



**IMMANUEL
HERALD
JANUARY, 2010**

WWW.IMMANUELHOLDEN.ORG

*Come, beloved of the Maker,
come, behold the first-born One;
see revealed creation's splendor
crowned in glory like the sun.*



*See the Morning-star now beckon
to those bound to dark and night;
"Follow me," Christ calls in welcome,
"come from darkness into light."*

-Susan Palo Cherwien, ELW #306



From the Immanuel Staff

Dear Friends in Christ at Immanuel,

While at a recent meeting of the New England Synod Council, Pastor Dan heard a young Pastor, just beginning the work of gathering a new congregation where none had been before, tell the group that while to them, he was but one item on a long and full agenda that day; to him, the Synod Council was his only support system and that he counted on us to realize and take seriously how important we were to his work. It was a good and timely reminder to the Synod Council that those they call to the work of ministry need their constant prayers, encouragement and support.

Those of us who serve as members of the staff of Immanuel feel the same way about you. Our support system includes a congregation Council that meets with each of us during the year to offer guidance, hear our needs and concerns, and to provide encouragement and support for our work. Most of us also serve with committees or planning teams of helpful volunteers who undergird our efforts with abundant assistance and encouragement as well. And then there are the rest of you who every now and then send us notes or stop us in the hallway to thank us for what we do and to assure us of your prayer support. It is those small signs of appreciation that, more than anything else, keeps our work a joy and delight.

At this start of a New Year, we want to thank you for the privilege of serving on the staff of Immanuel. Some of us are here most every day. Others are here just a day or so a week. Others of us do a major portion of our work from home or by computer or telephone. Some of us are working hardest when you're not around and most often you will just find the results of our efforts (rooms cleaned and set up, teaching materials where you need them, bulletins printed and folded) waiting when you arrive. All of us consider our individual efforts to be part of a single effort to serve Christ's church using the gifts we have been given, and to help this congregation achieve its purpose to gather people, nurture faith in Jesus, grow in God's love and serve God's world.

We also thank you for the Christmas gift that was collected and given to us at the end of the year, and for the delicious and delightful staff breakfast prepared for us and for the Nursery School staff on the Tuesday before Christmas. Much as we appreciate those year-end expressions of love and support, we value even more your prayers and encouragement and volunteer support throughout the year and count on them continuing in the New Year before us.

Your servants in Christ,

**Pastor Dan, Pastor Ron, Pastor Bob, Peg, Lynn, Carlton, Don, Sandy,
Dorothy, Mary, Stephannie, Amy, Jane**

(Editors Note: On the printed "Herald" these signatures were handwritten)



Dear Friends at Immanuel,

At our year-end Council meeting, we spent some time assessing the current treasurer's report and the budget for the upcoming year. This past year has been an economically challenging time for many people, and even churches certainly have not been spared from having to re-assess their budgets. Per Jeff Swanberg's report, Immanuel's income through November has been under budget, but thankfully for us, expenses are also under budget by a similar amount, thus we expect to end the year in a balanced position. We feel very fortunate in the fact that many other churches have fallen significantly behind in income compared to expenses, and could end up "in the red" at the end of the year. In reviewing expected income for 2010 (based on member pledges received to-date and other anticipated income), our budget for 2010 is shaping up to be below the 2009 budget. But the Budget Committee has done an admirable job ensuring that the projected income and expenses are balanced. This will be finalized at our January Council meeting, with the proposed budget presented to the Congregation at the Annual meeting at the end of January (January 31st – mark your calendars!)

As of the date of the Council meeting, the Nursery School seems to be leaning in the direction of ending the half-day program at the end of the school year, and changing to a full-day program for all children enrolled. Because there are fewer requests for half-day nursery school (we currently have 22 openings in the half-day program) and far more inquiries about the full-day program (a long waiting list), the greater need for full time nursery school is evident. The change would result in 36 full time openings for families, and would provide a way for Immanuel to better serve those in our community.

Our search for a Music Director continues (one interview was to take place a couple of days after the Council meeting). But the search committee is also determined to find the right person to fill this role, and so Carlton willingly (and cheerfully!) continues as Immanuel's Music Director in the interim. And we continue to be ever-so-grateful for his readiness to soldier on. Thank you, Carlton!

