



**IMMANUEL  
HERALD  
FEBRUARY, 2010**

**[WWW.IMMANUELHOLDEN.ORG](http://WWW.IMMANUELHOLDEN.ORG)**

**The Season of Lent:  
A Time for Growth and Renewal**



Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.  
- John 7:38

*THE PASTOR'S PAGE*

Dear Friends in Christ at Immanuel,

With a large number of charitable organizations collecting funds to provide relief in Haiti after the devastation of the recent earthquake, people naturally want to make their donations where they will be most effective and where the largest portion of their gift will be used for actual relief aid and not for administration and advertising. I heard one otherwise helpful commentator say that people should mistrust and not support any group raising funds that makes a claim that "100% of your gift will go to provide direct relief aid." Having just made that claim about the ELCA Disaster Response Fund in Sunday worship, I listened carefully.

The commentator's point was that no helping agency can function without administrative costs. He said that the only way that 100% of your gift can go to needy victims is if you bring it yourself and place it directly in their hands. The important thing is to seek agencies that keep those costs reasonably low, not those who pretend not to have them at all. He had a valid point, up to a point, and maybe we need to be clearer about what we mean by our 100% claim, but in our case, it is true as I've said more than once in worship that 100% of your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response goes directly to provide aid to those in need.

We can claim that and be truthful about it because our administrative costs, while they do exist, are already paid for in other ways. The people who are paid to organize relief efforts on our behalf, the warehouses where aid items are stored before shipping, the insurance and other overhead costs of doing relief work are paid for by a portion of the portion of our regular Sunday offerings that gets sent to the ELCA Churchwide organization. There are indeed overhead and administrative costs related to our church's relief efforts. They are quite low compared to many others but they do exist and we're always paying for them so that when disaster strikes and we respond with extra, compassionate giving, all of it can be used for relief, 100%.

Your church also has the advantage of not needing to buy advertising on television or radio to solicit donations. We have congregations and pastors who do that for free. That saves enormous amounts of money as well. Add to those advantages the long-standing relationships we have with partner churches in areas where tragedy strikes and with other agencies, churches and civic structures, along with a proven commitment to work long after the initial response is over, and you have good reason to be confident that your gifts through ELCA Disaster Response will make a difference.

That doesn't mean that your church is the only agency worthy of your gifts. There's a long list of groups, small and large, faith-based or not that are doing wonderful work right now in Haiti and other places of extreme need and who do it with overhead costs every bit as low as your church's. But I just wanted you to know that when we claim that 100% of your gift designated for Disaster Response will go to direct relief, it's a claim that you can believe because if you're a regular giver to Immanuel, you've already paid the overhead, and even if you're not, someone else is paying your share of that administrative cost. Gifts designated for relief through ELCA Disaster Response provide relief. 100%. It is that simple.

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Dear Members of Immanuel,

January's Council meeting was filled with preparations for Immanuel's Annual Meeting. After some routine monthly business, Council reviewed the 2009 and proposed 2010 budgets one more time and approved a final budget to be presented to the congregation on January 31. Since projected income for 2010 is \$348,600 and the proposed budget totals \$350,600, this budget will need to be monitored carefully during the first half of 2010, and adjustments may be necessary for the second half of the year. Details of the proposed budget will be presented by Council members and Jeff Swanberg at a budget hearing January 24.

In addition to final discussion of the 2010 budget, Council members reviewed Immanuel's goals for 2009 and established new goals for 2010. In keeping with the "Keep It Simple" theme, the new goals were presented in a more general format than in years past, but still contained opportunities for thoughtful and meaningful growth as a congregation. These goals will also be presented on January 31. Members of council then volunteered to take on the various roles at the Annual Meeting, and were reminded that Planning Team annual reports were due so that they could be included in the printed Immanuel's Annual Report to the Congregation.

Plans for the Council's annual retreat were then discussed. It will take place on February 5 and 6 at St. Clare House in Holden. Some of the activities at this year's retreat, including a "get-to-know you" session on Friday and opening worship, lunch, and closing communion on Saturday, will be held in conjunction with members of the Vestry from St. Francis Episcopal Church, who will also be holding their annual retreat. Hopefully, leaders from both congregations will have a chance to share ideas and concerns.

For the first time in several years, there will be four new faces on Council in 2010; Melissa Callender, Scott Gridley, Gail Raney, and David Wood have agreed fill the seats vacated by Sarah Carlson, Jen Langhill, Lori Rabeler, and Mark Vetter. At the end of the January meeting, yummy spice cake and cookies helped Council say thank you to members whose terms end as of the Annual Meeting. By the way, did you know that since Mark Vetter completed an unfinished term for another member and then was elected to two terms of his own, only Pastor Dan has served more time on Council?

