

NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Earlville, Illinois

June 2009
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

From the Pastor:

At our council meetings we are using the book, *Listen! God Is Calling* for our devotions.

The main emphasis of the book is Christian vocation. The author, D. Michael Bennethum, speaks of the divide between the life of a Christian on Sunday and Monday. On Sunday we think and act Christian. However, come Monday it is far too easy to fall into “secular” behavior and leave our faith behind. We find it difficult, if not impossible, to speak about God to others in our “weekday” lives.

Because I have not yet finished the book, I don’t want to draw any conclusions beyond those statements at this point. However, I have been thinking about the generalization that as Christians we find it difficult to relate what we hear on Sunday to what we do on Monday.

As Lutherans we are probably not very good at sharing our faith. It is, for some reason, difficult for us to talk to others about God and Jesus and the difference our faith has made in our lives.

Why do we have a difficult time openly sharing our faith? Perhaps that is the \$64,000 question. Maybe Bennethum will give me the answer by the time I finish the book. In reality I suspect there are a number of reasons. Part of it is a lack of confidence in what to say (for which Bible study and practice at church with fellow believers would certainly help). Part of the reason may be that we believe faith is a personal issue and we have no business trying to convince someone else to believe (an attitude I have heard expressed at Immanuel). And I am sure there are a variety of other reasons.

But I don’t think that means we are not good at living out our faith. I believe most of us, in our day-to-day lives, *act* Christian. What we *say* may not be considered “evangelical,” but I think many of the things we *do* are influenced by our faith. We just may not realize that what we are doing we do *because of our faith*. How many simple acts of kindness do you do (the other day I was in line at the grocery store with a relatively full basket and I stepped aside to let the woman behind me with a couple of items go first). How often do we give of ourselves for the sake of others (like donating blood). How often do we open a door for a stranger or lend a hand to a friend. How often do we offer prayers for people we will never see.

Yes, I think we have a long way to go when it comes to talking about our faith with others. But I also think we are far better at living out our faith in action than we give ourselves credit for.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

The last day of Sunday School was held on May 17. This year's classes averaged about 35 people each week.

Sunday School Participation Awards were given presented on Sunday, May 3 to those who were at church. Those who received awards were:



A very special thank you to all of our teachers, volunteers and to all others who have volunteered throughout the year for the time and energy you contributed to our classrooms every week. We appreciate all you do and give for the Christian education of our youth and our congregation. We thank the following teachers for their efforts and gifts during the 2008-09 school year.

Superintendent & Music - **Cindy Torman**
Preschool/Kindergarten - **Jessica Whittaker**
Jr. High & High School - **Kathy Beuster**
Adult Class - **Don Sawicki**
Kristen Ambler
Michelle Beetz
Ruthann Chapman
Cathy Setchell

Thank You:

- ◆ from Abigail Women's Clinic for our gift of \$451.74 from our Holy Week offering.
- ◆ from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) for our gift of \$229.00.
- ◆ Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for our gift of \$451.75 to benefit programs and services.

Preschool/Kindergarten

Connor Cook, Rylinn Greer

1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade

Katie Beetz, Emily Cook, Max Greer, Jakob Setchell, Sydnee Tillman

4th, 5th, & 6th Grade

Bailee Tillman

2nd, 3rd & 4th Graders Who Received Bibles

Katie Beetz, Jacob Benson, Emily Cook, Dalton Gast, Max Greer, Alyssa Holliday, Rena Jones, Sadey Maly Jakob Setchell, Bailee Tillman, Susan Tuffie

Congratulations to Everyone!

Summer Camp Brochures

for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center are available on the table in the narthex or through the church office. Camps begin on June 14. Immanuel will provide a \$75 campership for anyone participating in a Lutheran Bible camp this summer.



The Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, June 8 in the Parish Hall. All women of Immanuel are invited and encouraged to attend the meetings.

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

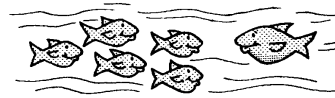
All seniors of the community are invited to Immanuel Lutheran Church (located at 415 East Street) on the Saturdays listed below for a meal, fellowship and fun beginning at noon. Bring a friend!

June 13
July 11
August 8

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



Congratulations to John Mash, Jr. on his Graduation from high school. John, who is a grandson of Marge Cantlin, has been on prayer list because of cancer. (Please see the full graduation announcement on the bulletin board in the narthex).



