



IMMANUEL Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2009

UPCOMING MESSAGE SERIES

♦ JAN. 4

JOHN 1:1-18

♦ JAN. 11

MARK 1:4-11

♦ JAN. 18

JOHN 1:43-51

♦ JAN. 25

MARK 1:14-20

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A LEAP OF FAITH

One day a person was getting ready to go to church. You know the story. It's the leap of faith one, but this time it happened to someone in Immanuel's congregation who asked for this to be told. Times weren't easy, living paycheck to paycheck. Gas prices were terribly high, groceries were going up each week, and carefully the money for the week was counted. Counting out what was needed for gas, lunches, a few odds and ends of groceries needed before payday, the amount going into the collection envelope was getting smaller and smaller. A fleeting thought broke through. How do people take that leap of faith? Why not just put all this money in the envelope and let God worry about the expenses in the

upcoming week? Bible verses came to mind. What is that one about the sparrow and God taking care of it? Yeah, and that one about the hairs on our head being numbered. And don't forget the one about God wanting to shower us with blessings and abundance. Surely we are more important than a sparrow and He will take care of us. But then another voice began adding doubts and fear, saying that doesn't happen, it's just stories. The person thought what would happen if God fails me and there is no money for gas, lunches, etc. After a slight hesitation, money was returned back into the wallet, and the money put in the collection envelope was less than it should have been. The person thought all the way to church, why is that

leap of faith so hard to take? Why can other people take a leap of faith and I can't? On the steps of church, God made his presence known. An envelope with \$50 (more than what was in the wallet for the week) was given unexpectedly to the person. Oh the humiliation and embarrassment the person felt. How unworthy...Yet God was there all the time. There was God, saying gently in their heart, "trust me, I am here." As the new year begins, let us prayerfully consider taking a leap of faith individually and as a congregation in these hard economic and uncertain times. There is a lot to celebrate at the beginning of a new year. Let's celebrate God in our lives. Let's not take a leap, let's take a jump of faith. Immanuel – God with us!



KIDS PROGRAMS

Sunday School

The Sunday School students are enjoying their learning-through-doing as they move from theme to theme. Our next focus will be on Creation. One benefit of this format is that it welcomes more people to become involved for short periods of time. Would you enjoy playing teaching-games with four different groups of kids over the next few weeks? Maybe making a terrarium or a theme-based snack is more your style. Since we're talking about Creation, there's also bound to be an Art project. We're looking for several adults to be involved in the way they'd like, while helping our children see that the whole congregation cares about their faith and learning. Talk to Michelle Steffa or Gena Gerdin for more information, or call the church office

Confirmation

Confirmation class will meet on **Sunday, January 11th at 11:45 am** in Heritage Hall. Confirmation homework for January is to read the Baptism section of the Catechism and Matt. 3: 1-17. Underline and memorize Matt. 3: 11 and Matt. 28:19-20. Talk to your parents and family members about your baptism. Make some notes: what were three important memories of that day (what was important about that day)? Who was there? Were there special clothing or mementos of that day? Make notes of these answers.



Living in Christ,
Loving God's
people.
Teaching the
Word,
Reaching the world.

Greetings from Pastor Dorothy

The season of Christmas is sometimes called a season of peace, but with so much going on, we can easily think of Epiphany, the season that follows Christmas, as the more peaceful time. Thick blankets of snow muffle sound while we snuggle in thick blankets of warmth. With all the rush of getting ready for Christmas done at last, we tend to think we could use a quiet break.

Epiphany, however, is the season of getting moving. It calls us to recognize Christ in the world, and to act on that recognition in faith. Suppose that the shepherds, upon hearing the angels sing, had decided that they couldn't go to Bethlehem to see a baby? After all, was it responsible to leave the grazing land and drive the sheep to town? Or to leave the sheep in the fields? What would that mean for their future, the shepherds' or sheep's? Or imagine that the Magi, upon seeing a star, had pointed and

said, "Huh! Wouldja look at that!" and gone about their lives. After all, how can anyone follow a star? You'll never catch up to it! It is not humanly possible.

It is not humanly possible.

Epiphany is the season of seeing God, recognizing Christ in the world. We can look through an Epiphany lens and see the world as God would have it be. We can see opportunities unfold before us. Opportunities to stretch our faith, to deepen our commitment to ministry, to tackle problems that cannot possibly be solved by humans – and to know that God will provide the means for us to do as God intends.

Can we feed all the hungry people in the world – or even just Kendall County? It is not humanly possible. Can we grow the ministries of Christ's church in the world – or even just our own congregation? It is not

humanly possible. Can we improve society – or even just strengthen families? It is not humanly possible.

Immanuel. God is with us. This congregation is founded on the affirmation that God is with us in mission and ministry. We can do more than is humanly possible, because God is with us and provides for us. God calls us to do what only God can do.

If God only asked you to do what you could just as well do on your own, who would be able to see God's action in you?

