



THE MANGER ~ September 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*
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Denise Lund, *Office Administrator*
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Donna Gibbons, *Parish Nurse*
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Den Graeber, *Serving Team Leader*
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Please call a team leader with your questions/concerns or call the church office.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Welcome back to Pr. Rick
This will be our last 9:30 am service

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 RALLY DAY

Two Services ~ 8 & 10:30 am
Christian Education Classes – 9:15 am
(classes for ages 3 – Adult)
Potluck Indoor Picnic ~ 12:00 noon

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 KID'S HOPE SUNDAY

Commission the mentors and prayer partners for the year.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR TO THANK AND HONOR PR. PAUL PRETZLAFF

Pr. Paul will be transferring his membership to St. Paul Lutheran in East Lansing as he starts a new chapter in his life. Please join us for a special coffee hour following the 10:30 am service to honor him for his service at Immanuel and wish him well.



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

CHRISTIANS WITH “TAP ROOTS”

Compare the mighty Oak with the lovely Dogwood. Now I appreciate Dogwood trees. I plant them wherever I live. However, they don't grow tall, their wood is not sought after, nor are they long-lived; unlike an Oak tree. One important reason? Their root system.

A Dogwood sends its roots in many directions and not very deep. An Oak has a tap root. It grows underground almost as large as the trunk. Here is the key to its strength and longevity.

Our spiritual lives are similar. And I believe strength and longevity are preferable. Our tap root – I mean the depth and intimacy of our connection with the Lord - is essential. It results from our intentional discipleship. This fall I will be returning to a lectionary-based series of sermons on *The Marks of Discipleship*.

There are different reasons for consciously pursuing them such as thanksgiving for salvation, love for our Lord, obedience to God. This series is meant for us to grow deeper and stronger “in our daily walk with Jesus.”

September 9: Rally Day Mark #1: *I will strive to grow spiritually.*

“The Importance of Making a Decision” from Deuteronomy 30:15-20

September 16: Mark #2: *I will read Scripture and pray daily*

“Only the Lost Can Be Found” from Luke 15:1-10

September 23: Mark #3: *I will worship weekly.*

“There can be Only One Top Priority” from Luke 16:1-13

September 30: Mark #6: *I will tithe of my finances* (N.B. This is out of order.)

“We Cannot Serve Both God and Wealth” from Luke 16:19-31

October 7: Marks 4 & 5: *I will serve in Church and community*

“Serving is our Duty and our Delight” from Luke 17:5-10

October 14: Healing Services

“Lord, have mercy. Thanks be to God!” from Luke 17:11-19

The Sunday on or before St. Luke's Day (Oct. 18) is our fall Healing Sunday.

October 21: Mark #7: *I will encourage others to grow spiritually.*

“Prepared in Season and Out” from 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Pastor Rick

EDUCATION STARTING UP:

Classes starting up this month include:

1. SNL (Sunday Night Live): catechism for 6th, 7th & 8th graders.
Sept. 9 @ 6:15. (Rally Day) This year studying the 10 Commandments and the Apostles' Creed
2. “Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith” various Sundays @ 9:15
Learn our Lutheran faith, then compare and dialog with people of other walks, for example: 7th Day Adventists, Jews, Buddhists, Jehovah's Witness. High School and Adults will learn together.
3. 1st Communion Class: 4 sessions, for 5th graders to prepare to take receive Holy Communion.
Sept. 11th @ 7 p.m.
4. New Member Class: 6 sessions plus Orientation for those who want to join Immanuel.
Oct. 9th @ 7 p.m.
Prayer, reading and discussion of our basic beliefs and ways of living.



