

NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Earlville, Illinois

November 2008
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

From the Pastor:

As I write this letter, we are on the eve of two festivals in our church calendar; Reformation and All Saints Sundays. Both festivals give us pause to reflect back on our heritage, both as a church and as individuals.

Reformation Sunday (October 26) is, in part, a celebration of the beginnings of the Lutheran Church. On October 31, 1517 the German Monk, Martin Luther, posted his *95 theses* on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. The theses represented Luther's main arguments with problems he saw in the theology and practices of the Roman Church. They were articles for debate. And the cornerstone of those theses was the premise that God is a loving God who justifies (reconciles/forgives) his people by grace through faith alone as revealed through the Word of God in scripture. Our heritage as a church is one that boldly proclaims *justification by grace through faith apart from works of the law* (and apart from human tradition). That is the root of our Lutheran faith.

All Saints Sunday (November 2) is a festival that helps us to remember all those who have gone before us in the faith. It is an opportunity to recall not just the great and famous saints of the church (like the apostles and martyrs), but also those great saints who have been a part of our lives. It is an opportunity to call to mind our ancestors who had the courage and foresight to found our congregation. It is an opportunity to remember the family members, and pastors, and teachers, and youth leaders, and all the others who influenced our faith development - the ones who helped us to know our loving God.

Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday provide us with the opportunity to offer our thanks to those who helped to provide us with a firm foundation in our faith.

But I think we do a disservice to these two festivals if we only use them to look back into history. Luther and the other reformers, together with all the saints who have influenced our faith, would also want us to look ahead. God, our faith, and the church, do not reside only in the past. Our God is a living God who calls us to bear His love in the world in the present and into the future. And just as our ancestors had the foresight to establish a congregation in this place, the Spirit of God bids us to seek ways - new ways - to lay the foundation of faith for our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Luther had the insight to recognize that church did not have all the answers, and that it was necessary to continuously listen to the Word of God to seek God's way for our lives.

We, also, are called on to listen to God's Word, to study God's Word, to pray for God's Word, and to seek to do God's will for our lives in this ever-changing world in which we live. To ignore that call, to only live in the past, will put the foundation of the faith in jeopardy for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

In the spirit of the Reformation and All Saints, let us give thanks for our past, boldly seek to God's work in the present

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

The Community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at Earlville United Methodist Church on Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to join us for worship that evening and give thanks to God for all of the blessings we have received.



The Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. Kay Druen is the hostess for the evening. Wilma Boltz is the Bible study leader. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

It is a little early to be thinking about Christmas but it is time for us to make advance preparations for decorating our sanctuary. We are most grateful for those of you, who in the past, have shared your holiday poinsettias with us to enhance our chancel area.



ORDER
YOUR
POINSETTIAS

Again you will have the opportunity to order a poinsettia through the church office. You may do so by signing up on the chart on the bulletin board in the narthex or by calling the church office at 246-9642. The poinsettias are in 6 ½ inch pots at a cost of \$11.00. If you prefer you may bring one from home. Please sign your name on the chart even if you bring your own so we can have all the names for the Christmas Eve bulletin. The orders need to be in by November 24 in order to assure quantities.



Immanuel will host its 6th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27 at noon. This traditional Thanksgiving dinner is for anyone in the community who would like to share a special holiday meal with friends and

neighbors. Please bring your own table service. You are also welcome to bring a favorite Thanksgiving dish to share if you wish. There is no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted. Please call the church office at 246-9642 if you have any questions.

Remembrance Day – November 2, 2008

All Saints' Sunday will be a day to honor the loved ones who have passed before us.

At worship that day the names of loved ones who have passed away will be read. Family members will be invited to place a flower(s), provided by the Worship Committee, in a vase at the alter.

If you have a loved one you would like included in the reading of the *Scroll of Remembrance*, please contact the church office , 246-9642, by noon on Friday, October 31st.

We as the sewing group, wish to thank all of those who helped, in any way, to make our year's projects such a success. We had a good sewing machine given to us along with materials, school kit, layette, sewing kit items and soap. A big thank you to Wanda Clay for piecing so many beautiful quilt tops. The items donated to Lutheran World Relief for use by those less fortunate were 25 layettes, 17 sewing kits, 57 school kits, about 40 lbs of soap, 83 quilts, 25 quilts to Lutheran Charities for Hurricane Katrina and 25 quilts were sold.

Yet another project, the sewing group made a banner to be used for baptisms and funerals.