Let us use this season to pray together: God, where are you leading? Help me follow. What are you asking of me? Help me to trust. How are you stretching me? Help me to grow. What are you doing? Help me to be part of it. Amen.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Dorothy



Forums for 2009 Budget

Council will host two forums to discuss our 2009 Budget. Forums will be held on **Wednesday, January 7th at 7 pm and Saturday, January 10th at 9 am.** The budget is available on Page 6 in the newsletter.



Pastor Dorothy at Panera

Pastor Dorothy will be at Panera on **Thursday, January 15th from 8:30 am to 10 am.** Stop in to chat and warm up with a cup of coffee.

Happenings at Immanuel



ALTAR GUILD

The January Committee for Altar Guild is JoAnne Behrends and Lesli Ambrose. If you are interested in Altar Guild, or would like to help on Altar Guild, contact Jane Wallis at 630-552-8822.

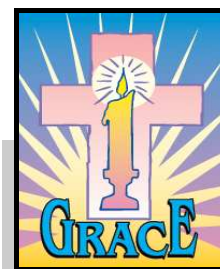


Servant Hearts Circle

Servant Hearts Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm.** The Bible study will continue with the Mayberry Series. This month is High Noon in Mayberry. If you have any questions, contact Brenda Corrigan at 630-553-1525.

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will meet in January on **Saturday, January 17th at 10:30 am** for the WELCA General Meeting. **Lunch will be at noon.** Watch future bulletins for details. Contact Brenda Corrigan at 630-553-1525 for more information.



The next Council meeting is Tuesday, January 13th @ 6:30 pm.

OUR GREETERS AND USHERS



AND COUNTERS & READERS

GREETERS

Jan. 4—Don & Jennie Mulvey

Jan. 11—Kent & Lea Bateman

Jan. 18—Cary & Denise Stevenson

Jan. 25—Craig & Jenny Borneman

ACOLYTE

Maggie Sampson (10:30)

USHERS

Wayne Borneman, Steve Borneman (H), & Bobby Borneman

COUNTERS

Are you available?

READERS

Jan. 4—Lesli Ambrose

Jan. 11—Jane Wallis

Jan. 18—David Hughes

Jan. 25—Sharon Robinson

Installation of Council Members

On **Sunday, January 18th**, there will be an Installation service at both the **9 am and 10:30 am** service for council members continuing in their service and newly elected members.

Senior High School



CHOIR NEWS

There will be a 30 Hour Famine planning meeting during the **Jan. 4** Luther League meeting. Adults are needed to help make this a successful event and without lots of help, the event may not continue. The Famine is scheduled for **Friday, Feb. 20-Sat. Feb. 21**. We will once again do the chain links- \$1 feeds 1 child for 1 day. Our goal will be to feed two children for a year.

Are you interested in singing some songs?? The choir would love to have more people participating. We practice in the sanctuary after the 9 am worship service. Give it a try!

The senior highers enjoyed working on the Christmas play and will get back to working from their book on Jan. 4.

Luther League

Luther League will meet on Sunday, January 4th at 6 pm. Planning for the 30 hr. famine will begin.

Yearly Congregational Meeting

The meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 18th at 11:45 am.**



Celebrations!

IMMANUEL COOKBOOKS

What a great time to try a new soup, casserole, or a yummy dessert during the winter months. If you are interested in purchasing one, contact Maryjo Mott at 815-254-9117.



January

- 1/2 - Courtney Collman
- 1/3 - Brian Anderson
- 1/4—John Stoehr
- 1/5 – Wayne Borneman*
- 1/10 – Bill Butts
- 1/16 – Duane Gerdin
- 1/17 – Dione
Riemenschneider

- 1/19 – Robin Drane
- 1/20 – Aaron Hartnett
- 1/24 – Joyce Olson
- 1/25 – Diana Morganegg
- 1/26 – Madonna Anderson
Anne Guettler
- 1/27 Tom Schoot
- 1/28 – Sue Nelson

- 1/29 – Jennifer Borneman
- 1/30 – Mary Bielby
*over 80 years old

Anniversaries

- 1/3 – Gary & Sue Fruland
- 1/14—Frank & Linda
Eccles
- 1/17 – Terry & Diana
Morganegg
- 1/30—Earl, Sr. & Constance
Worley
**over 50 years

Community Connections

Community Connections is taking a break during January and February. One never knows what the weather can be during those months. Look on the bulletin board, newsletters, and bulletins for new programs starting again.



Sister Church

If you are interested in helping our Sister Church, St. John Lutheran Church of Clarksville, Iowa with a donation, blue envelopes are on the table going into the sanctuary and on the back tables. Thanks for your help!



Pray for relief from pain, and strength and comfort for Irene Thanepohn.

Pray for Jacob Kellen and his family as they face each day with Jacob's health issues. Pray for continued faith and strength.

Pray for Shirley Lippold who is recovering from a fall.

Pray for all your loved ones.

Pray for all those who so bravely serve our country, and especially in the upcoming year. Let them feel God's love. Keep them safe and healthy.

Pray for our sister congregation as they celebrate the birth of Jesus after a very trying year of floods and despair. Let the light shine brightly in their hearts.