Since I am one of those Council members who will now have a little more free time on her hands, I would like to end this letter with a personal message. It has truly been a pleasure and a privilege to serve on Immanuel's Congregation Council for the past six years. When Fred Borchelt, as a member of the Nominating Committee, first called to ask me to consider serving, I panicked! Having served on a council elsewhere, I foresaw many lengthy, contentious, emotional, and often unproductive meetings. After weeks of soul searching and avoiding a decision (and Fred's calls), I finally (and thankfully) agreed to give it a try. How blessed I have been! The group of people with whom I have worked over the past six years is caring, thoughtful, honest and dedicated to keeping Immanuel the vibrant place that it is. Rest assured that the decisions made by Council members are done with Immanuel's best interest at the forefront. There have been no personal agendas or "axes to grind." In learning more about Immanuel and the wonderful people here, I have grown in many ways myself and I know other departing members share that experience. I can't believe I'm putting this in writing, but I will miss it! Thank you to all who have made this experience such a positive one; blessings do come in unexpected ways!

Blessings and peace to all,  
Lori Rabeler  
Council Vice-President



## TO GATHER PEOPLE

### THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS

#### ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 WORSHIP AT NOON AND 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday worship includes an extended order of confession that includes the Imposition of Ashes on the brow of each worshiper, as a sign of repentance and mortality given in the form of the new cross-shaped life that is also ours in Holy Baptism.

Services will be held at Immanuel at 12:00 noon and at 7:00 pm. A simple pot-luck lunch will follow the noontime service for those who would like to stay and share a meal together. Please join those who gather to hear the call to "return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful and abounding in steadfast love."

### "GREG AND DAVE (AND PROBABLY CHRIS TOO)"

#### RETURNING TO LEAD US IN SONG ON FEBRUARY 28

Those who enjoyed the music leadership of Greg Wilfrid and Dave Uhl for our worship services on Reformation Sunday in October will be glad to welcome them back to Immanuel on Sunday, February 28. This time, Greg and Dave will probably bring their good friend and trumpet player, Chris Vece, with them. All three are students at the Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, CT.

### WOMEN'S CIRCLE



Women's Circle will meet on Monday, Feb. 8 at 9:30am. Our hostesses will be Janet Olson and Jane English. Marion Anderson will lead us in devotions. Our project will be assembling layettes.

### RETIREES GATHERING

Greetings Immanuel "Retirees", Relatives, Friends, Neighbors and Wannabees... Soon it will be time for another of our now famous "Pot Lucks". First choice is February 2, which is also known as "Ground Hog's Day". Knowing how unpredictable our weather can be - we have set a "date" for Tuesday, February 2.

The food and beverage plan is now familiar. Beverages will be provided. All comers are invited to bring their personal favorite food to share - whatever that might be. Gathering time is "whenever" before "noon o'clock" when we will pray and eat.

Seeing that we had marvelous personal sharing at our "Veteran's Day" time gathering - it has been proposed that we might be willing to share (at our February "Valentine's Day" time gathering) a little inside scoop regarding how, where and when we first met our "sweetheart". Of course this is optional for any and all.

If the weather is half-way decent on February 1 and the forecast is somewhat favorable for February 2 we'll plan to meet and eat on Tuesday. If the weather is clearly impassable or impossible we will delay until February 9 or 16 - and, an e-mail and/or phone call will come your way - if we know of your plan to be present on the 2nd. All who plan to come are urged to send an e-mail to Pr Ron at [maryronj@juno.com](mailto:maryronj@juno.com) or to call Lynn or Peg at Immanuel 508-829-4416 to let us know. This info will help us know how to set up in Lawson Hall and how much beverage to provide. As they say in the Old Country: "bon appetite" Blessings to and through all of us. Ron

**KOINONIA NEWS**

Mustard Seed Koinonia will meet on Saturday, February 13, at 7:00pm hosted by Ellen Friend and Marion Anderson. An event will be planned at church with Erika Higgins.

Open Door Koinonia will meet Saturday, February 20, at 7:00pm hosted by Bill and Mary Jane Rasku.



**TO NURTURE FAITH IN JESUS**

**MID-WEEK EVENING ADULT STUDY:**  
**“THE LAST CHURCH SERVICE THAT YOU WILL EVER MISS”**  
**- THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 7:00 to 8:30 pm**

Those who have either attended funeral services for loved ones or friends, or have perhaps needed to help plan or participate in such a service know that funeral worship practices are varied and that some traditions are more comforting and helpful than others. Should a funeral service be in a church or in a funeral home? Is funeral worship for the deceased or for the survivors? What scripture passages are the most helpful or meaningful to read? What is best to say to those who are grieving?

