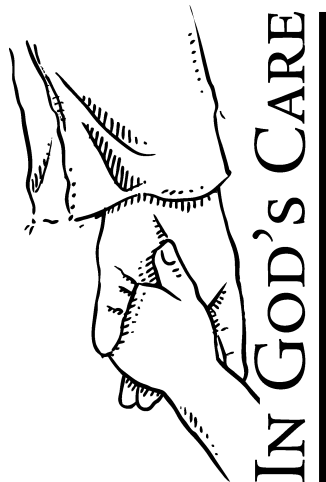
This is life-saving work. You are saved because you are adopted and love God. Adoptive parents save children's lives and souls for society and for God.

Adopted children come with needs. We expect that because we know the grief we have caused God. We also know where we would be without him, his guidance and love. So we expect that of adoptive kids.

And there they are, 60 children. And here is our challenge. Somebody – single or married, younger or older, (after all some of these children are already teenagers), a church member or a Christian friend – to open their heart and home. Our church family is open to you.

Contact me, and I will put you in touch with LAS for more information.

Pastor Rick



AMONG OUR MEMBERS

CONFIRMATIONS

On May 17th, we heard them profess their faith and make a commitment to God; we laid hands on them for the Holy Spirit and prayed for them to be faithful.

Sarah Baribeau, daughter of Steve and Ellen

Jessica Burg, daughter of John and Shari

Sarah Cermak, daughter of Matt and Kate

Mary Danes, daughter of Matt and Barb

Greg DeWitt, son of Bill and Deb

Pete Graeber, son of Jodi and Doug

Josh Hengesbach, son of Chris Morrall

Janet Henretty, daughter of Joni

Haley Kingsley, daughter of John and Melissa

Lauren Liss, daughter of Robert and Sheryl

Redmond Riggs, son of Russ and Britten

Adam Van Hoesen, son of John and Lori

Jayne White, daughter of Geoff and Kelly

Congratulations!

We welcome you to be our partners in serving God and furthering his work in our part of the world.

GRADUATES:

Our congregation's High School Graduates include:

Kira Ayoub – Home School

Kaitlin Cardwell – GLHS

Jacob Hickok – GLHS

Michelle Pitchford – GLHS; Going to LCC and then to Grand Valley to pursue Nursing

Sean Riley – GLHS; entering the Navy this summer

Samuel Rohloff – GLHS

Sidney Rosier – GLHS

Tyler Williamson – Potterville HS – Going to LCC

*Congratulations to you and your families. God has blessed you. And he will be with you in the next step of your life, too.
Graduate Recognition and Blessing will be on June 7th.*



OPEN HOUSE

Sean Riley

Saturday, June 20

5:00 – 9:00 pm

202 N. Dibble Blvd, Delta Twp.

HELP WANTED

You can serve the Church:

Military Service Communicator – keeps us informed about our members in the military (contact Pr. Rick)

Above & Beyond Czar – informs us about needed items that can be contributed by members (contact Bill DeWitt)

Brothers and Sisters,

At our annual ministry meeting in February, it was the wish of the congregation to have a mid-year budget meeting. That meeting will be on June 21 after the 9:30 am service. I am asking every member to use the time before that date to help council brainstorm ways to balance our budget. I have heard from some members that they do not feel their voices are heard. I have come to understand that some choose not to attend budget meetings because they feel they always hear the same things. I am asking members to prayerfully consider attending and participating in this important function of our Church's "business end".

Here are some facts to consider:

- 1) Our deficit after the first quarter is in excess of \$16,000.
- 2) Many among us are unemployed or underemployed and cannot increase their giving.
- 3) Those who can give cannot necessarily carry the load of those who cannot.
- 4) It would seem naïve to assume this will change much in 2009.
- 5) We prepare our budget each year based on faith, not what we expect to generate in giving.

Even with the deficit decreasing by \$2800 in April I believe it is time to start thinking "outside the box." There are a number of ways you can make your thoughts known. You can e-mail or phone me at any time. You can use the suggestion box in the entryway. Most importantly, you can attend and participate in our meeting on June 21. I especially encourage our many new members to come and be involved. My commitment to each of you is to listen, take notes, and implement ideas that the group agrees on.

A copy of our April Treasurer's report is available on the credenza in the entryway of the church. Some feel it is time to consider where we make cuts even if it involves reducing our ministry. While this is unpleasant, it is what millions of households and business owners are doing every day across the country.