We also continue to fill openings on the Council next year. The youth council position and two of the three adult council positions have now been filled. If a member of the Nominating Committee asks you, please prayerfully consider saying "Yes". If you ask any current – or past – council member, I'm sure they would tell you that it is a wonderful and very fulfilling way to participate in the life of your church.

As you read this message, I hope that all had a Christmas filled with God's blessings, and I and the entire Council wish for each of you a wonderful New Year!

· Yours in Christ,
Linn Watt, Council President





TO GATHER PEOPLE

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 31 AT NOON

The Annual Meeting of the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church has been scheduled for Sunday, January 31, at noon in Lawson Hall. The Annual Meeting is the time when reports are presented on the various ministries of the congregation for the year just ended, year-end financial reports are received, new members are elected to the Congregation Council, a budget is adopted for the New Year, and other matters as may be raised from the floor or presented by the Council are considered and voted upon. All active, confirmed members of the congregation are eligible to vote and urged to attend. The Annual Meeting typically lasts no more than 90 minutes.

**YOUTH GROUP TO HOST ANNUAL MEETING LUNCH
OFFERING RECEIVED FOR SPRING MISSION TRIP**

Members of our Youth Group will provide a simple soup lunch at the start of our Annual Meeting and a thankoffering will be received with proceeds given to help reduce the costs of their planned LIPY Mission Trip to Philadelphia in April. Generous gifts for this lunch will help keep the cost of the trip within reach for many families.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE



Our annual New Years Luncheon will be held on Monday, January 11 at 12:00pm. Don't forget to wrap an attic treasure for the gift swap. The sign up sheet will be left in the Circle mailbox in the volunteer office.

RETIREEES GATHERING

The next retiree gathering will be in February.

MUSTARD SEED KOINONIA

Mustard Seed Koinonia will meet on Saturday, January 9, hosted by the Peacock's.



TO NURTURE FAITH IN JESUS

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (10:45 – 11:45 am)
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

The Tuesday morning Bible Study group will start the New Year opening the gospel of Luke and studying it from beginning to end. The group meets Tuesday mornings in Room #2 of Lawson Hall from 10:45 – 11:45am. They begin with a hymn and end with prayer, and in between they read and discuss the words of the Bible with hearts open to hearing anew the Word of God that is cradled in those sacred pages. New students of that Word are always welcome to join the group.

**MID-WEEK EVENING ADULT STUDY:
"THE LAST CHURCH SERVICE THAT YOU WILL EVER MISS"**

- **THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL**

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 27 and 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 this two-part study which will also 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 JANUARY "KEEPING THE SABBATH"
LED BY KEN AND KATHY CRANSON

What is a "Sabbath" and what is it for? Is it just a quaint relic of an idea from a time when life was slow enough to even stop now and then? Is it a command of God or a gift from God? Is keeping Sabbath a burden or a joy? For five Sundays in January, those questions and others will be discussed in the Adult Faith Fitness class during our Sunday Learning Hour. Ken and Kathy Cranson will lead the sessions in Lawson Hall's room #2. Listen for the bell calling you from Coffee Hour to class each week. It might just be the Sabbath break that you need!

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The following letter was sent out to all parents of the Nursery School in mid-December.

Dear Parents of Immanuel Lutheran Nursery School,

This letter is being sent to inform you of the decision of the Nursery School Board to no longer offer a half-day preschool program after the end of the current school year. Beginning September 1, 2010, we will be expanding our full-day program so that we can provide care for seven infants, nine toddlers and twenty preschoolers, increasing our full-day capacity from twenty to thirty-six children.

This decision was made after several months of discussion and prayerful consideration of the mission of our school and the needs of the community we wish to serve. Some of you shared letters with the Nursery School Board expressing your hopes and concerns about the ending of our half-day program, and we were humbled by the many kind words and compliments they included about what our half-day program and staff have meant to your families. We thank you for being a part of this decision making process.

