



The Manger

March 2011

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

ASH WEDNESDAY is March 9

Ash Wednesday is a day of special devotion for all Christians. It is a day on which many of us fast – either all day or from sunrise to sunset. In order to provide the chance to repent of our sins and receive Ashes, we offer 3 services.

7:00 am WORD AND PRAYER WITH ASHES

This service is especially for those who have busy evening schedules. Come before school and work.

12 noon ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY at Trinity Episcopal (down town next to Library)

This spoken service is for lunchtime workers and for those who prefer a daytime devotion.

7:00 pm ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

This service with music is for all Christians: members, visitors, community.



LENT Mid-Week: "Care of Creation"

Wednesdays in Lent will be kept with Soup and Bread Suppers and Evening Prayer (Vespers).

Soup will be at 6:15 pm Vespers at 7:00 pm Our Wednesday "sermon" will likely complement the congregation-wide Lenten Fast.

Each Wednesday, there will be a 20 minute DVD presentation by a Lutheran theologian on Biblical connections with the various human aspects of the care of creation. We will watch and have a brief discussion. As of this publication, we have not previewed the presentations. Consequently, further details will come in the weekly bulletins.

Immanuel Lutheran Staff & Leaders:

The Rev. Richard McKenzie
Denise Lund,

Office Administrator

Sue Schnarr,

Director of Education

Lyn Danes,

Director of Kid's Hope

Jim Espie & Carmen Karkau,

Organists

Jim & Kristin Crooks &

Carol Espie,

Maintenance/Custodians

Team Leaders:

Bill DeWitt, *Gathering*

Sue Schnarr, *Preparing*

Den Graeber, *Serving*

John Van Hoesen, *Support*

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Grand Ledge MI 48837

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Website: Immanuel-gl.org

E-mail: dlund@immanuel-gl.org

Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:00 & 10:30 am

Christian Education for all ages:

Sundays at 9:15 am

CONGREGATION ENERGY FAST FOR LENT

Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation for God's acts of salvation in Christ. For 40 days, we practice fasting and special prayer. Often people give up a food or personal item.

Pastor's Adult Class is suggesting a Congregation-wide Energy Fast. Every family in our Church would do this together – each in our own homes. We fast from using some of God's resources: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

The Bible says that the earth groans under the abuse of our human sins (Genesis 4). St. Paul wrote that the earth eagerly looks for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8), those who are being saved by Christ. A community-wide Energy Fast will remind us of our spiritual need, God's saving gift, and his call to live for Him as stewards. We suggest:

*Week 1: March 13: Heat Fast – We will turn down thermostats 1 to 2 ° during the day and more at night.
(Add a layer of clothing.)*

Then add to this:

*Week 2: March 20: Electricity Fast – We will turn off unneeded items.
(Empty room lights, unwatched TV, always on appliances.)*

Then add to these:

*Week 3: March 27: Recycle 1 additional item...or more.
(Learn new items. Let kids decide. Go to the recycle center together.)*

Then add to these:

*Week 4: April 3: Water Fast – We will shorten our shower length
(Perhaps set a timer. Water is in world-wide shortage.)*

Then add:

*Week 5: April 10: Plastic Fast – We will take our reusable bags shopping.
(Store them in your car. Use them for other shopping besides groceries)*

Then add:

*Holy Week: April 17: Energy Fast – We will turn off the TV.
(Do non-energy activity: read, walk, play board games, etc. - even pray!)*

- Each Sunday, the Class will provide a Scripture and a prayer for daily home use.
- Each Sunday, a display will provide further information and activities.

Energy-Fasting together can build us up, help us to change our habits, make a difference. We will walk more gently upon the earth. It might also prove to be fun. We invite your feedback and experiences.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

BAPTISM:

Grayson Charlie James Sullenberger,

son of **Tom and Nicole**, brother to Britney and Jordan was born again into the family of God on February. 27. Grayson's Godparents are Jason & Holly Ferguson and Matthew Crispin.

DEATHS:

Chad Lee Cardwell

was a member of Army National Guard, Special Forces and a veteran of Iraq. Chad had volunteered to go to Afghanistan this spring. Chad has a son, **Connor**. His mother was **Kelli Cardwell**. His grandparents are **Lloyd and Betty Hoffner**. Chad died on January 28. His service was on Feb. 2nd.

