



The
Monthly

Manger

Immanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2011



Vacation Bible School



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:

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

FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Wednesday, August 31 – SNL (6, 7, 8 grade catechism)
Orientation Meeting at 7:30 pm
Immanuel Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 6 – Men in the Morning at 6:30 am
Cracker Barrel

Wednesday, September 7 – Pre-Communion Classes at 7:00 pm
Pr. Rick's Classroom

Sunday, September 11 – Rally Day
Two Services: 8:00 & 10:30 am
Christian Education at 9:15 am
Potluck at 12:00 noon
SNL at 6:15 pm

Tuesday, September 13 – Church Council at 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 22 – Handbell Choir at 6:15 pm
Sanctuary

DETAILS OF EVENTS INSIDE NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: Transition Time, A New Beginning

January 1 is a new beginning. Easter is a new beginning. Baptism/Conversion to Christ is a new beginning. Now a couple additional beginnings.

1) In the rhythm of congregational life, September is a new beginning time. Education classes start up again. Study and Prayers groups meet again. Resource Teams and their ministries buckle down and get serious again. This new beginning time. We can just feel it pulsing through our spiritual veins, making us want to be a part of it, making us want that freshness to flow in our walk with Christ! So come along with that movement of the Spirit. Go with the flow!

2) In this particular time, a shift in the whole ministry is coming this fall as Pastor Dawn Donato comes to lead us. I am relieved and grateful and excited for us: relieved that we are working within the will of our Lord and he is leading the process (albeit on his schedule); grateful that the Spirit has led us to call Dawn and that she has heard and accepted our call to her as God's call upon her (and her family); excited because I believe and expect new perspectives and directions as Pr. Dawn brings her spiritual gifts, and considerable skills and pastoral experience into our midst.

It is time, as Ecclesiastes 3 might say, for the transition; for it to move forward and begin our new chapter in our 140 year history of mission and ministry. The baton is being passed. God has been so good. And he has so blessed us! Embrace this new beginning. Welcome our pastor. Rejoice.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: Bring Your Bible Continues

Memo: To Everyone: Adult and Youth, Men and Women; singles and couples

Re: Bring your Bible

1. Study and teaching about the *Parables of Matthew* continues through September into October. So continue to bring your Bible to Church with you. Having your own Bible will help you to look at the text and to make notes if you want to.
 2. The September sermons will be:
 - Sep. 4: Matt. 21:28-32 The Two Sons;
 - Sep. 11: Matt. 18:21-35 Parable of the Unmerciful Servant
 - Sep. 18: Matt. 20:1-16 The Workers in the Vineyard;
 - Sep. 25: Matt. 25:1-10 The Ten Virgins.
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EXCITING CLASS

I think the Sunday Class is going to be exciting for the following reasons:

- **FORMAT:** It is a DVD presentation with a web-based study guide that will be emailed to you;
- **VISUALS:** The course is both visually beautiful and educational;
- **SETTINGS:** It is set in the ruins and country sides of the Roman Empire;
- **PRESENTERS:** It is presented by known educators who have led travel groups for 10 years and more;
- **RELEVANCY:** It connects Scripture, history and location with an attempt to be relevant.
- **VARIETY** - The Bible course will be suspended one Sunday each month for a book discussion.

The Bible course is "*Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome and the Kingdom of God.*" We study Paul's work and writings as the Gospel of Christ bumps up against the Caesar's and Rome's power. DVD presenters are Marcus Borg, Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State, and John Dominic Crossan, professor emeritus of Biblical Studies at DePaul.

For variety, the monthly book discussion will be on "*Christians and the Common Good*" by Charles Gutenson. Some have been reading this book over the summer. This book gives insight into how to read the Bible in its historical context. You may get a copy or we can order one for you for about \$14. (627-3907)

Think it might be exciting? Come, join in. Begins Sept. 11 at 9:15 in Pastor's Classroom.

**RALLY DAY COOKBOOK POTLUCK
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
FOLLOWING 10:30 SERVICE**

You have submitted your recipes, now it's time to taste them. Please prepare one of your submitted recipes to share at the rally day potluck. If you did not submit a recipe please bring one of your favorite dishes. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Bring your own table setting and help us christen our new round tables. Cookbooks will be available for a \$10 donation.

**BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY
1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month
501 Building**

The members of the Bread for the Journey study group invite you to join with us at our twice-a-month meetings. This group is one of the ways at Immanuel that spiritual community is nurtured. We share what we have been learning from our personal spiritual readings – savoring the promise of fresh meaning, insight or truth through the encounter together. We work on discovering ways in which we can live out the promises and the challenges we have been given.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.
It turns what we have into enough, and more.
It turns denial into acceptance,
chaos to clarity.
It can turn a meal into a feast,
a house into a home,
a stranger into a friend.
Gratitude makes sense of our past,
brings peace for today,
and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Melody Beattie

SNL (Catechism Program)

Sunday Night Live (SNL) starts up in September. Classes begin on Rally Sunday, September 11 from 6:15 – 8:30 pm. Orientation meeting for all students and their parents will be on August 31 at 7:30 pm. SNL is for all youth in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade who desire to learn about faith and church, make friends and be confirmed in the church at the end of 8th grade.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

First Communion classes for 5th graders will be on Wednesdays in September. First Communion will be celebrated on October 2 at the 10:30 service. All 5th graders are expected to learn the Bible basics, the promises and the practice of the Lord's Supper. Any 6th grader who has not yet taken Holy Communion may attend, too.



Seniors Picnic

LUTHER LEAGUE II

Luther League II will be held at "Catey's Retreat," 9130 Oneida Road, Grand Ledge, on September 12, at 12:00 noon. Lunch, beverages, and table service will be furnished. Please bring a lawn chair if you have one. Call Richard or Sharon at 627-2538 if you need directions or have other questions. Hope to have you join us for food and fellowship.



Immanuel's Hand Bell Choir will be starting their rehearsals again on Thursday evenings @ 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. As always, we need you to ring with us. Remember, if you know the difference between your left hand and right hand, can distinguish between pink and green and can count to 4, you too can be a ringer! Our first rehearsal of the season will be Thursday, September 22. If you have any questions or are interested in ringing, please contact Barb Paulins (bpaulins@aol.com or 517.645.2914).

We hope you can join us.

Charity Golf Outing

October 9, 2011

Willow Wood Golf Course
12227 Sandborn Rd., Portland

Lunch: 1:30-2:30pm
hot dogs & hamburgers w/ pop
bring a salad or dessert to share

Golf: 2:30pm
9 holes with cart

Cost: \$35 for adults
\$25 for youth 16 & under

Contact Carol Wiegel (622-2944) to reserve your spot

Proceeds for
Immanuel
Youth National
Gathering Fund

IV TEAM NEED

The IV (Immanuel Visitors) Team could use a few more people willing to visit shut-ins and take them communion. We especially need people who would be willing to visit once a month during the January - March time when some of us become Snowbirds. Please contact Annette Ryan. 627-9511 or ryan2375@aol.com, if you would be willing to help us and brighten a winter day for a shut-in.



QUILTS FOR 2011 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

This was the first year that we provided the gift of a quilt for our graduating seniors. Our goal was to give these young adults something tangible to let them know the congregation cared and supported them on the next part of their life's journey. The graduates loved their quilts. Many thank you notes and comments said "...it was the most thoughtful gift that I received." The quilts were also seen displayed at the several open houses. Thank you so much to the quilters who donated their time and talents to make these wonderful gifts.

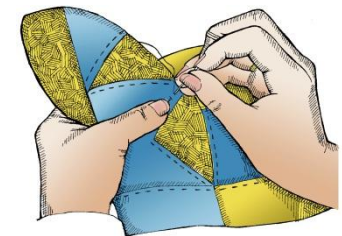


QUILTS FOR 2012 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.

Looking forward to June 2012, we will have 12 Immanuel youth graduating from our local high schools. Our quilt group has unanimously voted to again make quilts for our high school seniors, but we need the help of the congregation. You can help in the following ways:

1. If you know how to sew you can volunteer to make a quilt. There are presently 9 ladies in our group, but we will need at least 12 quilts by June. We have lots of techniques and patterns to share that would make this a positive experience for anyone from novice to expert sewer. Contact Lyn Danes ldanes@immanuel-gl.org or 543-8661 for more information.
2. You can also help expand the level of congregational support by giving a donation to this mission. This past year each quilter donated their time and fabric to make the quilts. Materials for each quilt can cost at least a hundred dollars or more for the quilt squares, batting, and backing. Any money you can give would help us to continue this project. Please designate your donation as Quilts for Seniors.

Thank you so much for your help and support.



