

NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Earlville, Illinois 60518

January 2010

The Annual Meeting of our congregation will be held on **Sunday, January 17** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The Annual Report will contain the agenda for this meeting, a sample ballot for the elected positions on the church council, preschool board, and representatives to the ministries that our congregation supports. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend this meeting.



The 2010 Altar Flower Chart is on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers around the altar for a Sunday during this year, please reserve the date you want by printing your name on the appropriate line on the chart. You are then to make arrangements with the florist of your choice as the date approaches. Any questions may be addressed to Nancy Weidner (246-9010) or Norma Nelson (246-9540).

The Ruth Circle will meet Monday, January 11, 2010 at 1:30 p.m in the Parish Hall (Note time change). All women of the church are invited and encouraged to attend.



The Annual Report of our congregation's ministry activities is now being prepared. In an effort to reduce the cost of producing the Annual Report, many of which are unused, any voting member who wants a copy of the report may pick it up at church beginning January 8 or contact the office to have one mailed to you. Please take only one per household. The constitution of our congregation states: "voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year."

A congregational potluck dinner will take place immediately after the annual meeting on **Sunday, January 17**. Meat, bread and drink will be provided. You are asked to bring your own table service and one or two dishes to pass, according to the size of your family.



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!*

*January 9
February 13
March 13*

If you need a ride, call the church

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
	8:00 AM Service	10:30 AM Service
Acolyte	Morgan Torman	Taylor Browder
Ushers	Bill Nelson & Kerry Tillman	Chuck Farley & Don Neely
Lectors	Jerry Grey	Steve Moyer
Greeters (1/3)	Kay & Becky Mathesius	Ron & Wilma Boltz
(1/10)	Bill & Mary Lou Nelson	Bernie & Paula Glass
(1/17)	Millie Gast	Kermit & Carlene Svendsen
(1/24)	Gary & Carol Lane	John & Tammy Ballas
(1/31)	Don & Mary Hecathorn	Ken & Pam Gast
Communion Assistants (1/3)	Sam Schlesinger	Fred Kaminky
(1/10)	Randy Rosengren	Don Sawicki
Offering Counters	Kerry Tillman, Chris and Marilyn Sanford	
Altar Guild	Norma Nelson and Pat Cottingim	



Thank you to everybody who participated and/or helped with the Live Nativity on December 19.

Special thanks to:

- ★ Everyone who helped to set up, clean up and put away
- ★ Nick & Lena Sellers and Family for bringing the animals
- ★ Cindy Torman for getting the kids together to sing
- ★ All the kids who came and lifted their voices in praise
- ★ Everyone who brought goodies
- ★ Those who helped in the kitchen
- ★ The volunteers who braved the cold to help spread the true meaning of Christmas

It was a wonderful night spent witnessing and spreading the word of the birth of our Lord Jesus.

<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church 415 East Street P.O. Box 598 Earlville, Illinois 60518 (815) 246-9642 www.immanuelearlville.net</p>	<p>Regular Worship Schedule 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services 9:15 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>Deadline for copy: The 20th of the month prior to publication.</p>	<p>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</p>
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God's Gift of Holy Baptism was given on:

- Sunday, December 13 to Cole Lucas Tillman, son of Luke and Lisa Tillman. Cole's sponsors were Michelle and Zach Beetz.
- Sunday, December 20 to Tristan Zachary Martin, Tanner Jordan Martin, and Cameron Thomas Martin, sons of Jamie and Jennifer Martin.

The following children completed first communion instruction with Pastor Knowles and received their first communion in December. Katie Beetz, Emily Cook, Max Greer, Rena Jones, Sadey Maly, Cameron Martin, Tanner Martin, Tristan Martin, Baylee Tillman, and Jakob Setchell. We welcome them to the Lord's table!

Thank yous:

- ◆ from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center for our gift of \$103.00
- ◆ Thank you from Kathy Beuster - We served 56 people on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you to everyone who brought food, helped set up and clean up and helped in the kitchen preparing last minute food to serve all these people and still have leftovers. We had great food and fellowship! Again thanks to everyone who helped in one way or another.

See complete notes on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
November 19, 2009**

The November meeting of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Council was called to order by Don Sawicki at 7:04 p.m. Members in attendance included John Nielsen, Carol Taylor, Kerry Tillman, Michelle Beetz, Val Norton, Skip Nanzer, Don Sawicki, Pastor Knowles and Linda Hanley. Cathy Setchell, treasurer was also in attendance.

Opening devotions discussed keeping Sabbath.