Thank you for indulging me in this, the least favorite of my duties as Council President. We have many blessings to be thankful for and I have no doubt we will come together and resolve our financial issues. We have the grace of Jesus Christ! That is something that unfortunately, many grapple thru this type of dilemma without.

God's peace
Matt Cermak

APRIL 2009 ♦ FINANCIAL STATEMENT

General Fund		Building Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ (16,502)	Beginning Balance	\$ 6,155
Income	18,890	Income	1,563
Expense	<u>(16,060)</u>	Expense	<u>(2,606)</u>
Ending Balance	\$ (13,672)	Ending Balance	\$ 5,112

COST CUTTING

The Resource Teams are implementing the following cost-cutting measures:

Gathering Team:

1. Candles – instead of 16 candles every Sunday, now we will light only the 2 altar candles. The others will be lit only on holy days.
2. Newsletter –
 - a. One newsletter for July and August;
 - b. Promote receiving the newsletter via email or pick it up at church. *The Manger* would be mailed first class to homebound members who do not have internet access.

Together, these will reduce the paper, copy supplies, and postage the office uses.
3. Certificates – we will purchase only baptism and confirmation certificates. Certificates for Godparents and New Members will be produced in the office.

Support Team:

1. Reduced our internet monthly fee by \$20 a month.
2. Reducing our contract with Rose Pest Solutions.

Serving Team:

1. Reduced the amount and frequency of changing the rugs in the entryway.

ACTIVITIES

LUTHER LEAGUE II – JUNE 8

Luther League II will be held at “Catey’s Retreat,” 9130 Oneida Road, Grand Ledge, on Monday, June 8, at 12:00 noon. Hot dogs, beverages, and table service will be furnished. Please bring a lawn chair if you have one. Call Richard or Sharon at 627-2538 if you need directions or have other questions. Hope to have you join us for food and fellowship.

COMMON GROUND HELP

We are going to have a booth at the Common Ground Festival, July 6-12. Chad Huson is our Coordinator. Contact him at 290-4100. He can give you details and times. Many volunteers needed.

Immanuel Annual Camping Trip
Come camp with other Immanuel Families
for a weekend.

August 7, 8 & 9 @ Leisure Lake
It will be Halloween weekend with plenty
of fun activities for all ages.
Call Mike Fedewa, 327-7719
to reserve your campsite.



Immanuel

Vacation Bible School

Date: Monday, July 27- Friday, July 31

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Who: Children ages 4 through completed
5th grade.

How: Register online at immanuel-gl.org/vbs



KIDS HOPE USA CORNER

As another school year draws to a close I want to take this opportunity to thank all our mentors, prayer partners, leadership team members, and everyone in the congregation. Because of your commitment to KIDS HOPE USA, lives have been changed! Academic performance has improved, students are motivated to learn, and the children’s behavior and attitudes have changed for the better. Susan Friend, the principal at Greenwood, and many of the staff tell me often of the positive changes happening in the lives of the children we mentor. Here are our volunteers who give so much of themselves to be light to a child.

Mentors – Susan Anderson, Teresa Barcy, Bob Cermak, Jean Folk, Chris and Bill Frysinger, Julia Hoornstra, Melissa Kingsley, Len Kluge, Allison Landry, Bev Lass, Denise Lund, Jan Martinich, Mary Matzke, Chris and Mark Morrall, Denise and Mike Proper, Amy Reed, and Britt Riggs.

Prayer Partners – Bev Becker, Bob Buckley, Sharon Catey, Matt Cermak, Lynn Colby, Carolyn Drown, Lynne Erickson, Patsy Galvin, Donna Gibbons, Jane Goebel, Kris Hernden, John Kingsley, Pastor Rick, Rick Merrifield, Cheryl Pitchford, Russ Riggs, Barb and Fred Roush, Annette Ryan, and Sue Schnarr.

Leadership Team – Sharon Catey and Sheryl Kurtycz

As KIDS HOPE USA Director I would like to thank you for all of the time, energy, and love that you have poured into the lives of children. Because of your support, hearts have been touched, potential has been unleashed, and the world has been changed. It has been a great year and I hope to work with all of you again in September.

Have a restful, blessed summer,
Lyn Danes

THANK YOU



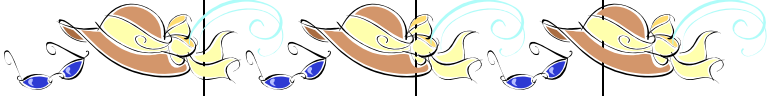
From Kal Smith, GL Mayor: “Thank you for your significant effort to serve the community through the Monday night Community (Soup Nite). Your efforts and the other contributions of Immanuel Church are much appreciated.” (*Thanks, Mr. Mayor, for noticing.*)

From G.L.E.A.P.: “Now more than ever, your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.”



