

# NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Earlville, Illinois

May, 2009  
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

## From the Pastor:

One of the themes from the readings for the Second Sunday of Easter, the week we normally focus on the story of “Doubting Thomas,” is the theme of *new life*. In the gospel reading from John, Jesus appears to the disciples in the locked upper room on Easter evening. After the disciples get over their initial shock (and fear) at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the Lord offers to them the gift of peace (*shalom*) and then commissions them to carry on his work in the world. John writes,

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:21-22)

It is the action of Jesus breathing on the disciples that I find so fascinating. It is reminiscent of God breathing into the nostrils of the clay man of Genesis 2 and giving him life, and of the breath of God blowing through the valley of dry bones and restoring life in Ezekiel 37. In both instances, God brings new life through breathing into something.

Jesus does the same thing in this passage from John. The resurrected Jesus breathes new life into the fearful disciples. Never again will their lives be the same. Now they are to move forward as witnesses of the Word of God for world.

And part of that witness is expressed in, not just what they *say*, but also in what they *do*. The passage from Acts assigned for the Second Sunday of Easter talks of the community of “Easter” disciples; the followers of the resurrected Lord.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. There was not a needy person among them.... They laid [the proceeds of what was sold] at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 4:32, 34-35)

So changed were the followers of Jesus by the new life breathed into them, that they gave up their claim to individual wealth and possessions in order to take care of everyone in the community. That is such a marvelous model of what the Christian community should look like. As a Christian community we are called on to live new lives, changed lives, lives of mutual love and support. It all seems so radical, and so impossible.

And perhaps for us sinful human beings it is impossible to live as a community like the one described in Acts. In fact, I have no doubt that we, as Immanuel Lutheran Church, fall short of that model community.

But at the same time I look at our congregation and know that we do live as changed people. The resurrection has made a difference in our lives. I will give one example: in the past year we have served nearly 1000 free meals in our parish hall. We have reached out, not to ourselves but to the community, with food and fellowship at Senior Saturdays, funeral meals, and the Thanksgiving Dinner. We have shared from our abundance for the sake of others. We have had the breath of life blown into our hearts and we have been changed. May we continue to live as people of the resurrection.

In Christ,

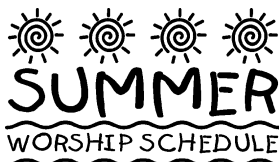
**Pastor Knowles**



**On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>,** 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will receive their bibles. *The kids need to be there to receive their awards.* **The**

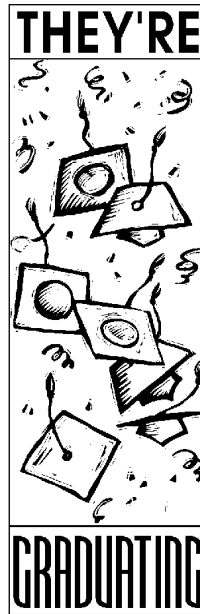
**last day of Sunday School** will be on Sunday, May 17.

**How Sweet It Is! Mother-Daughter Luncheon** for Immanuel Church Women! Saturday, May 9 at 12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The cost is a salad to serve 8. Please sign up in the Narthex. Please specify the number of adults and children. Tickets are available from Committee members: Nancy Abens, Michelle Beetz, Marcia Farley, Angie Koontz, Deb Larson and Deb Tillman. Salads needed: meat, fruit, veggie, pasta, etc. Drinks and dessert will be provided. A special *little ladies buffet* will be available. Special entertainment by Winifred Hoffman and daughters. Door prizes.



**The Summer Worship Schedule** will begin on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24. The Saturday evening service will begin at 5:00 p.m.

The Sunday morning services will begin at 9:00 a.m.



**Congratulations to our Seniors:**

There are six of Immanuel's young people who will be reaching an important goal in their lives – graduation from high school. We extend our congratulations to them and ask for your prayers for them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Graduate Recognition Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 17.** Those seniors from Immanuel are: **Michael Beuster, Jacob Brewer, Randy Collins, Mitchell Hake, Ashley Lane and Jacob Norton, .** Congratulations and best of luck with your future plans!