Preschool News

Preschool classes have ended until Fall. Classes resume on Tuesday, September 1 and Wednesday, September 2. Fall registration is still going on. There are openings still available. Call the church office at 246-9642 if you or someone you know would like information about enrolling.

Awesome! It's really amazing to know how much this ministry means to the families of children that attend Immanuel Lutheran Preschool. We were presented with a fund raiser check at our End of the Year Ceremony! This was organized by a couple of parents and supported by the parents of the preschoolers. I was totally unaware! Thank you to all of you! I love it when we show our youth they really matter!

Thank you to all that support this ministry in any way. He is smiling. It's all in the glory of His name.

In Christ's name,
Wendy

President's Corner June 2009

"Each of us will one day be judged by our standard of life, not by our standard of living; by our measure of giving, not by our measure of wealth; by our simple goodness, not by our seeming greatness."

William Arthur Ward

There just isn't much to be added to the above. I do want to personally thank each and every one of you who volunteer your services to the life of this congregation, and to the community at large. A special thanks goes out to the committee that organized the Mother & Daughter Luncheon, and to the men who served out of sight in the kitchen. Who knew that Terry Bronk is such a talented videographer?

Don Sawicki
President, Church Council

2009 Crocodile Dock VBS Supply List (Partial List)

- 550 glue dots
- 300 wiggly eyes
- various colored METALLIC ink markers
- 3-4 hot glue guns and glue sticks for each
- 9 bottles craft glue
- approx. 550 ounces colored sand in variety of colors
- fabric markers
- 150 flameless battery operated tea light candles
- 150+ ounces poly fill
- construction paper, various colors
- 9-12 different colored ink pads
- plastic table coverings (10-12, any colors)
- 2-3 large plastic tubs with lids (not to be returned)
- 1000 styrofoam cups (small/medium)
- 1000 napkins
- 1000 small paper plates
- 300 plastic spoons
- 150 clear plastic 8-ounce cups
- 2-3 small blow-up swimming pools (can be returned if labeled...and not popped thru week!)
- 10-12 foam pool noodles
- masking tape
- packing tape
- scotch tape (please get "Scotch" brand)
- 4 large bags Skittles candies
- 4 clothes baskets (can be returned if labeled)
- 3 twin-sized bed sheets (preferrably green)
- 30 cans Silly String
- 60 pieces 8 1/2"x11" cardboard
- 20 appliance box "rafts" (large cardboard boxes to make rafts)
- 5 backpacks
- 12+ sponge/water balls
- 10 large black plastic trash bags
- newspapers (will use to fill bags, won't return)
- 5 inflatable life rings (medium/large size)
- 300+ INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED Life-Savers candies
- 2 CD players (will not be returned - to be used for classroom use)
- 8-9 large pairs of scissors (not student size)
- 300+ graham crackers
- 8 tubs vanilla frosting
- 1 small bottle blue food coloring
- 5 bags Nestle butterscotch chips
- 5 bags Nestle chocolate chips
- resealable sandwich bags
- 10 boxes Nilla wafer cookies (NOT mini)
- 60-70+ cups small pretzels (NOT sticks/rods)
- 150 packages "Fruit Gushers"
- 75 cups miniature white marshmallows
- 75 cups Nestle Chocolate chips
- 75 cups raisins
- 50 clothes pins (wooden, preferably)
- 10-15 green paper plates

If you have any questions about any of the above listed materials, please call Cindy Torman at 246-9385 or Jessica Whittaker at 246-4087. Please drop off any supplies you may be donating to the church office so we can cross them off the list!! THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!!

More VBS Info!!!

TRAINING DATES for all VBS helpers (Crew Leaders, Station Leaders, and other Helpers) will be held on Friday, July 31 and Sunday, August 2 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. with decorating to follow both days. Anyone entering 6th grade next fall or older can help. **You must attend one of the training sessions in order to help.** Call Cindy Torman at 246-9385 or Jessica Whittaker at 246-4087 to reserve your spot so we can plan enough food, supplies and materials, please!!

Crocodile Dock *Sponsor a Spot*

We are asking if you would like to *Sponsor a Spot* to hang on the wall display before and during Vacation Bible School. You may purchase a spot for any amount of money, and your name will be written on it and hung up on the wall. This donation can be made in the form of cash or check made out to Immanuel Lutheran Church, memo VBS. You may make your donations by putting them in an envelope, marking it VBS and put it in the offering plate on Sunday or in the church office during the week.