QUILTING GROUP

JULY 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Mortgage Fund</u>
Beginning Balance \$1,137	Beginning Balance \$3,487
Income \$16,634	Income \$2,153
Expenses \$15,748	Payment \$2,606
Ending Balance \$2,023	Ending Balance \$3,034

Thank you to

Ray Baser

Dick Berner



Chad Huson

& Frank LaFay



for painting the church office.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Lugnut Game Fundraisers this summer. We raised \$735 toward the transition fund.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY S

September 2 Marge Galvin, Enna Jorgensen

September 4 Karlene Ketola

September 5 Bev Becker, Ernie Nostrant,

September 6 Molly Maloney

September 7

September 8 Lila Christiansen, John Kingsley

September 9 Spencer Becker

September 10 Bob Walker

September 12 Joslynn Lane

September 13 Bettie Williams

September 14 Reuben Khalife

September 15 Greg Hickok

September 16 Vera Ford

September 17 Finley Turner, Grant Tuner

September 18 Collin Blake

September 19

September 20 Ashley Erickson, Denise Proper

September 21 Ruth Hildenbrand, Bill Gibbons

September 23 Dave Rinckey

September 24 Allison Landry, Tyler Williamson

September 25 Bill Paulins

September 26 Peyton Goschka

September 27

September 28 Dawn Shilton, Katelyn Crambell

September 29 Erin Anderson, Aaron Riley, Greg Osburn

Larry & Linda Kruth, Dick & Julie Stornant
Todd & Dawn Byers

Anthony & Sarah Gatewood

Bill & Chris Frysingr

Glenn & Sharlean Saxton
Dan & Allison Landry

Steve & Carmen Karkau
Wayne & Lila Christiansen
Rick & Jeanie Dixon

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 8:00 pm AA	3 8:00 am AA
4 9:30 am Worship	5 Labor Day	6 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	7 10:00 am Toddler Time 7:00 pm 1 st Communion 7:00 pm Bread for the Journey 7:00 pm Retirement Committee	8	9 8:00 pm AA	10 8:00 am AA
11 Rally Day 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Ed 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Potluck 6:15 pm SNL	12 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Night	13 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Memorial 11:30-3:00 Teachers 7:00 pm Church Council	14 10:00 am Toddler Time 7:00 pm 1 st Communion	15	16 8:00 pm AA	17 8:00 am AA
18 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Ed 10:30 am Worship	19 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Night 7:00 pm Team Meetings	20 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 11-3 Quilting	21 10:00 am Toddler Time 7:00 pm 1 st Communion 7:00 pm Bread for the Journey	22 6:15 pm Handbell Choir	23 8:00 pm AA	24 8:00 am AA 10 -3:00 LME
25 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Ed 10:30 am Worship 6:15 pm SNL	26 4:00-6:00 pm Community Soup Night	27 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	28 10:00 am Toddler Time 7:00 pm 1 st Communion	29 6:15 pm Handbell Choir	30 8:00 pm AA	

LAUGH FOR SIREN/Eaton Shelter Project

September 25, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is presenting Taylor Mason, in benefit for SIREN/Eaton Shelter. Taylor Mason's humor is fast and zany and family friendly. The show is at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center at 3:00 pm. There is no set cost; only a free will offering. Tickets can be reserved by contacting Kimberly Lariviere at kimberlylariviere92511@gmail.com or 517.899.1130.

DAILY BIBLE READING:

The appointed daily Old Testament reading for September 2011. These are found on pages 1121-1125 in ELW. Take a few minutes to read and reflect, "What speaks to my heart today (tonight)?" Then dedicate this day/night to the Lord.

SEPT. 4 (12 PENTECOST)

Sept. 5: Jeremiah 18:12-23

Sept. 8: Jeremiah 13:20-27

Sept. 6: Jeremiah 19:1-15

Sept. 9: Jeremiah 4:1-10

Sept. 7: Jeremiah 20:1-18

Sept. 10: Jeremiah 4:13-21, 29-31

SEPT. 11 (13 PENTECOST)

Sept. 12: Jeremiah 5:1-17

Sept. 15: Jeremiah 12:14-13:11

Sept. 13: Jeremiah 5:18-31

Sept. 16: Jeremiah 8:1-13

Sept. 14: Jeremiah 14:1-10, 17-22

Sept. 17: Jeremiah 8:14-17, 9:2-11

SEPT. 18 (14 PENTECOST)

