



The
Monthly

Manger

Immanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2011

CROP WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

2:00 PM

(registration at 1:30 pm)

First Congregational Church at
210 W. Saginaw Hwy., G.L.

Communities Responding
to Overcome Poverty

Please walk or find someone to
pledge.

25% of the money
raised stays local.

You can designate your donations.

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

OCTOBER WORSHIP NOTES:

October 2: 1st Communion at
10:30 service

October 16: Pr. Dawn presides

October 30: Reformation Sunday
(Communion at both)

November 1: All Saints' Day

Remembering our recent
Saints

(Communion at both)

OCTOBER TRAINING TIMES:

ACOLYTE Training: October 9 following the 10:30 service.

Youth 5th through 8th grade.

Acolytes assist Pastor by doing tasks during worship and baptisms.

Schedule Coordinator: Dawn Shilton 627-7271

ASSISTING MINISTER Training: October 23 following 10:30 service.

Any one in high school or adult. Assisting Ministers read Scripture, lead prayers and
serve the Sacrament at either 8:00 or 10:30 service.

Scheduler: Melissa Goschka 622-2070

USHER Training: to-be-announced

Any one in high school or adult. Ushers help with hospitality, orderliness and safety
during worship.

Scheduler: Bev Becker 627-2025

A NOTE FROM PR. RICK

A. PASSING THE BATON TIME

Pastor Dawn Donato is coming! This is wonderful news. It is the Holy Spirit's leading. Ecclesiastes 3 proclaims, "There is a time for every matter under heaven." The time for "passing the baton" has arrived. I am so very grateful to Christ for this.

You may recall, "Passing the Baton" was the theme the TF² (Transition Fund Task Force) used for their appeal to the congregation.

This image comes from relay races. Four runners each run one leg of a race. When a runner reaches the end of her part, she hands off the baton to the next runner. Passing the baton is a critical time in the race. When it is done well the race continues with a minimum of a slowdown. This is our vision and prayer for our ministry.

During this time, both runners are on the track. One is tired from his efforts; the other is fresh. The one must maintain his speed; the other must start from a standstill and pick up speed until they match pace. They must work together for the successful hand off, taking care that the baton is not dropped. Then one runner drops off; the other picks up the pace for the next leg. October begins our 3-month baton passing time. Again, PTL.

B. HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

Pr. Dawn and I are talking about the details. There is no manual for this. So the details are not really clear right now. We will be communicating with the Council and congregation. Here are some principles:

1. When Pr. Dawn starts leading services, she will be Immanuel's Pastor. She will be the Go-To-Gal. I will be the Resource Pastor. I will be serving you as Dawn's assistant.

2. Pr. Dawn will start rather slowly, just like the next runner. She will not be doing "everything" all at once. Pr. Dawn will decide what things she needs to do first, second, etc. She needs time to learn about you, her Church family, and about us, a 140 year-old Lutheran congregation.

3. Like a runner coming to the end of his leg, I will continue to work hard and slow down as she picks up.

Everything I do will be to help her as she becomes firm and comfortable as our Pastor.

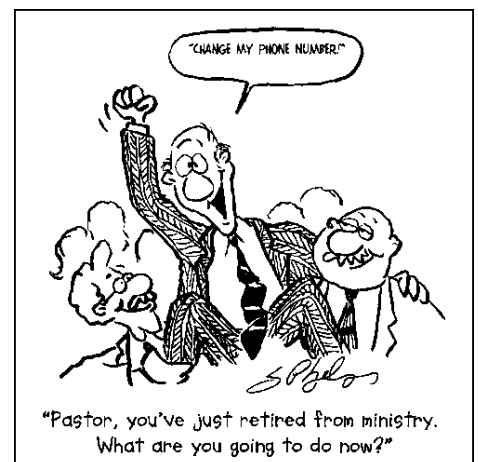
C. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. One important thing you can do is don't worry about offending me! Don't think that by going to Pr. Dawn, you are hurting or ignoring or being disloyal, etc. to me. I want the same thing you want. We will glorify our Lord when we seek a rejuvenated, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led congregation full of people, eager to get a fresh start.

2. Another really important thing you can do is help out. Do a job. From my point of view, quite a number of things have not gotten enough support recently. They are like little fires here and there that need to be put out. Please look at yourself to see if you have stepped back from church; then step up again now. Sue Schnarr can use help with Preparing Ministries like God's Crusaders and Children's Church. Amy Reed can use help with Community Soup Night. Dawn Shilton can use help getting your children to serve as Acolytes. Bev Lass can use help with people willing to be Greeters. I have to stop the list somewhere, but you get the idea.