AMONG OUR MEMBERS:

Death:

Lorna Hughes

Our sister, Lorna was a long-time (almost lifelong) member of our church family and of Grand Ledge. She was absent only during the years her husband, Charles, was a manager for Kroger. Lorna served as Immanuel's Treasurer for a number of years and always belonged in women's groups (of late, Second Circle). She was a second Mom to many in her neighborhood, as well as her family, and was often seen walking all over Grand Ledge. A stroke left her unable to swallow, and so to know the satisfaction of chewing and eating. We celebrate that she is satisfied at Christ's Feast of Victory in his kingdom. Our sister died July 28. Her services were on August 1.

Moving:

Clark/Showers Family

Many have recently been asking about Rose & Leland's housing situation. They have secured housing in the Horrock's Market area that will allow them to stay within the Grand Ledge School District. This was of great concern for the education of the kids.

This move will be at the beginning of September. This is a great step in the direction for this family that decided to stay in our community because they saw greater opportunity for themselves and the kids.

We have had a team in place to help assist them led by Bill Frysinger, and now more than ever we will need to be mindful of this family and encourage them to grow in mind body and spirit as they are part of the Immanuel Family.

Luther League II

Luther League II will be held at "Catey's Retreat" on September 10 at 12:00 noon. Hot dog & fixings, baked beans, beverages and table service will be furnished. Please join us for food and fellowship.



Crop Walk this year is Sunday, October 7.

Coordinators are Melissa Goschka and Dennis Graeber. Mark your calendars now. Watch for sign up information in the coming weeks.



A Great Big Thank you

A great big thank you to those who furnished "treats" for the Vacation Bible School teachers and assistants. The word this year was "AWESOME." We had such a great variety and everything was so delicious. Thank you again for your time, effort, and support. Sharon Catey

CYVA TRAINING

(Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults)

What is CYVA training? It is a policy that was created to guard our workers and volunteers from being suspected or falsely accused of wrongful behavior. If you have not had CYVA training in the last 2 years it is time to recertify.

CYVA training will be:

Thursday, September 6 at 6:30 pm

in Pr. Rick's Classroom

Sunday, October 7 following 10:30 service

in Pr. Rick's Classroom

If you have questions about your last CYVA training date, please call me at the office.

Thank you, *Donna Gibbons* RN - Parish Nurse

Thank you to Immanuel Lutheran Church!!!

The GLPS Girl's Swim Team extends a HUGH THANK YOU to the church for the use of the parking lot for their car wash! Funds raised will go toward the purchase of new team suits!!! Thank you Immanuel.

Immanuel Visitation Team

Meeting

September 11

@ 2:00 pm

501 Building

Choristers Wanted:

We need singers...green singers, aged singers, reader and non-reader singers, higher singers, lower singers, and maybe even one or two Der Meistersingers for our ILC adult choir this fall. All who are interested in sharing your faith through singing in worship services on Sunday mornings are welcome. We currently rehearse at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday evenings. We usually sing twice a month at the 10:30 a.m. worship service—more during Christmas and Lent. We enjoy singing a cantata each year and participating in a concert format worship and praise service once or twice a year. If you are interested in becoming a part of this small group gathering ministry, contact Ellen McKenzie, at rdmcken@attglobal.net, or at 517.627.6202. (Friendship and spiritual support are free.)

SABBATICAL REPORT

The time away from parish responsibilities that the church family afforded me this summer had two purposes: 1) to do mission work, and 2) to do some in depth reading. I was able to accomplish both of these purposes and the goals that accompanied these purposes.

- 1). During my first two weeks, I worked at Stony Lake Lutheran Camp where our youth attend. I labored in some small ways to prepare the site for summer camping. I also taught Lutheran Theology to the staff of Living Waters Ministry. I had hoped to work in Katrina Recovery efforts. At the end of June I traveled with 14 members of the LYO 4 other adults on their Mission Trip to North Dakota. I really enjoyed both these experiences and the 3 weeks of physical labor that made a difference in some lives.
- 2) My in depth reading was in a psychological-sociological theory called “Family Systems Theory.” One branch of this theory was developed by Murray Bowen in the ‘70’s when he worked for National Institutes for Health. Over the summer, I read the following works while in various locations:

Eight Concepts of the Bowen Theory by R. Gilbert

Generation to Generation by E. Friedman

Friedman’s Fables by E. Friedman

A Failure of Nerve by E. Friedman

Healthy Congregations by P. Steinke

Leadership in Anxious Times by P. Steinke

How Your Church Family Works by P. Steinke

The books by P. Steinke (a Lutheran pastor) are focused on improving the health and leadership of congregations. The 4 books above them, I read in order to build some knowledge of the theory before I read the books that are more pertinent to our life and ministry.