Pastor Wilfrid will lead the second session of a two-part study on The Christian Funeral on Wednesday, February 10 from 7:00–8:30 pm. The sessions will include the opportunity to do some thinking and planning about that last church service that all of us will someday not be attending but that others (we hope at least a few!) will. Come and share in the conversation.

**SUNDAY ADULT FAITH FITNESS IN FEBRUARY**  
**“THE APOSTLE PAUL – HIS LIFE, THOUGHT AND JOURNEYS”**  
**LED BY DAVE FARABAUGH AND MARK VETTER**

The Apostle Paul, author of roughly 2/3s of the New Testament, will be the focus of a new series of Adult Faith Fitness classes beginning Sunday, February 7. After three sessions considering Paul's life and thought, there will be sessions describing each of Paul's three missionary journeys. The series will end (later in March) with two sessions on “Paul and the Role of Women in the Church.” Dave Farabaugh, Mark Vetter, and Pastor Wilfrid will be leaders for the sessions in Lawson Hall's room #2. Listen for the bell calling you from Coffee Hour to class each week.

**LENTEN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**  
**MARCH 7, 14, 21 AT**  
**ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH, MARLBOROUGH**  
**“THE GOD OF SCIENCE AND FAITH”**



Mark your calendars (and your GPS devices) for this year's Central Massachusetts Conference Lenten School of Theology. This year, the Lenten School moves from its former host site (Zion in Greendale) to St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Marlborough. St. Stephen is not far from the eastern end of route 290. If you know how long it takes to get to the Solomon Pond Mall, you can estimate just a few minutes more to get to St. Stephen.

Sessions will be held on Sunday evenings, March 7, 14, 21 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm with refreshments

waiting for those who arrive anytime after 6:00 pm. The theme of the series will be “The God of Science and Faith” with a different guest speaker each week. More details will follow in the March Herald, but the weekly themes are expected to be “God and the Wonders of the Universe,” “God and the Care of Creation” and “God and Technology.”

### **NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS**

## **Registration for Fall 2010**

We are now taking registrations for all Full-day programs. Please call Amy if you have any questions.

### **Summer Program**

For the past several years Immanuel Lutheran has offered a summer camp program. Unfortunately this upcoming year we will not be continuing with that option, Due to the implementation of all full-day programs in the Fall, the Nursery school will be utilizing that time to arrange rooms, paint as well as other fixes.

If your child is enrolled as a kindergartener, there is a strong likelihood there will not be a space for your child this summer. If you have any questions please speak with, Amy.

Thank You!

...to all of the families at the Nursery school and our Nursery school board members.: Sandy Bardon, Dyana Nickl, Melissa Hart, Maureen Lundin, Jennifer Duggan, Sue Swanberg and Pastor Dan. Your work is appreciated! Lastly, I would like to thank all of Immanuel Lutheran’s teachers without them we would not have such a wonderful program.

### **February Notes**

In February, our theme is The American Presidents. We are hoping to have a visit from the Tooth Fairy. We will also be mailing out our special Valentine surprises.

### **YOUTH NEWS**

REMINDER:: If you have not already contacted either Stephanie or Andrew about your decision to attend the Mission Trip, you must email/call ASAP. The \$100 deposits were due by Jan. 31.

Although February may be a short month, but we are packing in a ton of stuff!! We will be doing a few more fundraisers this month to aid in lowering our Mission Trip costs. Super Bowl Sunday subs will be provided again this year, as well as our FINAL babysitting night for parents! \*\*The people who have participated in this the past few times, have had nothing but good reviews! Don’t miss your last chance to take advantage of a nice evening out kid free!!

Also, every year the youth group provides cookies for college students! That will be coming up this month as well. Parents who have kids in college, send updated addresses to Stephanie Fiffy ([SMFiffy@comcast.net](mailto:SMFiffy@comcast.net)) so that we can prepare in advance how much to package up and send out!

Upcoming Events...

### **Senior High (grades 9-12)**

Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> – Putting together the sub sandwiches for the Super Bowl fundraiser  
(1:00 – 2:30pm)

Sunday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> – Super Bowl Sunday!! Fundraiser for the Mission Trip. Passing out subs during coffee hour on Sunday.

