

NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Earlville, Illinois

April 2009
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

From the Pastor:

The Old Testament lesson on a recent Sunday was a reading of the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20. My sermon on that particular Sunday would be based on the gospel reading, but I still spent some time thinking about the Ten Commandments.

In recent history there was a fairly strong movement (although it seems to have quieted down some now) to have the Ten Commandments posted in places like court houses and public schools. The outcry was that we are a “Christian” nation and should all live by the Ten Commandments. And while I do believe that Ten Commandments offer us good guidelines for the way we should live in community, I wonder if the people who are crying out for the placement of the Commandments in public places take seriously all of the commandments and all that they really demand of us.

Martin Luther, in the Small Catechism, rightly teaches that the commandments do *more* than teach us what we should not do. To truly love God and have no other gods means that we must go above and beyond what the commandments forbid and understand what they require of us. To not murder also means that we are to do whatever is necessary to preserve and enhance the life of our neighbor. To not steal means that we must also preserve and protect our neighbors possessions. To not bear false witness also means that we must always speak well of our neighbor and protect their reputation. And so on. To keep the commandments means that we must be proactive in our actions with those around us.

However, there is still one commandment that is obviously not kept by a vast majority of people in this “Christian” nation. The third commandment (as Lutherans count them) says, “Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.” So many rules in the Jewish codes developed around keeping the sabbath “holy.” Perhaps many took the practices too far.

But that doesn’t mean that the commandment to keep the sabbath is irrelevant. On the simplest level “keeping the sabbath” means setting apart time in your hectic lives to work on your relationship with God. “Keeping the sabbath” isn’t about taking a day off from work to sleep in or watch a ball game or put your feet up and read the Sunday paper. “Keeping the sabbath” means taking the time to offer worship and praise to the Lord our God who has brought us out of slavery into freedom, who has redeemed us from the grave and promised us eternal life.

Do you really believe that we should follow the Ten Commandments? Then perhaps one of your first commitments should be to keep the third commandment and remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Take the time, make the time, to worship and praise the God who has given you life.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

Holy Week

SCHEDULE

- April 5** *Palm/Passion Sunday* - Worship services are at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be offered at both services.
- April 9** *Maundy/Holy Thursday* - A special service with the Lord's Supper will be held at 7:00 p.m.
- April 10** *Good Friday* - On this day we will have two opportunities to worship. A Good Friday Worship Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. at Immanuel. At 7:00 p.m. a Community Good Friday Worship Service will also be held here at Immanuel Lutheran Church. The Pastors of the local churches will be leading the worship. The Earlville Community Choir will sing during the service.
- April 12** *Easter Sunday* - Our celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ will include special music and Holy Communion at both services - 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. All this will lift up the joyful message on Easter Sunday - that death no longer reigns for all who place their faith and life in the Lord Jesus. In the Lord, LIFE reigns!

Sunday School Easter Program: The Sunday School children will present an Easter program at worship on Sunday, April 19 during the **10:30 a.m.** worship service. This brief presentation will take the place of the sermon. There will be a regular worship service at 8:00 a.m. that day.

The Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. All women of the church are invited to attend.



The Easter season is fast approaching and we are again offering the opportunity for those who wish to order lilies through the church to do so. The lilies are in 6" pots and will have 5 blooms and buds at a cost of \$10.00 (make checks payable to Immanuel). The deadline to order is March 30. Please sign the chart on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church office if you wish to place a lily on the altar for Easter Sunday. Sign the chart even if you are providing your own so we can have a listing for the bulletin.

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!

April 18

May 9

June 13

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

The bus trip to see *Church Basement Ladies* at Circa 21 in Rock Island, IL has been changed to May 15, 2009. Church Basement Ladies is a musical comedy celebrating the church basement kitchen and the women who work there.



Circa 21 is a dinner theater. The cost of the trip is \$79 and includes transportation, lunch and the play. The bus will depart from Immanuel at 9:00 am. If you are

interested in going on this trip please sign-up on the sheet on the table in the narthex at church or call Dolores Kaminky at 246-9593. A limited number of seats are available so sign up as soon as possible to reserve your space. Payment will be due in April.

