

# NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Earlville, Illinois

August 2008  
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

## From the Pastor,

It has been a struggle to write this particular letter for this particular newsletter. The last several weeks have not been conducive to concentrating on creative writing. As you are probably aware, we have not had an office secretary (but thanks to Nicole Beuster for helping out until her return to college), so there have been a number of extra tasks for me to accomplish. I was gone for a wonderful week of vacation at Mackinac Island. Kendall has been at camp for the Swing Choir Tour, so Mary and I have made a couple trips to churches in northern Illinois to see choir performances. And now, this week, as I sit at my computer trying write something engaging and inspiring, there are 100+ children singing, dancing, crafting, eating, playing and learning all around the church building. It is Vacation Bible School week and things are really hopping around here.

It is the organized (sometimes) chaos of VBS that has given me pause this week. More than 100 children from our community have come together to learn about Jesus. They are hearing and reading Bible stories. It is so exciting to hear them shout “aha” when they hear that Jesus gives us the power to **be thankful, help others, be brave, live forever, and tell others about God.** It is so fun to see the children running into the building in the morning, anxious for another day of learning about God. It is inspiring to hear them singing Bible school songs as they leave for home at lunch time. It is amazing to see the **forty** junior high youth, high school youth, and adults from all of the congregations in the community coming together to make this week a significant event for the children - many of whom have no other Christian education during the year except for VBS.

And what is perhaps most exciting, and a little bit humbling, is that this major ministry involving nearly 150 people all takes place with virtually no help from me. (*They are letting me take pictures this year.*) Under the coordination of Cindy Torman and Jessica Whitaker (who are true blessings to this ministry), the gifts and talents of so many people are utilized to make this mission happen. I am convinced that the best thing I can do to help Bible school is get out of the way and let the spirit-filled gifts of these wonderful people take over.

My prayer is that all our mission and ministry could be so exciting, inspiring, amazing and fun. And I believe that it could be if... 1) We **all** used our spirit-filled gifts to share the gospel in the ways that God intends us to, and 2) we get out of the way of those who are using their gifts in a particular ministry. Working together in such a manner, I think we can joyfully bring the gospel to our community and to the world.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Knowles**



**Volunteers are needed** again to mow the lawn this summer. If you can lend a hand with this task, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex.

**College Students:** If you would like to receive the church newsletter while away at college, we would be happy to include you on the mailing list. Please call or write the church office.



## Senior Saturdays

All seniors of the community are invited to Immanuel Lutheran Church (located at 415 East Street) on the Saturdays listed below for a meal, fellowship and fun beginning at noon. Bring a friend!

**August 9  
September 13**

If you need a ride, call the church at 246-9642.

**We extend our sympathies and prayers** to the family and friends of Ramona Sue Gast Keizl who passed away in California on Saturday June 21. She is the sister of Dolores Kaminky, Harold and Howard Gast.

### Blood Drive

The American Legion will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on Thursday, August 14 from 3-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. One pint of blood can help save the lives of several people. Please come and donate if you are able.



*Preschool News*—Registration for Fall 2007 classes is going great. The morning classes for both age groups are full, but there is still room in the afternoon classes. If you know anyone who is interested, please share this information so they can register as soon as possible. Orientation will be held on Sunday, August 26 at 2:00 p.m. This is a chance for the students to see the classroom, meet the teachers and register for classes if they have not yet done so. Classes begin on September 5 & 6. Call the church office at 246-9642 for more information.

**Sunday School** is set to begin on September 14 at 9:15 a.m. There are classes for ages 3 through adult. *Sunday School Teachers and Helpers are needed.* Anyone interested in helping out, please contact the church office at 246-9642 or Cindy Torman at 246-9385.

### Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor: Donald L. Knowles  
415 East Street  
P.O. Box 598  
Earlville, Illinois 60518  
(815) 246-9642  
[www.immanuelearlville.net](http://www.immanuelearlville.net)

### Regular Worship Schedule

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Worship Services  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School

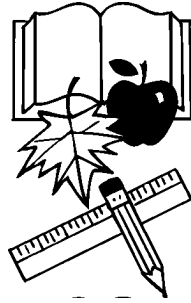
### Deadline for copy:

The 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

### Summer Worship Schedule

(Memorial Day Weekend -  
Labor Day Weekend)  
5:00 p.m. Sat. Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Sun. Worship Service  
No Sunday School

**School Supplies** are beginning to fill the store shelves. Don't forget the Sewing Group is asking if anyone would like to help contribute items needed to fill book bags for Lutheran World Relief.



