



THE MANGER ~ November 2007 **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 WITH US!

Every Sunday at
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*
dlund@immanuel-gl.org
Donna Gibbons, *Parish Nurse*
dgibbons@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
Gregg Vicary, *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
Daniel Landry, *Support Team Leader*
support@immanuel-gl.org

Please call a team leader with your questions/concerns or call the church office.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 11
following the 10:30 am service.
Look for details coming in the mail.

BASKETS OF HOPE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Each year Immanuel receives names of individuals and families from GLEAP who could use a gift basket for Christmas. Funds raised on Basket of Hope Sunday are used to purchase items to help brighten Christmas for local residents. Immanuel's Serving Team is hosting a bake sale following the 10:30 service to raise funds on November 18. Please consider donating bake goods for the bake sale. Bring your bake goods before the 10:30 service on November 18.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

- 1) Grand Ledge Community Thanksgiving Service. Details are not available at printing time. Usually the service is Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) Immanuel's Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday, November 21 @ 7:00 p.m.
Holy Communion



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.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RICK

SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR:

Often we realize what we have more when we don't have it anymore. I found this to be case with the death of my father early in October. The "loss" caused me to think about what he meant to me. It certainly is something different in my 50's than it was when I was a child or young adult.

So the first thing to be thankful for is the opportunity to have our father-son relationship change over the years from my need for him, to our adult "friendship" to the time when he needed me. But by my age, I already have done some thinking about the paths of my own life. .

What I find is that my father has had an indispensable effect on who I am. I attribute to him my openness to learning and experiencing the world in which we live. 1) Dad was a scientist and proud of it. He taught me to want to know and to pursue that knowledge wherever the questions led. So I am interested in all kinds of subjects and disciplines. 2). My Dad went to a different church than my Mom. He was a strong believer. He wanted me to know there is more than one way to look at faith and experience the Lord. So I see that God is at work in all our questions about truth. He is Truth and he wants us to find him. 3) Dad and Mom took me on trips to every state in the lower 48, except Florida. They saved hard to make that happen. They wanted me to know first hand the natural and human history of our land.

So a big part of who and how I am I owe to my Father. I have so much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. I realize it more this year because of his "loss" – though in a sense, he is not lost, because I know where he is now and with whom. Thanks be God.

I sincerely pray that you, too, know your reasons to be thankful this November.

Pastor Rick



THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program (GLEAP) helps area people in emergency needs all year round. With no office or employees, virtually 100% of gifts go directly to help. GLEAP's core assistance is food, transportation, and medicine. If there are sufficient funds, the program will at times assist with rent and utilities. All our Thanksgiving Offerings will be donated to GLEAP to help our Grand Ledge Area neighbors when they have an emergency need. Please give with a generous heart.

Dear Immanuel Church Family,
Thank you for the pink roses you sent to the family of Evelyn Hale. We appreciate all of the prayers and concerns for her over the years.
Sincerely,
Rick, Linda Merrifield and family

GRAND PIANO FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Wow! \$12,199 has been pledged so far towards the purchase of a grand piano for our church sanctuary. We are almost half way there to a goal of \$26,000—or at \$300 per key—40 and 2/3 keys. (We probably need the other 47 1/3 in order to cover the Bach stuff and jazz and Gospel and liturgy that we Lutherans seem to like to do.:)) The Gathering Committee wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to those who have sacrificed so far to make this worship instrument closer to a reality. Our current deadline date for pledging is November 18th. At that time we will assess where we're "at," seek advice, pray and reflect further on this project. If you haven't had an opportunity to pledge, there are pledge sheets and envelopes always on a small table in the narthex or you can let the church office know your intentions and they will mark off a key or part of a key for you. If you have questions or concerns or would like to visit James Reeder Piano to see/hear this piano, please contact Jim Espie, Ellen McKenzie, or Carmen Karkau. Lisa Baptista/Ellen McKenzie and the Gathering Committee.



AMONG OUR MEMBERS

BAPTISM:

Eli Jeffrey, son of Jeff and Amy Magnuson, was born October 5th and came home to live with his sister, Kara, and brother, Sam Rohloff. What a surprise blessing!

FIRST COMMUNIONS:

On October 2 our 5th graders, along with 3 older youth, were welcomed to God's Table of Grace. They studied with Pr. Rick and Lori Van Hoesen for 4 weeks. They learned about the Words of Institution and the cross; Passover and Jesus; the sacraments and grace, and how to confess sin. They are: Kaitlyn Anderson, Samantha Becker, Noah Crambell, Mary Danes, Emily Fracker, Lauren Liss, Anna Matzke, Madison Osburn, Martin Roesch, Michael Roesch, Emily Rosier, Jaren Scoggins, Chris Teahan, Mary Van Hoesen.

This is an important step in being a disciple of Jesus for them.

We thank God and are happy for them.

NEW LITURGY

Exciting news! On the 1st Sunday in Epiphany 2008 we hope to introduce to the congregation a new worship liturgy: Hymn Setting Seven English/Hispanic) for Holy Communion. We are in the process of choosing accessible upbeat hymns that will require guitar and trumpet accompaniment. (Picture Lutherans on Mariachi Energy Drinks:.) We are joyful to add a different flavor to our Sunday morning worship in keeping with our Word and Sacrament Lutheran theology. We have the desire. We need the musicians. They do not have to be members. Please contact Denise Lund (627-6310) or Ellen McKenzie (627-6202).