Sept. 19: Jeremiah 9:12-26

Sept. 22: Jeremiah 23:9-22

Sept. 20: Jeremiah 10:1-16

Sept. 23: Jeremiah 23:23-32

Sept. 21: Jeremiah 10:17-25

Sept. 24: Jeremiah 24:1-10

SEPT. 25 (15 PENTECOST)

Sept. 26: Jeremiah 32:16-35

Sept. 29: Jeremiah 52:1-11

Sept. 27: Jeremiah 32:36-44

Sept. 30: Jeremiah 52:12-30

Sept. 28: Jeremiah 33:1-13

Oct. 1: Lamentations 1:7-15

September readings are from Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah spoke boldly before, during and after King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered Jerusalem and Judah in 587 B. C. Courageous and creative, he was not well-liked during that time.

SEPTEMBER HOLY DAYS (for home devotions)

SEPTEMBER 14 HOLY CROSS DAY

Numbers 21:4b-9

Psalm 98:1-4

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

John 3:13-17

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SEPTEMBER 21 MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

Psalm 119:33-40

Ephesians 2:4-10

Matthew 9:9-13

Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a tax collector to become one of his disciples. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SEPTEMBER 29 MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3

Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22

Revelation 12:7-12

Luke 10:17-20

Everlasting God, you have wonderfully established the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that as Michael and the angels contend against the cosmic forces of evil, so by your direction they may help and defend us here on earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, whom we worship and praise with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, now and forever.

PRAY FOR HOMEBOUND and INFIRM:

Charlie Peiffer, Monica Dyke, Carrie Hickok, Tom Straatsma, Elder Erickson, Dianne Boerger, Billie Bryant, Priscilla Lane, Kathy Straatsma, Bev Becker, Fay Boerger, Jack Hernden, Nickie Nicholson, Farrah Grunbin, Nancy Zakrajsek, Hugh Wilkie, Mary Twitchell, Diane Osburn, Ruth Hildenbrand, Joan Nolff and Jean Anderson

Don't let them be alone each day. Make a call. Send a note. Visit.

Congratulations to:

Matt & Cheri Herriff on the birth of their son, Beckett Stanley.

Jake & Janelle Hickok on the birth of their son, James.

God has blessed them with new life.

We celebrate with them.



In May of this year, Immanuel's Church Council adopted a *Covenant for the Care of Creation*. This was actually a follow up to action recommended some years ago by our Synod. A framed copy is in the Narthex. I hope by now you have read it and considered how you can prayerfully, as an individual / family, relate to its provisions and maybe make some significant changes in your life.

In the 1960's (or maybe even earlier), there was a well-known expression "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." We must all acknowledge that, when it comes to caring for God's Creation, we are clearly, both individually and collectively, as part of the congregation, part of the problem. Taking into consideration appropriate / relevant portions of the Bible, it is part of how we sin against what God would have us do.

I believe that through Scripture (Old and New Testament), God and Jesus have spoken to / called their people indicating they want us to be clearly intentional in our faith response and lifestyles - including our relationship with, and impact on, the rest of Creation.

It is my understanding from observation and scientific findings that we have for a long time, and continue, to have a significantly negative impact on the local and global environment (one form of sin) and are seriously endangering life on earth - leading to the contribution of the extinction of many species of plants and animals and the threat to our very own survival. There are many sources available to be informed about this: an excellent one is the website "Lutherans Restoring Creation."

I believe some activities/what we are doing at Immanuel are definitely contributing to the problem and are not in keeping with national ELCA "social statements" (several of which have been studied this past year by the Sunday Bible study class) and now our own *Covenant for the Care of Creation*.

I am trying hard as one individual to identify and foster opportunities/alternatives that represent positive alternatives, but it is very frustrating to feel alone in my efforts and to be thwarted by inertia. We do not yet have a way to readily communicate with the congregation ways to be aware and be prepared to act on such simple matters as e-mail messages related to eco-justice that come periodically from the national ELCA office and the National Council of Churches.

On a positive note, we have taken actions to increase energy efficiency in our buildings and to recycle more plastics (and personally, to recycle- from Teresa Barcy's catering business - kitchen scraps). And we are considering, for 2012, setting aside part of our campus for critical native plant habitat. But these are simple, internal actions. We are not, as yet, intentionally participating with others of our Christian faith in actions of national and international consequence. This can be done, as part of our Christian stewardship, by "signing up" for regular communications through the Internet from ELCA, other faith groups, and selected non-governmental non-profit organizations. I can offer and welcome suggestions. Thank you.

David Houseman