

Immanuel Manger

Immanuel Lutheran Church, monthly newsletter

February 2012

Pr. Rick & Ellen Retirement Celebration



Pr. Rick Retirement Celebration

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The retirement celebration for Pastor Rick was a big success, thanks to the creative and hard work of so many people. The entire day went off without a hitch, and it appeared that a good time was had by all, especially Pastor Rick and Ellen.

It is impossible to pull off a celebration of this magnitude without the talents and commitment of lots of people. Many thanks to everyone involved, especially the drama team that gave us the best highlights of the day. There were also those who helped with other parts – all of which created the whole – that were wonderful and we appreciate their efforts. But specifically, thanks go to the coordinating committee who met faithfully for 6 months to organize the day. The committee consisted of Barb Rinckey, Karlene Ketola, Denise Lund, Jean Folk, Jane Goebel, Bev Lass, Cheryl Pitchford, Melissa Kingsley, Sue Schnarr and Teresa Barcy. Special thanks to Jan Martinich and Lynne Erickson for creating the memory book that was presented to Pastor Rick and Ellen. (A copy is being kept in the church office if you would like to view it.)

Also, special thanks to Bishop Schleicher for his guidance and participation, and also to Pastor Dawn, who so graciously gave her time, direction and support for this day. They made sure we kept things holy during the service and Lutheran during the dinner!

God surely was with us as we celebrated the past. We move forward now with faith, hope and love towards creating new memories. Willkommen, Pastor Dawn. (For those of you, who attended the dinner, consider this part of your “German” training!)

*God's Peace,
Barb Rinckey*



Immanuel Lutheran Church
501 S. Clinton St.
Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone: 517.627.6310
Website: Immanuel-gl.org

Staff:

The Rev. Dawn Donato
Denise Lund,
Office Administrator
Sue Schnarr,
Director of Education
Lyn Danes,
Director of Kid's Hope
Debora DeWitt, *Choir Director*
Jim Espie, *Organist*
Carmen Karkau, *Organist*
Jim & Kristin Crooks,
Carol Espie, *Custodians*

Worship Schedule:
Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 am
Sunday School for all ages
at 9:15 am



Annual Ministry Meeting
Sunday, February 12
following the 9:30 service
(only one service that day)

All Sunday School during meeting
Agenda: review congregation's goals
in Ministry for the upcoming year

*Bring a friend
to
Immanuel's Community Soup
Night
Monday, February 13
4:00 - 6:00 pm
Offer a ride to a friend and
come share a warm meal.*

Luther League II
(Immanuel's senior group)
Monday, February 13
House of Hsu @ 1:00 pm
Call Joy Powis (627-7067) or
Vera Ford (627-5213) to reserve your spot.

**Pancake Supper Tuesday,
February 21**
Join us for an all you can eat
pancake supper.
We will be serving regular and our
famous potato pancakes with
applesauce, sausage and a drink
all for only \$6 for adults. All the
proceeds will help send our youth
to camp this summer,

TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT
Saturday, February 25
Immanuel Fellowship Hall
Potluck dinner at 5:00 pm
(bring a dish to share and
your own table service)
Team Trivia will follow dinner.
Our plan is to have
6-8 people per team compete
RSVP to Mike Fedewa (327-7719)

Cost:
Adults - \$6.00
Children - \$2.00
(4-10 yrs)
Children under
4 free



SMALL GROUPS/BIBLE STUDY

- Men in the Morning meet at Cracker Barrel 6:30 am every Tuesday.
- Women's Bible Study meets at A&W 8:00 am the second and fourth Thursday.
- Quilting Group meets the first and third Tuesday at 11:00~ fellowship hall
- Frozen Chosen meets the first Monday at 10:30 am ~ 501 building
- Prayer Shawl Ministry first Monday at 10:00 am ~ 501 building
- Bread for the Journey meets the first and third Wednesday at 7:00 pm ~ 501 building

Contact the church office (627-6310) for more details.

President's Letter

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church!

