



THE MANGER ~ October 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.

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:

Rev. Richard 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 Espie, Organist

Carmen Karkau, Organist

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



CROPWALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 @ 2:00 PM
(registration at 1:30 pm)

Communities Responding
to Overcome Poverty

Please walk or find someone to pledge.
25% of the money raised stays locally.

You can designate your donations.

Any questions: Please call Melissa Goschka: 622-2070
or Den Graeber: 627-3116.



OCTOBER WORSHIP NOTES:

October 4: 1st Communion at 10:30 service

October 11: Williams Baptism at 10:30 service

October 18: Fall Healing Service at 10:30 service
(Communion at early service)

October 25: Reformation Sunday

Service led by Pr. Darrel Neves (Communion at both)

November 1: All Saints' Day. Remembering our recent
Saints (Communion at both)

Immanuel Lutheran Church

501 S. Clinton Street

Grand Ledge MI 48837

(517) 627-6310

Email: dlund@immanuel-gl.org

Website: Immanuel-gl.org

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

REACTIONS AND RESPONSES: ELCA Assembly Votes

Reactions are quick, spontaneous, primal. As in “a knee-jerk reaction.” Or the phrase, “Marry in haste; repent in leisure.” Or “I’m getting used to the taste of my shoe leather.” *Responses* are slower, reasoned, considered from a larger perspective and based on information. They take time, as in “a well-thought out response.”

Right after the news about the votes at the National Assembly concerning the “Human Sexuality” document and especially allowing ordination of homosexuals in committed relationships – right after that I heard from members who are very upset and those who are quite happy. Both were reactions, emotional and personal. I had deep reactions, too. I know, because I went through a series of dreams directly related to the decisions. And my waking imagination was filled with all kinds of things I might do.

Now, I am experienced (read “old”) enough to know that I have to give myself time to calm, to pray, to talk, to study, to think about the big picture. I have given my perspective to the Church Council and the bishop, and others. I make it available to you on-line with copies in the entryway.

Now is the time to talk to each other and to pray together. I am scheduling 2 open forums on the topic: October 4 @ 5:00 p.m., (after the CROP Walk) and October 6 @ 7 p.m. I will schedule more if there are sufficient requests.

Forums are places for people to talk and to listen. I will attempt to do 2 things, if possible: present my view in order to get a discussion going and be the moderator for our discussions.

Pertinent documents are:

- My “Pastoral Position Statement”
- “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” (The ELCA Social Statement adopted in August)
- “Recommendations Regarding Ministry Policies from ELCA Church Council to 2009 Churchwide Assembly” (April 2009)

Helpful documents will be

- Background Essay on Biblical Texts – www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-In-Process/JTF-Human-Sexuality/Resources/Essays.aspx (It is the 1st one listed. I checked this address out and it worked.)
- Report and Recommendations Regarding Ministry Policies From the Task Force on ELCA Sexuality Studies (February 2009)
- A Brief Summary of Actions – www.elca.org/assembly/summary

(All these documents, and others, are available on our church’s website at <http://www.immanuel-gl.org/sexuality.html>.) I also hope to provide resources regarding organizations for members to utilize for support and action at the forums.

I am aware that some have not spoken with me directly. I am concerned. I invite people from both sides and no sides of these issues to attend one of these forums. Or you may call me to arrange for a time when we can discuss and pray privately. It is time to respond beyond our reactions.

Pastor Rick

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

RETIREMENTS:

Dale and Mary Jo Stein

A little birdie told us that Mary Jo was with her friends at Cracker Barrel on the 1st day of school watching the buses filled with eager students roll by. She retired from teaching at Delta Center Elementary this year. And Dale retired, too, from Auto Owners Insurance, where he headed up the Life department. Congratulations to both of you, who now are wondering who you are and what you are going to do with all that new found time.

Note to all of us: Our Lord has a plan for this chapter in our lives, too. We don't retire from being disciples. We get new opportunities.

NEW MEMBER CLASS FORMING

Those who wish to join Immanuel are going to be studying with Pastor Rick beginning this month. They will meet starting *Wednesday, October 7 at 7 pm*. All are welcome but especially if you want to join or know someone who is moving spiritually toward faith in Christ. Let Pastor Rick know, if possible, so that he can have materials ready.

