



THE MANGER ~ March 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.

Office: 501 S. Clinton St., Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone: 517.627.6310; Website: www.immanuel-gl.org



Worship Services

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

Staff & Team Leaders:

Pr. Rick McKenzie, *Pastor*
rmckenzie@immanuel-gl.org
Denise Lund, *Office Administrator*
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Sue Schnarr, *Director of Education*
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Jim & Kristin Crooks, *Church Maintenance*
Carol Espie, *501 Maintenance*
Bill DeWitt, *Gathering Team Leader*
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Den Graeber, *Serving Team Leader*
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LENT IS FOR FASTING...AND FEASTING?

When we fast we empty out space. (Hunger is an empty stomach.) In the emptiness we ask to be filled with the grace of Christ. (A filled stomach indicates feasting.) In our personal fasting may we be feasting as well. These are in no particular order.

- Fast from judging others; feast on Christ dwelling in them
 - Fast from worry; feast on God's providence
 - Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude
 - Fast from anger; feast on patience
 - Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism
 - Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation
 - Fast from negatives; feast on positives
 - Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on God's healing power
 - Fast from words that pollute; feast on words of praise and prayer
 - Fast from hostility; feast on peace
 - Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness
 - Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion
 - Fast from anxiety; feast on eternal truths
 - Fast from discouragement; feast on hope
 - Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm
 - Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire
 - Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity
 - Fast from idle noise; feast on purposeful silence
 - Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds
 - Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the light within
- (I picked this off the internet. PR)

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.

LENT PRAYERS @ 7 PM MONDAY

- Each Monday we will eat soup and bread together in fellowship.¹
- Each Monday we will pray the Evening Prayer of the Church.²
- Each Monday we will listen and watch, reflect and discuss “Praying the Faith.”³
- Each Monday we will offer alms for Pastor’s Discretionary Fund and the new Synod Center for Mission and Ministry.⁴
- Each Monday in community we will prepare for Holy Week and Easter.
- Each Monday we will each nurture our intimate relationship in our daily walk with Jesus.⁵
- Each Monday: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

1. Our Caring Community Soup Nite. Since we are already here for food, we will stay to sing and pray. Perhaps some others will join us.

2. Vespers from LBW

3. This is the theme of a video series. It may include a skit by our Drama Team.

4. See “Our Lenten Alms” article.

5. Second part of our congregation’s Vision.



MARCH HOLY DAYS for home devotions

March 19 Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16 Psalm 89:1-29

Romans 4:13-18 Matthew 1:6, 18-21, 24a

Our God, from the family of your servant David you raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the husband of his blessed mother. Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and obedience to your commands, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

March 25 The Annunciation of our Lord

(9 months until Christmas)

Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 45 Hebrews 5:5-10

Luke 1:26-38

Pour your grace into our hearts, O God, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ, announced by the angel, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection for he lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

6 OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES ON 6 SUNDAYS

What do Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah, David all have in common? Through them God made promises to the world.

March 1: Noah and God’s Bow (We will celebrate our Ark Project for Heifer International)

March 8: Abraham and A Stubborn Faith

March 15: Moses and God’s People

March 22: Moses and the Bronze Serpent

March 29: Jeremiah and the New Covenant

April 5: Hosanna to the Son of David



BREAKING THE SEALS:

A study of the Revelation

Members of Pastor’s Class have requested we study the Revelation again. “Breaking the Seals” is a 12 session study I have presented before. Here is the description:

In Revelation 5, there is a scroll closed up by 7 seals. Everybody wants to know what is in the scroll, but nobody is worthy to break the seals open – nobody except the Lamb of God. (Rev. 5:1-5). Many of us would like to understand this book of the Bible better. Yet, it seems so inaccessible.

“Breaking the Seals” is a study geared toward answering our questions such as, “What does this symbol mean?” or “What is this passage talking about?” It will not answer all questions. A frequent response may be, “I’m not sure.” However, many questions will be answered and this mysterious book will be a bit more accessible to students of the Bible.

All are welcome. Students will be given study guides and asked to prepare, if possible. The class begins March 1st, the 1st Sunday in Lent and concludes May 31st. Topics include: “Pictures of Satan and Evil,” “Numbers of Seven.” A complete schedule is available in the Entry Way, in class, or by email from me. If you are really puzzled or curious, I am sure you will find this interesting.



Volunteer Needed – “Above and Beyond” Czar

And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. (Acts 2:44-45)

With the above passage Luke gives us a glimpse of life in an early Christian community. Members shared not only their faith but their belongings to the betterment of their community.

It's in this spirit that Immanuel is seeking to promote a sharing culture in our own church. As part of our normal day-to-day operations and services a number of standard supplies are used or consumed. These include paper products, cleaning supplies, office and kitchen supplies, etc. The Church Council is seeking a volunteer who would be interested in helping to develop a needs list and coordinate contributions.

If this is something you feel you might have a talent for, please contact Denise at our church office.