Saturday Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – Last time for parents to take advantage of Babysitting.  
(\*\*Date Night 5:30 – 8:30pm)

Sunday Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – Annual Cookies for College Students. 12noon – 2pm

\*We will be bringing some cookies with us, and making half in the kitchen that Afternoon [we won’t have enough time/space to make them all in 2 hours]

**LIPY (grades 6-12)**

Wednesday Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> – Cardi Food Cupboard. \*(Wed. during February vacation) 12noon -2pm  
Sunday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> – Roller Skating & Lazer Tag @ Roll-On America 2 – 5pm

**Junior High (grades 6-8)**

Sunday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – Movie Night \*\*Movie to be decided. Please send suggestions!!  
~~~~Enjoy your February Vacation!!~~~~

**COME HAVE A BLAST "UNDER THE BAOBAB TREE" AT OUR VBS THIS SUMMER!**

VBS is back at Immanuel for 2010! Please mark your calendars for the week of August 9-13. We are in the planning stages of creating an opportunity for the children of Immanuel(and friends) to learn about God's glorious world, featuring His African creations. Stories and activities will center around the themes of Trusting, Loving, Following, Caring and Sharing God's love. Plan to bring your enthusiasm and be a part of this week experiencing God's Great Get-together!

We are looking for a few more dedicated adult volunteers to make this VBS a success. We would love some of the older youth to be involved, too. If you can look into your heart and find the way to support this ministry for our youth, we want to hear from you!! Please join the VBS planning team in bringing back this valuable summer experience to our church.

Yours In Christ,  
Kathy Cranson, Amy Herlihy, Jackie Rhonemus, Diana Provencher, Sandy Bardon and Pastor Dan

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

**FEBRUARY LESSON SCHEDULE**

**Preschool – Grade 3**

- 7<sup>th</sup> – God calls Gideon (*Judges 6:1-24*)
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Naomi and Ruth (*Ruth 1*)
- 21<sup>st</sup> – God calls Samuel (*1 Samuel 3:1-18*)
- 28<sup>th</sup> – David and Goliath (*1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50*)

**Grade 4 – The Sacraments**

**Grades 5 & 6**

- 7<sup>th</sup> – The Disciples (*Luke 5:1-11; 8:1-3*)
- 14<sup>th</sup> – The Transfiguration (*Luke 9:28-36*)
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Tempted (*Luke 4:1-13*)
- 28<sup>th</sup> – God's Promises to Abram (*Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Thirteen of Immanuel's children received their First Holy Communion on January 31<sup>st</sup>. They attended three First Communion Classes with their parents, including one at which they baked bread for communion.

**Congratulations to this year's class!**



- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Eliana Bilsel</b>     | <b>Amanda Lorusso</b>  |
| <b>Issac Bilsel</b>      | <b>Derek Mangsen</b>   |
| <b>Samuel Brewer</b>     | <b>Tyler Moran</b>     |
| <b>Connor Bucci</b>      | <b>Alexis Pratt</b>    |
| <b>Adam Chiancola</b>    | <b>Madison Senecal</b> |
| <b>Charlotte Gridely</b> | <b>Taylor Senecal</b>  |
| <b>Kyla Farmer</b>       |                        |



**WONDER LEAGUE YOUTH GROUP**

The next event will be creating a Kid's Newspaper; it is scheduled for February 21 from 2-4pm. A parent volunteer will be needed to help chaperone the event (no planning necessary).  
Coming up next month: Easter Crafts and Egg Hunt on March 21.

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT SUNDAY

**March 7** is the next Something Different Sunday. All Sunday School classes will need a substitute to provide our regular teachers with the opportunity to meet for a class together. If you are willing to fill in for one of our teachers, please sign up on the Sunday School bulletin board or contact Sandy Bardon.



### TO GROW IN GOD'S LOVE

The following is Pastor Dan's annual "sermon in verse," preached on the first Sunday of the New Year, January 3, 2010

#### THE WORD IN FLESH (John 1:1-18)

On this third day of January, in two thousand ten,  
Your Pastor is up to his rhyming again.  
As he does each New Year, and for better or worse,  
He is offering a sermon, in well-metered verse.

It's a habit, a custom, a quirky tradition,  
For me, I suppose it's some predisposition  
Toward playing with words and taking delight  
In turns of a phrase that end sounding just right.

For words, after all, are the tools of my trade.  
From words, after all, every sermon is made.  
Without them, I'm done for! I'm standing here mute!  
A preacher needs words, like each horn needs its toot.

I use words to teach and to counsel and guide,  
On Sundays I need them to preach and preside.  
In emails and phone calls and all visitation,  
words are the tools of a pastor's vocation.

And among all those words, in fact at their heart  
Is the Word that forgives, and can new life impart.  
It's the word of God's goodness and mercy and love,  
The Word that is Christ, gift from heaven above.

St. Paul said it best: Romans 10:17,  
"Faith comes from what's heard," not so much from what's seen.  
And further, Paul says that what needs to be heard  
Is the message of Christ, God's incarnate Word.

Which brings us to John, and today's gospel reading,  