Since we always have and will continue to operate with a balanced, non-profit budget, the only important numbers that have led us to this change are those of enrollment and waiting lists, indicating where the most pressing needs are in our community. At present, our half-day school has a maximum enrollment of 72 children. For a few years now, we have seen declining enrollment in the half-day programs, and this school year, we have 50 children enrolled and 22 slots open in our two and three-day, half-day programs. Other half-day programs in the community have also seen enrollments decline.

At the same time, our full-day programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers are all running at or near our full capacity of twenty children and our waiting lists, especially for full-day infant and toddler care continue to grow longer. Parents (and even parents-to-be) call every week seeking available full-day slots and we must turn them away or add them to a waiting list that offers little hope of an opening for their child. It is increasingly obvious to us that the need for quality full-day care is pressing upon us, and it gets harder for us to justify continuing to operate with 22 unfilled half-day openings when other providers offer the same service and our space could more effectively be used to serve families who want and need the childcare we provide.

It was a difficult choice to make, and not made lightly, especially knowing what our half-day program has meant to so many and for so long, but we feel that expanding our full-day openings is the best way to meet the largest and most urgent and growing childcare needs in our community, and the best use of our facility and staff. While current half-day children will be given first preference for expanded openings in our full-day program, we understand that this option will not fit the needs of some families and that they will therefore need to seek other schools where their children can continue as half-day students. This is why we are announcing the decision now, when enrollments in other half-day programs are just opening for the fall of 2010. If you are among those families, we are eager to help you in any way that we can in the search for another quality half-day program in this area.

Sincerely, and on behalf of the Nursery School Board,

Maureen Lundin, Chair
YOUTH NEWS



We've had an exciting last half of 2009!! New fundraisers were started; a new cooperative ministry with Zion in Worcester, & some new & exciting events have been planned. This year's Mission Trip will be to Philadelphia, during the week of April Vacation 2010. The Mission Trip is open to students who are in the Senior High YG *ONLY* (unless special invitations have been already given). Stephanie will be needing actual numbers for the Mission Trip coming SOON. \$100 deposits are due at the end of the month (January). Please contact Stephanie (SMFifty@comcast.net) for the exact dates.

Coming up at the beginning of this month, Stephanie & Pastor Andrew will be having a meeting to fill in the remaining slots for the Spring 2010 schedules. Emails will be sent out to both JR & SR high parents as soon as the schedule is finalized, so be on the look-out around Jan.5-6th. Senior High YG will continue with an event every weekend, and JR high will only hold 1 event per month (other than LIPY). The youth board will be updated as soon as the schedule is.

The newest fundraising idea that we have had, has been babysitting for the children/pre-teens of the congregation. I appreciate all the help from the kids and support from participating parents! We received some great feedback regarding the idea & plan to run it a few more times before the Mission Trip!! It was suggested that we continue this fundraising event at least once per month, so people will be consistently reminded of it!! We will be holding this DATE NIGHT out for parents (babysitting) every 3rd Saturday of the next 3 months!!!

****Saturday Jan. 23rd, Saturday Feb. 20th & Saturday March 20th**

The times will be from 5:30 - 9pm again! Feel free to pick up or drop off at other times, but just know that is what is available. Dinner will be provided each time, and activities also! Sign up sheets for these events will be on the youth board in Lawson Hall...and reminders will be posted in the weekly bulletins!

Hope everyone had safe, healthy & happy holidays!! A very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all!! We look forward to another successful & entertaining Spring with the kids!! I (Stephanie) am so fortunate to be working with the youth of this congregation...they are incredible young adults and I thoroughly enjoy being a part of this family!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

November Average – 71 students each Sunday

Nov.1 – 75

Nov.8 – 82

Nov.15 – 72

Nov.22 – 63

Nov.29 – 63

Congratulations to the 13 students with perfect attendance in November!

Samantha Bardon; Holli Carlson; Gretchen DeMarsh; Abbey, Kyle, & William DeNorscia; Emma George; Charlotte & Elise Gridley; Connor Herlihy; Andrew & Elizabeth Langhill; Stephen Wood

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

December Average – 73 students each Sunday

Dec.6 – 85

Dec.13 – 71

Dec.20 – 64

Congratulations to the 38 students with perfect attendance in December!