Carl Christian Galvin

was the longest, continuous member of our congregation when he died on Feb. 8. He was baptized 87 years ago and was a 3rd generation descendant of the Kebler's, one of the founding families of Immanuel. He was proud of his heritage and equally proud of his service in the Navy during WWII. Carl's service was held on Feb. 14.

Both of these services were held with Military Honors.

Pastor's Word: Effectiveness is An Honest Answer

Members have asked, "why are you retiring?" It is a legitimate question that deserves a real answer. One honest answer is *effectiveness*.

I am no longer as effective as I would like to be and as the Church deserves. I am a citizen of the 20th century living in the 21st. My ways of thinking and of relating are increasingly out of step.

Let me put it generationally:

- I am a Boomer. When I came to Immanuel in '84, Baby Boomers were the largest demographic of the community. I was able to connect effectively and to lead. Our numbers grew.
- My children are GenXers. You Xers, along with the GenNexters and their children, the Millennials, are moving in a vastly different world.
- I am like Moses who stood at the edge of the Promised Land but could not enter with the next generation of Jews. I cannot enter into the emerging culture well-enough to really make it my own. This does not make for effective leadership.
- Just as the Boomers of the '80's deserved to have a Pastor who understood them, so do those who are Xers and Nexters. Even the Millennials deserve to have a Pastor who understands and leads them.
- This is their (your) time. God needs them (you) now.

Now is my time to cheer on and support the emerging forms of ministry. God needs them NOW. The world and our town have no fewer lost souls and no fewer social needs to serve. **Greater effectiveness** in reaching them **is vital**.

I am ready to embrace the next segment of my personal walk. And this makes me ready to embrace the next chapter in Immanuel's ministry with high expectations for what Christ will accomplish among us.



Pastoral Teaching : Faith

"The justified shall live by faith."

(Habakkuk 2:4) Faith is basic to all religions, and especially Christianity. We are mostly about relationships, as Jesus taught us, love God; love your neighbor. There seem to be 4 ways faith is used.

- Believing – this could be a doctrine such as Jesus is fully God and fully human. But more it is believing in or on, as in "...so that whoever believes in (on) him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- Fidelity – faithfulness, loyalty, allegiance, true, deeply committed, as in "You shall no other gods before me." Or "You shall love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength."
- Trust – rely on, lean on, relax into, let go and let God. Like Abraham and Sarah setting out for a new life not knowing where but only that God was leading them.
- The Way – as in the way we look at reality, a world view, a method, path or tradition to follow; as in "Take up your cross and follow me." (Mark 8) or "We no longer view anyone from a human point of view" (2 Corinthians 5) or we pray to God "in the name of Jesus," because that is our Way, our Christian/Lutheran tradition.

Each of us has all 4 types in us to draw on at various points in life. Most of us have one or two that are stronger than others on a daily basis.

Which one is the right faith, the one that the just/righteous live by? Which one is the saving faith? All of them, each of them, any one of them. For justification is from God through Christ. Faith (type 1, 2, 3 or 4) lives it.



Stop Telemarketers Calls To stop telemarketers ever making sales calls to your cell phone register your number with the National DO NOT CALL list. Call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. The registration process takes about 20 seconds. The phone line will identify itself as the National DO NOT CALL list. It will ask you to key in your number. It will tell you that telemarketer calls to the number will be blocked once it has been on the registry for 31 days. It advises you of your consumer right to make a complaint regarding phone sales calls. That's it.

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.



Daily Bible Reading March 2011

Listed here is the appointed daily Old Testament reading for March 2011. These are found on pages 1121-1125 in ELW. Take a few minutes to read and ask “What speaks to my heart today (tonight)?” Then dedicate this day/night to the Lord. *PR*

MARCH 6 (TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD)

March: 2 Exodus 33:7-23

March 8: 1 Kings 19:9-18

March 9: *Ash Wednesday*

March 10: Jonah 3:1-10

March 11: Jonah 4:1-11

March 12: Isaiah 59:1-12

MARCH 13 (1 LENT)

March 14: 1 Kings 19:1-8

March 15: Genesis 4:1-16

March 16: Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28

March 17: Isaiah 51:1-3

March 18: Micah 7:18-20

March 19: Isaiah 51:4-8

MARCH 20: (2 LENT)

March 21: Numbers 21:4-9

March 22: Isaiah 65:17-25

March 23: Ezekiel 36:22-32

March 24: Exodus 16:1-8

March 25: Exodus 16:9-21

March 26: Exodus 16:27-35

MARCH 27: (3 LENT)