The items needed this year are:

- ▶ pads or notebooks of ruled 8½ x11 paper
- ▶ blunt scissors
- ▶ #2 pencils
- ▶ small pencil sharpeners

There will be a box in the narthex up to October 1 for any contributions. Thank you!

**The Abigail Women's Clinic** of Mendota offers their thanks to Immanuel for the gift of \$499.56 returned with the *Change for Life* baby bottles.

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
Budget through <i>June</i> :	\$79,066
<i>(\$3041/wk)</i>	
General Offerings thru <i>June</i> :	\$73,875
<b>Under Budget</b>	<b>\$5,191</b>

**Reminder:** There will be no Ruth Circle for the month of August. They will meet again on Monday, September 8.

**Fall Worship Schedule**

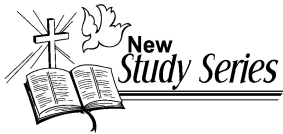
We will return to our regular worship schedule on Sunday, September 7 with worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 am.

<b>August Worship Assistants</b>		
<b>Job</b>	<b>Saturday Worship Service</b>	<b>Sunday Worship Service</b>
Lector	Marcia Farley (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> ) Peg Nielsen (16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> )	Matt Norton
Greeters (3 <sup>rd</sup> ):		
(10 <sup>th</sup> )		Deb Fultz
(17 <sup>th</sup> )		John & Jenny Boltz
(24 <sup>th</sup> )		Chuck & Marcia Farley
(31 <sup>st</sup> )		Stu Bloom
Ushers	Randy Rosengren and John Boltz	
Communion Assistant:	Kay Mathesius	Fred Kaminky
Offering Counters	Don Neely, Don Sawicki and Betty Sawicki	
Altar Guild	Paula Glass and Sheila Jenkins	

## Hazel Budach Estate

Immanuel recently received just over \$84,000 from the estate of Hazel Budach. According to Hazel's wishes the money was divided equally among three funds: the Men for Ministry fund, a building and maintenance fund, and a missionary support fund. The portion designated for Men for Ministry has been added to our current Men for Ministry fund. The amount designated for building and maintenance has been placed in Immanuel's Trust Fund in accordance with a continuing resolution of the Church Council. The amount set aside for missionary support has also been invested through the Trust Fund Committee with the stipulation that the proceeds from that amount be disbursed annually to a ministry outside of Immanuel as designated by the ILCW/Ruth Circle.

We are certainly blessed by Hazel's commitment to the ministry of this congregation as it continues through her generous bequest.



## Men's Breakfasts and Faith Studies

Any and all men are invited to join together at Sunshine

Family Restaurant on Saturdays, August 2, 9, 16 & 23 for breakfast and an examination of four significant faith stories from scripture.

## Sidewalk Replaced

The crumbling sidewalk from the street to our front door was recently replaced. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to help with this project: Dennis Nielsen, Brett Johnson, Chase Johnson, Bill Nelson, Steve Tuftie, and Jay Johnson.

## How Are My Mission Dollars Used?

Through our offerings to the Northern Illinois Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we support:

- ▶ **52** new congregations started in 2007
- ▶ **Over 200** congregations under development
- ▶ **150** existing congregations intentionally focused on outreach, for which funds or services are being provided by the churchwide budget
- ▶ **Over 260** missionaries in 49 countries
- ▶ Support ministry and projects in **over 90** countries
- ▶ Social ministry organizations: **280 parent corporations**, providing service to **6 million people in 3,000 communities**, and serving 1 out of 50 people in the United States and the Caribbean every year
- ▶ **8** seminaries
- ▶ **2** seminary extension centers
- ▶ **1** deaconess community
- ▶ **185** campus ministries
- ▶ **1,500** Lutheran early childhood education centers, includes birth to age five
- ▶ **300** Lutheran elementary schools, K-8
- ▶ **14** Lutheran high schools
- ▶ **145** camps and retreat centers
- ▶ **Health and pension benefits** for retired clergy, missionaries, and lay church workers
- ▶ **Long-term community development**
- ▶ **Advocacy** with the United Nations, federal and state governments, and corporate development
- ▶ **Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, and National Council of Church in Christ**

And much more in addition to all that we and our sister congregations support in local outreach for the world.