Welcome to everyone who comes to church every, or nearly every, Sunday morning. Welcome to the people visiting Immanuel for the first time, or almost the first time. Welcome to those who come occasionally. Welcome to those people who have yet to visit Immanuel.

This is what God says to us, that we are all welcome to come to him. Working on this premise, are we making sure that we welcome everyone in our worship? Are we trying to reach out to new people that we can welcome? Do we remember to welcome the people we see every Sunday?

As a congregation we are welcoming many changes. We have just finished a wonderful sendoff of Pr. Rick and Ellen after their many years of dedication to this congregation.

We have welcomed Pr. Dawn and her husband, Frank into our church as our new Pastor and spiritual leader. What a unique time of possibilities to be a part of Immanuel..

We are welcoming a new year in the church, one where we can look back and see all the challenges we undertook, especially the fund raising for the transition process, that we finished the year with our budget in the black. What a wonderful effort of giving in faith, prayer, finances and time that we demonstrated last year. Thank you.

I am welcoming a new year as your new President, and am looking forward to serving with the great people on Council, the people who make up the teams, the people who make up all our many ministries, and the people of the congregation. And the people who are going to be a part of our family, they just may not know it yet.

My prayer is that we all welcome the changes we are going to experience this year, and continue to have the faith that God is leading us in the direction that He wants us to go. Not our will, but His.

We have always set the fiscal budget based on faith. Let us all remember that and set the future path of the congregation, help Pr. Dawn to know she is a welcome, vital, and important part of our ministry, expand our ministry in the community and grow in our own beliefs in God, with the same faith that we use to set up our budget.

Welcome to a wonderful, exciting and awesome time to be a part of the Immanuel Lutheran family!

Yours in Christ,
Wayne Christiansen

140 Years of Ministry Immanuel Lutheran Church 1871 ~ 2011

Did you know Immanuel has served the community since 1871? 140 year ago, the early church was founded in Grand Ledge, by the Christian (Kubler) Keebler, Sr. family and Christian Maier Family, in 1871, These two families came from Germany and began a settlement in Grand Ledge. The first members included Ernest Maier, George Maier, Martin Maier, Christian Maier, Christopher Maier, Fred Richards, John Berner, Jake Dangler, Christian Kebler Sr. and Christian Kebler, Jr. The families met in their homes for worship.

In December, 1971, these members elected their first Church Council: Christian Kebler, Sr., Martin Maier and John Berner. They became responsible for purchasing two lots and building the first church. They named the church, "The German Lutheran Church."



Kids Hope USA Corner

Since February is the month of Valentine's Day, here are some Kids Hope stories of love that will warm your heart.

A KHUSA mentor has been meeting with Caleb, a boy who has been struggling this year. After Christmas break, the new mentor asked him, "Did you get what you wanted for Christmas?" Caleb answered, "Yes, you came back."

Mason sang this song to his mentor Brian, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but you make me VERY HAPPY!"

After a year of being together, a mentor had to say goodbye to her little boy as he was moving to a different school. Knowing he would miss the KIDS HOPE USA Christmas party, she brought in the gift that all of the students would be receiving- a KIDS HOPE knit hat and special mittens made for him by women from the church. They fit him perfectly and he wore them while they read books, counted Oreo cookies and wrote on white boards. The first thing that he wrote on his white board was "I love you" to his mentor. She responded by writing "I love you, too." Their final session together ended with a big hug and the mentor left knowing that her efforts, energy and time mattered. So did the prayers offered by her prayer partner.

Here is a final story from Wacousta, one of our partner schools. Recently, Marla's teacher informed her that she had been chosen to have a mentor who would meet with her each week. After school the teacher also explained that Marla's parent needed to sign a permission slip for mentoring to begin. As the young girl left school with slip in hand, the teacher overheard her say, "YES!!!" in an excited, happy voice. Needless to say, the permission slip came back the next day and another new mentoring relationship has begun.