March 28: Genesis 24:1-27

March 29: Genesis 29:1-14

March. 30: Jeremiah 2:4-13

March 31: 1 Samuel 15:10-21

April 1: 1 Samuel 15:22-31

April 2: 1 Samuel 15:32-34

Other daily devotions provided by our church include a booklet especially for Lent (pick up in the Entry Way), “Christ in our Home” (a quarterly booklet available in the Entry Way). On-line Daily Devotions can be accessed on our web page (click on the ELCA symbol, then do a search for daily devotions.) You can sign up to have them emailed to you daily. Visit with the Lord each day. He likes to be with us. You will enjoy being in him, too.

HAPPENINGS

LUTHERANS ARE GOOD COOKS!

We are planning to publish an Immanuel cookbook. With your help, this can be the best cookbook ever. We'd like to have you share a few of your favorite recipes. Recipe Submission Forms are available in the entryway. We need you to fill them out and return them to church by March 6. Please choose different recipe categories so that we don't for example have all desserts and no vegetables or main dishes. Thank you for sharing your favorites.

PANCAKE SUPPER

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

5:00 ~ 7:00 PM

IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP HALL

\$6.00 for adults

\$2.00 for kids 4-10 yrs,

kids under 4 yrs free

All you can eat regular or potato pancakes with sausage and a drink.

Proceeds help send our youth to camp.

BELLS, BRATS & BIKES

Immanuel's Handbell Choir will be presenting a Concert on Sunday, March 20 at 3 pm in the fellowship hall, with bratwurst to follow! Please come and enjoy a variety of pieces as well as a demonstration on the handbells. We are hoping to recruit a few new members, as well as raise funds for replacement of some old equipment via a free will offering. Additionally, Brandt Ayoub will be presenting a travelogue of his bike trip across America. Hope to see you there.

LUGNUT GAMES

We are signed up to work concessions at 6 Lugnuts games and we need LOTS of volunteers!! Game dates are: May 7 & May 14; June 4, June 24 and June 25; August 21. Immanuel has the opportunity to earn up to \$2,000 towards the transition fund. Workers must be at least 16 years, wear a white polo shirt, khaki shorts or pants and closed toe shoes. Sign-up sheet in the entryway!

Questions - contact Cheryl Pitchford - 614-1030

Garage Sale

Thursday – Saturday, May 19-21

Let's simplify our lives and get rid of stuff that we really don't need or use. Items to donate to the garage sale are anything that you haven't used in the last year that you really don't think you want or need anymore. You name it; we will find a willing home for it. LARGE ITEMS DO DRAW INTEREST AND IF YOU HAVE THEM, WE WILL GLADLY TAKE THEM. As we get closer to our date, I will let you know when items can be brought to the church.

Lisa Baptista, 517.223.0541

Car Wash ~ Saturday, May 21

Please watch for sign-up sheets to see where you would fit in to help with the yard sale and car wash. There will be plenty of opportunities to help set up, clean up, as well as actively participating during these events.

This weekend is dedicated to raising money for the Transition Fund.

JANUARY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Through our tithes and offerings we gave to God's work *over and above* our budget in the following ways:

- ELCA Mission Giving: \$2108.
In 2010 the ELCA began 70 brand new mission starts in the US. The most ever for our church in one year. A portion of our mission giving will reach new Christians.
- ALTERNATIVE Mission Giving: \$500
Lutheran World Relief: Clean water is a global crisis. LWR helps long and short term, such as water filtration in locations of high risk for disease. Stony Lake Camp needs a modern Boys Bathhouse. This gift will be split.
- PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: \$150.
This fund provides confidential assistance to members in special need. Contact PR
- SOUPER BOWLS: \$577
We helped the SNL classes raise this gift for the GL Food Bank, It was presented on Feb. 13.
- TRANSITION FUND: \$2413
What a blessing to reach out to the lost and needy in Christ's name.



