

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."***

March 2009

Minister's Moment

Followers of Christ. What does that mean? Does that mean we are to follow Him and experience what He experienced on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday? Can't we just experience Easter? Why should we have to be thinking about the gory details weeks before the crucifixion occurs? Why should we wear ashes and wallow in our sins on Ash Wednesday? Isn't it more courageous and healthy to look for the good things happening in our lives? Isn't God supposed to make us happy? Why then are we supposed to focus on morbid events? And why does Psalm 51:17 say that a "broken and contrite heart" is an acceptable offering to God? Shouldn't it be a happy and light heart that's an acceptable offering to God? What's going on here? We think suffering has no place in God's world and we wonder "what's wrong with God?" when we first encounter it. We're not supposed to express hurt. We can cast blame, but not express hurt so that it might be released harmlessly like a burst balloon. I was going to say that Jesus was not afraid of suffering, but truth to tell He was. He was afraid of it in the Garden of Gethsemane. But He also knew that suffering was something He had to go through to obtain the big result. He almost had to be drowned in it— abandonment, torture, mockery, and death for

Him to obtain the big result. And we're supposed to emphasize with Him as He goes through all this to obtain the big result. Resurrection means lifting someone up who is never supposed to get up again because too much has happened to ensure the death of both body and soul. So during Lent we admit those times when we have been hurt, or when our self-esteem has been hurt by something unlovely we did that we try to stuff out of sight. And by reliving Christ's suffering, something rings true in our own lives and we are able to release to Him those things that we don't want to think about, but somehow stick in the back of our minds. One by one we are able to offer them up to Him and, in that moment of recognition, it's almost as if Jesus says, "Yes, that happened to me too, and the pain was real, but I survived it." "Yes, I experienced things like that too, but I didn't let that experience get in the way of forgiveness and mercy." "I forgave even from the cross, so I forgive the little things you're worried about now." Lent deepens and stabilizes life because we don't have to pretend half the things we encounter don't exist. We know that after those things have their way, God will resurrect us in ways we can't even imagine. And once we've had the unimaginable happen, we can enjoy the good times totally and without reserve because we know from our own trials and resurrections we have nothing to fear.

Pastor Elizabeth

Important Dates to Remember

Feb. 25—Ash Wednesday service—7pm—here
Feb. 27— Fish Fry's Begin— St. Benedict
Mar. 1 —Communion
Mar. 4 — Soup & Bread supper— 6pm, service at 7pm, here
Mar. 17—CE—6pm, Trustees—7pm
Mar. 18— Soup & Bread supper—6pm, Fontana, service at 7pm
Mar. 23—Ad Board—7pm
April 1 —Soup & Bread supper—6pm, Wms. Bay, service 7pm
April 7—Deacons—6pm
April 9 — Maundy Thurs. service, here—7pm
April 10— Good Friday service 7pm Lake Geneva

Invite all the people to our LENTEN WORSHIP

*Bread for the night...
Bread for the journey*

6:00pm **Soup & Bread Supper**
7:00pm **Worship Service**

March 4th We gather at Immanuel UCC - Walworth

The Offering will be given to the Big Foot Food Pantry

March 18th We gather at Community Church of Fontana - UCC

The Offering will be given to the Big Foot Food Pantry

April 1 We gather at United Church of Christ - Williams Bay

The Offering will be given to The Association for the Prevention of Family Violence

April 10 Our Good Friday Worship at 7pm (no soup supper) will be at 1st Congregational UCC- Lake Geneva

The Offering will be given to Twin Oaks Shelter

Note from Trustees

Please do not turn any thermostats in the church to "OFF".

If you have turned up the heat for any reason, you can reduce it again when you leave, but **be sure to leave the thermostat on "AUTO"**, if you are not sure how to do this, **DO NOT TOUCH IT**. The thermostats are set to return to the pre-programmed temperatures in a few hours. We cannot risk freezing pipes in these extremely cold temperatures.

Consider signing up for an automatic checking account deduction to pay your pledge to Immanuel. **The only source of income for our church is your offering.** We have a monthly budget to meet. When you are not able to meet with us because of weather conditions or extended out of town visits, we do not receive the income necessary to pay our bills.

Paying your pledge by automatic deduction will give our church the steady flow of income it needs. Contact Gary **Ruskeil** for the banking information to begin this procedure. Thank you.

Trustees

Sarah Kolnik was selected Chief Resident for the year 2010-2011 at her place of residency, New York University School of Medicine. There were 29 other residents to be considered, but Sarah received that position hands down. It will be even more demanding, physically and mentally, but she is getting herself well prepared for it.