Girl Scout Recognition Sunday, March 8 at the 10:30 Service

There will be a Girl Scout Sunday Recognition Coffee Hour immediately following the service. Girl Scouts of all ages, please wear your jackets, vests, sashes, sweat shirts, etc. Also, if you have any pictures to display from your scouting events, please bring them to share. Hope to see many girl scouts and families joining all of us for this special recognition. The Serving Team



IMMANUEL'S ANNUAL LUGNUT OUTING:

IMMANUEL'S ANNUAL LUGNUT OUTING: Mark your calendars for Friday, July 17, 2009 for Immanuel's next Lansing Lugnut outing. This is one of the Christian Nights at Oldsmobile Park as well as a LAFCU fireworks night. Tickets are \$8 a seat 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 31, 2009. 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!!!!

Immanuel's Handbell Choir will be sponsoring the March 29 coffee hour. The bells will be available for you to try out, and several "ringers" will be on hand to answer your questions. We are looking for new ringers, and would like to invite you to join us, and learn how easy & fun it is to ring the bells. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings, and can't wait to grow our choir. If you want to hear handbells, The Lansing Area Ministry of Bells will present its 25th Annual Spring Ring on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. at Waverly High School's gymnasium (on Snow Road between Michigan Ave. and W. St. Joseph in Lansing). This facility is handicapper-accessible. About 200 ringers from 20 choirs will join together for massed ringing; solo numbers will also be played. Please contact Barb Paulins @ 645.2914 for more information on Immanuel's choir, or if you have questions on the Spring Ring. We hope you can join us!



Relay for Life

Friday/Saturday

May 15/16 4:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Relay for Life is a life changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people across the country each year to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against a disease that takes too much.

Women of Immanuel Mini-Retreat

Sunday, April 26, 2009 ♥ 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Join us for a spiritual journey where you'll discover how valuable you are in the eyes of Jesus.

Secret Prayer Pals will be revealed.



Letter from the President

1 Corinthians 4:2 — *“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”*

I have been given a trust; how about you? My family has all it needs. Now, it seems, would be a good time to “prove faithful”.

At our recent congregational meeting, we talked about reducing our mortgage principal by an additional \$25,000 in 2009. Many of us tithed our rebate checks in 2008 and reduced our deficit by \$8338. I am asking all of you to tithe your 2008 tax refund in the form of designated giving to mortgage reduction. If we can all get on board with this initiative, we could have this goal knocked out by June.

If we could do this on an annual basis, we would have our mortgage paid off in less than 9 years! Now that is forward planning! Please join me in starting this tradition in 2009, and let's be debt free in a few years.

God's Peace,
Matt

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

MOVING:

Kelly Love – has moved to Florida.

Scott and Felicia Becker and family – have moved to Traverse City.

We pray them Godspeed and rich blessing. They are already missed here!



Dear fellow friends in Christ:

It is with a humble heart that I thank each and every one of you who took the time to call, write or pray for me in these last few weeks and months. I am still in the healing process, but I believe I have turned the corner and am on my way to wellness. I thank God for that.

When you are low, it means more than you can ever know to not be forgotten. During long, tough days, some times the only bright spot was the knowledge that someone was thinking of me. Prayer is a powerful healer – I thank you so much for yours. It is a miracle to me that so many are so willing to give so much – your prayers, well-wishes and kind thoughts may seem simple to you, but they have healing power that is not only felt and appreciated, but immensely significant in my life. I only hope I can repay each of you some day.

Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I work my way through the next steps of wellness. May God bless each of you richly – you are all a blessing to me.

In peace, Barb Rinckey

OUR LENTEN ALMS

The call of the Church to keep Lent includes fasting, prayer and almsgiving (works of charity). This year we will be giving to two places: Pastor's Discretionary Fund and The Center for Mission and Ministry.

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND – if you are not aware, this is our Pastor's personal account to help our fellow members at Immanuel. He can assist those in special need confidentially. As you can imagine, the needs of our brothers and sisters are increasing just as in our larger communities.

THE CENTER FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY – is the vision of our Synod Bishop, John David Schleicher, with the advice and consent of an appointed committee. This center will be built in DeWitt on Old 127. It will have offices for our Synod staff, plus others. It will be space for education, retreat, worship, and communication. It will be built green. It will include up-to-date technology so that events can happen electronically over distance. Groundbreaking will take place in April. About \$1.5 million is needed. Bp. Schleicher believes that now is the time to build both for the need of work for people and lower costs.

Your packet of offering envelopes has special ones marked Ash Wednesday, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday. Our extra offerings will support these Council-approved projects.



Cleanliness and Godliness: A Green Cleaning Toolkit

From the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Programs

Scripture teaches us that we are all created in the image of God and that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Our 21st century lifestyles, however, often cause our bodies to reflect modern lifestyles more than sacred living. There are over 82,000 synthetic chemicals registered for use in everyday household items, emulsifiers, automotive, agricultural, food processing, and other industries. We are exposed to these chemicals in our homes and work places, in the food that nourishes us, and in the air we breathe. Alarmingly, only ten percent of these chemicals have been tested for their effects on human health.

