

# NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Earlville, Illinois

October 2009  
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

## **From the Pastor:**

At least three times in the last few weeks I have heard or read references to popular athletes being role models for our children. The first one, for instance, involved person-on-the-street interviews in the LaSalle paper asking if Michael Vick should be allowed back into the National Football League. Michael Vick, you may recall, was the NFL quarterback who was convicted of dogfighting. With his recent release from jail, he signed a contract to play for the Philadelphia Eagles. One man, when asked if Vick should be allowed to play professionally, responded “no” because professional athletes are role models for children. The most recent comment I heard was related to Cubs outfielder Milton Bradley, who has been throwing temper tantrums and ranting about everyone around him being the cause of his horrible season.

I can't help but wonder why anyone in the year 2009 would look to professional athletes as role models. Don't get me wrong, there are many good and admirable professional athletes out there who do good things. But to look in that direction for role models for our children is to confuse fame and popularity with “model behavior.” And I would say the same thing about famous actors and popular recording artists. Just because they are on TV doesn't mean we should want our children to emulate their behavior.

So where should we direct our children's attention to look for role models?

I hope this doesn't sound like too radical an idea, but maybe instead of looking at the TV or sports arenas for role models, one place we could have our children look is in the direction the church. Wouldn't our Sunday School teachers make good role models; women and men who volunteer their time to teach children about our Christian faith. And what about those people who give of the sweat of their brow to maintain our building and grounds without expectation of pay or recognition. (Contrast that to the professional athlete who charges for autographs.) Or maybe they could look at the woman who spend countless hours sewing quilts for suffering people thousands of miles away or knitting prayer shawls for nursing home residents and caps for premature babies. And there are those folks who commit of their time to walk in the CROP Walk or labor in corn fields for the Foods Resource Bank in order to help feed a hungry world. Add to that the saints of past generations who selflessly gave of themselves for others, and the church is a place full of positive role models.

Tell me, whose behavior do you really want your children to copy? I can't help but believe that it would be far better to point them in the direction of the church than the stadium or the TV.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Knowles*



**Foods Resource Bank**

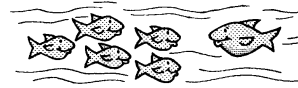
The 2009 Foods Resource Bank Harvest Celebration for the Earlville and Somonauk Growing Projects will take place on Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 am at the farm of Stacey and Karleen Dolder in Somonauk. The Celebration will include worship

at 10:00 am, a pulled pork barbecue lunch, a live band, a pie auction, agricultural displays by Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom, family orientated games, pumpkin carving, hayrack ride and kiddie tractor pulls. There will be wheat weaving as well as wheat milling. We'll have a few farm toys to raffle. There are over 17 churches participating. There were over 400 in attendance last year. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration.

**Directions to The Stacey Dolder Farm:**

Take Route 34 West .6 mile west of the John Deere sign in Somonauk. Turn north (right) on S. County Line Road. The Dolder farm is the second on the right (.6 mile from Route 34) I realize that these directions are only from the east, but I think they will be easy enough. The Dolders also hosted the first Harvest Celebration for the Somonauk Area Growing Project. Parking will be in the pasture south of the Dolder farm. Handicapped parking will be available on site. Signs will direct people. Representatives from Catholic Relief Services of Chicago plan to attend the Celebration this year. One of them has actually been to Zambia (the country in which the project Somonauk supports is located) and is willing to speak to us about her experiences.

Donations of any amount to support the local FRB project are always welcome and may be directed to Kurt Larson or the church office.



**Preschool News – From Wendy Keller**

Learning is an on-going process and we are learning as much as the children. We here at Immanuel Lutheran Preschool are so excited about and very happy with the first month. On to a new month and many more experiences. This month we will observe fall in its glory. The change of seasons is a continued reminder of God and His plan and how we can always count on His plan. We will walk around the neighborhood look for signs of fall and share with the children how to appreciate the natural part of God's world around us!

We have a total of 40 children enrolled this school year. Two sessions on Mon.-Wed.-Fri., and still openings are available in our afternoon class.

We also have two sessions on Tues.-Thurs. and still openings are available for the morning and afternoon classes. If interested feel free to call 246-7069.