FIRST COMMUNIONS:

Our 5th graders studied together during September and will be recognized as Communing Members on October 4th. Anna Baribeau, Collin Blake, Katelyn Crambell, Jessica Proper, John Roesch, Tara Scoggins and Blaine Teahan.

SNL (Catechism Program)

The service project for this month is the CROP Walk on Sunday, October 4 @ 2 p.m. Please help your children walk to help the hungry of the world.

The fellowship activity for this month is a Halloween Hayride @ the Cermaks on Friday night, October 30. Contact your Huddle Leader or Dave Batz, 614-2044 for more information or to help out.

LEADER CHANGES:

The Nursery Coordinator position has been accepted by Kathy Carter. We are so happy. Please be ready to help her out and help our young parents have safe care for their little ones during worship.



From Billie Bryant: God has blessed me with almost complete recovery from my stroke. I enjoyed your visits, food, flowers, trips to see my doctor and all your prayers, especially to Pr. Rick, Donna Gibbons, Bev Becker, Lila Christiansen, Den and Pat Graeber, the Liss family and Vernal Workman (Billie's sister).

From Pastor Rick & Ellen: Our celebration of 25 years together was fun-filled and joyful. So many participated in planning and setting up and washing dishes. This is just like it is supposed to be with family. Thank you for being our church family and working side-by-side in fun and for Christ.



RECYCLE BROCHURE

Church Council has approved and passed a resolution that Immanuel Lutheran Church now has Guidelines and Suggestions for all groups (including us) in order to help preserve our natural resources and to better care for our earth. The Guidelines and Suggestions will be given to each group, have been given to each team, are posted

on-line (Earthkeeping Team website), are posted in the narthex and are available as brochures in the entryway.

The Earthkeeping Team (E.T.) came into existence by church vote at our Annual Congregational Meeting a few years ago. E.T. is trying to help promote and align our church with the national ELCA statement on the environment. These guidelines and suggestions are just another way that each of us can make a positive difference in rethinking the way we operate and making practical changes. E.T. met with members of the Serving Team and other groups to hopefully make the guidelines practical yet not onerous.

E.T. always welcomes your comments, inputs and suggestions. Please contact us through either our website, personally, or through the suggestion box in the entryway.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we draw nearer our Annual Budget Meeting on November 8th, I want to share some information and thoughts with you. You can expect some changes in the budget this year that will seem drastic to some. Your council and I have listened to all the suggestions and are acutely aware that we need to find ways to “live within our means.” Our challenge is to do this while not compromising our passionate spirituality and outreach.

Our largest expense is payroll. Many have questioned our need for an Office Administrator as opposed to a Secretary. We have had very talented secretaries in the past. Our current job description, and in my opinion requirement, is for an Office Administrator. A copy of the Office Administrator job description is available in the entryway. I believe we are fortunate to have Denise in this position. I also know many have questioned this expense. One of the ways we are looking to trim this expense is to require Denise to take furlough days just as State employees do. I am asking for volunteers to staff the phones at our office on Fridays if this is the direction we choose. Many have asked why we don't have more tasks done by volunteers, so now is a time when they can step up.

We will also be looking at salaries for all our other employees as well. In 2008 we kept all wages flat. In 2007 we allowed for 3% increases. We may have to roll those back to 2006 levels or even further.

Our next largest expense is the benevolence we send to the Synod. We have chosen to be among the elite in previous years giving 13% while the average remains about 10%. We will be looking closely at this as well. I, for one, cannot in good conscience consider cutting pay for our staff while remaining “elite” in our benevolence. I have spoken to many of you personally about this and am looking for input from as many people as are willing to call or e-mail me.

In closing, please pray and reflect on all these things in preparation for November's meeting. Please look at all the things our Office Administrator does and join me in feeling blessed to have Denise in this position.