THE LAST MEETING'S MINUTES were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Kerry Tillman and seconded by Carol Taylor. The motion passed on the vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was reviewed. Linda Hanley made a motion to approve as written and the motion was seconded by Val Norton. The motion passed on the vote.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Don & Mary Hecathorn have transferred from Somonauk. The Sullivan's Turkey Bucks were turned in to Mendota Area Food Pantry. The food pantry is interested in developing a relationship with Earlville area churches & organizations and providing food to Earlville area residents.

PROGRAM & ACTIVITY REPORTS:

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & FELLOWSHIP

No report.

(Church Council Minutes - continued)

EVANGELISM & MISSION

Sixty-one participated in November's Senior Saturday. There are currently ~50 people signed up for the Thanksgiving dinner. Plans are underway for the Live Nativity which is scheduled for Saturday December 19th.

STEWARDSHIP

No report.

MEMORIAL

No report.

PARISH EDUCATION

In order to accommodate all students, the Confirmation class time has been changed to every other Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour. The Sunday School Christmas program is planned for December 20th at 10:30 service. The Sunday School is considering having the students decorating the tree in the Parish Hall.

PRESCHOOL

No report.

PROPERTY

Denny Nielsen has examined the leaks in the stairwell to the preschool, and pressure washed the outside facades. The refrigerator in the sacristy has been replaced. The ballast in an indirect fixture in the sanctuary has been replaced. There are two neighboring homes for sale. The council discussed the matter and chose not to pursue the matter at this time.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The community Thanksgiving Eve Worship service will be November 25th 7:00 pm at St. Theresa's.

YOUTH

The junior high group did a scavenger hunt & pizza party on Sunday November 15th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Congregant's feedback to council members regarding the ELCA Churchwide Assembly Resolutions was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

LOMC won the RK Dixon Office Supply contest and won a \$20,000 office makeover.

Kerry Tillman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Skip Nanzer. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hanley

President's Corner
January 2010

“Proactive people take the initiative and responsibility to make things happen. They cause action rather than being victims of circumstance.”
~ Chris MacAllister

Proactive people, now there's a concept! As we head into our first vacancy in almost a decade and a half, we are going to need a lot of proactive people. We will, of course, receive support and guidance in our interim period from the Synod office, but it will be just that, support and guidance. We will have an interim pastor assigned by the Bishop to work with us and minister to our spiritual needs during this time. But the work of maintaining a positive direction and function during the interim period is going to fall squarely on us, the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Earlville. We will go through the process and eventually we will receive a list of potential candidates, and ultimately issue a call to someone to come and be our new pastor. But, make no mistake; it may take quite some time to get to that point. In the meantime our mission and our ministry in Earlville must be maintained. We have a lot of good things going for us that need to be nurtured and cared for and, if possible, expanded upon. Our presence in this community must remain relevant and vital. We cannot simply shift our gears into neutral while we await a new pastor.

It is absolutely vital that every member of this congregation steps forward to share the gifts and talents given to her or him by the Holy Spirit. Each one of us is good at something. Gifts and talents are to be used to support the fellowship we have in Christ Jesus, the communion of saints, the Church. Gifts and talents are not necessarily just “religious” things. They range from hospitality to financial sense to teaching to cooking to administration to gardening to musical ability to just sitting and listening to someone who needs to talk out their problems. There is no limitation to the gifts that the Spirit pours out on the Church for the good of the Church. Don't ever think your gift or talent is too small to be used by the Church. Remember what Jesus said about the widow who gave her last two insignificant copper coins to the Lord. “She has given more than all of these.”

A number of you have approached me and made this offer, “If you need anything done, just let me know.” I thank God for you. Yet, while I sincerely do thank God for you and your willingness to work, your offer causes me a problem. I don't necessarily know what you're good at! There is no quicker way to lose a volunteer than to stick him or her on a task for which they have no talent or passion. The next quickest way to lose a volunteer is to never take him or her up on their offer because you don't know exactly where to put them. I don't ever want to saddle anyone with something in which they really have no interest or gifts. I need your help in this.

Every area of ministry in this congregation covered by a committee designation is in need of gifted saints. I intend to have sign up sheets in the Narthex at the Annual Meeting on January 17th. Each sheet will have a brief and simple description of a particular area of ministry. Please prayerfully consider between now and the 17th what your gift and passion might be, and sign your name to the sheet that applies. Someone will be in contact with you. We will try our best to use a “task force” approach to these areas. We realize that people are reluctant to sign on to a long-term commitment to a “COMMITTEE”. Instead, we will try to pair groups of people to specific tasks that need to be accomplished based on their gifts. When the task is accomplished, your commitment is finished, until another task comes along that interests you and needs your talent.