We will observe Fire Prevention Week and fire safety. A trip to the Earlville Fire Department is planned. We want to educate and make sure our children are SAFE!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Preschool Board for all their care and support of this ministry. The members are: Ken Tillman, Jennifer Pickert, Betty Sawicki, Michelle Beetz, Steve Tuftie and Pastor Knowles.

THANK YOU to all who donated items on our list of supplies last month, we greatly appreciate all that this congregation and parents do to help support this preschool program. You are greatly appreciated! October supplies that are needed are: *graham crackers, 2 bags of candy corn, empty film containers and wax paper.*

<p><b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b>          Pastor: Donald L. Knowles          415 East Street          P.O. Box 598          Earlville, Illinois 60518          (815) 246-9642  <a href="http://www.immanuelearlville.net">www.immanuelearlville.net</a></p>	<p><b>Regular Worship Schedule</b>          8:00 &amp; 10:30 a.m.          Worship Services          9:15 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p><b>Summer Worship Schedule</b>          (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><b>Deadline for copy:</b>          The 20<sup>th</sup> 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!

**October 3**  
**November 14**  
**December 12**

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

**The Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All women of Immanuel are invited and encouraged to attend**

**“A Taste of Clarion” Salad Bar Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday, October 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church of Clarion located on Route 34 - 5 miles West of Mendota OR 3 miles East of LaMoille. Carry outs are available. Adults \$6.50, Children 5 - 12 \$2.00 and Children under 5 are free.

## **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 Friday, October 30th.



**Welcome back to Sunday School!! WOW!!** What a FANTASTIC time we had at our Family Rally Day that was held on Sunday, September 20th. The Fellowship Hall was jam-packed with kids and their families awaiting the fun!!

We started off with some music from Vacation Bible School to get everybody warmed up along with some yummy donuts. Then we had an exciting scavenger hunt, with every family racing to get the items....the best part was the "eraser" that reminds us that God helps us to erase the sins we have made when we pray for His forgiveness.

The finale of the morning was the BALLOON LAUNCH outside. We wrote our names on postcards that were attached to the balloons. We are hoping they will all be returned to the church letting us know how far they flew! We will post the news as they come back on the new bulletin board across from the men's restroom. It was amazing...and even the heavy balloons caught a hold of the wind at just the right moment to be swept away! It was AWESOME!!

Classes will begin next Sunday, September 27 at 9:15-10:15 a.m. Thank you to everyone who stepped up and volunteered to teach. It sure looks like there is going to be HUGE things in store for the Sunday School this year!! Oh the fun we will have!!

If you haven't already, please take a minute to tour our freshly painted Sunday School wing...it is AWESOME!!

We really need everyone's support to make this year a success. Your help and that one hour of volunteering really can make a difference in not just the life of our church, but more importantly the life of these children.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make Rally Day so much fun. If you were there, this thank you goes to you because everyone pitched in and helped in some way...even the kids!!

If you have any questions about Sunday School, please don't hesitate to call me at 815-246-9385. We are all in this together, and together we can make this year a great success.

God Bless!

Cindy Torman, Sunday School Superintendent

**The Blessing of the Animals** will take place next Sunday, October 4. In conjunction with the commemoration with St. Francis of Assisi, we will offer a “Blessing of the Animals” at both worship services. Worshipers are invited to bring something representing their favorite pet or animal as we give thanks to God for these special gifts in our lives.

**Congratulations** to Jodi Whittaker and Donnie Blair who were married on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> here at Immanuel.

**Celebrate Dinner with Archbishop John J. Myers** - St. Theresa of Avila would like to extend an invitation to the community and friends of the Archbishop to join us at dinner on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Evening prayer at St. Theresa of Avila in Earlville beginning at 4:30 p.m. Dinner at Knights of Columbus Hall in Ottawa at 6:30 p.m., cocktails starting at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar. To make your reservation contact the office at St. Theresa by calling (815) 246-4321. You may also email to [st.theresa.earlville@mchsi.com](mailto:st.theresa.earlville@mchsi.com). Reservations must be made no later that September 27, 2009 with tickets purchased no later that October 1, 2009. Cost of dinner is \$18.00 per person, includes buffet dinner, coffee, lemonade & dessert.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by President Don Sawicki at 7:10 p.m. Members present were Skip Nanzer, Carol Taylor, Val Norton, Deb Larson, Michelle Beetz, Kerry Tillman, John Nielsen, Don Sawicki, Pastor Knowles and Linda Hanley. Opening devotions were a discussion of Chapter 5 in D. Michael Bennethum “Listen! God is Calling”.