Jeffrey, Julie, Andrew, & Samantha Bardon; CJ & Maggie Callender; Holli Carlson; Lily Christenson; Gretchen DeMarsh; Abbey, Kyle, & William DeNorscia; Hannah & Emma Friend; Rebecca, Trevor, & Olivia Galvin; Jeffrey & Geneva Hart; Connor Herlihy; Andrew & Elizabeth Langhill; Colleen Lindberg; AnnMarie Provencher; Thomas Rokicki; Jennifer & Rachel Ross; Madelyne, Jacob, & Gillian Saulnier; Colleen Shanahan; Kaylie, Madison, Taylor, Alyssa & Christopher Senecal; Emily & Andrew Wiegand

JANUARY LESSON SCHEDULE

Preschool – Grade 3

3rd – Wise Men Visit (*Matthew 2:1-12*)

10th – John Baptizes Jesus (*Matthew 3:13-17*)

17th – Fishermen Follow Jesus (*Matthew 4:18-22;9:9-13;10:1-4*)

24th – Jesus, the Good Shepherd (*Matthew 18:10-14*)

31st – Jesus Feeds the People (*Matthew 14:13-21*)

Grade 4 – Meet Martin Luther

Grades 5 & 6

3rd – Jesus the Word (*John 1:10-18*)

10th – Jesus' Baptism (*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*)

17th – Wedding at Cana (*John 2:1-11*)

24th – Jesus Goes to Nazareth (*Luke 4:14-30*)

31st – Jeremiah (*Jeremiah 1:4-10*)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Even though we had some snow (the night before and morning of the pageant), 64 Sunday School students were able to make it to Immanuel for the 'That Special Night' Christmas Pageant. The Sunday School children did a great job singing and acting! And, we had a good turnout from the congregation in the audience. You can see pageant photos on the Sunday School website.

Thank you Amy Herlihy, Tracey Strandgaard, Julianna Bardon, Holli Carlson, Abbey DeNorscia, Colleen Lindberg, Brian McGuinness, Julia Morrison, Anthony Parretti, Eric Stolz, Wesley Strandgaard, and Emily Wiegand for planning, organizing, and directing Immanuel's Sunday School Christmas Pageant!

And, thank you...

Sunday School Students for taking part in the pageant.

Jill Zitzewitz-Bilsel & Lori Rabeler for teaching the songs to the children.
Osman Bilsel for playing the piano while the children sang.
Karin & Mike Finnegan for setting up the refreshment table and making the coffee.
DeNorscia, Friend, Galvin, Herlihy, Lindberg, & Senecal Families for signing up to provide refreshments for the pageant.
Sue Hudson for purchasing the remaining needed refreshments.
Pastor Dan, Matt Friend & Tom Wiegand for putting up the manger scene.
Peg Knowlton for formatting and printing the pageant.

CRÈCHE PROCESSIONAL

Thank you Lori Rabeler, Karen Wiegand and Jill Zitzewitz-Bilsel, for organizing the crèche processional this year! And, thanks to all the children who participated.

WONDER LEAGUE YOUTH GROUP

The next event will be Movie Day scheduled for January 10th from 2-4pm. A parent volunteer will be needed to help chaperone the event (no planning necessary). *The movie title will be announced in the reminder sent the week before the event.*

Coming up next month: Kid’s Newspaper in Room 6 on February 21.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

First Communion classes are open to any family who feels that their child is ready to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. At least one parent or adult guardian must attend with child. If you have any questions or would like to enroll in the First Communion sessions, please speak to Pastor Dan or Sandy Bardon.

Plan to attend the three sessions for First Communion instruction on:

- Sunday, January 17 from 4–5:30pm**
- Sunday, January 24 from 4–5:30pm**
- Saturday, January 30 from 1–2:30pm**

The children will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, January 31



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
DON ROBERTS MARKS 25 YEARS AS IMMANUEL’S SEXTON

Webster’s dictionary defines a “sexton” as “an officer of a church whose business is to take care of the building, to ring the bell, to attend on the officiating clergyman, and, sometimes, to dig the graves in the churchyard.”