Lastly, to all of us:

- Attend church.
- Wear your name tag.
- Stay a few minutes at Coffee Fellowship Time.
- Be friendly to our visitors and people you don't know.
- Say a prayer of thanks and celebrate this time in our congregation's life.



A NOTE FROM PR. DAWN

Storage barns

WOW! God is certainly working in my heart and in yours, too (I hope). I excitedly pack each box and with disdain look at all the “stuff” that still has to go somewhere. Do I pack it for storage, for giving away, for the trash, or ????. Why do we accumulate so much stuff anyway? That’ll be a sermon topic someday.

The journey is about to begin and I can’t wait to be with you even though much of our physical property won’t be me. I am beginning my call with you in early October with a move of nearly 900 pounds of books and office equipment. October 16th will be my first official Sunday with you.

Some “first” things:

- Attend a cottage meeting – I hope to get know most of you in a variety of small group settings and to hear your dreams and hopes for Immanuel. These can be over lunch, tea time (4pm?) or evening at someone’s home. I’ll be setting these up in early October.
- Start up a team of Sunday After Care Givers – a small group of about 8 or so to visit visitors. Training, case studies and lots of practice so that we can begin to cull those who visit Immanuel for the first time.
- Attend and participate in on-going church activities and meetings.
- Continue with the “Bring your Bible to worship” - initiative.
- Implement 7 Magnetic Factors.*

Worship hymns, sermons that focus on Biblical insights and leading a spiritual life, pastoral leadership, excellent youth, young adult and children’s ministries, programs that cover a wide range of interest, friendly congregants (you’ve got this one covered!) and finally, targeting those within a reasonable driving distance. Is there a prevalent way that the unchurched begin their search for the faith missing in their lives? Attend a worship service? Sign up for an educational class? Attend a special presentation? Several studies agree that approximately 75% of unchurched adults “begin their search” when someone invites them to a worship service. And about 15% begin their search by attending worship in a church they selected from the *Yellow Pages*. And 10% begin their search by worshipping at a church building they had noticed while driving past on a weekday. Just some first thoughts about what is to come. Looking forward to seeing each of you on the 16th!

God loves you and so do I,

Pr. Dawn Donato

**From the Parish Paper, Herb Miller, Lyle Schaller and Cynthia Woolever coeditors*



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

501 S. Clinton St., Grand Ledge MI 48837

517.627-6310

Sunday Schedule

8:00 am Worship Service

9:15 am Christian Education

10:30 am Worship Service

Contact us:

Dawn Donato	Pastor	ddonato@immanuel-gl.org
Rick McKenzie	Pastor	rmckenzie@immanuel-gl.org
Denise Lund	Office Administrator	dlund@immanuel-gl.org
Sue Schnarr	Christian Ed Director	sschnarr@immanuel-gl.org
Lyn Danes	Kid’s Hope Director	ldanes@immanuel-gl.org
Debora DeWitt	Choir Director	ddewitt@immanuel-gl.org

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

BAPTISM:

Amari Michael,

son of Mike and **NIKKI RACINE** was adopted into God's family by baptism on September 18th. Amari's Godparents/Sponsors are Andy Racine, Rick and Gena Pepin, and Abbie Shires. We thank God for his grace.

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcomed the following into our congregation by transfer from other Lutheran Churches:

TIMMI DAHLSTROM,

7740 Heritage Dr. Apt. 4

Lansing 48917

248-703-7435

Timmi hails from the UP, Marquette area. She recently moved to Lansing . She is a cousin to Nikki Racine.

BOB AND NANCY STEPHENS

3375 Fieldberry Lane

Charlotte 48813

285-5424

Bob and Nancy are recent retirees from the US Postal Service. Both have been postmasters in various locations. Bob likes to golf. Nancy enjoys computers. Nancy grew up at Immanuel back when she was a Galvin (still is). They enjoy wintering in warm, golf-friendly Arizona.

JIM AND SUE BALGER

13127 Riverwoods Tr.

Grand Ledge, 48837

622-1027

Jim is a physician in Charlotte. Sue works at their office. They have 2 grown children and 3 grandchildren. They really enjoy their second home up north.

We are so glad to welcome these new members. Please invite them to get involved and make this congregation theirs, too.