God's Peace

Matt

712-4514

matthew.cermak@zurichna.com

Looking for crocheters and knitters

I would like to reactivate our Prayer Shawl ministry here at Immanuel. I am scheduling an informational get together for anyone interested in being part of this ministry on Tuesday, October 6 at 2:00 in the 501 building. I have instructions to knit as well as crochet prayer shawls. There is also yarn available in the 501 building if you would like to get started. Those who don't knit or crochet are also welcome as fleece prayer shawls ministers. It is my hope that we can get this to be an active ministry again so we can bring warmth and comfort to any who are in need of an extra hug.

Annette Ryan



Luther League II
(Immanuel's Senior Group)
Monday, October 12
11:30 am

Logan Steak House – Saginaw Hwy
Call Joy Powis or Vera Ford to reserve your spot
Dinner special all day – 2 meals for \$20





OCTOBER HOLY DAYS

October 18: Luke, Evangelist Isaiah 43:8-13 Psalm 124:2 Timothy 4:5-11 Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53
Almighty God, you inspired your servant Luke to reveal in his Gospel the love and healing power of his Son. Give your Church the same love and power to heal, and to proclaim your salvation among the nations to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our healer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

October 28: Simon and Jude, Apostles Jeremiah 26:7-16 Psalm 111:1 John 4:1-6 John 14:21-27
O God, we thank you for the glorious company of the apostles, and especially on this day for Simon and Jude. We pray that, as they were faithful and zealous in your mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

October 31: Reformation Day (celebrated on the Sunday prior)
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36
Gracious Father, we pray for your holy, catholic Church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, correct it; where it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:15 pm Adult Choir	2 8:00 pm AA	3 8:00 am AA
4 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm CROP Walk 5:00 pm 'Gift & Trust' open Discussion	5 10:30 am Frozen Chosen 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Nite	6 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 11-3 Quilting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm 'Gift & Trust' open Discussion	7 10:00 am Toddler Time 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm New Member Class	8 7:15 pm Adult Choir	9 8:00 pm AA	10 8:00 am AA
11 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:15 pm SNL	12 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Nite	13 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Memorial Team 11-3 Mattson 7:00 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	14 10:00 am Toddler Time 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	15 7:15 pm Adult Choir	16 6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal 8:00 pm AA	17 8:00 am AA 3:30 pm Redman/Losey Wedding
18 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	19 10:30 am Frozen Chosen 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Nite 7:00 pm Gathering, Preparing & Serving Team Meetings	20 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 11-3 Quilting 4:30-6:30 pm 4H 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Support Team Meeting	21 10:00 am Toddler Time 2:00 pm Hope Circle 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	22 7:15 pm Adult Choir	23 8:00 pm AA	24 8:00 am AA
25 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:15 pm SNL	26 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Nite	27 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	28 10:00 am Toddler Time 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	29 7:15 pm Adult Choir	30 8:00 pm AA	31 Happy Halloween  8:00 am AA

Happy Birthday!



October 1 Brandon DeWitt
October 2 Barb Rinckey
October 3 Lydia Williams
October 4 Eli Rickett
October 5

October 6 Steve Bower, Ann Geller
October 7 Reid Rusthoven
October 8 Kris Hernden, Jennifer Roesch
October 10
October 11 Bonnie Kirchen, Jessica Burg
October 12 Bob Kenworthy, David Kurtycz
October 13 Denise Lund
October 14
October 16 Karen Eichelberger
October 18 John Weigel, Jim Teahan,
Pr. Rick McKenzie,
October 19 Andrew Vickers
October 22 Mary Twitchell
October 23 Jan Martinich
October 24 Pr. Paul Pretzlaff
October 25 Anne Marczynski
October 26 Michael Wheeler
October 27 Russ Riggs, Mary Ballard, Lloyd Hoffner
October 28 Brandt Ayoub
October 29 Tom Mattson
October 31 Sharon Wolf

Allan & Lonna Blaske &
David & Rachel Kuntzsch
Gary & Amy Reed

Mike & Jean Folk

Steve & Lynn Colby

Ken & Mindy Turner
John & Carol Weigel



Gary & Dianna Dunn



***A birthday is an occasion for prayer,
a holy time.***

A journey began.

God blessed someone with life.

Remembering the gift of life.

We thank God and celebrate.