Lyn Danes, Kid's Hope Director

**Remember -
You can change a life.....and that's no small change!**

THANK YOU NOTES

*Thank you for remembering me this Christmas season. I relish the opportunity to work together with you in ministry. God bless us all.
Pr. Dawn Donato*

Our Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Unforgettable are you; and internal in Christ. What other pastor would have a flash mob with the whole congregation up and dancing- and especially what other Lutheran pastor!? What other pastor would have a bagpiper and "Highland lassie" dancing!? What other pastor would join in singing "The Schnitzelbank"!? Or put his "skinny legs" on display!? Or have his successor there to join in celebrating the past and the next phase of mission for Christ!? None other than the pastor of this congregation that surpasses the storied "Lake Wobegone Lutheran Church" of Prairie Home Companion fame. Thank you for the party. Thank you for the honor of serving you. The good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, we will see you again.

*Now serve Christ boldly in home, church and world.
Pastor Rick & Ellen*

DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP REPORT

DECEMBER 2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$(3,578)
Income	24,859
Expense	<u>(19,151)</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 2,130

Building Fund

Beginning Balance	1,301
Income	8,098
Expense	<u>(2,606)</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 6,793



Feb. 1	Pete Zipple	Tony & Margo Holland
Feb. 2	Hanna Espie	
Feb. 3	Wendy Lewis	
Feb. 5	Sheryl Kurtycz, Maggie Baribeau	John & Melissa Kingsley
Feb. 6		Jay & Julie Cardinal
Feb. 7	Callahan Riggs	
Feb. 8	Emma Shilton	
Feb. 9	Sarah Cermak,	
Feb. 10	Matthew Corbett jr	
Feb. 11	D.J. Osborn	
Feb. 12	Bev Lass, David Kuntzsch	
Feb. 13	Michelle Pitchford, Emma Landry	
Feb. 14	Barb Wickerham, Melissa Goschka	Dale & Joan Hoffman
Feb. 15	Herman Kruger, Diego Vasquez	
Feb. 16	Joy Powis, Dawn Byers	
Feb. 17	Matt Herriff	
Feb. 19		Jeff & Brenda Everts
Feb. 21	Steve Karkau, Kim Zipple	
Feb. 22	Gwyneth Ketola, Ken Turner, Ron Pierce	
Feb. 23	Linda Hubert, Kanan Byers, Mary Pierce	Tom & Angela Blake
Feb. 24	Dennis Martinich	
Feb. 25	Sharlean Saxton, Cheyenne Dunn, Dakota Dunn	



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 pm God's Crusaders 7:00pm Bread for the Journey - 501 <i>building</i>	2 6:15 Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	3 8:00 pm AA	4 8:00 am AA
5 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship	6 10 Prayer Shawl 10:30 Frozen Chosen - 501 <i>building</i> 4-6 pm Soup Night	7 6:30 am Men in the Morning <i>Cracker Barrel</i> 9:30 am Staff 11-3 Quilting	8	9 8:00 am Women's Bible Study – A&W 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	10 8:00 pm AA	11 8:00 am AA
12 9:30 Worship 10:45 Annual Congregational Meeting with Sunday School during meeting 6:15 SNL	13 4-6 pm Soup Night – <i>Bring a Friend</i>	14 6:30 am Men in the Morning <i>Cracker Barrel</i> 10:00 am Memorial	15 6:30 pm God's Crusaders 7:00pm Bread for the Journey - 501 <i>building</i>	16 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	17 8:00 pm AA	18 8:00 am AA
19 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship 6:15 SNL	20 4-6 pm Soup Night 7:00 pm Team Meetings	21 6:30 am Men in the Morning <i>Cracker Barrel</i> 9:30 am Staff 11-3 Quilting 5-7 pm Pancake Supper	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00 am Service 12:10 pm Noon Service 7:00 pm Service	23 8:00 am Women's Bible Study – A&W 4-6:00 pm GLPS Swim Team 6:15pm Handbells 7:30pm Choir	24 12-3:00 pm GLPS Swim Team 8:00 pm AA	25 8:00 am AA 5:00 pm Trivia Night
26 8:00 Worship 9:15 S School 10:30 Worship	27 4-6 pm Soup Night	28 6:30 am Men in the Morning <i>Cracker Barrel</i>	29 6:00 pm Supper 7:00 pm Lent Service			