According to the dusty old Council minutes stored in Immanuel’s archives, Don Roberts was hired to be Immanuel’s Sexton on January 1, 1985, meaning that January 1, 2010 is Don’s twenty-fifth anniversary of service to Immanuel. He doesn’t ring the bell, and he hasn’t dug any graves (except perhaps for an occasional mouse) in the churchyard, but he has and does take care of our large and busy church building. Those who are in worship on Sunday, January 3, can help us honor and thank Don for his 25 years (and still counting) of faithful service.

A PRAYER THOUGHT FOR LIVING AND THE NEW YEAR

Lord, do not let us do more
If in doing less we might do it better.

Do not let us acquire more
If in living with less
We might know You better.

We are easily swayed by size,
Equating quantity with quality,
Wealth with security,
And applause with popularity.

Forgive us for spreading ourselves thin
For the sake of appearances.

Permit us to amend our ways
Lest we miss the Baby in the stable,
The Lad in the carpenter's shop,
The Teacher on the hillside,
And the Christ on the Cross. Amen

E. Lee Phillips, b. 1941

From "The Closing Prayer for Friday of the Week of Advent 3,
For All the Saints: A Prayer Book for and By the Church, Vol. III"

LEAVE A LEGACY

Information from Immanuel's Memorial Fund Committee

The members of the Memorial Fund Committee are quite pleased with the success of our fall seminar offering "Faith, Finances and your Future." With an average attendance of just over thirty, we note that there was a need for the kinds of information that was offered at the sessions. All of the presenters have offered follow-up sessions on issues raised at their particular presentation. If you have further interest in follow-up information sessions please speak to Pastors Wilfrid or Goehrig or committee members Bill Higgins or Charlene Ross.

At the last session of the series, ELCA Regional Gift Planner, Knute Ogren, challenged those who love the Lord and His saving ministry in the world to consider leaving a legacy gift for the support of Christ's ministry in the future. Beginning this month we will offer information in an almost monthly Herald column on possibilities for a legacy gift to Immanuel's ongoing ministry (or to other ministries). This information will consist of suggestions and possibilities for financial support of the future of ministry.

Knowledgeable and confidential help is also available as you may want to consider possibilities for a legacy gift. Pastor Bob Goehrig, our "in house" associate, is available for consultation at any time. Pastor Goehrig is a graduate of the National Planned Giving Institute, and he developed the planned giving program at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary during his ministry there as Vice President for Resource Development. Also the resources of the ELCA Foundation are available through the person of Knute Ogren. You may contact Knute at (860) 524-1379 or E-mail, knute.ogren@elca.org. In addition, you should also consult your financial advisor and/or attorney for professional advice.

For information we note that Immanuel has three memorial funds that are possibilities for gifting. They are the Active Memorial Fund (usually holds funds for purchases in memory or in honor of persons), the Perpetual Memorial Fund (interest only is available to be disbursed by Congregation Council action after a certain balance is achieved) and the new Mission Endowment Fund (annual disbursements for mission and ministry are decided by the congregation at the annual meeting).

COMMITMENT SUNDAY UPDATE
COUNCIL PREPARES A REDUCED 2010 BUDGET

The final report from our Financial Secretaries on 2010 pledging shows 142 pledges received for a total commitment of \$329,918. 139 of those pledges were for our General Fund, with a total commitment of \$305,882. The other three pledges were made to non-budget dedicated accounts: pledging \$936 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, \$12,000 to Immanuel's Capital Improvement Fund, and \$11,100 to the Parsonage Bond Fund.

Of the 142 commitments received, 64 were for the same amount given in 2009, 51 increased their commitment over 2009 by a total of \$13,431, 21 reduced their giving from 2009 levels by a total of \$28,956, and 8 pledges were received from people who had not pledged in 2009 for a total of \$9,560. In addition, thirteen member households that completed a pledge card for 2009 did not do so for 2010.

The Council, based on this decreased response in pledged commitments, has worked hard to reduce spending as they plan a proposed 2010 budget. Reduced energy costs along with the significant pledges to dedicated accounts will allow them to reduce budgeted expenses without reducing staffing or vital ministries, but there will also likely be no provision for staff salary raises in 2010. After reviewing the year-end numbers when they meet in January, they will present a balanced budget to the Congregation's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31.

