

NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Earlville, Illinois

August 2009
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

From the Pastor:

Be the Change

As I write this letter I am sitting on Amtrak's *City of New Orleans* approaching the town of Marks, Mississippi. Returning from New Orleans and the 2009 National Youth Gathering where, for 3+ days 38,000 youth, chaperones and volunteers from all across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America worshiped, worked and toured the Crescent City.

One of the things I have always enjoyed at these triennial gatherings is reading t-shirts. People wear t-shirts with their hometowns printed on them, displaying the breadth of participants at these gatherings. (I saw one group from Alaska!) I saw a shirt that simply had the word "*And*" printed across the front. (I will explain that one in a future newsletter.) And, of course, there were a myriad of shirts displaying the gathering theme, *Jesus, Justice, Jazz*.

But one shirt that I saw over and over again really caught my attention. It said, *Be the Change*. **Be the change**. For me, that simple phrase summed up the most important message of the gathering. **Be the change**.

The point was really basic. All of us can look at the world around us and see so many problems. We look in our community and see problems with alcohol or drugs. There are children in our community who suffer because of a lack of financial resources. A week does not go by that we don't read in the paper about the police being called in to domestic violence situations. Our state is in the midst of a financial crisis and the politicians are hoping to resolve it on the backs of the poorest and most needy people in the state. Nationally we continue to struggle with economic inequalities, racial tensions, wars, environmental concerns and a host of other issues. By no means do we live in a perfect world. No matter which we turn we can see things that could and should be changed for the better.

But recognizing the need for change is only the first, very small, step in making things different. To really change things someone needs to do something. And the message we heard throughout our week was that we, each one of us, must be the one who helps make the change. We were encouraged to not just think about changing things, or talk about changing things, but to actually change the things around us. We were all called on to "be the change," to make it happen. And we heard inspiring stories from people who did change their communities by giving the gift of education to young girls in Senegal, or forming a running club to give the gift of hope for homeless men in Philadelphia, or starting a grass roots business to provide jobs and hope for women with criminal records for prostitution. All of those significant ministries were started by a single person who saw a need and did something.

And not only were we *encouraged* to be the change, we also had the opportunity to do it. 38,000 Lutherans, over the course of three days, spread out throughout New Orleans to serve the people and help overcome the ravages of Hurricane Katrina from August 2005. We worked in parks and schools, we helped in health care centers and nursing homes, we refurbished homes and playgrounds. In three days we accomplished what the City of New Orleans anticipated taking three years to do. In significant and important ways we changed the world for the better for people throughout New Orleans.

The four youth that journeyed with me to New Orleans, Kendall and Michael and Devin and Ned, I believe have learned a valuable lesson. They come home recognizing that they can "be the change." They have heard God's call and they will, I am convinced, make the world a better place.

I hope the enthusiasm they showed in New Orleans will be contagious in Earlville, and that all of us can heed God's call to "**Be the Change**."

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

Sunday School is set to begin on September 20 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.

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 are:

- ▶ pads or notebooks of ruled 8½ x11 paper
- ▶ blunt scissors
- ▶ 30 cm/12 inch ruler (both cm & inches on it)
- ▶ new pencils with erasers
- ▶ erasers (about 2½ inches long)
- ▶ construction paper
- ▶ box of 8, 16 or 24 crayons
- ▶ hand held pencil sharpeners

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

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.



Preschool News – Registration for Fall 2009 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 30 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 1 & 2. Call the church office at 246-9642 for more information.

Fall Worship Schedule

We will return to our regular worship schedule on Sunday, September 13 with worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

<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 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services 9:15 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Deadline for copy: The 20th of the month prior to publication.</p>		

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 15
September 12
October 3

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

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

WHO: ALL ARE INVITED

WHAT: FUN & FELLOWSHIP FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

MEAT, DRINKS AND POTATO SALAD WILL BE PROVIDED

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO BRING A DISH TO PASS

WHERE: DODGE PARK
EARLVILLE, ILLINOIS

WHEN: SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009
WORSHIP AT 10:00 a.m.

Blood Drive

The American Legion will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on Thursday, August 13 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 to.



Reminder: There will be no Ruth Circle for the month of August. They will meet again on Monday, September 14.