18 verses of words, every last one worth heeding.  
It's the opening words of John's gospel book.  
His intro., his overture, his literary hook.

He starts just like Genesis, saying "In the beginning,"  
Was the Word, there with God, and AS God underpinning  
everything that was made, and that came into being.  
Light and life so intense that it sent darkness fleeing.

This Word made things happen – what once wasn't, now was.  
This Word can create like no other word does.  
And I don't mean just phrases and chapters and books,  
I mean frogs, trees and mountains and babbling brooks.

I mean people and planets, and yes, you and me.  
This Word that is God made it all, and you see,  
It's that Word, John confesses, God's own life and light,  
That was born in that manger that dark Christmas night.

God's Word took on flesh, came among us to dwell,  
Jesus, God with us, our Immanuel.  
Fulfillment of hopes voiced by prophets of old  
Fulfillment of dreams and of visions foretold.

Fulfillment of words prophets spoke at great cost,  
So many rejected, so many lives lost.  
This Jesus, this Word in the flesh, Holy One,  
Is the way that God spoke, when God sent us his Son.

In Jesus, God spoke, and just as at creation,  
Things started to happen, a real demonstration  
Of the power of words to create new reality,  
To unlock a future of potentiality.

To demons, Jesus uttered a simple "Begone!"  
To the suffering "Be healed!," to disciples "Come on!"  
Jesus spoke and it happened, storms were stilled, thousands fed,  
There were sinners forgiven, a few raised from the dead.

All the way to a cross Jesus spoke truth and grace,  
To his last "It is finished," not a word would he waste.  
And when God three days later, spoke that mighty "Arise!"  
That one word of life, brought about death's demise.

So perhaps now you see why to me words so matter,  
Why they're such vital tools and not time-filling chatter.  
Others preach off the cuff and are quite entertaining,  
Some seem to think preaching is mostly explaining,

What God wants from you, and what you must decide,  
How best to be faithful and on God's good side,  
But preaching is basically saying what's true:  
Like "Your sins are forgiven," and "Jesus loves you."

Preaching is saying right now and for you,  
What God said in Jesus, so that God now can do  
What God always does when this word is proclaimed:  
So that God can be Christ, still enfleshed and untamed.

Still forgiving, still leading, still healing and mending;  
Still teaching, correcting, still calling and sending.  
Still being a Word that does more than describe,  
A word we can touch and can taste and imbibe.

A Word that is active and doing and near,  
A Word that's alive and still right with us here.  
And not only that but a Word gone before  
At work in the world when we walk out the door.

As I tell every fifteen year-old lad and lass,  
Before they escape from my confirmation class,  
When you visit a church, listen well to what's said,  
Does God get the verbs? Or do you instead

Hear only about what God did long ago:  
As if God were absent or sluggish or slow.  
Are you told you're forgiven or just urged to forgive?  
Are you promised new life or just told how to live?

Are you hearing a Word that creates a new world?  
That proclaims Christ's bright light against all darkness hurled?  
Does God need to be there at all to make true  
Any word that the preacher is saying to you?

I believe that God does and God is and will be  
The only one doing to you and to me,  
Whatever needs doing to fix what is broken,  
The Word that still speaks just what needs to be spoken.

So I give God the verbs, and the credit and glory  
For whatever you hear that rings true in this story.  
I choose words with care so the Word is proclaimed,  
So the gospel is preached and the holy name named.

The name that is Jesus, the God come to save.  
The name we can trust all the way to the grave.  
The Word born of God so that we may be too,  
Born of God, born again, baptized, born anew.

So if at the start of this year that is new  
This rhyming has helped me make clearer to you  
That a sermon is neither a lecture nor speech,  
But a life-giving Word that God calls me to preach.

A Word that God targets and aims at your ear,  
In ways that to me are not always that clear.  
A Word that shouts out from a biblical page,  
but that hopes both your brain and your heart to engage.

The work that I do is one link in that chain,  
Between God and you, so I'll say it again:  
Words matter, they're tools, and good preachers remember,  
From January first to the last of December,

That our words, though clever, are not what you need.  
But God's Word made flesh, the Word that can feed  
All your hungers of spirit and raise up what's dead,  
Send you forth with new purpose, to live Spirit-led.

And now having said that, I think I'm all done.  
I hope the rhymes helped and made listening fun.  
God bless us and keep us through two thousand ten,  
So in twenty-eleven I can do this again.

Amen

### **MAKE IT SIMPLE--Covenant Card Response -- Report #3**

In this final report of Covenant Card responses, you will find many faith building responses from our members. Reading these, I find many suggestions on what I may do to increase my own faith fitness. In fact, these come at a good time for us as we begin our Lenten observance this month. I have long felt that the tradition of giving something up for Lent is helpful to focus our attention to the

