

NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Earlville, Illinois

November 2009
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

From the Pastor:

*God's word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way:
in death it is our stay.
Lord grant while time shall last
your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.*

The verses above were originally written by Nikolai F. S. Grundvig as a fifth verse to Martin Luther's famous hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. Over time it was separated from Luther's hymn to stand alone. For me, the sentiment expressed in this single-verse hymn so succinctly summarizes the heart of the 16th century reformation movement led by Martin Luther.

Martin Luther struggled with understanding God's will for his life and the world. In response to that struggle, Luther immersed himself in the study of scripture. He scoured passages and wrestled with texts in their original Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic. The more he read, the more he became convinced that there were inconsistencies and contradictions between teachings of the church and the word of God revealed through scripture.

While the specific issues with which Luther took exception are relatively insignificant for us today, his passion for understanding scripture continues to be perhaps the most important legacy for us. Luther recognized that understanding the word of God was key to understanding God's will for our lives. In fact, Luther believed that reading and studying scripture was so important to the development of faith for the people, that he translated the New Testament from Greek into German so that the masses would finally be able to study scripture for themselves.

And so "God's word *is* our great heritage." It is the gift given to us by God to understand his will for our lives. But, as Luther would have vehemently asserted, we can only honor that heritage through committed and serious study (not just casual reading) of scripture. Our Lutheran legacy is to honor our great heritage by struggling with God's word through prayerful study of scripture and an openness to be led by God's spirit speaking to us through that study.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

The Community
 Thanksgiving Eve
 Service will be held
 at St. Teresa Catholic
 Church on

COMMUNITY
Thanksgiving
 SERVICE



Wednesday, November 25 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.



Immanuel will host its 7th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 26 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 1, 2009

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 altar. 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 Wednesday, October 28th.

The Earlville Community Choir will present their Fall Concert on Sunday, November 8 at 3:00 p.m. at Immanuel. The choir will perform sacred and popular songs. Many of the choir members will be performing solos and in smaller ensembles as well. Admission is free (donations are welcome). Come and join us!



The Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m. All women of the church are invited and encouraged 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.

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 Monday, December 7 in order to assure quantities.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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 (815) 246-9642

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Regular Worship Schedule

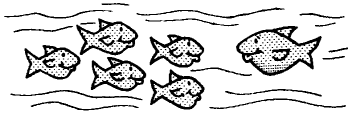
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
 Worship Services
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School

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



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; Families who have given memorials; Pastor Knowles; the Preschool Board; 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 and a gallon of milk (we have a lot of milk drinkers).*

CHILDRENS BOOKS: We have a new opportunity for our preschoolers (promising good reading habits) is a Lending Library - any preschooler may borrow a book and return it the next time. If anyone has any Good in "good shape" childrens books to donate - don't throw them away, we would love to use them for our Lending Library - or even parenting books. Thank you.

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

\$	Treasurer's Report	\$
	Budget through <i>September</i> : \$115,362 (<i>\$2958/wk</i>)	
	General Offerings thru <i>September</i> : 98,614	
\$	Over/Under Budget (\$16,748)	\$

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2009**

The September meeting of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council was called to order by Vice President John Nielsen at 7:10 p.m. Members in attendance included Carol Taylor, Deb Larson, Michelle Beetz, Cathy Setchell, Pastor Knowles and Linda Hanley.

Opening devotions were a discussion of Chapter 6 in D. Michael Bennethum's *Listen! God is Calling!*

THE LAST MEETING'S MINUTES were reviewed and Deb Larson made a motion to approve them as written. This motion was seconded by Carol Taylor and carried on the vote by council members.

TREASURER'S REPORT was reviewed. Of note, \$1500 was transferred from the savings account to the checking account. Linda Hanley made a motion to accept the report, and this motion was seconded by Deb Larson and the motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported on upcoming weddings at which he will officiate and a graveside service he will lead. The dearth of pastoral services at Heritage Manor was discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & FELLOWSHIP

No Report

EVANGELISM & MISSION

Senior Saturdays continue as scheduled with a level number of participants and adequate kitchen help. Help needed for the upcoming Foods Resource Bank Harvest celebration includes: 3-4 dozen cookies, pies, helpers to set-up, clean-up, man registration tables or serve food. Monetary or acreage donations are being solicited. There will be a display in the Narthex to promote the Celebration.

MEMORIAL

No report

STEWARDSHIP

No report

PARISH EDUCATION

Twelve teachers have been recruited for the Sunday School classes. A rotational curriculum is being used so each teacher will lead 3-4 times over the year. Confirmation classes have started with an orientation session on September 16th and 8 students scheduled to attend Wednesday evenings. The Preschool term began September 1st.

PROPERTY

The maintenance projects of waxing the parish hall floor and painting the hallways have been completed.

YOUTH

The youth who attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans are planning to give a presentation during worship October 18th.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - CONTINUED

WORSHIP & MUSIC

A service for blessing the animals has been planned for October 4th on the anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's death.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Carol Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Linda Hanley. The motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hanley

November Worship Assistants		
Job	8:00 a.m. Worship Service	10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Acolyte	Reagan Maly	Paige Johnson
Lector	Deb Larson	Al Ohlson
Greeters (1 st):	Bob & Maurene VonSeggern	Larry & Kathleen Zimmerman
(8 th)	Luke & Lisa Tillman	Bernie & Marcia Chapman
(15 th)	Matt & Sarah Cook	Ruthann Chapman & Family
(22 nd)	Carol Taylor and Shawn Murphy	Ron & Gloria Bond
(29 th)	Dave & Sandy Gast	Chris Fritz
Ushers	Larry Maly and Kerry Tillman	Kathy Beuster and Angie Koontz
Communion Assistant (1 st):	John Boltz	Skip Nanzer
(22 nd)	Randy Rosengren	Kathy Beuster
Offering Counters	Val Norton, Nancy & George Abens	
Altar Guild	Deb Larson and Marcia Farley	