DEATH:

BILLIE (WILMA) BRYANT

Billie (Wilma) Atwell Bryant was baptized and raised at Immanuel and in Grand Ledge. She married Sherman, a pilot, and moved to Mexico. After he died, she moved back to the US, met and married Ollie, also a pilot. When Ollie died, Billie returned to the area and lived in Potterville. She has been homebound for a few years. Billie has two children and a number of grandchildren. Her surviving sister is Vernal Workman. Her deceased sister is Lorna Hughes. Services were at church on September 8. She will be inurned in Immanuel Memorial Garden, awaiting Christ's return.

August 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Mortgage Fund</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$2,023	Beginning Balance	\$3,034
Income	\$14,177	Income	\$1,777
Expenses	\$14,950	Payment	\$2,606
Ending Balance	\$1,250	Ending Balance	\$2,205

AFTER CARE OR VISIT VISITORS

Almost every single Sunday, we have visitors in church. Pr. Dawn wants some of us to visit with those who visit our church - a neighborly, brief thank you for attending worship. She believes the first response comes best from the members of the congregation. She has asked me to recruit and offer some training to those who will do this. We are looking for about 8 people who are:

- friendly and hospitable
- like our church and want to see it grow
- willing to visit briefly with people you might not know

The training will include when and how to visit and what to say. Ideas and experiences will be shared. Visits will always be made in teams of two and will be made soon after Sunday.

Sound good and up your alley? Contact me, Pastor Rick at any of the usual places. We will be setting up training and organizing this outreach ministry.

KIDS HOPE USA CORNER

If you were in church on Sunday, September 25th you heard Pastor Rick talking about the 12,900 people in Michigan who will lose unemployment benefits as of October 1. As difficult as that is to hear, worse is the effect on the families of the unemployed. Here's another hard fact. In September, in Grand Ledge alone, there has been a sharp increase in the number of referrals to government agencies which focus on children and families.

Kids will suddenly have one more thing to be anxious about in their young lives. And, **kids do worry**. They worry about friends, their families, school, bullies, tests and many other things. Now worries about whether they will have supper tonight or not can be added to the list. Food banks, GLEAP and our own soup night can help fill their tummies. **But, who will fill their hearts and souls? YOU CAN!** Become a mentor! Give the gift of friendship and support during these difficult times.

You can make a difference in the life of a child and that is no small change. Contact me at 627-6310 or ldanes@immanuel-gl.org



OCTOBER HOLY DAYS (for home devotions)

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 your 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 11

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.

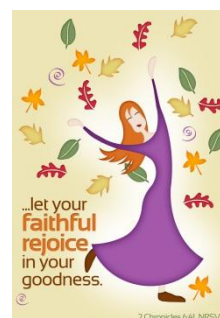
OCTOBER 31: REFORMATION DAY

(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.





Immanuel's *Covenant for the Care of Creation*, adopted by Church Council and published in the June issue of the *Manger*, includes language I hope we all take seriously, including "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1). Therefore, the governing body of our congregation affirms the importance of healing and defending creation to our mission as God's people. ..."make congregational and individual lifestyle changes to better model our concern and care for creation, ..."

There is much that we do / is happening everyday, and is projected to continue and get worse, in the world that negatively and seriously impacts all of Gods' creation and therefore our present and future survival as living creatures. However, there are some things we can do about this overall situation, even if only in a small way.

There will be a proposed venture in the 2012 proposed Immanuel budget that is specifically initiated as an Earthkeeping change to our property. It is largely the result of a gift to me this spring from Jean Weirich, wife of Craig Weirich - who worked closely with Bill Frysinger in the leadership of the Boy Scout troop that meets in this church. The book, titled *Bringing Nature Home - How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* was written by Doug Tallaway (a high school classmate of Bill Frysinger). It presents a very persuasive perspective that, throughout the U.S., intentional "development" by humans has destroyed so much of centuries old native habitat that many species of bees, butterflies, other insects and birds are in severe danger of becoming extinct. Roads, buildings, grass (lawns), parking lots and similar changes have largely displaced vegetation and other natural features that were here before this country was "settled."

We have a unique and inexpensive opportunity to consider converting some our "campus" to native plant material that will directly contribute much needed supportive habitat / environment for bees, butterflies and birds. And there would be a significant positive side effect. Gas powered lawn mowers generate a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to

global warming. Reducing the amount of lawn that must be mowed will also help reduce the pollution.