theme of the season, i.e., the sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus for each one of us. I also find it very helpful to add a faith discipline in to our personal "keeping" of Lent. Here in this list we find many practices that people have covenanted for themselves that can be most helpful to the rest of us at Immanuel. I see significant spiritual discipline possibilities in the following list.

### **God**

Place more trust in God  
Start each morning with God  
Be open to listening to God's will for my life  
Thank God for all he has done for me  
Turn over each day to God in a quiet time of meditation every morning  
Each day I will praise and thank God for at least one thing  
More conscious of and time with God  
Write about God's daily blessings into a journal, Luke 12:22

### **Prayer**

Speak/pray to God daily. (9)  
Spend 15 min. each day in prayer for others  
Pray for the children I teach  
Pray more (2)  
Start the day by praying the Lord's Prayer  
Pray more to God thanking for all his blessings and asking for his help and guidance in our times of need  
Pray at least 15 minutes a day  
Begin each day more faithfully in prayer (2)  
Keep a written prayer list  
Pray intentionally  
Pray every morning when I wake up  
Spend less time worrying and more time praying

### **Bible**

Read in my new Lutheran Bible  
Include more Bible readings in our daily devotions  
Read the Bible regularly (3)  
Reread the New Testament, especially gospels this year  
Read my Bible for 15 minutes a day  
Daily devotion/Bible reading  
Find 2 quiet times at the beginning and end of day to read Bible and devotional books (2)  
Spend more time in the Word  
Read one full book of the Bible at a time  
Study my Bible at home at least weekly  
Start each day with a Bible reading

### **Faith**

Trust my worries more to Jesus than to take them on myself  
Don't worry so much – especially about things over which I have no control

### **Church**

Talents to church as needed  
Faithful giving of our weekly offerings.  
Stewardship (2)  
Faithful church attendance (2)  
Encourage youth in congregation  
Attend Sunday services  
Receive communion

The intent of our "Keep It Simple" theme in 2009 and 2010 is to assist in aligning your life with God's fulfilling purposes for you. I pray a blessed and enriching Lenten season for our Immanuel family as we celebrate Our Lord's presence with us and His sacrifice for us.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Bob Goehrig

### **READY TO SIGN-UP FOR "SIMPLY GIVING?"**

Did you know that it's possible to make your offerings to Immanuel by electronic transfer? Twenty-three contributors already are signed up to give their offerings electronically through the "Simply Giving" program. Speak to Don Olson if you'd like to join them.

### **YOU CAN NOW REQUEST PRAYERS ON-LINE AT IMMANUEL'S WEBSITE**

The online Prayer Request form on [www.immanuelholden.org](http://www.immanuelholden.org) is now active. Praying hands on the Home page serve as a clear and simple link to the form. An e-mail generated from each entry form will be sent to Pastor Dan and to Ken and Kathy Cranson, leaders of Immanuel's on-line prayer chain. As always, prayer needs can also be called in to the church office or given directly to one of the pastors, but the on-line form opens up the invitation to anyone who visits our website to seek the prayers of the church. Many thanks to our webmaster, Curt Wickman, for setting up the on-line prayer request option on Immanuel's website.

### **NEW CONGREGATION COUNCIL TO MEET FOR PLANNING RETREAT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH LEADERS**

Immanuel's 2010 Congregation Council will gather for a planning retreat on Saturday, February 6 at the St. Clare House beside St. Francis Episcopal Church in Holden. The event will be shared with the elected lay leaders of St. Francis Church (called their Vestry) who will also be gathering for the same purpose that day. The leaders of both congregations will start and end the day together in worship and also join one another for lunch. During Immanuel's retreat, Council officers will be elected, Planning Team assignments made, and goals for the year reviewed. Both groups will also be gathering the evening before the retreat for introductions and fellowship at St. Clare House.

### **COUNCIL TO BE INSTALLED IN WORSHIP SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

Immanuel's 2010 Congregation Council will be installed in worship on Sunday, February 7. After the election at the January 31 Annual Meeting, the Council will have four new members: Melissa Callender, Scott Gridley and Gail Raney elected to three-year terms, and David Wood, elected to a one-year term as youth member. They will join Ken Cranson, elected to a second three-year term and continuing members Kevin Duguay, Paula Janowski, Bob Krumbiegel, Linda Morse, Sue Swanberg, Linn Watt and Tom Wiegand.

### **LENTEN BOOKLET**

Spring is just around the corner. That means Easter is before that, which is, of course, preceded by Lent. This means that the Lenten Booklet has to be done really, really soon. There must be some reflection from this year that you would be willing to share. If so, please send them to [KKCRAN2@AOL.COM](mailto:KKCRAN2@AOL.COM) before Friday, February 12 so the booklet can be ready for Ash Wednesday. If you have never submitted an entry please consider doing so this year. Typically, a person starts with a relevant verse from the bible, follows with their thoughts and ends with a prayer. (Not required format however).