During the week, each child received a Bible Book, which consists of a section of the Bible that pertains to the stories, activities, games, crafts and snacks. These Bible Books cost \$3.00 per child. We are hoping to keep the cost per child for the week at about \$25 this year. With some of these children, these 15 hours of Christian fellowship and religion are all their lives will know until the following year.

We appreciate your help and support in continuing our Vacation Bible School for the youth in our community. This program reaches out to over 100 children on an average per day. Thank you for your donations. If you have any questions, please call Cindy at 246-9385 or Jessica at 246-4087.

God Bless! - Cindy Torman and Jessica Whittaker, VBS Co-Directors.

Phone Number Updates

Many people, we are discovering, have abandoned their land lines and are using cell phones exclusively. As a result, the records in the church office have become significantly outdated. Would you please help us bring our records back up to date by filling out the form below and returning to the church office (mail it in, drop it off, give us a call, or email the info to us.)

Name _____ ✓ here if there is no Change _____

Phone number you would like us to use to contact your family _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email address _____

From Matt Norton:

May 2009

In the Day Shelter one weekday morning we had a situation where I accidentally skipped over a woman's name in line to do laundry. I apologized to her and told her that it'd be another 30 minutes. She was indignant. (rightfully so) She stood at the counter for 10 minutes complaining about the injustice and how she is always treated unfairly. I listened to her harsh comments and as lovingly and sincerely as I could I again apologized to her, as it was my mistake. As she quieted down, yet was still very hot I apologized a final time. It was then that she made the comment, "Don't worry about it I've had to get over much bigger problems than this" and walked away.

Her comment stuck with me. She is an older woman, probably in her 60's. She and I generally get along great. She is someone I look forward to seeing and over time we have gotten to know each other pretty well. In our talks it seems to me that she has had much pain to deal with in her life. However it seems that the way she has dealt with it has led to bitterness and anger. Her comment that day about the laundry makes me think that when confronted with problems in her life, she has often resorted to "getting over them".

As soon as she made her comment my heart went out for her. I can imagine the pain that she has harbored inside for years. We see such pain and brokenness everywhere in the world and in ourselves every day. If we focus on that pain we can fall into despair. I avoid despair by going to scripture to see that God does not call us to get *over* our interpersonal issues; he calls us to reconciliation. I look to Christ and see that even though I am "the worst of sinners" (1 Tim 1:16) he, the faultless one, died on the cross and rose again to new life, reconciling me to God the Father. If I can be reconciled to the perfect and holy God of the universe it would be insane for me to say that I cannot be reconciled to my fellow sinners. (2 Cor 5:18-21)

Reconciliation to God and others sounds nice and pleasant when the Bible speaks of it, but as we know it is intensely difficult and often seems impossible. This year God has been teaching me so much about Christian community especially in the area of reconciliation. I am learning that reconciliation is not impossible but actually very encouraging and beneficial when done with humility, listening, and grace.

Lindsey, my teammate, and I had been growing distant over the last few months and we both noticed it but did not acknowledge it. Finally, Lindsey made a comment to me and said that she would like to talk about why I seemed so aloof. We went for a walk one day and talked it out. Since there was no one incident that caused our talk we decided just to share what was bothering us about the other. We asked probing questions, exposing our sinful hearts in the matter and then talked about how to resolve any issues that we saw. The experience revealed to me much of my self-righteousness. I also saw how inconsiderate I was toward Lindsey and how I was not seeking unity with a sister in Christ. Lindsey showed me tremendous amounts of grace, as Christ daily shows us all. I pray that God continues to grow me in reconciliation and "unity among [believers] as [we] follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth [we] may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 15:5,6)

I praise God for patiently teaching a stubborn young punk about reconciliation. It is amazing that God loves me enough not to let me just get over problems, but shows me how to reconcile, when I am confronted with such problems. God has given me many great examples this year of godly men and women who humble themselves and seek God's will in all situations; men and women who seek God's glory instead of their own comfort and self-glorification. I praise God as he allows me to see and experience what it means to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Eph 4:1-3)

Much thanks to all of you who read my newsletters, support me financially, encourage me and pray for me. I want to extend a special thank you to those of you who sent me letters, notes, or called me this past month after reading my newsletter. You really encouraged me and focused me back on God's plan for this ministry. Your example reminds me of Paul talking to the church in Thessalonica when he says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11) Let us continue to encourage and build each other up.