Easter Egg Hunt at Immanuel - On Easter morning, April 12, during our Sunday School time, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., families are invited to join in on our Easter Egg Hunt. The Egg Hunt will be contained within the walls of Immanuel with a coffee time available in the fellowship hall for adults. Parents of small children are encouraged to *hunt* for eggs with their kids. Want to Help?? Things we need: plastic eggs, wrapped candy - bite size, Easter paper/plastic bags for kids to use. Donations may be placed in the basket in the narthex. Also needed: cookies/donuts, etc., kitchen help (serve coffee/juice). **The Easter Bunny will hide the eggs!**



The Annual Sewing Group BBQ Lunch and ILCW Bake Sale will be held in conjunction with the Earlville Town Garage Sales on Saturday, April 25 in the Parish Hall. Please bring your donated baked goods to the Parish Hall on Friday or by 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning. This is their once a year fund raising project so please help support these groups if you can. Workers are needed; if you can volunteer it would be appreciated. Matching funds will be provided by *Thrivent* for Lutherans. Questions may be directed to Norma Nelson at 246-9540.

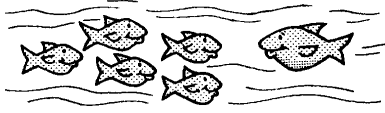


Summer Camp Brochures for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center are available on the table in the narthex or through the church office. Immanuel will provide a \$75.00 campership for anyone participating in a Lutheran Bible camp this summer.

Mark your calendars! The Community Vacation Bible School will be held August 3 - 7 at Immanuel. Those children in the community who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2009 through those who are entering 5th grade are welcome to attend.



Congratulations to Lance and Amanda Abens on the birth of their son, Parker Lee on Thursday, March 5, 2009. He is welcomed home by his brother Traeger, age 4 and his sister Kaylee, age 2. Grandparents from Immanuel are George and Nancy Abens.



Immanuel Lutheran Preschool News

As we approach the celebration of Easter and its message, I came across an article written by MaryJane Pierce Norton, and her message is right on target with knowing how to share Easter with your kids. Here are a few of her

thoughts:

Easter is the key experience of the Christian faith. Do you believe that?

Yet we often find it difficult to talk with children about Easter. Oh, not the part about new clothes, changes of the seasons, and the joy of Easter day. What makes it hard to talk with our children about Easter is that we cannot come to Easter without death. And talking with a child about death is no easy task.

Look at how differently we approach Christmas. Talking about a new baby, the joy of Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men is fun. We feel at ease with Christmas.

“Why was Jesus killed?” Often we have done a good job helping children see Jesus as a man worthy of love. Children learn that Jesus loved people.

It’s really hard to understand how a man we see as good could then be tortured, and put to death. Children will have questions about Jesus’ death. They see Jesus as good. We can help children understand that it was not God who put Jesus to death but other people.

The scriptures tell us that there were people who did not like Jesus. These people brought about his death. Talk together about why people might not like what Jesus had to say about loving your enemy, trusting God, or dealing with anger.

Jesus’ death is one part of the Easter story. For us, the Easter message comes in what happens next: new life and resurrection. What a powerful witness we have in the Gospels to this act of mystery and wonder! If Jesus’ death was the act of humans, the resurrection is surely God’s act. Through the Easter experience, we make the simple faith statement:

JESUS LIVES!

Share Easter with your children.

Through His Love,
Wendy Keller

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council Minutes
January 15, 2009

The Church Council meeting of January 15, 2009 was called to order by Don Sawicki. Present were Linda Hanley, Judy Rosengren, John Nielsen, Cathy Setchell, Marcia Farley, Don Sawicki, and Pastor Knowles. Don showed the Council a DVD called "Shells". We had a little discussion. Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

The secretary's report was reviewed. Judy Rosengren motioned to accept the December minutes with minor corrections, John Nielsen seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer Cathy Setchell went over the financial report. There was a motion to accept it by Linda Hanley, seconded by Judy Rosengren. The motion passed.