<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church Pastor: Donald L. Knowles 415 East Street P.O. Box 598 Earlville, Illinois 60518 (815) 246-9642 www.immanuelearlville.net</p>	<p>Regular Worship Schedule Sunday Worship Service 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>Deadline for copy: The 20th of the month prior to publication.</p>	<p>Summer Worship Schedule (Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend) Worship Services 5:00 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m. Sunday No Sunday School</p>
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All seniors of the community are invited

Senior Saturdays

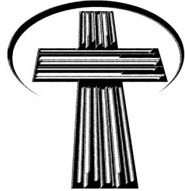
to Immanuel Lutheran Church
(located at 415 East Street)
on the Saturdays listed below for
a meal, fellowship and fun beginning at noon.
Bring a friend!

November 8
December 13
January 10

Alison Coyer will perform a special program for Senior Saturday on November 8. The Senior Saturday meal will be served at noon and the program will begin at 1 p.m. The event is free, though donations are accepted for the meal.

Alison Coyer is 15 years old and has played the hammered dulcimer for 3 years. She and her family reside on a farm close to Harding, IL.

The entire community is welcome. For more information or a ride, call the church office at (815) 246-9642.



The Lutheran Magazine is mailed to the household of every member of our congregation. These subscriptions are paid out of the budget of the congregation. This magazine helps us work with issues that face the church, to grow in faith and to discover the

many and diverse ministries of the ELCA. If you have not been receiving the magazine, and would like to, please call the church office. A special envelope is enclosed with this newsletter to help with the cost of the church's subscription. Your additional offering will help us continue to provide *The Lutheran* to each household of our congregation.

St. John's Lutheran Church is hosting its 1st annual "International Holiday Market" on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm located at 235 S. Green St., Somonauk, IL. Bringing handcrafted gift items from around the world to Somonauk.

- ◆ LWR Handcraft & Maya Works
- ◆ Fair Trade/Equal Exchange coffee, cocoa, tea, chocolate (available in gift packages)
- ◆ Alternative gifts (ELCA Good Gifts including God's Global Barnyard)
- ◆ Bake Sale & Refreshments Plate lunch offered for donation 11a.m. to 1p.m.

For more information phone (815) 498-3667 or visit www.elcastjohns.com

"Returning to the Waters" South Conference Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering - Saturday, November 15, 2008 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rural Peru from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be April Kinzenger, Founder of Cornerstone Christian School. Come and enjoy a morning of food, fun and fellowship with sisters in Christ united by the waters of baptism. Directions to church: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2146 Meridian Road, Peru is south of Peru; take 251 or 39 South and go west on Route 71 through Cedar Point to Meridian Road. Take a left and the church is south about 1 mile. Church phone (815) 339-6252.

Congratulations to Adam & Carrie (Miller) Browder on the birth of their son, Aaden Benjamin, on Wednesday, October 22. Aaden weighed 10 lbs 15 oz and was 20 ½ inches long. He was welcomed home by his sisters, Carrissa, age 12, Taylor, age 12, Elizabeth age 5, and by brother Ryan, age 2. Grandmother from Immanuel is Connie Miller and Great Grandmother is Marge Cantlin.



Church Council Minutes
September 25, 2008

The September 25, 2008 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Don Sawicki. Present were Don Sawicki, Linda Hanley, Judy Rosengren, Cathy Setchell, Dennis Nielsen, John Nielsen, Valorie Norton, Marcia Farley, and Stu Bloom.

We opened with prayer.

Corrections were made to the minutes and Stu Bloom motioned to accept as corrected. Judy Rosengren seconded. The motion passed.

Cathy Setchell was on hand to go over the treasurer's report. Motion to approved as written by Linda Hanley and seconded by Valorie Norton. The motion passed.

Due to Pastor Knowles' absence there was no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Congregational Life

- Marcia Farley and Linda Hanley reported that the October 11 Senior Saturday will have entertainment by Winifred Hoffman and girls. And there are programs and menus lined up for three months. All is going well.

Evangelism & Mission

- Judy Rosengren reported that the Foods Resource Bank Harvest Celebration will be on October 18 at the Rosengren farm. There will be lots of activities.
- Randy and Judy Rosengren plus Kurt and Deb Larson went to a conference in Washington, D.C. concerning FRB. Eleven farmers and their wives went to explain the program to the government agencies.
- The CROP Walk will be on Sunday, October 5.

Stewardship

- Stu Bloom reported that a goal setting group for stewardship thought the Stewardship Committee should focus on getting one effective small group ministry started within the next year. He also said that the time and talent sheets have not been very useful in recent years because they mostly yield people signing up for ministries they are already participating in.

Parish Education

- Our Sunday School Rally Day was last Sunday. They are doing things a little different this year. They have different centers that the groups move around to this year.
- Men's Bible Study led by Stu Bloom is meeting at the Sunshine Restaurant at 7:00 AM on Saturdays.
- Deb Larson and Judy Rosengren will begin a Bible Study on the Holy Spirit on September 30 at 7:00.

