

NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Earlville, Illinois

July 2009
Donald L. Knowles, Pastor

From the Pastor:

As I sit in front of my computer this month thinking about this space in the newsletter I am struggling with how to say what I want to say. I want to say something about *stewardship*, and I want to say something about *money*. There is a connection between the two, but despite what some people may understand, they are not identical.

Stewardship is our response for all that God has done for us and gives us. Scripture teaches us that God is the creator of all things.

“God has given me and still preserves my body and soul.... In addition God daily and abundantly provides.... all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life.” (from Luther’s *Small Catechism*, explanation to the First Article of the Apostles Creed.)

In other words, God has created all things and provides for us all the things we need.

In response God calls on us to take care of this creation of his. We are called on to be caretakers of the natural world around us and the people who surround us. As faithful stewards of God good gifts, we are asked by God to share what we have for the benefit of all of God’s creation. Stewardship is the use of God’s gifts to us for the sake of all of creation. How we use our money is just a part of that response.

Overall, I believe that as a congregation, Immanuel has worked hard to be faithful in our stewardship. As I write this letter, for instance, we are in the process of changing the lighting in our building to more efficient fixtures. We will have better light that uses less energy and costs less money. We are reusing the largest portion of our Sunday bulletins, saving reams of paper monthly. We have given more of our offerings away this year than last year (our benevolence). The most significant increase comes in the form of supporting Matt Norton who is volunteering this year in a homeless shelter in Louisville. The sewing group continues to produce quilts and a new “knitting & crocheting” group is producing prayer shawls. We care for the seniors of our community through monthly Senior Saturday lunches. And more. We do strive to be good stewards of God’s gifts.

Now, with that said, let me make a couple of comments about money. Knowing that these are tough economic times, I am glad to say that our offerings have not shown a significant decrease from last year. Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of our congregation. Unfortunately, we have also had some major expenses this year - primarily the repair of our furnaces for the parish hall. (Administrative and Pastoral expenses are lower than a year ago.) As a result, we have spent more than we received this year. And so I ask you to please remember the church this summer. While you may be vacationing, our ministries (and expenses) continue.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship and continued financial support.

In Christ

Pastor Knowles

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!

July 11
August 15
September 12

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

Preschool News

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

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

The Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Wilma Boltz will be the leader. All women of Immanuel are invited and encouraged to attend the meetings.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

WHO: ALL ARE INVITED
WHAT: FUN & FELLOWSHIP FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
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.
PICNIC LUNCH AT 11:00 a.m.

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

Crocodile Dock Community Vacation Bible School will be held August 3 - August 7 from 8:45 - 11:45 a.m. at Immanuel. Anyone age 4 by September 1, 2009 thru students who just completed 4th grade is welcome to attend. Registration forms are on the table in the narthex or in the church office. Get your registration forms in early to receive your free t-shirt and CD. See the registration form for more details.

Crocodile Dock VBS Notes

- ▶ **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!!

- ▶ 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.

- ▶ There are copies of this year's VBS Supply List on the table in the narthex or on the church website www.immanuelearlville.net. If you donate something, please take it to the supply room (Pre/K Sunday School room) or to the office and mark off the list the item(s) you brought. Thank you.

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!

The Sewing Group is also asking for bars of soap. Bring a bar of soap, any brand, to church and place in a container in the narthex. The soap will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. People in many parts of the world cannot buy soap because it is unavailable or too costly. Without soap, maintaining the level of cleanliness necessary to reduce disease and infection is very difficult.

Thank You:

- from Mendota Lutheran Home for our gift of \$135.00

From Matt Norton:

Dear friends and family,

The Hope summer team made it in to Louisville on Tuesday afternoon, all nine of them. I, along with all the other staff, have been excited, somewhat nervous, and absolutely prepared for the new crew. We have been excited because we knew that the new friends would bring fresh energy and enthusiasm. Our nervousness came from the thought of having the biggest Hope team ever (five more folks than the second largest) and not knowing what everyone will do. However, regardless, of anything else, we have all been prepared for fresh workers, because as it says in Luke 10:2, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field." We've experienced first hand the need for workers in a plentiful harvest because God is moving in many guests' and residents' hearts at Jeff Street and they are responding to God's call for their lives. As they respond they need other Christ followers to come along side them and help them grow and mature in their faith. The staff has sought to meet the need but has been stretched thin. For years all those involved with Jeff Street have been asking God, the Lord of the harvest, for workers to go into the harvest field. We see the blessing of the summer Hope team as a sign of God's faithful and loving response to innumerable prayers. We know that they will be able to help us to come along side our friends in need who desire God's truth and they will minister to and grow with the Jeff Street community. We praise God for his gracious gift of servants and their supporters.