MAKE IT SIMPLE--Covenant Card Response -- Report #2

Knowing that God cares about the whole of our lives -- family, work, relationships, care of creation, finances, etc., I am thinking about the beginning of the coming new year and the custom of some people of making new year's resolutions. So, again this month I want to share some of the responses offered in our Covenant Card responses -- sixty seven ideas in four categories. I hope these may stimulate your thoughts as you consider resolutions for the coming year of the Lord.

Giving

I will give/donate things I no longer need to those who are in need (4)
Organize and clean out house and donate (3)
Donate clothing/supplies to someone in need
Increase my giving by .5%
Donate unused items – 1/month for 1 year
Treasure – a gift beyond my pledge each month
Continue to share 20% of our income with others in order to help them to simplify their lives

Time Management

Practice time management to accomplish more with less
One e-mail free day each week (6)
One day per week TV free (3)
Get more help at home
Read more and shut off TV (3)
Limit TV watching
Time – one evening per week TV free
Say no to requests for our time that don't really make sense
Spend less TV time and more reading
Less internet time
Taking 2 hours/week without my phone
Each day I will say "no" to at least one distraction

Personal

Walk frequently

Forgive / let go of anger
Grateful for what I have
Learn/practice saying no (2)
Make decisions Jesus based
Use less – less material goods, less food, create less waste. (recycle/reuse) (4)
Listen more – to others around me, to what God is saying to me – wait to hear what I should be hearing
Volunteer more
Be positive
Take walks outside to observe and celebrate God's creation
Spend 15 minutes of my day in complete quiet
Talent – one significant act of kindness each week
Write 3 things I'm grateful for every day
Appreciate the simple pleasures in life
Knit, Bake, Food Pantry
Enjoy nature's beauty all around us
Once each day I will rediscover the simple pleasure of doing only one thing at a time
Take on no new projects this year so I can work on current committees

Be Eco-minded

Live simply (2)
Bike to work once a week
Walk instead of drive (2)
Shut lights off in rooms not in use
Drive less (few trips by stuff) (2)
Walk instead of driving
Discard unnecessary "stuff"
More conscious of recycling and clutter and "stuff"
Get rid of things I don't use in my house

As we continue our "Keep It Simple" theme, these may assist you to think about aligning your life with God's fulfilling purposes for you throughout this year. May you all have a most blessed 2010 filled with the joy and recognition of Our Lord's presence with you.

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 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.

January
Happy Birthday

- 2 Kenneth DeNorscia, David Farabaugh, Jeffrey Larson, Eric Stolz
- 3 Holli Carlson, Alexander Rhonemus, Zachery Rhonemus

- 4 Allison Langhill, Michael Lavoie, Donna Miller, John Terry
- 5 Christina Ciociolo, Cynthia Gibbs, Eve Morrison
- 6 Roxanne Kunar
- 7 Madysin Boyce, Kaylin Farmer, Lori Rabeler
- 8 Joanne Arsenault
- 9 Andrew Bardon, Leslie Boyce, William Sullivan
- 10 Norman Kasparson
- 11 Paula Janowski, Stephanie Vetter
- 12 David Laidlaw
- 13 Jennifer Langhill
- 14 Sabri Bilsel, Sharon Hough, Dorothy Lindberg, Linda Morse, Gary Oslebo
- 15 Jane DeNorscia
- 17 Corinne Mancevice, Mia Zoghbi
- 18 Allen Miller, Diana Provencher
- 21 Charles Bucci
- 24 Matthew Farmer, Julia Langhill, Edith Swenson
- 25 Lily Christenson, Lawrence Wiles
- 26 James Ciociolo
- 27 Linda Lemay, Veronica Parretti, Joan Swanson
- 28 Kyla Farmer, Kristen Pellerin
- 30 William Robertson
- 31 Charles Dodd, Jeffrey Swanberg Jr.

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

22 Wayne & Kelly Chadbourne

5

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:

...Greg Mills and all the elves who helped him prepare and serve this year's Staff Christmas Breakfast on December 22.

...Craig Landquist for hanging the Christmas/Epiphany star and to Dave Farabaugh for high-climbing wreath hanging.

...Janet Farabaugh, Ellen Friend, and Lori Rabeler for decorating the church for Christmas.

...Phyllis Olson for scrubbing clean our coffee maker.

