

NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Earlville, Illinois

May 2008
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

From the Pastor:

After spending time in Bible study, prayer and thoughtful reflection, our Church Council members who attended the council retreat at LOMC in February summarized the mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Earlville, IL as being **“called to be reflectors of the light of Christ into the world.”**

We understood this statement to assume two things.

1. The light of Christ has come into our lives. We, the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church have been blessed by the love and forgiveness of God through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. We are God’s forgiven and chosen children.
2. Our mission, then, is to reflect that loving, forgiving, light into the world around us. We are to be mirrors of our Lord and for our Lord through our words and deeds.

The next question, then, was *how do we become* reflectors of the light of Christ into the world? What is it that we need to do to reflect God’s love to the people around us?

Our responses to that question could have, and did, fill numerous sheets of newsprint as we brainstormed what it meant to be mirrors of God’s love in our congregation, our community, and around the world. So, again after a time of prayer and reflection, we decided on two areas of focus for our work as a council and as a congregation for the coming year.

1. **Be in conversation with the Word of God.** If we are to take seriously the mission of reflecting the Word of God for the world than it is necessary for us to know that Word. Bible study and conversation around the Word of God must be a priority for every member of our congregation. To that end, we encourage you to participate in one of the various Bible studies provided by our congregation. Come to Sunday School at 9:15 am on Sunday morning. Attend the adult forum on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 9:15 am. Participate in the women’s Bible study on Tuesday evening at the church. Come to Ruth Circle on the 2nd Monday evening of each month. Join us for lunch and a movie after worship on the 4th Sunday of the month. If you have other ideas, or would like to start a study for a particular group of people - Great!! Just find the time and make the effort to be in conversation with the Word of God so that together we can reflect that word to the world.
2. **Create meaningful and spirit-filled worship experiences.** Our second focus is to create worship experiences that will strengthen and inspire us to be reflectors of the light of Christ into the world. To that end we are working to provide a greater variety of music styles in worship, using different liturgies in order to keep our worship fresh, themed services to provide emphases on different topics, and weekly communion to share God’s love through the sacrament for those who desire it. The Council and Worship Committee continue to explore new ideas to make our worship services something you would want to invite your family and friends to attend with you.

It is the hope of your Church Council that by focusing on these two areas we can be strengthened to be reflectors of the Light of Christ into the world. Please join us in this mission.

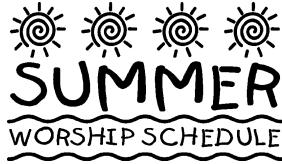
In Christ,
Pastor Knowles



The last day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, May 18. Attendance awards

for those who were at Sunday School the required number of Sundays will be given out at both worship services that day. Also, the 3rd graders will receive their bibles. *The kids need to be there to receive their awards.*

The Summer Worship Schedule will begin on Saturday, May 24. There will be a Saturday evening worship service beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Sunday morning service will begin at 9:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School.



The Sewing Group Ladies have donated 25 quilts to the Hurricane Katrina victims in Louisiana through Lutheran Church Charities in Addison.

A big “thank you” to Don & Betty Sawicki who delivered the quilts on April 4 when they were loaded on a semi donated by Boerman Moving Co. of Woodridge. Drivers and fuel were also furnished to get the supplies to the area. More quilts and the other kits will be sent to Lutheran World Relief in the fall.

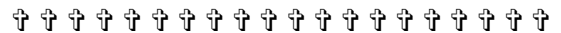


Congratulations to the young members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt they look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little apprehension.

Senior Recognition Sunday will be on **Sunday, June 1** at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Those seniors from Immanuel are: **Michelle Bond, Amber Hagemann, Kevin Hartman, Drue Mathesius, Emily Nielsen and Katie Rafferty.** Congratulations and best of luck with your future plans!

We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve graduates well as they embark on their journeys:

“Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.”



The Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Darlene Rose is the hostess for the evening. Wilma Boltz is the bible study leader. All women of the church are invited.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor: Donald L. Knowles
415 East Street
P.O. Box 598
Earlville, Illinois 60518
(815) 246-9642

www.immanuelearlville.net

Regular Worship Schedule

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

Deadline for copy:

The 20th 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

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!

May 10 & 24
June 14 & 28

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

The theme for this year's VBS is a science lab setting. Keep your eyes out for any type of decorations they might be able to use (examples: lab coats, goggles, test tubes, beakers, etc.) Registration forms are included in this newsletter.

Thank You:

- ◆ from Pleasant View Luther Home for our gift of \$163 from our Lenten offerings.
- ◆ from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for our gift of \$295 to Nachusa Lutheran Home from our Lenten offerings.
- ◆ from Faith Christian Fellowship Missions for our gift of \$100 to their sponsorship program for Missionaries Craig & Peggy Harvey.
- ◆ from Abigail Women's Clinic for our gift of \$290 from our Lenten offerings.
- ◆ from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center for our gift of \$187 from our Lenten offerings.
- ◆ from the Mendota Lutheran Home for our gift of \$190.

Congratulations to Chuck & Sheila Jenkins on the birth of their newest grandchild! Norah Ella was born to Matt and Andrea Jenkins on Wednesday, April 9. She weighed 5 lbs 15 oz and was 18 inches long.



May Worship Assistants		
Job	8:00 a.m. Worship Service	10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Acolyte	Torie Dumke	Elliot Greer
Lector	Judy Rosengren	Lantz Stein
Greeters: (4 th)	Chuck & Sheila Jenkins	Wess & Jessica Whittaker
(11 th)	Pat Cottingim	Betty Grimm
(18 th)	Helen Budach	Paul & Deb Finley
(25 th) 9:00 a.m. service	Darlene Rose	
Ushers	Carl Cook and Bill Nelson	Kathy Beuster and Michael Beuster
Communion Assistant: (4 th)	Howard Nielsen	Fred Kaminky
(11 th) Pentecost	Randy Rosengren	Lantz Stein
(18 th) Holy Trinity	Fritz Nelson	Chris Fritz
Offering Counters	Linda Hanley, Dolores Kaminky and Peg Nielsen	
Altar Guild	Marilyn Sanford and Gloria Bond	

Church Council Minutes

March 13, 2008

The March 13, 2008 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Don Sawicki . Present were Pastor Knowles, Dennis Nielsen, Lantz Stein, Linda Hanley, Don Neely, Don Sawicki, Stu Bloom, Judy Rosengren, Joan Tuftie, and Marcia Farley.

Opening devotions were given by Stu Bloom.

Secretary's Report

- Don Neely motioned the minutes of the last meeting be approved, Linda Hanley seconded, the motion passed.
- Judy Rosengren motioned that the minutes from the special meeting of Council held in January for election of officers be approved, Don Neely seconded it. The motion passed

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Gloria Bond reported that February withholding taxes for Illinois of \$113.89 and Federal of \$807.08 were paid. After all the bills were paid we had a balance of \$10,045.54. Lantz Stein motioned to approve the report as given, Dennis Nielson seconded, the motion passed.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Knowles reported that those on the Council Retreat came up with a vision - to be reflectors of the light of Christ to the world. Our immediate emphasis will be a better worship experience and the education of members regarding the why and how of being reflectors of the light.
- Three members of the council reported on the Congregational Resourcing Event that took place in Malta. It was very thought provoking and a worthwhile event.
- There will be an adult forum the 2nd Sunday of the month during the Sunday School hour.
- Pastor held a First Communion class of two, Dillin Whittaker and Dalton Ambler.
- Pastor reports: 5 visits, 10 meetings, 11 Worship services, 2 classes ,and 2 Congregational events during this month.

Congregational Life & Fellowship (Linda Hanley & Marcia Farley)

- Reported that an average of 20 had been attending our Lenten Soup Suppers.
- Senior Saturdays are moving along with a corned beef meal planned for the March 15 meal.

