



THE MANGER ~ November 2008 **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*
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Denise Lund, *Office Administrator*
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Donna Gibbons, *Parish Nurse*
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Sue Schnarr, *Director of Education*
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Den Graeber, *Serving Team Leader*
serving@immanuel-gl.org
Larry Kruth, *Support Team Leader*
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Please call a team leader with your questions/concerns or call the church office.



NOVEMBER 2: ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Remembrance of our loved ones and members,
Dedication of Memorial Gifts.

NOVEMBER 9: FALL HEALING SERVICE

Late Service only (Early service will be Holy Communion)
Anointing with Oil, Laying on of Hands, Personal
prayer for all who wish. Bring any one in need.

Congregational Meeting following 10:30 service

NOVEMBER 23: CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

(Last Sunday of Church Year)

Guest Preacher: Deacon Kim Winchell, Assistant to the
Bishop for Earthkeeping Ministries.

NOVEMBER 25: COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

7:00 p.m. at St. Michael Roman Catholic Church

NOVEMBER 26: IMMANUEL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion

Bring money offerings for the Grand Ledge Emergency
Assistance Program.



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

BALLOT PROPOSAL OPINIONS/REFLECTIONS:

On the ballot in November are two proposals that have moral implications. They are more than political decisions. Consequently, I am constrained to speak to you about my Pastoral opinions. I am sensitive to a general perception among many in society that the Church usually opposes things and is out of touch with the times. I am also aware the approval rating of both propositions is high among Michigan voters. Having acknowledged these, I, nevertheless, am opposed to both ballot proposals.

PROPOSAL #1 MEDICAL MARIJUANA – The idea is to allow certain individuals to grow their own marijuana to use to alleviate pain due to a medical condition. I believe that the medical community can control pain in almost every medical case. If marijuana has a property that makes it a superior medicine in some situations, then its production should be legally regulated by the State and administered under the supervision of physicians just as all other drugs are. If this was being proposed, I would favor Proposal #1.

Rather, to allow certain individuals to grow and administer their own drug is mostly a back door attempt to make this drug more available and promote its use in general. It is masquerading under an appeal to our compassion for anyone who is suffering pain. I believe we are being used by the folks at NORML to further their goal. Therefore, I oppose Proposal #1 on the grounds of Biblical teachings against artificial alteration and for order and justice in society.

PROPOSAL 2 – HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

Embryonic Stem Cells are the cells of embryos in the 5th to 7th days from conception. In order to harvest the cells for research, the donor embryo must be destroyed. If you believe, as I do, that the life God intends begins at conception this causes a moral dilemma. If you are not certain at what point in the development in the uterus life (or soul) begins, then you must at least approach this decision with moral caution. If you don't know then it's possible we are allowing researchers to destroy individuals.

Further, I am in agreement with the position of Right To Life and various judges, for example Judge Thomas Brennan, Jr. (ret.). These sources point out that there is no State regulation over those who will market in, profit from, and use the ESCs. The embryos can be bought and sold. The embryos that come into Michigan for use in medical research can come from sources outside the state, where the State has no authority in where the cells come from, or how they are harvested. Yes, they are supposed to be excess embryos from fertility procedures. But without any Michigan regulating board to set procedures we have no way to check the word and claims of those selling and providing embryos from other states or even other countries.

The independent Citizens Research Council of Michigan states that the proposal as presented actually *forbids* the State Legislature from regulating this research in any way that differs from the national (federal) policy or in any way “prevents, restricts, obstructs, discourages any stem cell research.” (Quote from the ballot proposal.) The federal government has no restrictions at all (though the Bush administration restricts federal funding).

Given that there are 3 other sources of stem cells (Adult, Umbilical Cord, induced pluripotent) from which research can go forward in Michigan and given my moral belief, I will vote against this proposal. I encourage all parishioners to run these 2 proposals as they are written through the filters of your faith and moral codes in addition to political decisions. “It is neither right nor good to act against one's conscience.” (Martin Luther)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS NOVEMBER 2.
FALL BACK GIVING US ONE ADDITIONAL HOUR OF SLEEP.





Giving Tree



The LSSM giving tree will be in entryway Sunday, November 9. The tree will have tags for foster and refugee children. The tags will tell the gender, age, and two choices of gifts the child would like. Gift need to be returned to the church by November 30 unwrapped with the information tag. Please include a gift box is possible.