March 2 Dale Goldie
March 3 Carol Espie, Genevieve Ketola
March 4 Lauren Martinich, Jerry Marcus
March 5 Jane Goebel, Fay Boerger
March 6 Fred Roush, Lyn Danes, Mindy Turner
March 7 Brad Matzke
March 8 John Martinich
March 9 John Burg
March 10 Mike Wesley
March 11 Carol Weigel, Anne Matzke
March 12 Adam Van Hoesen, Patty Riley
March 14 Phil Hill
March 15 Adam Fracker, Anthony Gatewood
March 16 Julia Hoornstra
March 18 Gary Lass
March 19 Trystan Lane
March 22 Scott Hoornstra
March 23 Steve Dyke
March 25 Jessica Proper
March 26 Helen Kollman, Emily Rosier, Betty Hoffner
March 29 Kristin Crooks
March 30 Amanda Gatewood

Barb & Bob Walker

Lauren & Yvette Rosier

Scherrie & Jim Bryant

Lynne & Rick Fracker

Carolyn & Jim Drown

FROM THE HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

Why Pray?

I believe that prayer is more than a relationship with God. I believe it is a responsibility. According to the Bible, God has chosen to work on earth through humans, not independent of them, even at the cost of becoming one (Jesus). Because of that choice, God tells us to ask for His will to be done, for our Daily Bread and for forgiveness through confession and prayer.

The Bible is full of examples of humans praying and God answering prayers. Daniel praying for his people in Daniel 9; Paul consistently asking for prayers for the mission of the church and, yes, Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane asking God to take away the cup but teaching us to ask for God's will to be done. Sometimes the answers don't come easily and we must be persistent as when Elijah prayed for rain in I Kings.

Prayers must be pretty important! Yes, they are! I believe prayer is also a form of worshipping God.

"Prayer is essentially a partnership of the redeemed child of God working hand in hand with God toward the realization of His redemptive purpose on earth"¹

"God's giving is inseparably connected with our asking...Only by intercession can that power be brought down from heaven which will enable the Church to conquer the world."²

"Christ isn't praying for us. He is interceding for us so we can pray. This is what is meant by 'asking in His name'."³

"Christ was not alone on the cross. We were with him. He was actually there to join us in our sentence of death. We were not with him physically, but spiritually (see Romans 6: 4,6). Our sins were being "laid on" Him and He was carrying them away."⁴

We also have **our part** (Colossians 1:24) in making up whatever is still lacking and remains to be completed of Christ's afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church.

The Bible tells us to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15). This can be done through prayer.

"There is a 'sharing' and 'filling up' that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions. The Greek word for "bear" is *bastazo* which, synonymous with the Hebrew *nasa*, means "to lift or carry," conveying the idea of removing or carrying away. In implementing Christ's priestly ministry of intercession, we're not simply to carry burdens *for* others, we're to carry them *away from* others—just as Jesus did. Please remember, however, we're not literally *re-doing* what Christ did, we're *representing* what He did. He is the balm of Gilead (Jeremiah 8:22), but we apply this healing salve. He is the fountain of life (Jeremiah 2:13, 17:13), but we are dispensers of His living water. He is the comforting shepherd's staff (Psalm 23:4), but He allows us the privilege of extending it. He inaugurated the new covenant with His blood (Hebrews 12:24), but in reference to *our part*, He has "made us able ministers of the new covenant" (2Corinthians 3:6). Think about it. The great Healer "healing" through us; the great High Priest "priesting" through us; the great Lover "loving" through us. Yes, Christ made us 'able ministers'. We administer the blessings and provisions of the new covenant. And who secured and guarantees those benefits? Jesus, of course. Then this verse is just another way of saying that we have been made able distributors of what Christ already accomplished."⁵ This is done through us by the Holy Spirit.

Healing prayer ministry is to pray with others, to "bear one another's burdens," to "carry away" burdens, to "rejoice with those who rejoice," to "weep with those who weep," to be ministers in carrying out God's plan. Immanuel's Healing prayer ministers are here to pray with you and/or for you. We are the vessels through which God gives comfort, peace, healing and love. Use us! All prayer is kept strictly confidential-between the prayer minister, you and God.

If this is your calling in the church, please contact a healing prayer minister for information on how you can serve.

Jeanie Boerger-Dixon

1 Jack W. Hayford, *Prayer is Invading the Impossible* (South Plainfield, N.J.; Logos International, 1977, revised edition, Bridge Publishing, 1995), p. 92, 1977 edition.

2 Andrew Murray, *The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer* (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1981), pp. 22, 23.

3 Dutch Sheets, *Intercessory Prayer* (Ventura, CA; Regal Books, A Division of Gospel Light, 1996, p. 39.

4 Ibid 5 Ibid pp. 66-68.

PROPERTY UPDATE

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have given of their time to work on & around the church.

