

# THE LAMPLIGHTER

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

*Worship services 9 a. m.*

***“Immanuel’s vision is to Love, Forgive, and  
Worship in service to all generations.”***

***December 2011***

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## ***Journeying with Jeannie***

Dear Members and Friends,

Christmas is almost here but the world around us seems to believe, come Christmas Day, the event of Christmas will be over. However, the church defines Christmas as the season that begins on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, we are out of step with our culture, and it is a challenge for us to practice and understand that beginning December 25<sup>th</sup> we will finally be in the Twelve Days of Christmas.

The Twelve Days of Christmas are probably the most misunderstood part of the church year. The origin of the Twelve Days is complicated, but it leads us up to the Day of Epiphany. In the Western Church, Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the time the three Wise Men or Magi arrived to present gifts to the young Jesus.

Many Christians feel the urgency to explain away the mystery of God and this season of marvelous light. We need to remember at Christmas, God became like us so we might become more like God. Let us remind ourselves that by coming to church, participating in community and being willing to be present to the light of God, we are committing ourselves to a way of life rather than a rigid set of beliefs. By embracing the mystery of God, we get to have serious insights about faith and life, rather than espousing absolute certainties.

We can study the Bible and discover in it a faith that liberates us, rather than clinging to the truth it precisely defines. We can live knowing faith in the mystery of

God is learning how to trust without reservation, not merely believing without proof. For us to embrace the mystery of God is to partnership with God.

God’s desire for us is to be open, loving and joyful human beings, all year long, not just at Christmas; to give love freely as it was given to us freely starting with the babe in the manger. And love is perhaps the greatest mystery of all.

As we enter this Christmas season I would like to share with you a poem that I found years ago that speak of the love we should all carry within us, but first I would also like to encourage everyone, as we prepare for the Christ-child, to be open to the mysteries God has in store for each one of us. Here is that poem:

What is this light that dances at the center of my  
life?

This golden light that dances upon the leaves  
These idle clouds sailing across the sky  
This passing breeze leaving its cooling on my head  
The sky opens, the wind runs wild,  
Laughter passes over the earth,  
Butterflies spread their sails in the sea of light  
Lilies and jasmine surge upon the crest of the  
waves of light  
The light is shattered into gold on every cloud, and  
it scatters gems of profusion.

Laughter and mirth spread leaf to leaf and their  
gladness is without measure  
Heaven’s River has devoured its banks  
The flood of joy is abroad  
The flood of joy must indeed be love  
For love is the only reality and it is not a mere  
sentiment.  
It is truth that lies at the heart of all creation.

~~Tagore~~

As we enter this Christmas Season, remember your loved ones, remember your church family, and have a very blessed Christmas.

Rev. Jeannie Douglas



## Important Dates to Remember

Nov 23—Thanksgiving Eve Service—here 7pm  
Nov 27—Hanging of the Greens—Brunch after  
Dec 4—Ad Board—after church  
Dec 10—Cookie Walk—9—11am  
Dec 11—Deacons—after church  
Dec 18—Caroling—after church  
Dec 24—Christmas Eve service—7:30pm  
Dec 25—NO SERVICES  
Jan 1—Communion

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### Moderator's Moment

Tons of thanks to our Turkey Dinner committee and everyone else who contributed toward this successful annual event!!! Guess we'll have to order more food next year so no one is turned away and all our helpers get a chance to eat some turkey and trimmings. Stewardship Sunday was extra special with many contributions to the Food Pantry. Thanks so much for participating with your pledge cards and weekly offerings. Operating dollars remain very tight along with our commitments to missions. Special thanks to Peter and Susan Gordon along with contributors for dinner baskets provided to families in our immediate area needing assistance at Thanksgiving.

Advent Season is upon us with special events:

- Get those recipes ready to make delicious cookies for our annual Cookie Walk on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> in the dining room.
- Everyone is welcome to join us for caroling after church on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Bring your extended family to worship on Christmas Eve, Sat. the 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.
- There will be **NO SUNDAY** worship service on **CHRISTMAS DAY**.

- Plan to celebrate 2012 in worship at 9am on New Year's Day.

Hard to believe our church year comes to a close in four quick weeks. Special thanks to our interim pastor Jeannie who continues to lead us in worship. Please come join us during this season of advent and come feel the Spirit of Immanuel!!

