

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.”*

March 2010

Lenten Services

There will be other Lenten services on Wed., Mar. 10—Walworth, Wed., Mar. 17—Wms. Bay, Wed., Mar. 24—Lake Geneva. A Soup & Bread Supper will proceed all Wednesday Lenten services at 6pm and service at 7pm.

Good Friday service will be at Fontana Community Church, April 2nd at 7pm.

Important Dates to Remember

Mar. 10—Lenten Service here 7pm—Soup & bread supper at 6pm

Mar. 16—Trustees—7pm

Mar. 17—Lenten Service Wms. Bay 7pm—Soup & bread supper at 6pm

Mar. 19—Work Fish Fry at St. Benedict’s

Mar. 22—Ad Board—6:30pm

Mar. 24—Lenten Service Lake Geneva 7pm—Soup and bread supper at 6pm

April 1—Maundy Thursday Service

April 2—Good Friday Service at Fontana 7pm

April 4—Easter Breakfast at 7:30am with worship service following at 9am

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.

Easter Breakfast

Christian Ed will again be providing us with an Easter breakfast on Sunday, April 4th at 7:30—8:30am before our 9am service.

We have sign up sheets in the back of the church for you to volunteer for being a Greeter, Usher, Liturgist, and Coffee Hour or for Flowers. You may also call the office and let Madeline know if you can volunteer. Thank you.



Mel Nordmeyer passed away on Jan. 26th. Services were held at Immanuel on Jan. 30th with Rev. Jim Kennedy & Rev. Jim Timm officiating. A week later Mel’s mother, Ethel passed away our sympathy to them in their losses.

Our sympathies also to the families of Angela Kolnik.

Thank You!

Dear Immanuel Family,

A great big Thank You for all your prayers, cards, food, and memorials. It was greatly appreciated by all.

Very humbly yours,
Mary Nash & Family

Dear Immanuel Church Family,

Words cannot express how truly grateful and blessed we are to be part of Immanuel United Church of Christ. The death of our husband and father was sudden and unexpected. Your outpouring of support through your hugs, words of sympathy, monetary donations, food, flowers and plants, time, and words of encouragement have meant so much to us. Thank you for everything! Our extended family would also like us to say "thank you" for all that you did. You have touched so many lives this past month. May God bless each and every one of you!

Nancy Nordmeyer
Brenda Wenger and family
Leroy Nordmeyer and family
Kevin Nordmeyer and family



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
- 16**—Daniel Pearce
- 18**—Natalie Boldger
- 20**—Warren Rasmussen
- 21**—Brenda Utesch
- 22**—Nathan DeVries
- 23**—Kim Pobursky
- 28**—Joyce Kennedy
- 31**—Betty Recob
Bridget DeVries



Order your Easter Lilies by March 22nd. They are \$8.00 each. You may call or e-mail the church office to order one.

Lenten Lunches

Genoa City UCC will be starting their Lenten Lunches on Feb. 24th. The time is from 11am to 1pm. Menu includes homemade soups & sandwiches, snacks, desserts, and beverages and fellowship. Free will donation. Lunches will be held on the following Wednesdays:

Feb. 24th, Mar. 3rd, Mar. 17th, & Mar. 24th.

Wednesday evening March 10th will be the Annual Ham Dinner, beginning at 4:40pm. Carry outs available—279-5547.

A Study of the Gospel of Luke Chapters 15, 16, 17 and 18

The opening verses of **chapter 15** tell us that tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. The Pharisees and teachers of the law complained among themselves about how improper Jesus' behavior was in associating with them. Tax collectors were considered by the Jews to be traitors and outcasts because of their alliance with the Roman oppressors at

the expense of their countrymen. The disgrace of the tax collectors was extended to their families. They were not allowed to serve as witnesses or judges in Jewish courts and were expelled from the synagogue. The term "sinners" included the tax collectors and anyone else who refused to follow the Mosaic Law as interpreted by the teachers of the Law. If **we** were there, we would have been part of that group! Jesus not only taught them, He ate with them. To eat with a person was a sign of friendship.

The three parables told in this chapter shows the contrast of God's love with the exclusiveness of the Pharisees. The parable of the lost sheep represents Jesus as a shepherd, a protector in times of danger or distress. Jesus tells of more rejoicing in heaven over the repentance of one "sinner", such as a tax collector, than of over ninety-nine "righteous" persons, probably meaning those who **think** they are righteous and do not need to repent, such as the Pharisees. The parable of the lost coin also tells of "*rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents*" (v10).

The Parable of the lost or prodigal son also shows rejoicing in the repentance and return of one who was lost. The end of the story tells of the resentment of the faithful son; the Pharisees in their self-centered exclusiveness failed to understand God's love and His joy over the repentance of sinners.