**Six of our youth:** Jacey Chapman, Torie Dumke, Elliott Greer, Ned Hanley, Cassie Johnson and Chase Johnson have completed the confirmation program. The Rite of Confirmation for those who will affirm their faith will

be held on Sunday, May 31.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
 Pastor: Donald L. Knowles  
 415 East Street  
 P.O. Box 598  
 Earlville, Illinois 60518  
 (815) 246-9642  
[www.immanuelearlville.net](http://www.immanuelearlville.net)

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

**Deadline for copy:**  
 The 20<sup>th</sup> 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 16**  
**June 13**  
**July 11**

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



**Vacation Bible School** - Anyone interested in helping with VBS is asked to attend an informational meeting on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. VBS will be held August 3-August 7 at Immanuel. If you will be

entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade or older, you are welcome to come and help. Cindy Torman and Jessica Whittaker are once again coordinating this year's VBS. If you have any questions or would like to help but cannot be there on the 17<sup>th</sup>, please call Cindy at 246-9385 or Jessica at 246-4087.

## **Thank You received:**

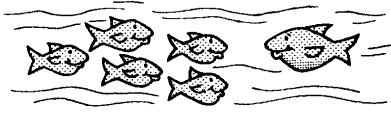
Dear Friends at Immanuel - Carol and I with friends at Trinity and Sheridan - Thank you for your partnership in the ministry at Sheridan Correctional Center. The \$125.00 will help toward the weekly provision of study materials and worship supplies. The one thing more we'd ask is your prayers.

Yours and His with you,

Gene Peisker

**Winifred Hoffman and Friends** will present a special concert on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, following the Senior Saturday dinner at noon. They perform Country/Gospel songs accompanied by guitar, pedal steel guitar, and autoharp. The group consists of Winifred Hoffman and her daughters, Martha and Miriam, of rural Earlville, Paul Redmond of Walnut on pedal steel guitar, Byron Towle of Sandwich on rhythm guitar, and John Musgrave of Morris on harmony vocals.

Winifred and her group have produced two CD's of music, "It's Different Now", and "Violets and Dandelions". Both will be available at the concert, with proceeds to be donated to Immanuel.



**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 the 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 20 at 6:30 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**

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


**M-W-F P.M. Class**

Hayley Fitzgerald  
Chase Grey  
Kyle Jungels  
Hailey Kuter  
Paige Marks  
Isaiah Rand  
Avery Strohm  
Grant Van Gilder  
Jeremy Weymouth

**T-Th A.M. Class**

Maddy Ambler\*  
Lexie Campbell  
Garett Cook\*  
Raef Goodbred  
Caleb Griesman  
Kaydence Harp  
Mya Humm  
Keegan Lawton  
Kennedi Navarro  
Alexander Shinn  
Wyatt Vahl  
Faith Van Gilder  
Diego Vazquez

\* indicates members of Immanuel Lutheran Church



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

*Wednesday, May 20, 2008  
6:30 p.m.  
Immanuel Lutheran Church*

*\*Students should not arrive  
before 6:15 p.m.*

**With Fellowship time to follow  
(punch, coffee and cookies)**

## **From Matt Norton:**

April 2009

The last few months here in Louisville have been up and down. As I said in my last newsletter the Day Shelter has been rough. The cold weather has brought many more people in, which has caused fights and an abundance of nonsense. Our guests have also recounted stories of long fearful nights sleeping out in the cold and snow, violence between homeless folks, and the difficulty of meeting needs that you and I take for granted. The influx of painful, uncomfortable and outrageous situations and circumstances has burdened and overwhelmed me. I feel insufficient. I don't know how to react or what to do. I see the need for prayer but often am so inundated in need I feel incapacitated. I see my failings and wonder how God can use someone like me. I then feel that it's easier to do nothing than something with a burden so large. However, in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians I am reminded that in my weakness and with my flaws God uses me. In verse nine God encourages Paul saying, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I must remember that I am serving a perfect and powerful God and that I am his vessel to use as he may, especially in my weakness.