We will be having an informal informational gathering after church on Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. The purpose will be a report from the search committee, and bring the church up to speed on our current financial issues.

Sincerely yours in Service above self,  
Becky Merwin—Moderator

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Our deepest sympathy to Jack & Sandy Cunningham, Ken & Betty Nichols, and Mary Zemblowski on the loss of their brother Larry (Pie) Cunningham.



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution of \$1320.00 to the Blanket Project—especially appreciated in this challenging economy. Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Service can provide all the warmth necessary to those in need across the world.

In world wounded in so many ways, I remain hopeful because of the creative resilient women, men, and children we assist around the world, and because of caring people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Yours in service,  
Rev. John L. McCullough  
Executive Director and CEO

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To the Immanuel Congregation with a loving heart:

It is a wonderful feeling to receive well wishes from so many friends at Immanuel. The words of encouragement after my stroke in August were truly uplifting. Then in October so many of you remembered the old man's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday...nice! The leg is much better and I am now using a walker with wheels and am enjoying the nice weather Florida provides.

With Christian love and gratitude,  
Newt Dickie

Lydia's Helpers,

Thank you to the Lydia's helpers Quilt Ladies. I'm both appreciative and grateful for the beautiful quilt you made for me last month. The fabrics selected are truly special with the deer and corn, plus your lovely quilt work on the front. It's truly one of a kind, just like each of you who give of your time and talents to share with others.

Ernie Merwin

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Please join us for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, immediately following Church Service. Don't forget we will be serving chili and goodies after Caroling. Please invite a friend and other family members. Please call Lucy Abell at 275-6938

and let her know if you plan to participate. We are looking forward to a fun afternoon.

Hosted by our Confirmands and their Mentors: Hailey Davis, Makena Ekman, Lucy Abell and Maddy Zindrick

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### Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

We will need Salvation Army Bell Ringers for Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at the Sentry store in Walworth. If you can help us by ringing please contact Gary Ruskell at 275-6468. Thank you.



## December Anniversaries

- 13—Tom & Nancy Beci
- 16—Jack & Sandy Cunningham



## December Birthdays

- 5—Michael Rasmussen
- 8—Daniel Freitag
- 9—Wanda McKinnell  
Addison Toynton
- 13—Ken Kurth
- 14—Eric Boldger  
Martha Halma
- 16—Noreen Welch-Donner
- 26—Gary Ruskell
- 27—Sonja Zank
- 29—Elaine Segedy
- 31—Justin Swanson

It will soon be time to celebrate New Year's Eve and make some resolutions. A very good one to make would be to meditate every day on a Scripture reading. Dianne Neal Matthews has made it very easy for you to do this with her new book, "Drawing Closer to God." It has 365 daily meditations on questions that the Bible can help you to answer. To quote from the book, "Each devotional includes Scripture and a question designed to encourage reflection and prayer, leaving you with practical takeaway for your day and a renewed appreciation for God's Word."

This book is a gift from Sherry Sellgren-Schildt who helped Matthews with her first book, "The One Year on This Day," which we also have in our library. Do not break this New Year's resolution.

Nancy Lehman—Librarian

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## Administrative Board Minutes October 23, 2011

Assistant Moderator Lucy Abell called the meeting to order at 10:19am on Sunday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Present in addition to Lucy: Judy Gildemeister—Music, Richard Rasmussen—Stewardship, Sandy Cunningham—Deacons, Gary Ruskell—Treasurer, Madeline Zindrick—Clerk and Pastor Jeannie opened with a prayer.

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved on a Ruskell/Rasmussen motion.

**Treasurer:** We ended September with a balance of \$955.93, but have had to borrow \$3480 out of money market to pay bills. We spend \$2,000 more a month than we're taking in. All committee budgets need to be turned in to Gary by the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. Treasurer and Financial reports were accepted on a Meredith/Rasmussen motion.

**Trustees:** People have stepped up for special projects, now we need them to do the same for our regular budget. We will have the trustees draft a letter to go out to all members of the congregation. Fall clean up is Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> from 8—noon. All the furnaces will be checked for winter. We have a new tenant in the parsonage. Plowing and shoveling will be bid including the parsonage (which she will pay for). We ask that the fans be turned off in the sanctuary during the church service and then put back on afterwards. They interfere with the sound system.