Prayer Requests

The summer team will be moving in May 26th, so please pray that God prepares their hearts to serve the homeless and also that Kerry, Lindsey and I may be good role models for them.

Please pray for endurance for the Staff and volunteers here at Jeff Street and the constant reminder that our lives are gifts from God, meant to be in humble service to him.

Pray for John Ferguson, the new Executive Director, as he and his family are still seeking to sell their house and then find a home in Louisville.

With Christ's gracious love,
Matt

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 4/16/09

The April meeting of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council was called to order by Don Sawicki at 7:09 p.m. Members in attendance included Pastor Knowles, Don Sawicki, Cathy Setchell, John Nielsen, Michelle Beetz, Carol Taylor, Val Norton, Deb Larson, Linda Hanley.

Opening devotions were a discussion of Chapter 2 in "Listen! God is Calling!"

THE LAST MEETING'S MINUTES were reviewed and a typographical error corrected. Deb Larson made a motion to approve the minutes; Carol Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was reviewed and Linda Hanley made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Val Norton and the motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

There are 4 weddings coming up on the schedule:

4/25 Rebecca Nanzer

5/31 Paul Hoffman

9/18 Jodi Whitaker

10/10 Ethan Farley

The Synod Assembly will be 6/19 & 20 at Augustana College. Our congregation needs to send two voting members. Coverage for that Saturday service was discussed. Pastor reported on his pastoral visits and worship services provided to area nursing homes.

PROGRAM & ACTIVITY REPORTS:

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & FELLOWSHIP

Mother /Daughter Luncheon plans are under way with the theme "How Sweet It Is". There is no charge for this event, but tickets are being issued so planners can get a head count.

EVANGELISM & MISSION

Senior Saturday is planned for this Saturday 4/18 with a ham dinner and BINGO. Program and Activity fliers are in need of updating. Date for the Crop Walk (9/27), Blood Drive (8/13), and Church Picnic (8/9 at Dodge Park) were added.

STEWARDSHIP

A workshop is planned at St. Matthews in Princeton for May 5th on the “Keep it Simple” program for Stewardship. The council is looking for people interested in attending.

MEMORIAL

The memorial funds have paid for Bibles for 3rd graders and flowers.

PARISH EDUCATION

The pastor recommended six youth for the Rite of Confirmation this spring: Jacey Chapman, Torie Dumke, Elliott Greer, Ned Hanley, Cassie Johnson, and Chase Johnson. Deb Larson made a motion to approve these six youth for confirmation. Michelle Beetz seconded the motion and the motion carried. Recognition for high school graduates is planned for May 17th. Preschool closing ceremonies are scheduled for May 20th at 6:30 p.m.

PROPERTY

Supplies for the lighting project are here and the work will begin next week. The condition (clutter, disrepair) of the Sunday School rooms and nursery was discussed. An intensive spring cleaning event is planned for June & July.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Plans for the volunteer recognition service were discussed. Praise time hymn singing will be held again this summer at 8:45 a.m. prior to the Sunday service beginning May 24th. A Rogation service will be held May 17th.

YOUTH

Brunch and doughnut sale fundraisers are planned for April 19th following the Sunday School Easter program. Plans have been made to take the train to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Easter Egg Hunt was a big success! Thanks to all who helped make this event fun for all.

NEW BUSINESS:

Linda Hanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Deb Larson. The motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hanley

Upcoming dates to remember:

May 7 - Committee Meetings

May 9 - Mother/Daughter Luncheon

May 21 - Council Meeting

May 23 - Begin summer worship schedule

\$	Treasurer's Report	\$
	Budget through <i>April</i> : \$50,286 (<i>\$2958/wk</i>)	
	General Offerings thru <i>April</i> : \$49,769	
\$	Over/Under Budget \$(517.00)	\$

June Worship Assistants		
Job	Saturday Worship Service	Sunday Worship Service
Acolyte		Taylor Browder and/or Carrissa Miller
Lector	The Beuster's	Wilma Boltz
Greeters (7 th):		Jim & Jo Malley
(14 th)		Joann Brown
(21 st)		Jay & Sue Johnson
(28 th)		Steve Moyer
Ushers	Steve Tuftie and John Nielsen	
Communion Assistant:		Kay Mathesius
Offering Counters	Skip Nanzer, Chuck & Sheila Jenkins	
Altar Guild	Deb Fultz and Cathy Setchell	