Youth Holiday Pie Fundraiser

Looking for someone to help you supply a delicious pie for your Thanksgiving feast? Look no further; the high school youth are having a pie fundraiser. Homemade delicious crumb top apple pies will be for sale. They will be taking pre-orders, so order extra to put in your freezer for that unexpected company you may entertain over the Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays. They will be taking orders through November 9. Pick-up for your pies will be the weekend of November 15. Please plan on supporting our youth for their trip to the National Gathering in 2009 and enjoying a "good as homemade" apple pie. Contact Amy Reed with any questions at 627-8781.



Baskets of Hope Sunday, November 9.

Each year Immanuel has an opportunity to reach out into the community by providing Christmas gift baskets to individuals and families in need. We receive names of these individuals and families through the Grand Ledge Emergency Assistance Program. Funds raised on Baskets 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 8:00 and 10:30 service to raise funds on November 9. Please consider donating bake goods for the bake sale. Please bring your bake goods before the 10:30 service on November 9. Also designated giving envelopes may be used to contribute to this very worthwhile ministry, you will find them in your envelope packet. Be sure to write Baskets of Hope on the envelope. Thanks for your continued support to this community ministry!



Luther League II

Monday, November 10
11:30 a.m.

Meet at The House of Hsu in Grand Ledge
(order from menu)
Please bring a canned good(s) to help fill a
Thanksgiving basket.

NOVEMBER SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS (for home devotions)

November 1st/2nd All Saints' Day

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the incomprehensible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

November 23: Christ the King/Last Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

November 27: Thanksgiving/Harvest

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Matthew 13:24-30

O Lord, maker of all things, you open hand and supply the desire of every living creature. We praise you for crowning the fields your blessings and enabling us once more to gather in the fruits of the earth. Teach us to use your gifts carefully, that our land may continue to yield its increase, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

FIRST COMMUNIONS

October 5th was the day our 5th graders were welcomed to God's Table of Grace. Those who studied with Pastor Rick and Lori Van Hoesen and received the sacrament are:

Alex Baribeau, John Burg, Madelyn Evans, Nathan Goschka, Avery Riggs

We are happy for them and their families at this faith step.

MARRIAGE:

Phil Wickstrom and Amy Bennett

joined their lives on October 4th at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Port Huron. Congratulations and the blessings of this their church family upon them.

MOVES: Mary Twitchell has moved to Burcham Hills Rehabilitation Facility. Please send her greetings in care of Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Dr., East Lansing 48823 (Our sister **Genoia Smith** also resides here.)

Thank you to my church family for the ongoing messages, prayers, visits, and cards. I am truly blessed to be surrounded by a loving family. Special thanks to Pr. Rick, Donna, Bob, Cheryl & Lauren Liss (who visit and fixed my TV), our Sunday School Teachers, Bill & Barb Paulins and the 4 youth who stained by deck railing, Bev Becker for the calls, prayers and Sunday bulletin with a special note each week. I also enjoy the Christmas Carols of all ages. Again, thank you. *Billie Bryant*



Kids Hope USA Corner

On Saturday, October 18th Immanuel hosted a retreat for volunteers in all of the Eaton County Kids Hope programs. About 50 mentors and prayer partners from Charlotte, Lansing, and Grand Ledge attended. Our speaker for the event was Dr. Virgil Gulker, the founder of Kids Hope USA. His words were inspiring, motivational, and affirming. If anyone would like to hear what Dr. Gulker had to say we recorded his speech and would be glad to loan the CD out to anyone in the congregation. In addition to our speaker, a mini workshop for mentors focused on things to do with students during the mentoring hour. The workshop for prayer partners, led by Jeanne Hudson of the Lawrence Avenue Methodist Church in Charlotte, stressed the importance of prayer for the mentoring relationship and how to connect with the student and mentor. I would like to thank everyone from Immanuel who attended.

Many thanks to Teresa Barcy for providing food and beverages for this event. I would also like to thank Denise Lund for handling the sound equipment on Saturday and Jane Goebel and Larry Kruth for sound system training. You all helped to make our first countywide event a success.