Pray for all those things that we may not be able to give words to but lay heavy on our hearts.

Pray for all the homeless people who seek warmth in the shelters.

Pray for safe travel as families gather together, and for all others as they travel.

Reaching out to others...

BUSY HANDS



Busy Hands will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 14th and 28th, at 9 am.** Frances has been busy making quilts and we are in need of donations of batting. We had a lot of fabric and yarn donated in the fall and it would sure be great to have more women join us as we work on prayer shawls and quilts. There are lots of ladies willing to help you get started if you have never done this before or if you need to brush up on your skills. Come and join us for lively conversation and fellowship!



If you wait for the perfect conditions, you will never get anything done. Ecclesiastes 11:4



LOOKING AHEAD

Attend Budget Forum!

For several months the Council worked hard to be ready to present a budget (special thanks to our Treasurer Judy Hage who put in great effort and countless hours!). Council kept a primary focus on preparing a budget that is both balanced and reflective of anticipated income trends. Much of the budget is based on actual 2008 figures, adjusted to be both as accurate and as lean as possible.

Some of the items include choices and assumptions about how we will worship and function.

While no "line item veto" is possible, it is very important that each member understand the choices and assumptions that are built in to the budget as presented.

Please attend a Budget Forum on **Wednesday, January 7th at 7 pm and Saturday, January 10th at 9 am** to hear the details. You will be able to ask questions and discuss the budget at the forums.

The Budget Summary is included on page 6 of this newsletter to allow members to become familiar with it and formulate questions for the Forums. Because Council is setting aside several hours for congregational discussion of the budget at the Forums, prolonged discussion of the budget is not expected at the Annual Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting the budget can be either approved or defeated. Defeat would necessitate a new budget to be made in light of congregational concerns and expectations, presented for congregational approval at a later date.

Please attend a Forum, even if you do not have questions. It is important that every member understand the choices we are asked to make.

SATURDAY Night F.E.V.E.R.

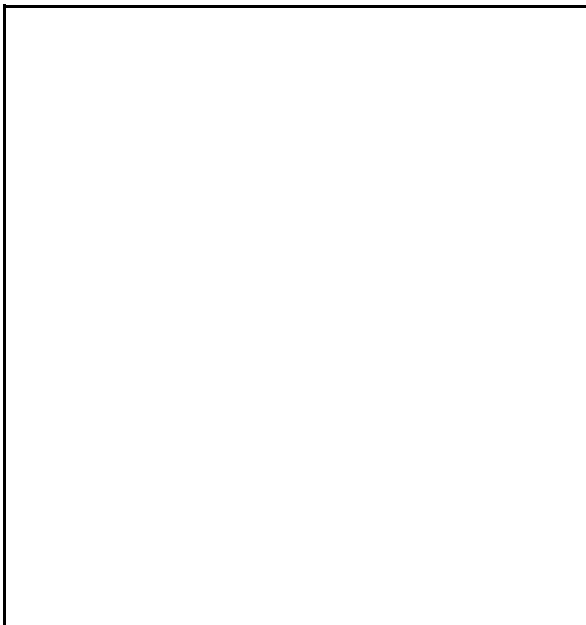
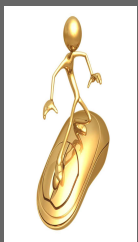
Not the movie, but a great new Bible study starting! Joan Straughn and Paula Stoehr are starting a new bible study called "Saturday Night F.E.V.E.R." (friends enjoying various evangelical resources). Joan is hosting our first meeting on **Saturday, January 10th at 7pm** at her home. It's open to all and at that first meeting we will decide on the curriculum and where we want to meet in the future. We'll meet one Saturday a month. Pastor Dorothy is sharing some of her books with us and from there we can choose which direction to take. Coffee and dessert will be served. Please rsvp to Joan (630-554-6968) or Paula (630-554-0065).

GriefShare/DivorceCare Seminar/Support Group

GriefShare and DivorceCare are video seminar series that will begin at Cross on **Monday, January 5th, at 6:30 pm.** The series features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts. There will be support group discussions of the materials presented during the video. In addition to the adult programs, there will also be support groups for children and teens, DC4K, Rainbows and Spectrum. Call Cross Church at 630-553-7335 if you have any additional questions or need more information.

www.Goodsearch.com

**To date \$12.10 is being
donated to the church.**



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

630 553 5368

DECEMBER 2008

www.ImmanuelYorkville.org

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
4 9 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6 pm Luther League	5	6	7 7 pm Budget Forum	8	9	10 9 am Budget Forum
11 9 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 am Confirmation	12	13 6:30 pm Council	14 9 am Busy Hands 6:30 pm Servant Hearts Circle	15	16	17 10:30 am WELCA General Meeting Lunch @ noon
18 9 am Worship & 10:30 am Worship w/ installation of Council 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Congregational Meeting	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26	27	28 9 am Busy Hands	29	30	31

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Upcoming Events

**Luther League
Lockin**
Friday January 2-
Saturday, January 3rd

Congregation Meeting
Sunday,
January 18th
11:45 am

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**
February 25th