Treasurer's Report	
Budget through <i>June</i> :	\$76,908
<i>(\$2,958/wk)</i>	
General Offerings thru <i>June</i> :	70,357
Over/Under Budget	(\$6,551)

August Worship Assistants		
Job	Saturday Worship Service	Sunday Worship Service
Acolyte		Reagan Maly
Lector	Norma Nelson	Al Ohlson (2 nd , 9 th & 16 th) Jo Malley (23 rd & 30 th)
Greeters (2 nd):		Joe & Shari Stone
(9 th)		Deb Fultz
(16 th)		John & Jenny Boltz
(23 rd)		Chuck & Marcia Farley
(30 th)		Ryan & Cindy Greer
Ushers	Howard Nielsen and Steve Merritt	
Communion Assistant:		Chuck Farley
Offering Counters	Carol Taylor, Don Sawicki & Betty Sawicki	
Altar Guild	Paula Glass and Sheila Jenkins	

President's Corner
August 2009

“For fast acting relief, try slowing down.”
-Lily Tomlin

For the 4 or 5 dozen of you who couldn't be at services the weekend of July 25th & 26th, you missed a terrific sermon by Pastor Walker. He based his message on the text of Jesus and the feeding of the 5000. After recounting the familiar interpretation of the event, he introduced a “what if” situation. What if everyone in the crowd had secretly brought enough food for themselves, and had hidden it from their neighbors? I mean they knew they were going to be in a fairly arid region, right? These presumably were not stupid people. What if, by taking this young child who unquestioningly brought what he had forward in the face of the common need, Jesus simply shamed those other 4999 people into the realization that they too could share? “A little child shall lead them” it says somewhere. The proof of Jesus' divine insight into our hearts is then quite evident; 12 baskets left over! It's always fun to speculate, but it got me thinking. Whether this is what happened, or not, the lesson is still valid.

We are a lot like those 5000 at times. We come to church expecting to be fed, and rightfully so. But many times we are hiding talents and other resources from each other because we think we might only have enough to feed just our immediate family. I thank God that we still have a core group that takes care of the basic needs of the congregation, and the worship service. But that group is shrinking. On the 26th, we had to commandeer an acolyte, ushers, and a communion assistant. We all participate in the Eucharist, but that is something that we get, not something we bring. Will we share by singing with abandonment and gusto with our neighbor in the pew? Sometimes we do, and sometimes we don't. We tend to think we can't sing, and will embarrass ourselves. But hymns of praise are not about us. The liturgy is not about us. The next time you come to services, take a good look at where we are sitting. At least the 5000 were probably sitting shoulder to shoulder in the grassy area. Visitors to our services could be excused for mistakenly thinking they were somewhere in Texas just from looking at the wide-open spaces between our attendees.

Are you sitting on some talent or resource that you could be and should be sharing? Is there a reason you are not attending services? Is there a reason you are not sharing your talents? Is there a reason you are not fully and joyfully bringing your loaves and fishes forward? Whatever those reasons are, they are not valid.

Come, let us (together) bow down, and worship the Lord!
This is my prayer, in the name of Jesus,

Don Sawicki
President, Church Council

“Act Boldly - Live Joyfully”

September 19, 2009

Ladies you are invited to attend the 21st Northern Illinois Synodical Women’s Organization Convention at St. Paul Lutheran, 421 S. Peoria Ave., Dixon, IL.

Registration and Coffee will begin at 8:00 a.m. The convention starts at 9:00 a.m. and will end about 3:30 p.m.

Women attending will have the opportunity to

- ▶ Worship together and hear a message from Bishop Wollersheim
- ▶ Celebrate Holy Communion
- ▶ Celebrate in Song
- ▶ Participate in Workshops, such as Messages from Arusha; Going Green; and Tower of Refuge
- ▶ Learn about special projects of our Synod’s WELCA
- ▶ Visit with representatives of organizations and agencies we support
- ▶ Participate in the business of the Synodical Women’s organization
- ▶ Network and join in fellowship with women around our Synod

The registration fee is \$30, which includes your morning coffee, snacks and lunch. Scholarships are available, you can contact your WELCA unit officers or our Registrar.

If you cannot attend and would like to send a monetary gift, please send it to our treasurer: Ruth Anne Hartman

6522 95th Ave. Ct. W
Taylor Ridge, IL 61284

Registrar:

Geraldine French
901 Myrtle Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021

Email - haroldfrench@grics.net

This year’s physical offering will be for:

Dixon Correctional Center: 2500 decks of playing cards are needed to be included in the Christmas gift package the inmates will receive. When you purchase new ones, please be careful of the type of pictures on them! The used ones from the casinos are just fine!

Dixon Food Pantry: These are hard times for many in the area, and supplies are always needed. Canned goods, paper products, women’s supplies, toiletries of all kinds, baby items - all the regular items.

Storybook Project: New CDs or new, small paperback children’s books for ages infant to 15 years, to be used both at Dixon and the new program at Thomson.

Thanks to all who help - everything that is given is much appreciated by many!

For those coming early join us for a Special Friday Night Program - Spirit’s Harmony at 7:00 p.m.

“Spirits Harmony’s goal is to sing praises to the Lord and bring joy to people’s hearts.”