The Secretary’s Report was reviewed and Kerry Tillman made a motion to approve the report as written. The motion was seconded by Skip Nanzer and the motion carried.

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed, showing that \$3000.00 was transferred from the ELCA Mission Investment Savings account to the checking account. Deb Larson made a motion to approve the report as written. The motion was seconded by Kerry Tillman and the motion carried.

Pastor reported that he will be taking his vacation from 8/24- 9/6.

**Program & Activity Reports:**

**Congregational Life & Fellowship**

The congregational picnic held in Dodge Park was a success with 42 people attending.

**Evangelism & Mission**

The August Senior Saturday had 45 attendees. The council will look into how we can help with the Foods Resource Bank Harvest Celebration which will be held in Somonauk on the Stacey Dolder farm on 10/17. The CROP walk is scheduled for 9/27 with minor changes to the route which will begin and end at ILC.

### **Stewardship**

No report

### **Memorial**

No report

### **Parish Education**

VBS was attended by 98 children with 40 staff persons involved. The Friday night closing program was well attended. A curriculum has been chosen for this year's Sunday School, which will begin on 9/20. There will be a Sunday School teacher's meeting Monday, 8/24 at 7 p.m. There are about 8 youngsters (3 or 4 -7<sup>th</sup> graders, 5-8<sup>th</sup> graders) who will participate in the Confirmation classes that will be held Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning mid-September.

### **Preschool**

The Monday-Wednesday-Friday 4-year old classes are full. Both the morning and afternoon Tuesday-Thursday 3-year old classes have enough students to run. There is just over \$1000 in unpaid tuition from last year.

### **Property**

The Sunday School rooms have been cleaned and painted. The council offers many thanks to all who volunteered their time and energy to this project. Stripping and waxing of the parish hall floors will commence Monday, 8/24. The lighting project is complete.

### **Worship & Music**

The regular worship schedule will resume Sunday, 9 /13 using Setting 4 as the liturgy.

### **Youth**

Kendall Knowles, Michael Beuster, and Devin & Ned Hanley traveled to New Orleans accompanied by Pastor Knowles from July 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. They joined 38,000 other Lutherans for the "Jesus, Justice & Jazz" themed National Youth Gathering and especially enjoyed their Servant Life day where they worked to clean a city park.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Linda Hanley reported on the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly she attended with Mary and Pastor June 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> at Augustana College in Rock Island.

### **New Business:**

Rally Day and "Pack the Pews Sunday" will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

### **Dates to Remember:**

9/3 committee meetings

9/17 council meeting

There being no further business, Carol Taylor made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Kerry Tillman. The motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Hanley

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
Budget through <i>August</i> :	\$130,530
<i>(\$2,958/wk)</i>	
General Offerings thru <i>August</i> :	89,530
<b>Over/Under Budget</b>	<b>(\$14,000)</b>

<b>October Worship Assistants</b>		
<b>Job</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. Worship Service</b>	<b>10:30 a.m. Worship Service</b>
Acolyte	Molly or Morgan Torman	Dalton Ambler
Lector	Cindy Torman	Eleda Kaminky
Greeters (4 <sup>th</sup> ):	Ken & Donna Tillman	Vic & Kim Johnson
(11 <sup>th</sup> )	Don & Joan Tuftie	Harold & Elaine Olsen
(18 <sup>th</sup> )	Sharon McLachlan	Bob & Carolyn Doughty
(25 <sup>th</sup> )	Carl & Shannon Cook	Fred & Eleda Kaminky
Ushers	John Nielsen and Luke Tillman	Chuck Farley and Skip Nanzer
Communion Assistant (4 <sup>th</sup> ):	John Nielsen	Chris Fritz
(25 <sup>th</sup> )	Howard Nielsen	Don Sawicki
Offering Counters	Deb Larson, Kathy Beuster and Deb Tillman	
Altar Guild	Mary Lou Nelson and Norma Nelson	