In Pastor Knowles' report he asked for a credit/debit card from the National Bank of Earlville in order to order supplies online. Don Sawicki will look into it. Ash Wednesday is February 25, and the first Soup Supper is March 4. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Congregational Life

- Thirty-one people attended Senior Saturday.

Evangelism & Mission

- Judy Rosengren and Deb Larson will have Bible Study.

Memorial Committee No report

Parish Education

- The Sunday School Program, postponed due to weather in December, will be on January 25.

Preschool

- Registration opens in February for current students & members of Immanuel. The registration for others opens March 1.
- The tuition and salaries for 2009-2010 will remain the same.

Property

- The parish hall furnace repairs are done and cost \$2500.00.
- The boiler last Wednesday went out, Malley's fixed the thermo-couple.
- The water fountains work now. There was lots of build-up inside.

NEW BUSINESS

- We talked about a request for the church to be used to hold AA meetings. A motion was made by Linda Hanley to approve the request. John Nielsen seconded. The motion was approved.
- The New Council will go to LOMC for a retreat February 7-8.

There was a motion by Judy Rosengren to close the meeting. It was seconded by Linda Hanley. The motion was passed.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Farley

President's Corner
April 2009

“The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become.”
Charles Du Bos (1882-1939)

I collected this quotation a while back. I just liked the sound and the feel of it. What? You didn't know quotations had a feel? This one feels to me like “Anticipation”. I've looked at it now and then searching for some relevance to living a Christ centered life in today's world. It suddenly occurred to me that this is the perfect explanation for the reaction of the people Jesus called to be his disciples along the Sea of Galilee. There they were, Peter and Andrew, James and John, toiling away in the family business. They were secure in the knowledge of who they were and what was expected of them in life. They had a family business to run, and traditions to uphold. They had a pretty good idea, thank you, of what life had in store for them, and the part they would be required to play. Little did they know who was strolling down the beach toward them, and the impact the encounter would have on their lives. Little did they know how little they knew of what life really held for them.

It was the same with Abraham, and with Moses. God called David as well. God called, and they went, and the world was never the same again. Throughout the Bible, human history is changed when God calls and people respond. Was that just for that time? What about us living in the modern world? Is God still calling? Is God calling you and I? I think sometimes we get too caught up in the expectations we have for our lives, playing the parts we think we're expected to play. We get adamant about defending the traditions and the old days and the old ways, and in that we're not so much different from Peter and Andrew, James and John, Abraham, Moses, and David. I think sometimes we get so caught up in trying to maintain what we have been that we have a hard time hearing when Jesus says, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”. Follow me, and I will use what you are to achieve my purpose. Jesus always calls us for the better, not the worse. Change is not bad, just uncomfortable. Jesus did not come to make us comfortable.

Don Sawicki
President, Church Council

\$	Treasurer's Report	\$
	Budget through <i>February</i> : \$23,664 (<i>\$2958/wk</i>)	
	General Offerings thru <i>month</i> : \$25,290	
	Over/Under Budget \$1,626	
\$		\$

April Worship Assistants

Job	8:00 a.m. Worship Service	10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Acolyte	Chase Johnson	Elliott Greer
Lector	Jeri Grey	Devin Hanley
Greeters: (4/5)	Fritz & Norma Nelson	Becky Donahue
(4/12) <i>Easter</i>	George & Nancy Abens	Don & Becky Sawicki
(4/19)	Marge Hecathorn	Brett & Jay Johnson
(4/26)	Brian & Kathy Beuster & Family	Mike & Carol Greer
Ushers	Luke Tillman and Carl Cook	Chuck Jenkins and Angie Koontz
Communion Assistant: (4/5)	Howard Nielsen	Chuck Farley
(4/12) <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Fred Kaminky	
(4/12) <i>Easter</i>	Fritz Nelson and John Nielsen	Don Sawicki and Kathy Beuster
Offering Counters	Ron and Wilma Boltz and Michelle Beetz	
Altar Guild	Jenny Boltz and Betty Grimm	