

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Immanuel

United Church of Christ
111 Fremont St, P.O. Box 209
Walworth, WI 53184

Worship services at 8am and 10:30am

**"Immanuel's vision is to Love, Forgive, and
Worship in service to all generations."**

January 2009

Minister's Moment

Snowflakes—each one is different. The Kids of the Kingdom made snowflakes and each has Bible verse on it. I suspect it came as a surprise that the paper from which the snowflakes were made could look just the same and be folded up the same way and yet each girl or boy ended up with an entirely different snowflake. You could sit at that long table in the Sunday school room and watch how your neighbor did it very, very closely, and yet when you put your own scissors to the paper it still came out differently. No one knew what design they were going to have until they opened it up. Some turned their snowflake around in their hand and said in a surprised voice, "Look at mine," as if to say, "boy is it different from the rest." That's what real snowflakes are like, each with its own design, yet together they coat the landscape making it into a winter wonderland. But the same snowflakes can get slippery--perfect for fun or accidents.

Snowflakes make me think of God who made heaven and earth. Wouldn't it be easier for God to standardize and make each snowflake the same. But God wanted to increase the joy we'd get when we watch the snow fall, with each snowflake that sticks to the window, so He lovingly made even the tiniest snowflake different. That's what God

did when He created us too. So if you wonder why you don't do everything the same as everybody else—that's because God took the time in making you so that you could do things differently. You take the same piece of paper as anyone else and make it into something worth looking at. I mean after the first snowflake is cut and held up the next one wouldn't be worth holding up for people to look at if it were just a carbon copy of the first one. God took enough time with you to make you more than a carbon copy.

Now each snowflake the Kids of the Kingdom made for their pageant last month had a scripture on the back of it. Ten people might read the same words, but the meaning of those words unfold differently in each person's heart and set each person's life on a different track. In a way the words of the Bible are like that paper snowflake that you folded like everyone else, but when you opened it—surprise—the design was nothing like what you'd thought it would be. So look in the Bible for words of scripture that mean a lot to you. Write those words out and type it somewhere where you can read it again and again. Then track how many times that scripture spoke to you with the message you most needed to hear, no matter what happened to you that day, no matter how accidental or unexpected.

Some of the kids thought they were making a mess while they were making the cuts into the paper, but when they spread the snowflake out, wow! It was beautiful. When you think you're making a mess, that's when you really want a surprise—you really want to find out it isn't turning out the mess you'd thought it would be. So give God a chance to set off surprises in your life just like in the Bible, because God makes messes beautiful.

God's Blessings to you this New Year
Pastor Elizabeth

Important Dates to Remember

Dec 28—One service at 10:30
Jan. 1—Office closed—Happy New Year
Jan. 4—Communion
Jan. 6—Deacons 6pm, District Clergy-9:30am
Jan. 11—Annual Meeting—Noon Potluck after church
Jan. 13—Community Clergy meeting—9:30am
Jan. 18—Stewardship—9am, Music Board—after church
Jan. 19—Food Pantry meeting—6:30pm here
Jan. 20—Homeless Shelter meeting here—1pm, CE—6pm, Trustees—7pm
Jan. 25—Ad Board—7pm
Feb. 1—Communion
Feb. 3—Deacons—6pm



Thank You!

Dear Immanuel,

Thank you for your continued support of our Food Pantry through your monetary as well as food donations. They are truly appreciated. Also, thanks to those from Immanuel who volunteer their time by working in the Food Pantry, whether it be on Fridays or just helping sort food during the week. God's blessings to you all.

Big Foot Emergency Food Pantry

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution. Thanks to donors like you, Church World Service can provide food, shelter, health care, and clean water to families forced to flee their homes by natural disasters. With your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future.

While we live in challenging times, I remain hopeful because of the creative, resilient men and women we work with around the world and because of people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf in our wounded world. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. John L. McCullough
Executive Director and CEO

Dear Pastor & Friends,

We would like to thank you for your recent gift to support Community Action's Twin Oaks Shelter. Your gift helps us accomplish our mission: *to empower economically and socially disadvantaged individuals and families to strive for and reach their greatest potential—because when people succeed, our communities succeed.* Community Action's model is one of helping people help themselves by building their skills, assets, knowledge, and self-esteem, rather than giving one-time fixes or handouts. The contributions of you and other friends are truly indispensable in accomplishing this important work.

We thank you for your sensitivity and kindness in helping struggling residents of our local communities find ways to make a better life for themselves and their families. Your gift will help make a real,

positive impact in the lives of many among us.

At Community Action, we are more dedicated than ever to helping our communities succeed, and we thank you once again for being part of our circle of friends who help make our mission a reality.

With deep gratitude,
Lisa Furseth, Director,
Marc Perry, Dir. of Planning & Development

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relative really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. Thank you for your love and support during this time of our loss. Words cannot express how much they mean to us.

The Family of Bob Hughes and
Kelly & Charlene Kelley

My Dear Immanuel Family,

I would like to thank you for my Christmas gift. I truly enjoy working here at Immanuel. I feel truly blessed to have you as a church family in my life. Thank you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Madeline Zindrick

Dear Immanuel,

Many thanks to my friends at Immanuel for my nice Christmas gift. What a joy to work in the sanctuary with all the beautiful Christmas decorations up. Warm wishes for a happy and blessed holiday. Thank you.

Bobbi Zinser

COOKIE WALK

We wish to thank ail of you who baked cookies for our Cookie Walk and to those who worked the day of the Walk. Without all of your talents this wouldn't be the success that it is. A portion of our profits of \$1261 will be given to Twin Oaks Shelter and SMILIES. Thank you again for a successful Cookie Walk.

Sandy Cunningham & Madeline Zindrick

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 11th at Noon

Potluck to follow right after church. No desserts, we have plenty.



January Anniversaries

- 17—Chuck65 Melany Christenson
- 18—Pastor Jim & Joyce Kennedy



January Birthdays

- 3**—Felalma Davis
- 7**—Alfred Drummond
- 11**—Mac McConnell
- 15**—Bill Baxter
Katie Pearce
- 21**—Carroll Gildemeister
Harold Woodhouse
- 23**—Sandy Cunningham
Elisa Halma
- 28**—Mike Bromeland
Nikki Palma
- 30**—Matthew Freitag
- 31**—Marion Blow

Servants of Immanuel

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Music Director: Nancy Rasmussen
Hand Bell Director: Melany Christenson
Organist: David Rasmussen
Pianist: Lois O'Brien, 8 am service
Lydia's Helpers: Wednesdays—9am—Noon
Kids of the Kingdom: Wed. 5—6pm



For Sunday service cancellations turn to Milwaukee, WISN—12, or Radio stations, FM 106.1, The Brew 97.3, 1130 WISN, V 100.7, AM 920 the WOLF, MY 95.7.

Newsletter articles are due in the office by the 17th of each month. If you wish to have something printed in the Lamplighter you may either call the office with information or e-mail it to the church.

Don't forget to continue bringing in your used printer cartridges