Among the locations I visited were Porcupine Mountains, Keewanau Peninsula, Greenville, SC, Waugashance Point, and the Little Manistee River. I did not get to Ontario thanks to a much-too-close encounter with a deer. Also, I planned out our fall sermon series, this year’s catechism class and a unique class intertwining “Our Neighbor’s Faith” with “An Expository Study of the Gospel of John.” (See “Education Starting Up”) Though I did not read 8 hours a day, I did work steadily, hiked and prayed much, and got in some fishing. I hope this fall to write a report of my sabbatical learnings for the Church Council. I express to you, my brothers and sisters, my thanks for your support and prayers, your love and patient understanding for this sabbatical summer. According to Biblical guidance concerning sabbath, it was for me, for us and for our God.

Pastor Rick

Live Nativity

Do you have photos of the live Nativity from Christmas 2006? If you do, please give them to Jane Goebel, or put them in her mailbox.

You are cordially invited...

The University of Greifswald Chamber Choir will be presenting a concert on **Wednesday, September 12, 2007** at the **First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Ledge, MI**, at **7:30 pm**. We are located at 210 W. Saginaw Highway. Please join us to experience choral and organ music centered around the theme of peace and joy!

The program will begin with a work by Heinrich Schutz and includes other masterworks from Purcell, Bach, Brahms and Bartholdy, to name a few. A freewill offering will be collected. A reception to thank and welcome our guests from Germany will be held in Fellowship Hall, immediately following the concert.

The 30 member choir, directed by Professor **Jochen A. Modess**, is recognized for its fine quality and excellence in performance. The choir is touring Michigan at the invitation of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ.

If you have any questions or would like to inquire about an overnight hosting opportunity with one or two students, please call Marti McConnell, Music Director at First Congregational at 517.230.0067 or email her at martimc16@yahoo.com.



Kids Hope USA Corner

September is Back-to-School month, and that means that our mentors will be getting ready for school as well. We have 10 mentors returning this year from our original 13. We will have several new faces joining the mentor ranks. Their training will be later this month. There is always time to volunteer to make a difference in the life of one child. Just contact me at ldanes@immanuel-gl.org or call 627-6310 (church office), or 543-8661 (my home phone).

September 23rd will be Kids Hope Sunday. We plan to introduce and commission the mentors and prayer partners for the year. We also would like to use this day to invite **all** members of the congregation to pray for the children, families, mentors, and staff of Greenwood Elementary. Watch for more details about this special event in the Sunday bulletins and during Sunday announcements.

Thank you again to all our new and returning volunteers who are letting God's love shine through them.

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black and white
All are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children
of the world.

Yours in Christ,
Lyn Danes

COUNCIL CORNER

Overview of the August Meeting

Natural Church Development: Mike contacted Bruce Bellanger. September will be the start of gathering data.

Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Teresa Barcy developed a position description for a Small Group Coordinator using past information obtained in previous meetings. It was determined to wait for Pastor Rick's return for further discussions.

Teams. Each team needs to identify a chairperson by the next council meeting. This will allow for a contact point within each team that will lead meetings and field questions.

Budget Concerns: Budget was discussed and for the month of July we did not have a loss. It was noted that this was probably due to July having a Fifth Sunday. Our Negative balance in the general fund is still a concern and being monitored.