Also, we need a design for the front cover. If you would like to submit a proposal please e-mail to the same address or give Ken Cranson a copy. Children's efforts are accepted also.

## February Happy Birthday

- 1 Matthew Mangsen
- 2 Jeffrey Provencher, Donald Roberts
- 3 William Van Fechtmann
- 5 Annmarie Provencher, Gillian Saulnier
- 6 Marguerite Amons, Nancy Hendrickson
- 8 Mia Martire
- 9 Evelyn White
- 10 Jackson Allaire
- 11 Alan Farmer
- 13 Alison McQuoid, Jeffrey Swanberg, Sr.
- 14 Hailey Trudeau
- 15 Margit Borseth, Toriana Dumas, Christina Provencher
- 16 Ralph Borseth, William DeNorscia, Tracey Strandgaard
- 17 Molly Ellis, Sierra Trudeau
- 18 Barbara Campbell, Victoria Guindon, Charlotte Lindberg, Linn Watt
- 19 Jeffery Anderson, Michael Caramanica, Anne-Hee O'Connor, Frances Philblade
- 20 Samuel Gaskin, Lillian Gustafson, Lon Rhonemus
- 21 Megan Kiefer
- 22 Karen Gaskin, Heather Martire, Gary Mizerak
- 24 Stephen Wood
- 26 Valeda Schmucki
- 28 Alec Callender, Siw Kristiansson, William Rasku



|    |                                      |    |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|
| 2  | Frank & Lillian Gustafson            | 67 |
| 16 | William & Dorothea Van Fechtmann     | 64 |
| 17 | Daniel Wilfrid & Nancy Elder-Wilfrid | 25 |
| 21 | Ralph & Margit Borseth               | 53 |

***We are blessed by all our words, and support -- but today***

*Thank You!*

***wonderful members – their kind deeds, we'd like to especially say thank you to:***

*...Rollie Olson for fixing the broken kitchen stool.*

*...Linda Morse for making the T-shirt diapers for their layettes from the Women's Circle a big thank you.*

*...Bob and Linn Watt for donating a new calculator for the volunteer office. (They made this gift in confidence that people will help our Financial Secretaries give it a good weekly workout adding up our offerings.)*

### **LETTERS & NOTES**

*Thank you so much for making our Christmas Merry. Happy New Year from your friends at the Florence House.*



*Dear Immanuel Friends,*

*Tusen tack (1000 thanks) for the poinsettia and altar flowers that came my way at Christmas time. Being remembered is always special. Thanks again.*



*You're in my prayers, Norma Mellor*

*Thanks to the congregation for the beautiful Christmas plant delivered to our home. We also want to thank Pastor Dan and the big group for the inspiring carols on a cold winter night.*



*Frank & Lillian Gustafson*

*The poinsettia brightened up my home and the "Carolers" were a great treat.*



*Many thanks to all – Carolyn Gibbs*

Dear Community of Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$272.00 to the Wachusett Food Pantry. Your contribution will go far in helping to feed those in need in our community.  
On behalf of all who will benefit directly from your gift, thank you for your support.

♥ Karen A. Halley – On Behalf of the Board of the Wachusett Food Pantry

Dear Carolers,

Thank you for the beautiful plant and for taking the time, on such a cold night, to visit us and giving us a chance to hear and sing carols. As I am sure you could tell, our friends in building B were very happy to join us and they too, say thank you. God bless you all. A happy New Year.

♥ Love, Betty & Bob Gustafson

Dear Immanuel Family,

Many thanks to the singers who ventured out on a cold evening to help us get the Christmas "Spirit". The poinsettia they brought is lovely and very much appreciated.

♥ Many thanks, Brita Malmstrom



**OUR "AT HOME" MEMBERS**

Holden: **Frank & Lillian Gustafson, Everett & Barbara Hultquist, Norma Mellor, Edith Pierson, Edith Swenson**

Princeton: **Lillian Twarog**

West Boylston: **Evelyn White**

☺ **REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS in NURSING HOMES**

**Doris Carlson**

Coleman House  
112 W Main Street  
Northboro, MA 01532

**Helen Davis**

Holden Rehab. & Nursing Center  
32 Mayo Dr.  
Holden, MA 01520

**Penny Roy**

Odd Fellows Home  
104 Randolph Road  
Worcester, MA 01606



**TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD**

**IMMANUEL TO SERVE AT KID'S EXPRESS**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

Every Friday evening during the school year, the rooms and hallways of Concordia Lutheran Church on Murray Avenue in Worcester are alive with noise and activity as another evening of Kids' Express gets underway. Songs and Bible stories and craft projects are underway while an evening meal is being prepared by members of one of Concordia's many partner churches in the kitchen. On the second Friday of every other month, it is Immanuel's turn to prepare and serve the evening meal. Our next turn comes along on Friday, February 12. If you haven't yet had the experience of being a part of an evening at Kids' Express, you should be first in line to sign up for this next chance to serve. Jack Terry organizes Immanuel's effort and he'd be happy to have you come along. See the sign-up sheet in the lobby of Lawson Hall.

**FROM YOUR CREATION CARE COMMITTEE**

Green Tips for February:

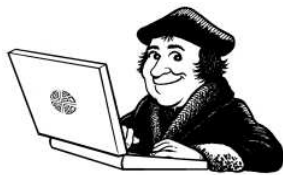