Contest: "Caught in the act"

Win: Honoree, for being "Caught in the Act"

Win: Reporter, Reward for "Caught in the act" story

Win: Us! (and God's creation)

Recently we have recognized people who have lived the Creation Stewardship we all aspire towards. But the few people who actively meet to discuss Immanuel's earthkeeping mission realize that we have limited vision. We also realize that the Earthkeeping Team involves the entire congregation; and there's a heckuvalot of good stuff going on. Some of it happens in our households and businesses, some happens in our church home, some happens in our communities. So we propose to unleash the power of the people. Therefore, a Contest is declared. We are asking you, all of you, each of you, to take names and submit charges: who among us is showing us the way(s) in our efforts to answer our Lord's question: what have you done with My treasure? Submit your nominees, and if your submission is selected that month your nominee will be printed in The Manger (Win #1). In recognition of your astute attention and concern you will be presented with an Energy Saving, Carbon Minimizing CFL light bulb (Win #2). But the REAL payoff is to all of Us (Win #3). We will be inspired by the examples of those among us. Please submit your nominees in the designated box downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. And please, do not consider your consideration unworthy. Small steps, taken by many, are like the might of an army.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 2008

Brothers and Sisters,

I want to encourage all members to attend the special congregational meeting following the 10:30 service on November 9. We will be voting on the 2009 budget proposed by Council and the Support Team. We will also be nominating and electing members for the 2009 Church Council.

We are also looking for a person so act as our recording secretary for Council in 2009. This is a commitment of 2 hours per month on the second Monday evening. This person simply records the minutes of the meetings and forwards them on to the congregation. If this is a role you can fill, please contact me.

Look for a separate letter in your mail with a copy of the proposed budget. You can also expect to see a survey of your individual spiritual gifts in the coming months. As we plan for a “frugal” year, please prayerfully consider how you might give of your time and talents as well as your financial gifts.

God’s Peace

Matt

The Parsonage Lives On **Practicing What We Preach**

The Parsonage had reached the end of its useful life. The congregation voted to demolish the building. But before the wrecking ball, the able-bodied deconstruction crew was able to selectively dismantle building components, salvaging for re-use, recycling, and waste management. (*Salvage is an age-old, practical building tactic that reduces waste and lowers disposal costs.*)

The recycling of aluminum from the siding, doors, window framing, etc, reaped \$500. (*The recycling of one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.*) The hundreds of pounds of steel hauled to the salvage yard came from the boiler, hot water heater, framing from the drop ceiling, and even the steel center beam which was retrieved after the demolition. (*A 60-watt light bulb can be run for over a day on the amount of energy saved by recycling 1 pound of steel.*) The copper pipes and wiring brought in \$1100. (*Components within old buildings sometimes are more valuable than at the time the building was constructed.*)

The appliances, cupboards, even the kitchen sink were sold at the yard sale and parishioners retrieved paneling and doors for re-use. Hazardous material was disposed of responsibly, with Granger. Buildings, like everything, have a life cycle. Deconstruction focuses on giving the materials within a building a new life once the building as a whole can no longer continue. The parsonage was a home and a refuge to many families, who have since moved on in their lives. The land it so lovingly rested on will rise to a new life. The cycle continues.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		NOVEMBER 2008					1 8 am AA
2 All Saint's Day 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Kid's Choir	3 10:30 Frozen Chosen 6:30 LIFT	4 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	5 10 Toddler Time 	6 4 GL Girl's Swim Team 7:15 Choir	7 10-2 GL Girl's Swim Team 8 pm AA	8 8 am AA	
9 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 12 Congregational Meeting 4:30 Kid's Choir 6:15 SNL	10 6:30 Church Council	11 9:30 Staff Meeting 10 Memorial 7 Boy Scouts	12 10 Toddler Time	13 7:15 Choir	14 8 pm AA	15 8 am AA 	
16 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Kid's Choir	17 10:30 Frozen Chosen 7 Team Meeting	18 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	19 10 T Time 2 Hope Circle 6 Handbell Choirs	20 6 Girl Scouts 7:15 Choir	21 8 pm AA	22 8 am AA	
23 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Kid's Choir	24 6:30 LIFT	25 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	26 10 Toddler Time 7 Thanksgiving Service	27 	28 Church Office Closed 8 pm AA	29 8 am AA	
30 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Kid's Choir							



November 4 Chris Morrall, Lisa LaViolette
 November 5 Joe Riley
 November 8 Cheryl Pitchford
 November 9 Amy Reed, Teri Sime
 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 Cheryl Liss, Greg DeWitt
 November 21 Rick Fracker, Sydnee Becker
 November 22 Melissa Wolf, Sharon Catey, Erin McKenzie
 November 24 Alice Harris
 November 25 Elsie Kirchen, Kayla Mielke, Deb DeWitt
 November 29 Tea Peiffer
 November 30 Kelly Love, Noah Crambell

Jerry & Bernadine Marcus

Orv & Lynne Erickson

Phil & Pam Hill