Time with the residents has also been stressful. Outside of the Day Shelter we are busy with the residents. I have Bible Studies with three guys. Kerry and I plan an event every Wednesday for the guys to get them out of the building and engaged with others. Then we have the drop-in visitors. The relationship we have with the residents is like this. We try to love on the guys and be supportive and available to them. We want to be good neighbors and we want our love for Christ to overflow into our relationship for the guys. Although that is fun, it is also time consuming and often calls for tremendous amounts of patience. It has gotten to the point where the guys are so comfortable with us and enjoy our company (or at least spending time in our apartment) that they come around at all hours of the day and night. I can recall numerous nights when guys have come around past 11 pm and Kerry and I need to be up at 6 am. Our time together is positive but exhausting at the same time. I have had to ask myself how I can be a good friend to the guys without burning out.

In both these communities of which I am a part I have been stretched thin and have been seeking God's wisdom in how to move forward with both groups. As I have been thinking and reading through the scriptures, I have honed in on the passages in the gospels where it talks of Jesus going to solitary places to pray. Those passages show me that even Jesus, God in the flesh, took time alone to pray to his Father. I fall quite short of being like Jesus, so I have had to ask myself why do I think that I don't need alone time where I draw away to a solitary place to pray and bask in God's presence. Unfortunately, with the increase in need and stress upon me I have drawn farther from God when I know that these times should be filled with just as much or more prayer and supplication. I have been trying to balance this better, so please pray that I and all of Christ's followers are able to better balance our lives in order to give God all the glory.

In this time of trial God has been teaching me about celebration. I have a tendency to get caught up in the daily grind and forget that my life is not my own, but God's. I forget that Jesus already defeated death and so as his follower I no longer have to fear death as I know that I will be with my Father in heaven forever. I often don't praise God for the good work that he has done in me, saving me from death and giving me life more abundantly. As I have been reminded of all the good and gracious things God has done for me I remember that I need to praise him for them and celebrate. I need to slow down and bear in mind that I am the servant of the God of the universe. He is sovereign and any feeble attempts that I make at positively affecting the world for his kingdom without him are just that, feeble and insignificant. I'm learning that in the midst of great opposition and difficulty sometimes as believers we just need to come together and remember all that God has done for us and give him all the praise. That reminds me of when Jesus says in Matthew 26:11 to the disciples, after a woman anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume, "The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me." He says this to them leading up to his crucifixion to remind them that this earth will never be perfect, there will always be the poor,

so we need a balance. We can't hold ideas of perfecting this earth; instead we need to be focus on Christ and doing his will while we're in this broken place. At times his will is that we stop and celebrate him, marvel in his presence, and see all that he has done for us. I praise God for all he has done and thank him for the joy I have in serving him. I pray that all of us who follow Jesus may be obedient, glorify him in all we do and see when he calls us to rest in him and celebrate.

Thank you to all of you who are praying for the Hope team. We really appreciate it and encourage you to keep it up as we seek energy to move forward. Here are some specifics.

Pray for perseverance for all the staff and volunteers at Jeff Street.

Pray that we celebrate even the smallest victories in Christ that we may focus on the myriad blessings we all receive daily.

Pray for the new Hope team summer members who will be coming at the end of May.

With love,  
Matt

**President's Corner  
May 2009**

**“Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier.”**

**- Mother Teresa**

If you were looking for an earth-changing concept, this would have to rank right up there near, if not at, the top. Imagine a society where people went out of their way to build up other people and be supportive all the time. Imagine a world where no one sought to demean or belittle someone, ever. Imagine a world where no one took unfair advantage of another, ever. Imagine a world where the words you and stupid, or worse, never appeared in the same sentence. “Wow”, you say. “What a great place that would be. I'd love to live there.” But, I think, if such a place were within human capability, we would already be living there.