...to Curt Wickman for making the Immanuel tags for the knitted baby hats.

...to Curt Wickman for making the large-print signs advertising our Christmas worship.

...Elsa Ahnrud, Marion Anderson, Jean Bratt, Lois Dahlin, Evie Frederickson, Mildred Gustafson, Dot Holton, Margot Olson and Joan Orton for helping with the December Herald mailing.

...and all who provide many hours of service to the care, nurturing and guidance of our congregation and church.

LETTERS & NOTES

The "No Name" Koinonia group would like to thank all those persons who "purchased" crafts from our children and made donations to Heifer Farm on December 13th. During that coffee hour, thanks to YOU, the children raised \$252.75. (YAY!) This money was matched by an employer, so a heifer could be purchased for \$500. What can a heifer do? Each cow produces enough daily milk for a family to drink AND share with neighbors. And these animal gifts multiply, as the first calf from each heifer is then passed on to another family in need -- then they also agree to pass on an animal, and so on. So we THANK YOU for supporting Immanuel's children; giving a gift that keeps on giving; and helping us teach our children to help others! (And we thank the Mustard Seed Koinonia for their efforts in this too!)




IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend condolences to:

- the Dodd family following the death of Chuck's mother, Teresa Dodd on December 7.
- the Rockiki family following the death of Mary-Ann's grandmother, Pauline Parzych on December 4.
- Valeda Schmucki following the death of her son-in-law, Michael Grudzingas on December 6.


OUR "AT HOME" MEMBERS

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

Jeffrey and Leighann Farmer – P.O. Box 194, Rutland, MA -15430



FROM YOUR CREATION CARE COMMITTEE

Green Tid Bits
The Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation synagogue in Evanston, Ill, was the first house of worship in the world to achieve LEED platinum – the highest green certification – from the U.S. Green Building Council in June 2009.
Free environmentally responsible home design plans:

Contact: Free Green at www.freegreen.com

IMMANUEL DOUBLY THANKED IN THE INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

The following articles describing Immanuel's Thanksgiving Day hosting of IHN families were published in IHN's December newsletter.

Thanksgiving Blessings

The IHN guests would like to thank the folks at **Immanuel Lutheran Church** for making their Thanksgiving a special day that they will remember for a long time! It began early when they were allowed to spend the entire day at Immanuel (a special treat indeed)! Volunteers spent the morning cooking a wonderful turkey dinner complete with all of the fixings and desserts that included cheesecake, pumpkin pie and apple crisp! They also took special care to transform the dining room into a warm, elegant and homelike setting that their guests truly appreciated.

It wasn't just the wonderful dining experience the guests were touched by however; it was the kindness and generosity of spirit they were shown on this holiday from people they did not know just a week before, people who cared enough to take time away from their families to make Thanksgiving a special day for them. A heartfelt thank you from the families is extended to everyone who helped make this day so memorable.

Basketball and Turkey - by Robert Kovacs, IHN Advisory Committee

On the morning of Thanksgiving I spent my time volunteering with IHN at Immanuel Lutheran in Holden, MA. My duties this day were pretty simple, attend to the needs, if any of IHN's clients.

When I left home that morning I was planning on reading a book for a few hours. Instead when I arrived at Immanuel I learned that they had a basketball court. So my plans quickly changed, down went my book, and out came my jump shot. After awhile a few residents joined me shooting around.

Shooting baskets is something that I often do, but the IHN residents do not often have this opportunity, without knowing where your next meal is coming from or where you will sleep that night, recreation is not part of your life. When the Thanksgiving dinner crew arrived I said goodbye to my new friends and wished them a happy Thanksgiving.

That afternoon at dinner I gave thanks to all the wonderful things that I had in my life, asked my family to think of the many others that were less fortunate than them, and called upon them all to not only give from their pocketbooks but sometimes play a random game of basketball with someone in need of support. In this way, we all remember that we are part of a larger society, not to be shunned or looked down on, truly wonderful members of our society, even when any one of us is trying to overcome obstacles in our life.