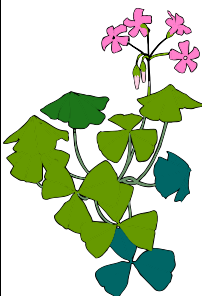

-- Sanctuary, new energy lights were put in the sanctuary, Walls have a fresh coat of paint, Trim was put overhead where the new building meets the old. Fans cleaned, stained glass windows in the old building were cleaned, The area behind the alter has a fresh coat of paint & brighter light bulbs

The walls have been painted around the Sunday school rooms down stairs. The snow blower was repaired, plus many other projects around the church.

If you see anything that needs attention let me know. We would like more people to get involved, to give of our time as we are able.

Thanks to all who have given of their time & talents. We are bless to have so any people with different talents.

Yours in Christ, Dick Berner (517) 898-8975

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2011		1 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11 am - 3 pm Quilting	2 6:30 pm God's Crusaders 7:00 pm Bread for the Journey	3 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	4 8:00 pm AA	5 8:00 am AA
		6 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	7 10:30 am Frozen Chosen 4-6 pm Soup Night	8 10:00 am Memorial 5-7:00 pm Pancake Supper 7:00 pm Church Council	9 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00am Service 12:00 noon Service at Trinity 7:00pm Service	10 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 8:00 pm Choir
13 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:15 pm SNL	14 10:30 am Frozen Chosen 4-6 pm Soup Night	15 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11 am-3 pm Quilting	16 1:00 pm Hope Circle 6:30 pm God's Crusaders 6:15 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	17 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:15 pm Choir	18 8:00 pm AA	19 8:00 am AA 10 – 4 Pre- Marriage Class
20 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Bell, Brats & Bikes	21 4-6 pm Soup Night 7:00 pm Team Meetings	22	23 6:15 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	24 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:15 pm Choir	25 Elementary Youth sleep- over	26
27 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:15 pm SNL	28 4-6 pm Soup Night	29	30 6:15 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service	31 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:15 pm Choir		

From the President

Happy Spring – almost. Isn't it nice to see the longer days? I know my daughter Beth misses the change of seasons that we have in Michigan. She does enjoy the extended spring in Berkeley, California. But she realizes that she also enjoys the contrasts of seasons, and enjoys each on its merits. While change can sometimes be bothersome, it can also be good. It can even be exciting.

From my perspective I think our church family is handling change well. We have enjoyed widespread participation in preparing for and working toward our transition to a new senior pastor. Dorothy has been taking us down the **Yellow Rick Road**, along with her friends, in search of answers. It seems to be a little stressful at times, but her intrepid group has stuck together, trusting the process. They don't know exactly what the entire road looks like, or what they'll find, but they are proceeding with confidence, together. And with faith.

Another group of members, the **Call Committee**, recruited by the church council but called by the Holy Spirit has been meeting weekly and is well down the path. It's a new path, one the ELCA has seldom seen; but our Synod is watching it closely. I suspect other churches, in similar circumstances, will follow our example of an overlapping transition of pastors. As with any change there are challenges, but the Call Committee is trusting the process. There have been a number of inquiries from pastors, and preliminary phone and Skype interviews have been held.

Yet another group of members has challenged us all to help **Pass the Baton**, by raising the funds necessary to call a new senior pastor while Pr. Rick is still available as an associate pastor. Significant progress has been made, but this race is not yet completed either. Two more fund raising events are scheduled. Cheryl Pitchford is coordinating a concession booth operation at Lugnuts games, and Lisa Baptista is coordinating a rummage sale. Their success depends on the support of all members. And while members are fulfilling the pledges they have already made the **Transition Fund Task Force** is looking for those additional pledges to put us past the finish line. One member has stepped forward to make this closing stretch a bit more exciting: ***this member will match all new pledges made in March, up to \$1,000.***

Exciting changes indeed. And yet we are still in familiar territory. We are in a spectacular Epiphany, and the Lenten season approaches. We are still studying, praying, worshiping. Some of our members are hurting, with personal and family losses and illness, and with the difficulties that come in times of economic turmoil. Change is not always happy and exciting. One common truth, however, is that our faith can help us navigate the challenges. Many of us have found great comfort in the support of our church family. We have come together to grieve, to support, to assist, to cooperate, to lead, to plan, to work together. Sometimes we also need to pause, and realize that while we can do great works, we also need to have faith that God will help us find the way.

Peace. Serve the Lord.

Bill Frysinger