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES CAN BE LOCATED ON THE IMMANUEL WEB PAGE OR ON THE CREDENZA LOCATED IN THE CHURCH ENTRYWAY ONCE THEY ARE APPROVED.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Back to School

Time to gear up. Get the new clothes, shoes, and backpack ready. Time to renew those friendships that have waned over the summer months.

Seems that this is true also for our church family. Rejuvenation happens each September. We get back to our full time schedule. Sunday School starts and the kids look forward to the time together, our congregation fills, and the noise of people gathering rings in the sanctuary after service, down to the entryway and into the fellowship hall. This should be especially true this year with the return of Pastor Rick after his summer sabbatical.

The social scene gets going and kids start gathering for SNL. Adults once again convene for choir. We as a church family have many opportunities for gathering preparing and serving if we just choose to.


As we get back into the routine that we are more familiar with, how will you participate? How will you add to our church family?

I would like to take this opportunity to challenge each and every one of our members to find something different to do this church year. Rejuvenate our routines. Volunteer where you have not before, participate in something you normally shy away from, start something new. Ask how you can help others, and those who are already doing please ask others for their help. Shared participation brings smiles to all.

We need to get back to school and fill our backpack. Fill it with God's love, fill it with a light that shines brightly for all to see, fill it with the word that can be shared. Oh and do not forget to pack your lunch money as I am sure a few potlucks are in our future.

I look forward to many great things this fall and I know I will be looking forward to hearing about the many great and grand ideas that you all have.

In God Peace
Mike Proper

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:30 Worship		4 9:30 Staff Meeting 11-3 Quilting	5 10 Toddler Time	6 6:30 CYVA Training 7:15 Choir	7 Wedding Rehearsal	1 8 am AA <hr/> 8 8 am AA 2:30 Wedding
9 Rally Day 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:00 Worship 12:00 Potluck 6:15 SNL	10 12:00 Luther League II Picnic 6:30 Church Council	11 9:30 Staff Meeting 2 IV Team 7 Boy Scouts 7 1 st Communion Class	12 10 Toddler Time	13 7:15 Choir	14 8 pm AA	15 8 am AA
16 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:00 Worship 4 Pretzlaff/ Kashmerick Wedding	17 7:00 Team Meetings 10:30 Frozen Chosen	18 9:30 Staff Meeting 11-3 Quilting 7 Boy Scouts 7 1 st Communion Class	19 10 Toddler Time Kid's Hope Training	20 7:15 Choir	21 8 pm AA	22 8 am AA
23 Kid's Hope Sunday 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:00 Worship 6:15 SNL	24	25 9:30 Staff Meeting 7 Boy Scouts 7 1 st Communion Class	26 10 Toddler Time	27 7:15 Choir	28 8 pm AA	29 8 am AA
30 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:00 Worship 12:00 Pr. Paul Farewell Party						



- September 2 Marge Galvin, Enna Jorgensen
 September 5 Bev Becker, Ernie Nostrant,
 Matt Bryant, Elyse Covert
 September 6 James Kruth, Molly Maloney
 September 7 Heather Kelto
 September 8 Lila Christiansen, John Kingsley
 September 10 Bob Walker
 September 12 Amber Geller
 September 16 Vera Ford
 September 20 Ashley Erickson, Denise Proper
 September 21 Ruth Hildenbrand, Bill Gibbons
 September 23 Dave Rinckey, Michele Dixon
 September 24 Allison Landry, Tyler Williamson
 September 25 Bill Paulins
 September 26 Peyton Goschka
 September 28 Dawn Shilton, Katelyn Crambell
 September 29 Erin Anderson, Aaron Riley, Greg Osburn

September Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 10 Larry & Linda Kruth | 21 Dan & Allison Landry |
| 14 Nathan & Ellen Flanders | 25 Steve & Carmen Karkau |
| 19 Bill & Chris Frysinger | 26 Wayne & Lila Christiansen |
| 21 Glenn & Sharlean Saxton | 27 Rick & Jeanie Dixon |