I only have one final request of you by way of this letter:

**Please be at the Annual Meeting on January 17, 2010! We are not mind readers.
We need your input.**

Don Sawicki
President, Church Council

2010 Greeter Schedule for Immanuel Lutheran Church

Early Service – 8:00 a.m.

JANUARY

3 Kay & Becky Mathesius
10 Bill & Mary Lou Nelson
17 Millie Gast
24 Gary & Carol Lane
31 Don & Mary Hecathorn

FEBRUARY

7 Sam & Judy Schlesinger
14 Howard Nielsen
21 Kerry & Deb Tillman
28 Adam & Carrie Browder

MARCH

7 Rita Beck & Adeline Peterson
14 Roger & Cindy Torman
21 Steve & Jill Merritt
28 Chuck & Marilyn Botts

APRIL

4 Fritz & Norma Nelson *Easter*
11 George & Nancy Abens
18 Marge Hecathorn
25 Brian & Kathy Beuster & Family

MAY

2 Chuck & Sheila Jenkins
9 Pat Cottingim *Mother's Day*
16 Jamie & Jennifer Martin
23 Darlene Rose
30 Barb Hazelwood *9:00 a.m. service*

Late Service – 10:30 a.m.

JANUARY

3 Ron & Wilma Boltz
10 Bernie & Paula Glass
17 Kermit & Carlene Svendsen
24 John & Tammy Ballas
31 Ken & Pam Gast

FEBRUARY

7 Al & Judy Ohlson
14 Kurt & Deb Larson
21 Marge Cantlin
28 Bryan & Melissa Sanford

MARCH

7 Dorathea Wilkins & Vera Hamilton
14 Cathy Setchell
21 Linda Hanley & Family
28 Chris & Marilyn Sanford

APRIL

4 Becky Donahue *Easter*
11 Don & Betty Sawicki
18 Brett & Jay Johnson
25 Mike & Carol Greer

MAY

2 Wess & Jessica Whittaker
9 Betty Grimm *Mother's Day*
16 Cyndi Rafferty
23 Marge Cantlin

JUNE (9:00 a.m. service)

6 Jim & Jo Malley
13 Joann Brown
20 Jay & Sue Johnson
27 Steve Moyer

JULY (9:00 a.m. service)

4 Louise Ketcham
11 Dolores Kaminky
18 Roger & Becky Keller
25 Jerry Grey and Jim Grey

AUGUST (9:00 a.m. service)

1 Joe & Shari Stone
8 Deb Fultz
15 John & Jenny Boltz
22 Chuck & Marcia Farley
29 Ryan & Cindy Greer

SEPTEMBER

5
13 Zach & Michelle Beetz
20 Steve & Diana Tuftie
27 Jeff & Wendy Maly

SEPTEMBER

5 Rich & Joyce Jones 9:00 a.m.
12 Brian & Kathy Beuster
19 Jeff & Jennifer Pickert
26 Don & Alvirda Neely

OCTOBER

3 Ken & Donna Tillman
10 Don & Joan Tuftie
17 Sharon McLachlan
24 Carl & Shannon Cook
31 Dave & Sandy Gast

OCTOBER

3 Vic & Kim Johnson
10 Harold & Elaine Olsen
17 Bob & Carolyn Doughty
24 Fred & Eleda Kaminky
31 Chris Fritz

NOVEMBER

7 Bob & Maurene VonSeggern
14 Luke & Lisa Tillman
21 Matt & Sarah Cook
28 Carol Taylor & Shawn Murphy

NOVEMBER

7 Larry & Kathleen Zimmerman
14 Bernie & Marcia Chapman
21 Ruthann Chapman & Family
28 Ron & Gloria Bond

DECEMBER

5 Val Norton & Family
12 Mark & Deb Hagemann
19 John Nielsen
28 Randy & Judy Rosengren

DECEMBER

5 Wayne & Angie Koontz
12 Max & Kristen Ambler
19 Gene & Betty Steinke
28 John & Nancy Weidner

Thank you for serving as a greeter in 2009. This is an important ministry for Immanuel and your presence is greatly needed and appreciated. A reminder card will be sent during the week before you are scheduled to greet. We include all members as greeters, if for some reason you are unable to greet on the Sunday you are assigned, please trade with someone. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 246-9642. Thank you for greeting!