We just want to share her joy!
Joe & June Kolnik



March Anniversaries

- 2—Paul & Jaci Rohner
- 15—Mike & Kathy Karcher
- 27—Andy & LuAnne Pearce



March Birthdays

- 2—Jaci Rohner
Nancy Lehman
- 3—Jan Meredith
Mary Nash
- 7—Lucy Abell
- 9—Kristin Palma
Pastor Ron Segedy
- 13—Diana Bromeland
Jonathan Jeters
- 16—Daniel Pearce
- 18—Natalie Boldger
Anna Kolnik
- 21—Warren Rasmussen
Brenda Utesch
- 22—Nathan Devries
- 23—Kim Pobursky
- 28—Joyce Kennedy
- 31—Betty Recob
Bridget Morgan



Dear Immanuel Members and Friends:

Once again words appear so inadequate to express our feelings of love and gratitude for the many good people of Immanuel Church in Walworth who once again filled our lives to overflowing with cards and prayers during Jim's most recent hospitalization. God has answered your prayers and once again Jim's recovery has been swift and complete. We offer to all of you our sincere and humble prayers of thanksgiving.

With love and God's blessings,
Jim and Joyce Kennedy

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

Thanks so much for all the calls, cards, flowers, food, gifts and Pastor Elizabeth's visits since my right foot surgery in January. It's been difficult spending four weeks flat in bed with foot elevated to prevent swelling on three separate incisions. The good news is the pins projecting out the end of my toes should be coming out early in March. Ernie has been a wonderful caregiver to me. Two of the books I received as gifts have been donated to the church library, "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul" and "Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul." I would highly recommend reading both of them. Thanks again for all your acts of kindness to both of us. Our faith remains strong and spirits bright for healthier days ahead real soon!!!!

Fondly,
Becky Merwin

Dear Congregation,

SMILES would like to thank you for your generous donation.

The money you donated will be used to support a new program that was started last year. The pilot program "**Cowboy Poetry**" teaches at risk kids to be respectful of others. They learn the ways of the cowboy such as thrifty buying, care for yourself and your horse. They are paired up with one of our horses and learn grooming. They even get to ride towards the end of the 6-week program. Your money will be used to buy supplies for the program. Thanks again.

Your friends at SMILES

Immerse Yourself

As your moderator, I have established a goal of ten new members in 2009, for Immanuel United Church of Christ. I think that this is a reasonable goal but we all need to be a part of completing this goal. If everyone would invite a family, a couple, or individual to church we will accomplish this goal.

In Faith,

Bob

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We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NRSV)

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I listened as my 10-year-old son, Roshan, spoke to our driver. Roshan was disturbed at seeing the driver sitting in the car listening to music during Sunday morning worship. The driver, a non-Christian, was waiting for the service to be over so that he could drive us back home. But Roshan told him that he could just as well come and wait inside

the church because he could listen to good music and a good message. Roshan assured him that he would not be forced to become a Christian just because he sat inside the church!

Sometimes adults need to learn from children. Christ wants us to be like them because, as he said, "Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it (Luke 18:17, NIV).

Many times I had wanted the driver to attend our church service but had not invited him. Perhaps the fear that I could be misunderstood as pressuring him had prevented me from speaking up. But my young son had no such fear. He not only invited our driver into the church but also sat next to him in the service and explained what was going on.

Thought for the Day

How am I an ambassador for Christ?

*Leena Vijaykumar
(Bangalore, India)*

The following writing and "Thought for the Day" are taken from the January 22, 2009 reading in Daily Word.

Administrative Board Minutes November 24, 2008

Moderator Richard Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, on Monday, November 24th. Present in addition to Richard, Bob Rauland—Asst. Moderator, Brenda Wenger—Financial Sec., Judy Gildemeister—Music, Melany Christenson—Diaconate, Denise Freitag—Trustees, Peter Gordon—Stewardship, Madeline Zindrick—Clerk and Pastor Elizabeth opened with a prayer.

Minutes: A correction of the Music budget was reduced by \$450 instead of \$400. Approved on a Gordon/Freitag motion.

Treasurer: We ended October with a balance of \$182.35 and half of our benevolences have been paid.

Financial: Looks can be deceiving because of the money borrowed to pay bills is also on the reports. On a **Gordon/Wenger** motion to approve Treasurer and Financial reports.

Trustees: Jeremy & Nathan DeVries have been hired to do the shoveling, but we have not found someone to do the plowing. The leak is not at the top pitch but **possibly** in the valley. We're getting bids for the parsonage roof. It has been temporarily fixed to hold through the winter we hope. The water shut off valve was **lowered** to make it even so as not to get hit with snowprows or blowers. Denise will be Trustee on Dec. 28th. The Turkey Dinner had a profit of between \$4800 and \$5000.