The other day Jesse, the Hope director, was describing Jeff Street and the Hope program to the new team. He was saying that for many years the staff has felt like they have been fighting for Christ on the front lines, praying for reinforcements. He then said in his goofy humor, that with the Hope team this year it seems like God has answered that prayer and now they can drop back from the front lines and eat a sandwich. After having been here for nine months I can begin to understand what he means. The work is very fulfilling and amazing to see God work in so many lives, but it is also very exhausting. I praise God for these new people who are here to labor for Christ and allow some of the other staff to step back and reflect back on all that Christ has done and see a vision for what he can do in the future. At this point I would like to let you know of a few staff members who have been laboring steadfastly for God at Jeff Street. Rob Toney our Permanent Supportive Housing Director has been here between 10 and 20 years. Dale, our second shift worker is in his 15th year. Joanie, the Day Shelter Supervisor (aka, the Queen of the Dayshelter), will be here 10 years in August. Keith, our transitional housing director is in his sixth year. Jesse has been faithfully leading the Hopies for four years. Finally, Ben, our man of many hats, is in his second year as a obedient servant of Christ here at Jeff Street. The staff at Jeff Street is stellar and focused on living a life that declares the love and truth of Christ to all those they encounter. I praise God once again for the new team and pray that with the 12 Hopies it allows the other staff time to reflect and marvel at God's glorious work done through their hands and mouths at Jeff Street.

Be encouraged that God is affecting lives and changing hearts here at Jeff Street. Please be praying for the new Hopies as they are transitioning in and learning the ropes. They are a fabulous group and I am already encouraged by their love and excitement for Christ and his redeeming power. The summer is upon us and that means that my time here at Jeff Street is winding down. I have two and a half more months, so please continue to pray for me that God would give me wisdom, love and perseverance.

With love and grace in Christ Jesus,

Matt

P.S. The recession that our country is in has finally hit Jeff Street as we have seen a drop in financial support. If you feel led to give to Jeff Street in this time it would be greatly appreciated. You can do that online at jeffersonstreet.org under the Donate Now tab, or you can send a check made out to Jefferson Street Baptist Center sent to our address:

733 East Jefferson St
Louisville, KY 40202

I really appreciate all your love and support.

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
5/21/09**

The May meeting of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Don Sawicki at 7:10 pm. Other members in attendance included John Nielsen, Skip Nanzer, Val Norton, Carol Taylor, Deb Larson, Michelle Beetz, Cathy Setchell, Pastor Knowles & Linda Hanley.

Opening devotions were a discussion of Chapter 3 in "Listen! God is Calling!"

THE LAST MEETING'S MINUTES were reviewed. Deb Larson made a motion to approve them as written, the motion was seconded by Val Norton and the vote to approve the minutes carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was reviewed. A motion to approve the report was made by Val Norton, seconded by Carol Taylor and the vote carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor has been invited to be the keynote speaker at the community Memorial Day service at 10:30 in the old H.S. gym. Pastor received a jury summons for Monday, June 1. This may require that he be out of the office and unavailable for the following week. Pastor will be officiating at the Hoffman wedding May 31st. Pastor Del Keilman will lead worship Saturday June 20th for Pastor who will be attending the Synod Assembly. Linda Hanley, Pastor and Mary Knowles will be attending the Synod Assembly in Rock Island June 19th & 20th. If anyone else would like to go as a voting member, please contact the pastor. Mary has received a good report from the doctors in Madison at her latest check-up.

PROGRAM & ACTIVITY REPORTS:

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & FELLOWSHIP

~100 people attended the Mother/Daughter luncheon. Thanks to all those who worked to make this a success. The church picnic will be held August 9th in Dodge Park. Worship will be held at 10:00 with a picnic lunch at 11:00. On Sunday, May 24th from 10:30a.m.-noon, we have invited the congregation and Senior Saturday regulars to a Reception to recognize Judy Ohlson's efforts with this ministry. Cake, coffee & punch will be served in the Parish Hall.