Search Your Hearts - by Stacey Sicurella, Advisory Committee, Marketing

The IHN Advisory Board was able to close out our fiscal year-end, June 2009 on a positive note, with a net income of \$10,945.70. They are however, entering into the New Year with a rather bleak financial situation. The board has been working diligently to improve its bottom line with various fund-raising events on the horizon. But unfortunately, they are currently forecasting a potential \$20,000 to \$25,000 deficit by the end of 2009. They are asking their supporters to consider making a contribution to IHN to help reduce that expected deficit. Even if you are unable to make a financial contribution, they ask you to keep the IHN program in your daily prayers that it may find a way through these difficult times. The board thanks everyone for their continued support and remains committed to work together to overcome these challenges.

MORE GENEROUS GIFTS FROM IMMANUEL TO IHN

At our Thanksgiving Eve worship, it was announced that the offering that night would be given to the Interfaith Hospitality Network. That offering totaled \$1,200 and was forwarded to IHN in early December. In addition to that generous response, Dave Farabaugh reports that Immanuel members also gave \$300 in response to his earlier appeal for IHN gas cards, and that another \$40 had been raised from the sale of IHN Christmas cards. And there was also what Dave called "a truck load" of Giving Tree gifts delivered to IHN clients in time for Christmas. Like many helping agencies, IHN has seen a reduction in charitable gifts this year and is struggling to meet its basic expenses. Our year-end generosity has been both greatly needed and received with deepest thanks.

IMMANUEL TO SERVE AT JOHN STREET SOUP KITCHEN
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

On what will likely be a cold Saturday morning, you have the opportunity to provide a hot meal to some of God's hungry children at the Soup Kitchen of John Street Baptist Church in Worcester. Immanuel brings and serves the Saturday meal on the last Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November and has been doing so for more years than most of us can remember. Bill and Erica Higgins are coordinating the effort on Saturday, January 30 and are seeking volunteers to serve at the early shift (8:30 -10:30am) to prepare the food and the later shift (10:30 am – 12:30 pm) to serve and clean-up. A sign-up sheet is posted in Lawson Hall. First time volunteers are promised experienced support and help.

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,

When I was a child, I learned that the sixth commandment was "Thou shalt not kill." Now, in Luther's Small Catechism, I see that it's the fifth commandment. Did somebody lose count? Is one of the commandments missing?

Signed, Sasha Payne DeNeck

Dear Sasha,

No commandments are missing, but Christians don't all agree on how to number them. We're used to calling them "The Ten Commandments" but there are no numbers beside them in any of our Bibles and depending on how you divide up the commands, you can (and the church does) get to ten in at least two different ways. My guess is that you learned the commandments in a Christian church that used a way of counting that Lutherans don't use.

Some Christians (but not Lutherans) count as two commandments the words about having no other gods, and the prohibition on graven images. Others (including Lutherans) see those as one command (and really the most important one). If you split them, then the command about taking God's name in vain becomes #3. If you don't, then (as in Luther's catechism) the "name in vain" command is #2. That's how you ended up with "thou shalt not kill" as commandment #6 and why Luther (and others) has it as #5.

How then do still all end up with ten commandments? Easy. We count the command to not covet your neighbor's house as #9 and the command to not covet your neighbor's spouse (or cattle, or servants) as #10. Those who see two commands at the beginning, see just one about coveting anything at the end. And thus, we all end up with ten. Obviously, the numbers we give them are a human invention. The commands themselves reveal God's holy will. And my hunch is that God probably cares less about how we number them and would rather we try for a change to keep them.

You can count on me,
Manny Lu

NEED FOR WINTER WEAR

Winter is here, and newly-arriving refugees in the Services for New Americans programs of Lutheran Social Services in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut are in need of winter footwear, socks and undergarments. They also desperately need furniture, including tables, chairs and dressers, as well as food, hygiene and cleaning supplies. For more information, please contact Jozefina Lantz, director of Services for New Americans, at 508-754-1121 x403 or jlantz@lssne.org. Your help will be greatly appreciated



KEEP THOSE USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES COMING

This project costs us nothing. Please keep on bringing in your used cartridges and your friends' as well. It's good for us and good for the environment too! Our last check received this August was for \$75.60.

The Herald is online!! Help save postage!!

Please check out our website at www.immanuelholden.org for an easy to read (and in color) copy of the Herald OR

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