**Diaconate:** We discussed the Thanksgiving Eve Service which will be here at 7pm with Faith Lutheran. It was recommended to the Board that we do not have Christmas Day Service. Christmas Eve service will be at 7:30pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> of Dec. Next Deacons meeting is November 6<sup>th</sup>. Lucy made a motion for us not to have a Christmas Day service and anyone wishing to may go to Fontana Community Church. Richard second it, and all were in favor.

**Christian Ed:** We met on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. We won't be doing a Christmas program, but the Confirmation class is inviting everyone to go caroling with them on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> after church and then we would come back to the church for Chili and dessert. Could you please contact Lucy or the office if you plan to go caroling so we can prepare enough chili and dessert for afterwards.

**Music:** We are changing our licenses for printing of music for the bulletins. We will keep the CCLI, but will add One-License instead of License Sing. We're happy with the 7:30 Christmas Eve service and we will plan accordingly for it. November 13<sup>th</sup> will be an extra special music event in the style of Johnny Cash and the Carter sisters. Choir

and Bells have been meeting every Wednesday, if you would like to join us. Choir is at 6pm and Bells at 7pm. Diana Bromeland has joined the Bell choir.

**Stewardship:** Brenda gave a report on the Blanket Project and we exceeded our goal of 220 by getting 264 blankets. Thank you. Stewardship Sunday is November 13<sup>th</sup>. We will bring our pledge cards forward that Sunday along with the Mission 1—11 items for the Food Pantry.

**Immanuel Cares: No report.**

**Pastor Jeannie:** Pastor Jeannie has been in contact with our new Association Minister Kent Ulery. She has a lot of requirements for the confirmation class. Ruth Hansen will be preaching on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Mission 1 project—bring your food items on Stewardship Sunday to bring up to the altar so we can get a picture of it all. Our music ministry is great. Thanksgiving Eve service—Jeannie has e-mailed the area ministers and only Jim from Faith Lutheran has responded so far. The service will be here at Immanuel on Wednesday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm, with Faith Lutheran. They will be meeting the first week in November to discuss the service.

**Old Business:** Gary had spoke to our insurance agent Chuck Palma about the conceal/carry law. It will not affect us. On a Ruskell/Meredith motion we decided not to do anything and not put up any signage. Motion was carried.

**New Business:** Hanging of the Greens will be November 27<sup>th</sup> with a Brunch afterwards. Lucy and Hailey will make the evergreen swags for the outside. The nominating committee needs to get started. There is a Trustee, Deacon, CE and two members at large to serve on it.

**Ad Board will meet Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> instead of Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.** We will do the poinsettia tree again this year. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Zindrick—Clerk

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Cookie Walk is Saturday,  
Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> from 9—11am**

Sign up sheets are in the sanctuary or you may call the church office.

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**There will be an informal informational gathering after church on Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. The purpose will be a report of the search committee, and bring the church up to speed on the current financial issues.**

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**Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> after church**—let us know if you plan to come along, because we will be having chili and goodies afterwards back at church.

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**Christmas Eve Service is at 7:30pm, and NO Christmas Day Service here at Immanuel**—if you wish, you may attend Fontana Community church on Christmas Day at 10am.

**Address Changes**

Mary Church  
375 Hwy. 67-Apt. 204-A  
Dousman, WI 53118

Loren Morris  
204 Madison St. Apt. 205  
Walworth, WI 53184

**Servants of Immanuel**

**Pastor:** Rev. Jeannie Douglas—Interim  
**Home phone:** 262-439-9623  
**E-mail:** revjeannie@yahoo.com  
**Pastor's Office hours:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays—9:30-2:30  
**Church phone:** 262-275-3252  
**Fax:** 262-275-3274  
**Church e-mail:** immanuel1@charter.net  
**Office hours:** Mon.—Thurs.—9am—Noon  
**Administrative Assistant/Lampighter Editor:** Madeline Zindrick  
**Moderator:** Becky Merwin—275-3071  
**Music Director:** Nancy Rasmussen  
**Hand Bell Director:** Melany Christenson  
**Organist:** David Rasmussen  
**Lydia's Helpers:** Wednesdays—9am-Noon