Property Committee

- Dennis Nielsen is working on the bell tower.
- Two vacuums were bought for the church.
- We sold some of the old folding chairs to the school.

Worship & Music

- We discussed the quality of the worship service.

Youth

- Valorie Norton reported four youth to attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2009.

(Council Notes Continued)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- President Don Sawicki noted that Tom Hoxsey had the parking lot striped and that the parking spaces are nice and wide.

A motion to adjourn was made by Judy Rosengren. It was seconded by Linda Hanley. The motion passed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Farley, Secretary

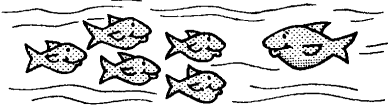
Treasurer's Report

Budget through September: \$115,479
(\$2961/wk)

General Offerings thru September: \$105,184
Under Budget \$10,295

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
	8:00 AM Service	10:30 AM Service
Acolyte	Chase Johnson	Cassie Johnson
Ushers	Roger Torman	Chuck Jenkins, Jay Johnson
Lectors	Norma Nelson	Steve Moyer
Greeters	(11/2) Bob & Maurene VonSeggern	Larry & Kathleen Zimmerman
	(11/9) Luke & Lisa Tillman	Bernie & Marcia Chapman
	(11/16) Matt & Sarah Cook	Ruthann Chapman & Family
	(11/23) Carol Taylor & Shawn Murphy	Ron & Gloria Bond
	(11/30) Dave & Sandy Gast	Chris Fritz
Communion Assistants	(11/2) Fritz Nelson	Skip Nanzer
	(11/23) John Nielsen	Chris Fritz
Offering Counters	Marcia Farley, Delores Kaminky and Deb Tillman	

Hanging of the greens: Mark your calendar for 2:30 p.m., Saturday, December 6 to decorate the church for Christmas. After we finish we will eat pizza for supper. Please join us to celebrate the start of the advent season.



Preschool News: Welcome to November! National Children's Book Week is this month and we will observe this special time by visiting the Earlville Township Library. It will be exciting for the children to see and experience the Children's Library!

Thanksgiving will be upon us soon and we will be discussing and learning things associated with the Thanksgiving season. We are approaching a very special time of year. In doing so I hope you and your family count the many blessings you are blessed with by GIVING THANKS TO GOD! We are going to turn our Show-n-Share time into real sharing time with this charitable idea. We will ask each child to bring in a box or can of a favorite food that he/she thinks another child would enjoy. During our Show-n-Share time, we will have him/her describe the taste, colors, or preparation of the food. Then we will collect all the food items and we will donate it to the community "Helping Hands" food bank. What a wonderful opportunity to learn about helping others! Let's increase our giving this year - as we delivered three boxes of food last year - let's have a goal of four or more!

We would like to thank: Larry and Kathleen Zimmerman for the donation of pumpkins and gourds— the children really enjoyed them!; the congregation of Immanuel; Pastor Knowles; the Preschool Board – Michelle Beetz, Jennifer Pickert, Betty Sawicki, Ken Tillman and Steve Tuftie; the Church Council and their support; Cindy Greer; Grandma Kay Druen; Mrs. Cindy Cook; the Dave and Shirley Engelhart family who continue to support this ministry and most thankful for the children and their families. Our program continues to be a success from all the support the community gives Immanuel Lutheran Preschool! We are blessed!

Thanks to all the families who donated supplies last month. You are GREAT! November supplies are: *empty film containers, old Christmas bows and ribbons, dessert size paper plates (not styrofoam), canned nonperishable food for Helping Hands, clean styrofoam meat trays and a gallon of milk (we have a lot of milk drinkers).*

May God Bless this Ministry and May God Bless You! – Wendy Keller

The following note was received from Matt Norton. Matt is currently volunteering at the Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville, KY. Immanuel is supporting Matt's ministry with \$300.00 a month.

Dear Friends and Family,

I have been here now for three weeks and I love it at Jefferson Street Baptist Center. There are two male members of the Hope team, Kerry and myself. There is one female member, Lindsey. We work down in the Day Shelter serving the homeless five days a week. Mondays are considered our "Sabbath" which is set aside to relax, rejuvenate, and have some more contemplative time with God. Wednesday are outreach days where Kerry and I get to be intentional about spending quality time with the residents here. This week we hosted a coffee and game day in our apartment for any resident that wanted to come. Those are the basics of the week, but every day is unique and exciting because of the good community and conversation we have.