June 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:30 Frozen Chosen 4:30-6:30 Soup Nite 6:30 LIFT	2 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	3 10 Toddler Time 6 Handbell Choir	4 7 Weekender Worship Service	5 8 pm AA	6 8 am AA 1-6 Christiansen Bridal Shower
7 9:30 Worship	8 7:00 Church Council 4:30-6:30 Community Soup Nite	9 9:30 Staff Meeting	10 10 Toddler Time	11 7 Weekender Worship Service	12  8 pm AA	13 8 am AA 9:30-9 Scrapbook Party
14 9:30 Worship	15 10:30 Frozen Chosen 7 Serving & Gathering Team Meetings 4:30-6:30 Soup Nite 6:30 LIFT	16 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Support Team Meeting	17 10 Toddler Time	18 7 Weekender Worship Service	19 8 pm AA	20 8 am AA
21 9:30 Worship Congregational Meeting	22  4:30-6:30 Community Soup Nite	23 9:30 Staff Meeting	24 10 Toddler Time	25 7 Weekender Worship Service	26 8 pm AA	27 8 am AA 9-1 GLPS Swim Team Car Wash
28 9:30 Worship	29 4:30-6:30 Community Soup Nite	30 9:30 Staff Meeting				



Sign up for our

NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

As part of a cost saving effort, the Serving Team is proposing we stop mailing the newsletter. The newsletter would be sent via e-mail and posted on Immanuel's website. For members without internet access the newsletter would be available in the entryway and mailed to the homebound members. This would save paper, postage, and office staff hours. Plus it's good for the environment! Please share your opinion with Bev Lass, 627-5603 or the church office, 627-6310. To receive the newsletter online you will need to join news@immanuel by visiting <http://www.immanuel-gl.org/signup/>

To save Immanuel money, we will be publishing the July & August newsletters together the beginning of July. The July & August newsletter will be the last newsletter mailed to members. Our online newsletter will begin with the September Newsletter.

JUNE HOLY DAYS (for home devotions)

June 11: St. Barnabas, Apostle Isaiah 42:5-12 Psalm 112 Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3 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 his 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: John the Baptist Malachi 3:1-14 Psalm 141 Acts 13:13-26 Luke 1:57-67

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 Acts 12:1-11 Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 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 reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

Chad Huson, Carol Weigel, and Pastor Rick attended the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly, May 17-19 at the Lansing Center. The theme "With an Undivided Heart," called us to follow Christ even as we understand our differing views on "The Social Statement on Human Sexuality," Full Communion Partnership with the United Methodist Church, and the construction of The Center for Mission and Ministry (in DeWitt).

Our attendees heard Dr. T. Presler speak on Passionate Spirituality, Bishop Rinehart of the T-L Gulf Coast Synod speak about action in crisis, and reports from the national offices.

The Synod budget passed at \$2,300,450. From this amount \$994,500 will be sent to the National ELCA for our church-wide mission. We also support Trinity Seminary, Campus Ministry, LSSM, Living Water (camps), and Capital and Wittenberg Universities.

The only resolution requested a super-majority for making policy changes at the National Assembly this August in the requirements for rostered ministers. The resolution was defeated: 128 Yes; 136 No.

A table will be set up at coffee hour on June 7th with lots of information.



HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

Whatever happened to April? The days seem to fly by and there is always something that we still want to accomplish. As the Healing Prayer ministers met for their monthly meeting we took care of the business and then talked about how much spiritual growth meant to us. In our covenant, as Healing Prayer ministers, we agreed to help one another on this path. We're going to share with each other something we may have read, experienced, saw, heard, or learned about that has made an impact on us spiritually. We can share what it was that made it important to us and why. It is a joyful experience to discover how God brings to our attention new thoughts or happenings, opening our hearts and minds to His words, how he wants us to be, His love for us. We continue to grow in faith, thankful for our Savior, Jesus Christ and for having the Holy Spirit within us. Prayer is very meaningful to each one of us privately, with or for others. We have all learned that it is up to us to not let the time fly by without being sure there is always time for prayer, time to continue to learn, to listen, and to respond. We gain much as we share together and we know we have been blessed.

Joan Nolff, Healing Prayer Ministry.