Evangelism & Mission (Judy Rosengren)

- reported that the Harvest Celebration for FRB will be October 18, 2008. Judy reported on the accomplishments of FRB and the blessings that their gifts gave to these countries. It's a great start!
- Also she reported that Missionaries Craig and Peggy reported that things are better in their village.

Stewardship (Stu Bloom & Joan Tuftie)

- They reported that the green team is aware of our congregations part and will use our resources wisely.

Memorial

- To save paper and promote usage of the Bible, there was a motion by Judy Rosengren to purchase Bibles for the pews in church as soon as possible. It was seconded by Marcia Farley. The motion passed.

Preschool

- Registrations are coming in. MWF mornings are full. There are openings in the Tuesday and Thursday sessions.

(Continued on back)

Property (Dennis Nielsen)

- He examined the roof and some of the masonry needs work and he will fix it as the weather permits.
- A shed was talked about for storage of a lawn mower to do the lawn and to store the Live Nativity things. We will talk some more later.

Worship & Music (Lantz Stein & Don Neely)

- Using bread or communion wafers was discussed. We are striving to make our worship service better.
- Discussed a liturgy planning sub-committee of choir members, accompanists, and lay individuals to plan weekly worship.

Unfinished Business

- Thanks for the giving toward the ELW hymnals this year.

New Business

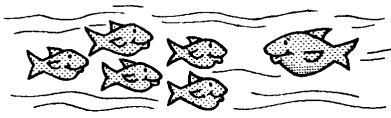
- Gloria Bond resigned from the treasurer position. A motion that Cathy Setchell be the treasurer starting April 1 was made by Don Neely, seconded by Lantz Stein. Cathy Setchell and Pastor Knowles will be authorized signatories on the church accounts effective April 1. The motion passed.

Stu Bloom motioned to adjourn, Judy Rosengren seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Farley

Treasurer's Report	
Budget through <i>March</i> :	\$39,533
<i>(\$3041/wk)</i>	
General Offerings thru <i>March</i> :	39,565
Over Budget	\$32



Preschool News: It is with many mixed feelings that I come to you in this last letter of this school year. It has been an exciting year and I cannot believe it is coming to an end. I am not quite ready to part with my special little friends, but they are on their way to new discoveries.

Fall registration is still going on. Both morning classes are full but there are openings available in the afternoon classes.

The *End-of-the-Year Ceremony* will be held on **Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. It will include both the 3 and 4 year old classes. There will be a short program by the children of their favorite songs and finger plays. Below is the list of the M-W-F graduates and also the T-Th class lists:

M-W-F A.M. Class

Lauren Beetz*
 Connor Cook*
 Kendall Hawbaker
 Brock Hefke
 Jake Pickert*
 Sierra Pritchard
 Travis Richards
 Morgan Ross
 Kayte Rousonelos
 Davis Sweeney
 Serenity Torres*
 Dani Whittaker

M-W-F P.M. Class

Brady Ambler*
 Sam Benson
 Kara Freebairn
 Emily Hardin
 Ajay Jess
 Kennedy Kaiser
 Kailen McNelis
 Mason Shannon
 Austin Smith
 Angelina Terry

T-Th A.M. Class

Emma Benson
 Rylinn Greer*
 Brynn Guelde
 Ella Harp
 Carson Hologa
 Bryar Keller
 Emily Kuhn
 Tyler Madsen
 Liam McGann
 Alexis Olson
 Whitney Stone*
 Alyssa Terry

T-Th P.M. Class

Nathan Banuelos
 Caleb Bell
 Ellah Dorn
 Riley Friberg
 Cris Gilliam
 Andrew Goddard
 Chase Grey
 Kyle Jungels
 Paige Marks
 Austin Sinetos
 Grant VanGilder
 Jeremy Weymouth

* indicates members of Immanuel Lutheran Church

*You Are Invited to the
 End of The Year Ceremony
 For
 Immanuel Lutheran Preschool*

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008
 7:00 p.m.
 Immanuel Lutheran Church*

**Students should not arrive
 before 6:45 p.m.*