In these few weeks I can already say that this has been a transformative experience. I have met so many wonderful people who are now becoming the faces of the "homeless" for me. During the week, besides spending time in the Day Shelter, we spend time with the Transitional and Permanent housing residents. All residents are formerly homeless, have a mental illness, and have suffered from an alcohol or drug addiction. Kerry and I eat dinner with them nearly every night conversing and deepening our friendships. They are very open about their lives and what they have done, good or bad. One of my friends comes over at least four days a week and he tells me about his past and what he's been up to. I quickly learned he plays board games so we play Chess and Stratego together. I am so blessed to be living in this community with so many wonderful guys. God has also blessed me with a fabulous church community. The whole Hope team goes to a church called Sojourn. The congregation is very welcoming and loving. They receive with open arms everyone from a homeless man to a rich city dweller, all age groups, all races, whatever. This body of Christ welcomes all people as Jesus would. We are also blessed to have a teaching Pastor, Daniel, who is very passionate and Christ-centered. It is very obvious during worship that Jesus is the reason we meet every Sunday. The worship atmosphere reminds me of my giant family. It rejuvenates me and helps me to keep walking down God's path. I have

already met numerous members and they are willing to help in any way possible. I'll say it again I have been very blessed.

One thing that I had not expected when I came to serve at Jefferson Street was to be witnessed by countless men and women in the Day Shelter. Now daily, many will come up to me out of nowhere and let me know about the presence of Christ in their lives. Every day I am humbled more and more by their words and their actions. As I learn from these Christ followers daily, it made me ask myself what does the Bible say about witnessing and testifying to God's work in my life. I found that in three for the four gospels there is the story of Jesus telling the disciples about witnessing. He says in Matthew 10:18, "On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnessing to them and to the Gentiles." It goes on to say in verses 19 and 20 "At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." From this I realize that as Jesus' follower I am going to ask to testify for Him and I need to rely on the Holy Spirit to lead me. Jesus' words and the example shown by these brothers and sisters in Christ encourage me to share the story of God's steadfast and patient work in my life.

One particular instance of a Day Shelter guest witnessing me happened to me a few days ago I was in the closet, which is a big room where our guests can store two bags of their personal belongings. I don't usually work there, so I believe that it was one of those God things where He made sure I was in the right place at the right time in order for Him to teach me and encourage me in my faith. There were very few people coming into the closet and so I was about to close up when there came this middle aged looking man. He came up, showed me his ID and I let him get his bag. I asked how he was and his response was more than a common reply.

He said something to the effect of I don't always feel well with the discomforts of homelessness, but I have joy in the Lord, my provider. He went on to tell me about his life and how God has brought him through difficult times. He told me that for the majority of his life he has been homeless. He then told me that he is 62, only had a third grade education and that God has always been a faithful companion with him. At those comments I was astounded. This man has spent decades on the streets and his is still praising God for every day he has. Everything he said, he said with cheer and peace. He said things haven't been easy but he has made it through with Jesus, his Savior at the center of his life.

When he got his suitcase out he opened the front pocket and took out a very old battered Bible. He had bookmarks on the pages there were countless notes he had made. He turned to Isaiah 40:13 which says "Who has understood the mind of the Lord, or instructed him as counselor?" and then next to it he had a note that said, 1 Corinthians 2:16. He flipped there and read, "For who has the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ". As Christ is our Lord, those who put their faith in Him may little by little gain understanding of God. He said "I can use that understanding and live for Jesus Christ or I can live for myself and follow the devil. When we let the Holy Spirit lead us it is the Lord working through us for the good." He told me this all in love and with joy. He encouraged me as the Holy Spirit led him. He reminded me to keep focused on Christ, loving people, and showing them mercy and grace. He took what he needed from his bag, was on his way, and I haven't seen him since.

This is just one of the many experiences that I have had since coming to Jefferson Street. I thank and praise God for every day I have here. It is a blessing to be here and all of you are blessings to me. I want to thank all of you who have supported me with your prayers, money, and encouragement through letters and phone calls. I truly appreciate it. God is doing wonders here in my teammates and I but it is not without struggles, so again, I thank you for your prayers. Please keep them coming! I love you all and thank God that you are a part of my life.

With Christ's love,
Matt

PS. I really appreciate the support you are giving me as a congregation. God is really blessing my time here and teaching me a lot. I pray for God's guidance and for all of you!

Anybody wishing to support Matt, please contact the church office.

Sunday Scripture Readings

For several months now we have been using NRSV pew Bibles for the scripture readings during worship. If you would like to bring your own Bible to use instead, please feel free to do so. You may also want to bookmark the readings ahead of time. For November the scripture readings will be:

November 2 (All Saints): Revelation 7:9-17; I John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 9 (Pentecost 26): Amos 5:18-24; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 16 (Pentecost 27): Zephaniah 1:7, 12-8; I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

November 23 (Christ the King): Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

November 30 (Advent 1): Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37