Interpretations of the parable of the shrewd manager in **chapter 16** differ as to the meaning of this parable. It is possible that the "rich man" in the story was in the habit of overcharging the total amount owed by each individual, a common way to circumvent the Mosaic law (Lev. 25:36) that did not allow interest to be taken from fellow Jews. So by decreasing the debt, the manager only removed the amount that was not lawful to be collected anyway. We do know that a portion of the manager's living was made by collecting extra payment on debts. If this is the amount he discounted, he was passing up his chance of some income knowing he would be losing his position. He was shrewd enough to use the means at his disposal to plan for his future well being. He would both satisfy his master and gain the favor of the debtors. The meaning for us is to use worldly wealth to help those in need; in this way it may be used to gain eternal benefit. Do not love money more than God.

In verses 16 through 18 Jesus reminds His listeners that He came not to abolish the "Law" but to fulfill it.

We are still required to live according to the law; a sin is still a sin.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is unique because it is the only one in which the characters are given names. "Abraham's side" refers to the place of blessedness in the Jewish Talmud to which the righteous dead go. It is a reminder that earthly wealth and position do not earn you a place in heaven. The rich man, after it was too late for himself, showed uncharacteristic concern for his brothers and asked to have someone from the dead go to them and warn them. Father Abraham replies, "*if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.*" (Referring to Jesus' death and resurrection).

In the first 10 verses of **chapter 17** Jesus is reminding His disciples of the importance of their obligation as apostles. They are told to rebuke sinners and forgive those who repent, as many times as necessary. Faith in God's providence is the key to discipleship. Performance of your duty to God is an expectation; do not expect to be thanked for doing what is required of you.

On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus heals ten lepers. They were instructed to show themselves to the priest which, was the normal procedure after being cured of leprosy. Only one returned, a Samaritan, praising God. In addition to physical healing, he had received spiritual healing.

When asked when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus explains that the Kingdom of God is spiritual and so not visible. It will come at an unexpected time. No matter how close your relationship in this life, there is no guarantee that you will share the same fate in eternity. When the Kingdom of God comes it will be obvious.

Chapter 18 begins with the parable of the persistent Widow. It is a reminder to believers to always pray and not give up. Persistent prayer indicates a strong faith that God is willing and able to bring about justice.

The Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector reminds us that we are saved by the mercy of God and not by our own merit. When we do good deeds so that others may see it, we are not justified before God. We need to confess our sins and humbly plead for the mercy of God to be forgiven.

Jesus tells us that we need to accept Him like a little child, with total dependence, full trust, frank openness, and complete sincerity to enter the Kingdom of God.

The rich young ruler who came to Jesus asked in verse 18, "*Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*" Jesus' answer comes from knowing the

man's heart. The rich young ruler did not realize that salvation couldn't be earned; it is a gift from God; only attainable through God's grace. He was told to give up everything he had and follow Jesus. He went away sad because he loved his earthly wealth.

Jesus again predicts His death but the meaning has not yet been disclosed to the disciples by God. They do not understand.

On the road to Jericho, A blind beggar calls to Jesus using His Messianic title "Son of David". His faith in Jesus as the promised Messiah healed him. His sight was restored and he followed Jesus, praising God. All who saw it praised God also.

Please join us for discussion of Luke chapters 15, 16, 17 and 18, on Sunday February 28th at 8:00 AM in the Marion Krause room.

In the month of March, continue to read Luke chapters 19, 20 and 21.

The peace of Christ be with you,
Diana Bromeland
Leader of the Adult Bible Study

St. Benedict's Friday Fish Fry

The four churches that participate in VBS together will be volunteering to work one of the Fish Fry's at St. Ben's this year to offset the cost of VBS. We are required to have between 5-10 volunteers to work it, plus bake desserts for it. We will need approximately 10 desserts, cakes, bars, cookies, or cupcakes. The sign up sheet will be in the church office, or you can call or e-mail Madeline at the office if you wish to volunteer. Our date to work is March 19th.

Administrative Board Meeting **January 25, 2010**

Moderator Peter Gordon called the meeting of the Administrative Board to order at 7pm on Monday, Jan. 25. Present in addition to Peter: Becky Merwin—Assistant Moderator, Brenda

Utesch—Deacons, Jack Meredith—Food Pantry, Andy Pearce—Trustees, Tom Beci—Stewardship, Nancy Rasmussen—Music, Lucy Abell—CE, Gary Ruskell—Treasurer, Will Utesch—Confirmand, Madeline Zindrick—Clerk. Peter opened with a prayer.

Minutes: Were approved on a Ruskell/Pearce motion.

Moderator's Minute: Peter thanked all for coming and as we get into committee reports be as short and to the point as possible, we have a lot of ground to cover. Our meeting time right now is at 7pm and can we start at 6:30. Everyone agreed and beginning Feb. 22nd Ad Board will be at 6:30pm.