Paul, in writing to Timothy, says, **“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but one of power, love, and self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7 ISV)** Some translations use the word fear instead of timidity, but I think timidity expresses Paul's meaning very well. It's possible Timothy was a little shy and reserved when it came to speaking out and witnessing. We may also suffer from this from time to time. Paul's counsel is that it is not by our power that we live a Christ-filled life, but by the power of the Spirit, which God has caused to be within us. How do we live that Christ-filled life? How do we use this gift that God has given us (the gift of the Holy Spirit)? We live with power (boldness in telling and living the Gospel), love (putting the interests of others ahead of our own self-interest), and self-discipline (remembering not so much who we are as Whose we are). This means that we not only do not speak or act unjustly, but that we stand against injustice when we encounter it in others.

**Our human nature struggles against this. We need to work at the boldness, love, and self-discipline thing every day. I think this is why Luther counsels us to start each day by grounding ourselves in what God through Christ has already done for us. When we approach the people we come in contact with every day, we need to remember that they also are someone whom Christ loved to the point of death on the cross. As disciples of Jesus, can we do less?**

**In Christ's Name,  
Don Sawicki  
President, Church Council**

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
2/26/09**

The February meeting of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council was called to order by Don Sawicki. Members in attendance included Skip Nanzer, Carol Taylor, John Nielsen, Val Norton, Deb Larson, Michelle Beetz, Don Sawicki, Pastor Knowles, and Linda Hanley.

Opening devotions were based on Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree".

THE LAST MEETING'S MINUTES were reviewed and Carol Taylor made a motion to accept them as written, the motion was seconded by Deb Larsen. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT was reviewed and Val Norton made a motion to approve the report. Skip Nanzer seconded and the motion passed.

**PASTOR'S REPORT**

Transfers out: Abel Anderson to Immanuel, Marseilles

Lantz Stein to Our Savior in Rockford,

Joanne & Elwood Kidd to St. John's Mendota.

Baptism: Leroy Burd at St. Anthony's in Rockford on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The duties and responsibilities of the committees were discussed. Deb Larsen suggested making a calendar or brochure to summarize the church programs and events as a way for parishioners to visualize the time commitments involved. Recruiting members for committees and task forces was discussed.

Committee liaison assignments for the next year were discussed and will be finalized at the next committee night.

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & FELLOWSHIP**

Plans are in order for Soup Suppers prior to mid-week Lenten devotions.

**EVANGELISM & MISSION**

No report

**STEWARDSHIP**

No report

**MEMORIAL**

No report

**PARISH EDUCATION**

No report

**PROPERTY**

No report

**YOUTH**

No report

OLD BUSINESS:

The possibility of obtaining a credit card for Pastor to use for miscellaneous expenses is still being investigated.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Preschool registration for members and current students has been open and will open for the community March 1.
2. The dish sanitizer is to be delivered and installed this month.
3. The back door weather stripping needs repair. Pastor will contact a parishioner to repair this.
4. Designations for Lenten offerings were discussed. Deb Larson made a motion to designate the Lenten offering as follows: World Hunger Appeal, LSSI, Craig & Peggy Harvey, MLH, Sheridan Prison Ministry, LOMC, Holy Week/Easter, ½ to General Fund, remainder divided between Abigail Women's Center and Nachusa.
5. Junior high youth are planning a lock-in for March 20<sup>th</sup>. The youth will prepare a brunch for the congregation the following Sunday morning as a fundraiser for their trip to the summer youth gathering in New Orleans.
6. The council discussed options for participating in a one-time edition of church news in the LaSalle News-Tribune this April. It was decided that ILC will not participate at this time.
7. Irish Night event at IVCC is asking for sponsorship and publicity. It was decided that ILC will not participate at this time.
8. For the next Council Meeting, council members are asked to read the preface and Chapter 1 in "Listen! God is Calling!" for discussion and opening devotions.
9. Deb Larson will look into organizing an Easter egg hunt for the Sunday School children between service on Easter Sunday during the usual Sunday School time.
10. Clothing items with the Immanuel Church logo are available for order. Samples and literature will be available in the narthex. Don Sawicki has more details.