Diaconate: Most of the time was spent going over the upcoming events and special services here at Immanuel. The Thanksgiving service is at 7pm on the 26th. Hanging of the Greens will be on the 30th with one service at 10:30 with potluck after. Also, only one service at 10:30 on Dec. 21st and Dec. 28. Christmas Eve service will be at 7pm. We discussed putting an ad in the paper to keep ourselves still visible. **Possible** to contact PR people (Rob Ireland) to help promote the Cookie Walk, Christmas Eve, etc.

CE: No report

Music: The pianos have been tuned. Gail August will be playing for the Thanksgiving Eve Service and paid accordingly. David will also be gone on Nov. 30th, and Melany **will** be playing that Sunday. Possibly the Nominating Committee or Ad Board at the beginning of the year find out who **would** be handling the various functions we **will** have for the coming year, @ **Salad Luncheon**, Turkey Dinner, Cookie Walk, Cream Puff & Bake **Sale**, **Triathlon**, Trolley for fair, Hanging of the Greens. That way it wouldn't be assumed the same people who did it the year before were just going to magically do it again. It also helps with all our church planning.

Stewardship: We've had our annual **pledge** campaign already, but don't have any numbers from that because it's too early and people are still turning in their pledge cards. Because of the reduction in members we've decided to cut our two **benevolences**—CWS and Twin Oaks by 20%. The Thanksgiving Baskets were a bit of a

disappointment. We had 65 people sign up for them and we had 17 that weren't picked up. Judy thanked Peter and Susan for all the work they do in setting this program up. The website is an ongoing project.

Pastoral Relations: They met.

Pastor: The confirmation class will be attending the Cantata at Faith Lutheran at 6:30 on the 17th of Dec.

Immanuel Cares: No Report

Old Business: We had the special meeting about moving the \$3,000 from CE and was approved. Annual meeting is January 11th at Noon, preceded by a potluck right after church.

New Business: The nominating committee is: Lucy Abell—CE, Diana Bromeland—Trustee, Mike Bromeland—Diaconate, Joyce Page—Member at large, Becky Merwin—Member at large. Brenda Wenger asked if the position of Financial Secretary could go back to a co position. Annual Reports are due in the office by January 2nd or earlier. We have a 5 X 5 square that needs to be sent to the association decorated in any fashion we wish to represent our church in a wail hanging of all SE Association churches.

On a Rauland/Gordon motion the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Zindrick—Clerk

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

One Great Hour of Sharing

The stewardship committee would like to thank everyone who contributed last year to our *One Great Hour of Sharing* campaign. Although the economy is bad, Church World Service's *One Great Hour of Sharing* is an important fundraiser for the national and international relief efforts of Church World Service (CWS). During last year's campaign, we distributed coin boxes, which were filled by members of the congregation and sent to CWS. This year CWS is not distributing coin boxes, but if you have one left over from last year, feel free to fill them up and bring them in! Further information from the committee about this year's campaign will be coming in March. Thank you.

Stewardship Board

Congratulations Dede Mayberry

Dede has been attending Immanuel for the past 6 months now. This is a brief summary of her accomplishments.

The first statement is the Preamble of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights says:

"Whereas, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world..."

Dede Mayberry LIVES her commitment to this statement. On January 10, 2009, the Madison Unit of CWU, during its Human Rights Celebration, "Seeking Shalom—A Vision of Peace," had the honor of presenting the Human Rights Award of Church Women United to Cordelia Mayberry—known as Dede to many—beloved friend and tireless worker throughout her life for justice for all people that she knows and those she doesn't.

Dede received her degree from UW-Madison in the 1940s. She worked for Hull House in Chicago for 19 years as a social worker and then for the University of Illinois for 4 1/2 years, developing a program in social work

(called Human Relations Outreach Program) for use by campuses that did not have such a program. She was one of the founding members of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, serving as its treasurer. She is currently the Ecumenical Action Chair for Church Women United in Wisconsin and has been instrumental in drafting social policies that were approved by the Wisconsin Church Women United Board. She is the voice of Church Women United at the Capitol.

In Madison, she has advocated for fair housing and opportunities for adults and children alike. During the years of the Global Express, Church Women United's fair trade shop in Madison, Dede worked in many capacities, from cleaning to transporting merchandise to off-site sales locations. In the words of Lee Burkholder, manager of the Global Express, Dede gave a lot of moral support to this endeavor during its lifetime.

Dede gives credit to her mother for her inspiration. She is devoted to her family.

Servants of Immanuel

Pastor: Elizabeth Hazel

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Office hours: Mon.—Thurs.—9am—Noon

Administrative Assistant/Lampighter

Editor: Madeline Zindrick

Moderator: Robert Rauland—275-5655

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