Treasurer: We ended Dec. with a balance of \$6,157.79. All of our benevolences were paid.

Financial: On a Pearce/Abell motion both reports were accepted.

Trustees: Joe Abell is Chairman and Diana Bromeland is Secretary. We need a new dehumidifier. We had the drains rooted out to the street because they were all blocked up from the roots of the trees again. We've replaced one of the vacuums and one is being repaired. The shelves and benches for the food pantry are here.

Diaconate: Lent is coming up and what's going to happen—Melany represented us at the meeting in Fontana. There will be 3 mid-week Lenten services in a row, with the soup and bread supper before the service at 6pm and service at 7pm. Immanuel is first on March 10th, Wms. Bay on Mar. 17th, and Lake Geneva on Mar. 24th. Fontana will host the Good Friday service on April 2nd at 7pm. We will be joining Fontana for Ash Wednesday services on Feb. 17th at 7pm. We need to decide if we want to do Maundy Thursday service ourselves. Who is responsible for the meals at our various events @ Hanging of the Greens, Easter breakfast, Annual meeting and confirmation? Who's going to chair the committees each month? Send a letter to them thanking them for serving and ask if they would be willing to continue as chairperson for the coming year. Also, let them know who is taking care of the above events: Deacons—Hanging of the Greens and Confirmation, Christian Ed—Easter Breakfast. Annual meeting still needs a chairperson. May 23rd is confirmation. Music by the Lake might be in late August (29th) and their may be additional costs involved and do we want to participate.

Confirmation is still meeting once a month with their mentors and Diana Bromeland.

CE: They will be switching their meeting date from the 3rd Tues. to the 4th Monday at 6pm. Lucy is Chair and Secretary. We were going to do a game night on the 13th of Feb, but many of us will be involved in the Lions dinner that night, so we've decided to do a brunch and fundraiser auction on Sunday, Feb. 21st. Gift baskets will be auctioned off and proceeds will go to Haiti relief fund. We have 5 children right now and Jan and Lucy rotate each month teaching. Our next meeting is Feb. 22nd.

Music: Judy is Chair and secretary. We are preparing for the Feb. 14th service.

Stewardship: Richard Rasmussen is chairman and Betty Recob is secretary. At our next meeting we will discuss whether we want to continue with our benevolences we do and possibly doing other things. Becky asked if the congregation knows about the changes and if we're going to make changes the whole church needs to know ahead of time and are there others that you would like us to do.

Pastoral Relations: No report.

Immanuel Cares: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: St. Benedict church has proposed to the 4 churches that are involved in VBS, take part in working at their Fish Fry on Friday, March 19th which would then offset the cost that each church has to put in for VBS. We would need approximately 6-10 workers for set up, serving or clean up, and 10 desserts to take. Association Acting Interim Dr. Karen King has a potential Interim for us. Peter spoke to her briefly and she is aware of the \$40,000 pay rate. Jim Kennedy called Peter about the Interim at Lake Geneva, David Strang, and explained to him we were looking for part time Interim and he was very interested in coming here and speaking with us. Peter set up a meeting with him for Wed. the 27th at 4pm, and would like a few more board members to be present as well. He's brought in some young families to Lake Geneva. Peter went through the proposed schedule with us for part time. Gary said it's important for him/her to meet with Deacons, Ad Board and confirmands. Andy said we need someone in the pulpit every Sunday possibly 7 on and 8th one off. Nancy

said we have to have consistency in the pulpit in order to bring in new people. He or she should be a facilitator for us to guide us forward. They look at a congregation through new eyes.

What's the next step after we meet with him? See if he can come some Sunday and preach.

Next meeting: Monday, Feb. 22nd at 6:30pm

On an Utesch/Ruskell motion the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Zindrick—Clerk

Church Camp Brochures

Church Camp Brochures are now available either in the back of the church or by the office. We hope you will take this opportunity to check out the many activities you can do at either Pilgrim Center (in Green Lake) or Moon Beach (in St. Germain). Scholarships are also available. Application forms are on the web at: www.ucci.org or by contacting the managing director at each campsite you plan on attending. Early registration is by March 15th deduct \$10.00 from the balance or by April 15th deduct \$5.00 all are for full week events. There are lots of adult events as well as Work Camps available. Happy camping!

Servants of Immanuel

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Administrative Assistant/Lampighter

Editor: Madeline Zindrick

Moderator: Peter Gordon—262-515-6013

Music Director: Nancy Rasmussen

Hand Bell Director: Melany Christenson

Organist: David Rasmussen

Lydia's Helpers: Wednesdays—9am-Noon



Be sure to change your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed March 13th.