EVANGELISM & MISSION

Approximately 50 people attended last month's Senior Saturday luncheon. The date for the August Senior Saturday will be moved to August 15th so as not to interfere with VBS and the church picnic activities.

MEMORIAL

No activity to report.

PARISH EDUCATION

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for mornings, August 3rd through 7th with closing activities at 6:30p.m. Friday. The theme is "Crocodile Dock".

PRESCHOOL

Closing ceremonies for this school year were held last evening.

PROPERTY

We have the light bulbs & fixtures for the lighting and are waiting for the electrician to complete the project. Ideas for cleaning were discussed. This project should be done after Sunday School is finished for the year and prior to VBS. This is a possible project for the young adults. Other ideas included renting a dumpster and trying an “Adopt-a room” program. Chuck Farley will oversee the waxing of the Parish Hall floor. The new paint in the bathroom stalls is peeling and needs to be redone. Graffiti on the south façade of the sanctuary has been removed. It was agreed that with further cleaning, the stone will look fine. Pastor will contact the insurance company to close the file on the claim. The Earlville School has requested to purchase 30 additional folding metal chairs. A motion to sell the chairs for \$5.00 a piece was made by Linda Hanley, seconded by Deb Larson and approved by the council.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The volunteer recognition was a well received. Graduate Recognition and Blessing of the Seeds and Soil were discussed. Praise Time hymn sing-along will begin June 7th.

YOUTH

\$150 still needed to cover expenses for the upcoming trip to New Orleans. The congregation will purchase ILC caps for the participating youth.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion to procure a VISA debit card through the National Bank of Earlville was made by Linda Hanley, seconded by Deb Larson and approved by the council. The 2 people authorized to sign checks will be able to use this card for church-related purchases. There is a need to update the phone list as many families are no longer using land-lines. Michelle Beetz volunteered to organize a gift to thank Cindy Torman for her service as SS superintendent.

Carol Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Nielsen. The motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hanley

Treasurer's Report	
Budget through <i>May</i> :	\$65,076
<i>(\$2958/wk)</i>	
General Offerings thru <i>May</i> :	61,504
Over/Under Budget	(\$4,022)

July Worship Assistants		
Job	Saturday Worship Service	Sunday Worship Service
Acolyte		Molly Torman or Morgan Torman
Lector	Carol Greer or The Knowles Family	Nancy Abens or Chris Fritz
Greeters (5 th):		Louise Ketcham
(12 th)		Dolores Kaminky
(19 th)		Roger & Becky Keller
(26 th)		Jeri Grey and Jim Grey
Ushers	Chris Fritz and ?	
Communion Assistant:		Skip Nanzer
Offering Counters	Kerry Tillman, Larry Maly and Peg Nielsen	
Altar Guild	Deb Tillman and Linda Hanley	

**President's Corner
July 2009**

“People spend their lives in the service of their passions instead of employing their passions in the service of their lives.”
~ Dale Carnegie

The Scriptures tell us not to spend our talents and energy on striving for the treasure of this world, but to strive for the treasure of the world to come. Martin Luther had the idea that we each have a vocation in this life. But in Luther's view, your vocation (or your “calling”) was not what you did for a living, but how you lived while you did what you did for a living. And, as long as it wasn't illegal, immoral, or unethical, it didn't matter what you did for a living. Luther was an early advocate of the “Bloom where you're planted” school. You didn't need to become a lofty theologian or teacher to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ. You just began at the point of your acceptance of Jesus as Lord of your life, your awareness of the amazing grace that God has bestowed, and started to live your life accordingly.

To strive for the treasures of this world is to take all of our time, talent, and energy, and apply it to the pursuit of our own pleasure. To strive for the treasure of the world to come is to take those exact same resources, and apply them to the service of others. Too often we get caught up in the “pursuit of happiness.” We even immortalized the phrase in our Declaration of Independence. But happiness is fleeting, and that's why it needs to be pursued. Happiness is not constant; it depends on happenings. If we get our way, we're happy. If we don't, we're unhappy. What we should be pursuing is joy, not happiness. True joy comes only from seeking to serve God and to do His will.

What is it to do God's will? Check Matthew 25: 34-40.

God grant that we may be used up in His service.

Don Sawicki
President, Church Council