If you are considering some home improvement winter projects, please research "green materials" for your projects. There are so many newly developed materials that are eco friendly.

Reusable water bottles: Disposable water bottles are out, and reusable water bottles are in. Good news, but which ones should you choose? Go to "Reusable water bottle choices" at "greenlivingtips.com" for extensive descriptions of available products and why.

## SERVICE PROJECT NEEDS HELP

The Florence House in Worcester has asked Immanuel's Men's Ministry for some help with painting. Since this is a home for single moms we thought it best if we enlisted the women of Immanuel to give us a hand. They have five small baths that are clean but could use a coat of paint plus some small repairs. If you can offer a couple of hours please join us at Immanuel Saturday February 13 at 7:00am for coffee and formation of work crews. We will caravan into Worcester and work from 8:00–10:00. (This time we will work until done, but it shouldn't take more than a couple of hours if we have enough people.) We need brushes, roller frames and roller pans if you have them. Also, they are always in need of non-perishable foods, diapers and wipes. If everyone could bring a little something extra it would be a real blessing to these struggling women. We hope you'll give us a hand.

## ASK "MANNY LU!"



*[We thank our resident artist, Jim Provencher, for putting a "face" on Manny Lu for us. Now you can keep your eyes open for Manny whenever you are around the church!*

*If you have a question about life at Immanuel, about the Christian Church and its teachings, or exactly what a "synod" is, just ask Manny Lu! A Manny Lu question clip-board can be found outside Pastor Wilfrid's office. Manny stops by regularly to check for new questions.]*

Dear Manny Lu,

I read Immanuel's Annual Report from cover to cover. What an exciting story! I understood all of the written reports from staff and planning teams but the last several pages of numbers made my head spin. Can you make church finances simple for me to understand? If I put a \$10 bill in the offering plate, where does it go?

Signed, Lotta DeTail

Dear Lotta,

There are a couple of simple ways to answer your question. First, that \$10 bill gets counted, recorded, credited to you (if you put it in an envelope with your name or envelope number on it) and deposited in the bank by one of our Financial Secretaries. These good people spend an hour or more of their Sunday afternoon doing that important and careful work for all of us. We owe them our thanks.

The other way to answer is, I'm sure, the answer that you're after: How does your \$10 then get spent? Unless you've designated that offering for a specific purpose, it goes into our General Fund. Then, because we practice as a congregation what we encourage all members to do themselves, we practice first fruits giving, and tithing, which means that the first dollar of the ten that you gave to Immanuel gets given away by Immanuel. About 52 cents of that dollar goes to support the churchwide ministries of the ELCA. Another 42 cents goes to our New England Synod. Three cents is given to our Mission Partner, Concordia Lutheran Church in Worcester and the last three cents is divided between a few other local mission efforts.

The remaining nine dollars gets spent to provide all of the ministries offered at and by Immanuel. Five dollars of that weekly offering pays our staff of nine (most of them part-time) people. \$1.70 covers the maintenance, utilities, and insurance for our church and parsonage. And the last \$2.30 provides the Sunday School curriculum and supplies, worship bulletins, youth activities, candles, even the offering envelope that your \$10 was put into.

I hope that answers your question, and I also hope that the \$10 was a hypothetical offering because if every one of our 200 contributing households gave \$10 a week, Immanuel's 2010 budget would only be \$104,000 instead of \$350,600. Instead, the average weekly gift is more like \$34, which looks pretty good until you realize that only if we each earned \$17,680 a year would we be a tithing church. I think there's still room for most of us to grow in discovering the joy of giving, don't you?

Always counting on you, Manny Lu

### **THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE**

The first envelope on the top of everyone's envelope packet is marked "The Lutheran." This is the envelope in which contributions received offset the cost of having the monthly Lutheran magazine sent to member households. The cost of our group subscription is roughly \$1,500 a year and gifts in those envelopes typically cover about a third of that cost. The rest comes out of the general fund.

We incur this cost because the Lutheran is a valuable way for you to be reminded that you are part of a network of congregations in the ELCA and to know what your church is doing for the sake of the world. We are happy to provide it to everyone who will read it, even if no contribution comes in that special offering envelope. What we'd rather not do is pay to have it sent to homes where it immediately ends up in a recycle bin. Therefore, if in your household the Lutheran arrives each month and remains unopened, please contact the church office and simply ask that it no longer be sent. We can easily delete your household from the subscription list.