While we would purchase and "install" native plants that can be purchased from a firm in Mason (the Housemans did some of this in 2011), the Weirichs have volunteered to donate about thirteen different kinds of attractive types now growing on their property. (I have pictures of these in their fall foliage.) The largest single expense categories would be for wood chips as mulch / paths surrounding the beds / "islands" / zones and possibly several resting "park" benches and bird baths. There could also be options for features that would be specifically attractive to younger members of the congregation and for educational opportunities during Vacation Bible School. We would have the opportunity to become "certified" by the National Wildlife Federation and the Monard "waystation" organizations. This project is also related to the attention being given to the popular 2005 book by Richard Louv - *Last Child in the Woods - Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*.

Once established after the first year, minimum maintenance will be required. Any questions and ideas can be directed to David Houseman at davidhouseman199@gmail.com. Thank you.

Heifer International Living Gift Market

What do you buy the person who has everything? How about a goat, a llama or a water buffalo? In 2009 our congregation raised \$5,000 and \$2,150 in 2010 for a Heifer International Ark of numerous animals for families and communities living with hunger and poverty all over the world. This year we'd like to continue our support through Heifer by sponsoring a Living Gift Market on Sundays in December. Through the Living Gift Market you can honor those who are special to you with a gift to Heifer International to go towards the purchase of a heifer, water buffalo, llama, goat, sheep, pig, trees, bees, rabbits or chickens. Your giving will represent a multiple benefit to help others in need during the Advent season. In preparation for the Living Gift Market, you are invited to visit the Heifer International website (<http://www.heifer.org>) to learn more about this acclaimed organization and their activities in fighting hunger and poverty throughout the world.

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 am AA 4:30 pm Wedding
2 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Ed 10:30 am Worship	3 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Night 10:30 am Frozen Chosen	4 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting	5 10:00 am Toddler Time 7:00 pm Bread for the Journey 6:30 pm God's Crusaders	6 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	7 8:00 pm AA	8 8:00 am AA
9 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Ed 10:30 am Worship 1:00 pm Golf Outing 6:15 pm SNL	10 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Night	11 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Memorial 7:00 pm Council	12 10:00 am Toddler Time 12:00 pm Luther League II	13 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	14 8:00 pm AA	15 8:00 am AA
16 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Ed 10:30 am Worship	17 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Night 7:00 pm Team Meetings	18 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 am Staff Meeting 11-3 Quilting	19 10:00 am Toddler Time 7:00 pm Bread for the Journey 6:30 pm God's Crusaders	20 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	21 8:00 pm AA	22 8:00 am AA
23 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Ed 10:30 am Worship 6:15 pm SNL	24 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Night	25 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	26 10:00 am Toddler Time	27 6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	28 8:00 pm AA	29 8:00 am AA
30 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Ed 10:30 am Worship	31 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Night					

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

October 1	Brandon DeWitt	
October 2	Barb Rinckey	
October 3	Lydia Williams	
October 4	Eli Rickett	
October 5		Allan & Lonna Blaske & David & Rachel Kuntzsch Gary & Amy Reed
October 6	Steve Bower, Ann Geller	
October 7	Reid Rusthoven	
October 8	Kris Hernden, Jennifer Roesch	
October 10		Mike & Jean Folk
October 11	Bonnie Kirchen, Jessica Burg	
October 12	Bob Kenworthy, David Kurtycz	Steve & Lynn Colby
October 13	Denise Lund	
October 14		Ken & Mindy Turner
October 16		John & Carol Weigel
October 18	John Weigel, Pr. Rick McKenzie,	
October 19	Andrew Vickers	
October 22	Mary Twitchell	
October 23	Jan Martinich	
October 25	Anne Marczyński	
October 26	Michael Wheeler	
October 27	Russ Riggs, Lloyd Hoffner	
October 28	Brandt Ayoub	
October 29	Tom Mattson	
October 31	Sharon Wolf	



HAVE YOU SEEN?

- The 501 Building has a new coat of paint?
- The shed behind the church has been moved and repaired?
- A small parking area is being prepared behind the church?
- The grass has been mowed and trimmed all summer long?
- The Memorial Garden fence has been re-stained?

Thank you, Upkeepers! To join Upkeepers, call Dick Berner (898-8975)

THANK YOU FROM

...Ian Henretty – Thank you so much for the (graduation) quilt. I absolutely love it and appreciate the gesture.

To My Immanuel Friends & Family,

Thank you for all your wonderful words of support, prayers and concerns during my “little bump in the road” I’m still under my “prayer umbrella.” God’s peace and blessing always, *Priscilla Lane*