--from "Mindful Living: Human Health, Pollution, and Toxics"

National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Programs, 2008

There are many good reasons to use nontoxic cleaning products. They are safer for you, much safer for children, and are part of good hospitality. They are generally less expensive, widely available, and may involve less packaging and advertising. Also, they are quite effective. Though they may lack artificial scents, colors, and foaming agents used in commercial products to give you the impression that the product is working, they tend to work as well or better than their more toxic and expensive counterparts. Experiment for yourself!

Safer, Effective Cleaning Alternatives:

Baking Soda - cleans, deodorizes, softens water, scours.

Borax - cleans, deodorizes, disinfects, and softens water. Cleans wallpaper, painted walls and floors without damaging their finish.

Cornstarch - can be used to clean windows, polish furniture, shampoo carpets and rugs.

Isopropyl Alcohol - an excellent disinfectant.

Soap - unscented soap in liquid form, flakes, powders or bars is biodegradable and will clean just about anything. Avoid using soaps which contain petroleum distillates or fragrances. Many detergents are labeled "soap" but are made from petroleum products and contain dyes, fragrance, additives, surfactants, foaming agents and alcohols.

Washing Soda - (sodium carbonate) cuts grease, removes stains, softens water, and cleans walls, tiles, sinks and tubs. It's very effective, so use with care and do not use on aluminum. Not the same as baking soda. Arm and Hammer is easy to find with the laundry detergents in many stores.

White Vinegar - cuts grease, removes mildew, odors, some stains and wax build-up.

SPECIAL RECYCLING EVENTS

March 20 2pm – 6pm 323-8500 www.deltami.gov
TV Collection - \$5 per TV
Delta Administration Bldg

April 4 8am – Noon 483-4400 www.lansingmi.gov
Regional Book & Textile Recycling Collection
Ingham County Road Commission, 5613 S Aurelius Rd. (between Jolly & Miller)

April 17 2pm – 6pm 543-368 www.eatoncounty.org
Book Collection Event
Charlotte Area recycling Authority, 201 Hall St, Charlotte

April 18 10am – 4pm 323-8500 www.greenerdelta.org
Second Annual **Greener Delta** One-Day Event
Hayes Middle School

April 19 - After the 10:30 Service
Please join us for Coffee and Fellowship at the **Earth Day Fair**, a time to celebrate the environment.

May 14, 15, 16 323-8500 www.greenerdelta.org
Delta De-Junking Days

MARCH 2009

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	2 10:30 Frozen Chosen - 501 6:30 LIFT-501 4:30-6:30 Community Soup 7 Lent Service	3 9:30 Staff 11-3 Quilting 12 UpKeepers 7 Boy Scouts	4 10 Toddler Time 6:30 God's Crusader's	5 7:15 Choir	6 8 pm AA	7 8 am AA
8 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship	9 6:30 Council 4:30-6:30 Community Soup 7 Lent Service	10 9:30 Staff Meeting 10:00 Memorial 7 Boy Scouts	11	12 7:15 Choir	13 8 pm AA	14 8 am AA
15 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	16 10:30 Frozen Chosen - 501 4:30-6:30 Soup 7 Lent Service 7 Team	17 9:30 Staff 11-3 Quilting 7 Boy Scouts	18 10 T Time 2 Hope Circle 6:30 God's Crusader's	19 7:15 Choir	20 8 pm AA	21 8 am AA
22 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship	23 4:30-6:30 Community Soup 6:30 LIFT 7 Lent Service	24 9:30 Staff 7 Boy Scouts	25 10 T Time	26 7:15 Choir	27 8 pm AA	28 8 am AA
29 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	30 4:30-6:30 Community Soup 7 Lent Service	31 9:30 Staff 7 Boy Scouts				

Birthdays:

March 2 Nicole Geller, Elizabeth Ayoub
March 3 Carol Espie
March 4 Lauren Martinich, Jerry Marcus
March 5 Jane Goebel, Fay Boerger
March 6 Fred Roush, Lyn Danes, Ashley Bower, Mindy Turner
March 7 Brad Matzke
March 8 John Martinich
March 9 John Burg
March 10 Mike Wesley, Robert Liss
March 11 Carol Weigel, Anne Matzke
March 12 Adam Van Hoesen, Patty Riley
March 14 Phil Hill
March 15 Adam Fracker
March 16 Julia Hoornstra
March 18 Gary Lass
March 22 Scott Hoornstra
March 24 Brandon Foy
March 25 Jessica Proper
March 26 Helen Kollman, Emily Rosier
March 27 John McKenzie, David Saxton
March 29 Tony Holland
March 31 Marlaine Teahan

Anniversaries:

Barb & Bob Walker

Lauren & Yvette Rosier

Scherrie & Jim Bryant

Lynne & Rick Fracker

Carolyn & Jim Drown