Deb Larson moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Skip Nanzer. The motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Hanley

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
3/19/09**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Those in attendance were: Kerry Tillman, Michelle Beetz, Valorie Norton, Deb Larson, Carol Taylor, Skip Nanzer, Don Sawicki, Pastor Knowles, John Nielsen. Pastor led the group in prayer. The preface and first chapter of the book "Listen! God is Calling" were discussed as opening devotions.

The treasurer's report was read. Kerry Tillman made a motion to accept them which was seconded by Val Norton. The motion passed. The minutes from the 1/18 meeting were read and corrections made. Kerry Tillman made a motion to accept them as corrected and Skip Nanzer seconded it. The motion carried. The minutes from the 2/26 meeting were read. Val Norton made a motion to accept them as corrected. Carol Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **Pastor's Report**

Cindy & Jeremy LeGrand are in the process of transferring to ILC.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Congregational Life & Fellowship**

Senior Saturday attendance for 3/14 was 42 seniors and 8 kitchen helpers. Plans for the next luncheon on April 18<sup>th</sup> are being made. The tri-fold brochure with the congregational programs & activities was revised. This will be printed and made available in the narthex. The council members discussed options for posting a calendar of events in the narthex.

### **Stewardship**

Don reported on a stewardship approach, "Keep it Simple", demonstrated at the recent Congregational Resourcing Event.

### **Memorial**

No report

### **Parish Education**

Plans are underway for the Easter morning Easter egg hunt.

### **Preschool**

Registration is underway with the number of students comparable to this time last year.

### **Property**

The back door has been fixed. The dishwasher has been installed & is working well. The project to convert to energy efficient light fixtures in the church has begun. This will include replacing the exhaust fans in the bathrooms, replacing light switches with motion detectors, and replacing exit lights with LED fixtures.

### **Worship & Music**

A sub-committee for planning liturgies will meet next Thursday 3/26 at 7:00 pm. A discussion of volunteer recognition events for this spring (church-wide) and fall (community-wide) was held. Planning for this service was referred to the Worship & Music Committee.

### **Youth**

A lock-in for youth will be held 3/20-3/21. Approximately 10 junior high youth are expected to attend. The youth are planning a brunch to be held 4/19 between services, to raise funds for this summer's youth trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Those who participated in the recent Congregational Resourcing Event reported on the sessions they attended.

Kerry Tillman made a motion for adjournment; this was seconded by Deb Larson.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Hanley

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
Budget through <i>March</i> :	\$38,454
<i>(\$2958/wk)</i>	
General Offerings thru <i>month</i> :	35,307
Over/Under Budget	\$3,147

<b>May Worship Assistants</b>		
<b>Job</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. Worship Service</b>	<b>10:30 a.m. Worship Service</b>
Acolyte	Torie Dumke	Cassie Johnson
Lector	Dennis Nielsen	Steve Moyer
Greeters: (5/3)	Chuck & Sheila Jenkins	Wess & Jessica Whittaker
(5/10)	Pat Cottingim	Betty Grimm
(5/17)		Paul & Deb Finley
(5/24) 9:00 a.m. service	Darlene Rose	
(5/31) 9:00 a.m. service	Barb Hazelwood	
Ushers	Dennis Nielsen and John Boltz	Jay Johnson and Skip Nanzer
Communion Assistant	Sam Schlesinger	Chuck Farley
Offering Counters	Linda Hanley, Dolores Kaminky and Peg Nielsen	
Altar Guild	Marilyn Sanford and Gloria Bond	