LIVE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY COMES TO IMMANUEL CHURCH

Back by popular demand! This Christmas season the Live Nativity is returning on December 21 and 22 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The nativity will feature live actors, animals and carolers. We are inviting the community to come, visit the Nativity and come inside for some hot chocolate and Christmas cookies and great fellowship. In order to make this a success we need lots of volunteers. Look for sign up sheets in November. Please consider sharing some of your valuable time and the opportunity to share with your entire family an experience of live theatre and the true



Please sign up for the 'Soapy Hands Club' in the entryway.
The Environmental Team



DEFICIT CONTINUES DOWN

Our spending deficit continued to diminish through September. Pat Anderson, Treasurer, reported that as of September 30th, it was around \$3228. At the beginning of September, it stood at about \$7412. The Church Council continues to ask all our Ministry Teams to be cautious in their spending.

I hope we are all encouraged by the progress we are making especially in light of the impact economic changes are having in some of our church households. Thank you all as we push toward a positive balance in our General Fund.

PR

LUTHER LEAGUE II

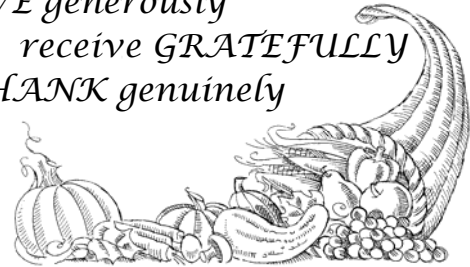
Monday, November 12 @ 11:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Catered lunch by
Professional Party Planners (Teresa Barcy)

Cost: \$5.00

Slide show by Ernst Floeter of
Chile & Patagonia

GIVE generously
receive GRATEFULLY
THANK genuinely



“Have you seen my friend?” “When is my mentor coming?”


These are phrases I heard often from the students when I visited Greenwood Elementary the first two weeks of October. The returning students couldn't wait to see “their special friend.” I heard this in the comments they made to me, the principal, and their teachers, but this was also demonstrated by how quickly they returned their permission slips for the coming year. Their relationship to their mentor is important to them, and they want it to continue. All eleven students from last year and nine new students began seeing their mentors after October 8th. New mentors are already expressing their excitement about their students and their time together.

We also held our first student party on October 23 at school. We made rain sticks, painted t-shirts, played games, decorated cookies, and got to know each other better. Parents were invited to join us for the last half hour to share refreshments and meet the mentors and prayer partners who were able to attend. Look for pictures of the event on the Kids Hope bulletin board in the basement.

Thank you so much to all who have supported this ministry with your prayers and donations of time and money. I wish you could see the faces of these little children. You would know that we are making a difference in their lives.

May God bless you all,
Lyn Danes

NOVEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:30 Choir	2 GLPS Swim Team 8 pm AA	3 8 am AA
4 All Saint's Day 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Children Choir 6:15 SNL	5 10:30 Frozen Chosen	6 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	7 10 Toddler Time 6:30 Handbell Choir	8 7:30 Choir	9 8 pm AA	10 8 am AA
11 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 12 Congregational Meeting 4:30 Children Choir	12 6:30 Church Council	13 9:30 Staff Meeting 10 Memorial 7 Boy Scouts	14 10 Toddler Time 2 Hope Circle 6:30 God's Crusaders 6:30 Handbell Choir	15 7:30 Choir 	16 9-12 Flu Shot Clinic 8 pm AA	17 8 am AA
18 Basket of Hope Sunday 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Choir 6:15 SNL	19 10:30 Frozen Chosen 7 Team Meeting	20 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	21 10 Toddler Time 7 Thanksgiving Service	22 	23 8 pm AA	24 8 am AA
25 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Children Choir	26 	27 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	28 10 Toddler Time 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 God's Crusaders	29 7:30 Choir	30 8 pm AA	



November 4 Chris Morrall, Lisa LaViolette
 November 5 Joe Riley
 November 7 Lee Bair
 November 8 Cheryl Pitchford
 November 9 Amy Reed, Adam Kruth
 November 11 Amanda Pitchford
 November 12 Marian Bennett, Carrie Goldie
 November 13 Yvonne Koos, Larry Kruth, Pam Hill
 November 15 Jean Vicary, Scotty Becker, Mike Proper
 November 17 Brad Lund
 November 18 Jim Bryant
 November 20 Cindy Foy
 November 21 Rick Fracker, Sydnee Becker
 November 22 Melissa Wolf, Sharon Catey, Erin McKenzie

 November 24
 November 25 Elsie Kirchen, Kayla Mielke
 November 27 JaNae Schnarr, Joshua Foy
 November 29 Tea Peiffer
 November 30 Kelly Love, Noah Crambell



Leonard & Pam Gignac

Jerry & Bernadine Marcus

Orv & Lynne Erickson

Phil & Pam Hill