

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Immanuel

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

Worship services at 8am and 9:30am

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

August 2009

Minister’s Moment

I have been thinking about gearing up for the fall. We have such a reservoir of talent in this church. As we gear up, I hope we will tap into more of that talent. There are needs in this church that cry out for each of us. If you have musical talent, this church cries out to you. If you have technical talent, this church cries out to you. If you have the gift of reaching out for others, this church cries out for you. It’s because your talents are so unique and special that I can see all kinds of ways they can boost the church and give us a special identity that draws people. No one voice makes up for the power of many overlapping contributions to a worship service. It just looks and feels like one person trying to be a one-man-band. Looking at and hearing just one person—no matter who it is—isn’t the “in” thing these days. These days, there’s a richness of voice and perspective that’s expected—that’s the way we take in information these days. Even a newscast doesn’t have just one talking head. We can hear the word of God better and listen to each person better when more than one person contributes their specialty to a service. So the variety we crave may be through music, word and picture. But it can also be by a variety of people giving their own little remembrances each latching on to the next. And what makes

it all personal is that smiling face at the door and the smiling faces at coffee hour and the greeting from church people when we meet on the street.

Let’s pool our talents and inspire each other not only to start something new but also to keep at it when the idea is no longer new or the going gets rough. We’ve got many good things in place to supplement—several all church parties and get-togethers are in the making—each organized by a board or committee. The web site is well on it’s way, so are technical upgrades. Through their hard work and gifts, mentors enriched the confirmation class both in individual session and in-group sessions last year. I thank you mentors so much. I love the way you have been putting your knowledge about God into regular conversation.

So—we will be having another confirmation class with mentors this year. The planning meeting for parents, mentors and confirmands will be Wednesday September 16th with more letters to follow. Let’s start fall with a bang that keeps going and going.

Pastor Elizabeth

P.S. Besides regular office hours, I am available between church services on Sunday, during Kids of the Kingdom on Wednesdays, or anytime you call me at home at 275-3094.

The Deacons have digital assisted listening devices for anyone who may need one. Just ask a Deacon when you come in for one.

Important Dates to Remember

July 28—Lifeline Screening here
Aug. 1—Cream Puff & Bake Sale
Aug. 2—Communion
Aug. 4—Deacons—6pm
Aug. 16—Aurora Service by the Lake 10am
NO SERVICE HERE
Aug. 18—CE—6pm, Trustees—7pm
Aug. 24—Ad Board—7pm
Sept. 1—Deacons—6pm
Sept. 13—Back to 10:30 service

Cynthia Rauland Memorial Service

Cynthia Rauland's Memorial Service will be Thursday, August 13th at 2pm at Faith Lutheran church. Choir practice will be at 6pm on Wed. at Faith Lutheran and at 12:30 on Thursday. All singers welcome to participate.



Our sympathy to the families of Neil & Wanda McKinnell on the loss of Neil's mother, Margaret, to the Kolnik family with the passing of Ray on June 13th, Ray passed away in his sleep. Cynthia Rauland passed away on June 16th after a long battle with cancer. Our sympathy to Bob and his family on the loss of Cynthia. Adam Pobursky passed away on June 26th, as a result of a pedestrian accident, he is the son of Mark & Kim Pobursky.

Moderator's Minute

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the members and officers of Immanuel United Church of Christ, My Church Family! Cynthia and I have completed a long journey and I appreciate the people who stepped in for me during my absence.

Immanuel Church is the people not the building and not the location. My goal, as Moderator, through the end of this year would be for us all to pull together to begin the process of strengthening Immanuel United Church of Christ!

In May, we started promoting Immanuel by running an article on the Bell Choir Ministry in the Lake Geneva Regional News, Walworth section. I intend to continue with an article on the Food Pantry Ministry due out sometime in August. Let us show ourselves and our neighbors that Immanuel is a body with hands and feet that move to help each other so that others may join us.

God Bless You All,

Bob
Moderator

Administrative Board Minutes March 23, 2009

Moderator Bob Rauland called the meeting to order at 7:04pm, on Monday, March 23rd. Present in addition to Bob, Lucy Abell—Christian Ed., Andy Pearce—Trustees, Judy Gildemeister—Music, Dennis Kosin—Deacons, Brenda Wenger—Fin. Sec., Gary Ruskell—Treasurer, Mary Church—Immanuel Cares, Pastor Elizabeth opened with a prayer. Other guests present were confirmands—Natalie Boldger, Katie & Daniel Pearce and Cathy Boldger—Mentor.

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

Treasurer: We ended February with a balance of \$6,936.33.

Financial: Pretty much on target with what it was last year. Brenda had a question as to whether to enter the pledge amount on the quarterly statements. It's been there all along, but she hasn't put it on. Gary made a motion to have her include that on the statements. Andy second it. Carried. On a Pearce/Abell motion the Treasurer & Financial reports were approved.

Trustees: We're expecting one more bid this week for the roof. Lifeline Screening has requested to use the church. The Trustees would also like to have Call & Pump come again and have another demonstration. Spring cleanup is Saturday, May 2nd from 8am to Noon. **A recommendation from Trustees, as to the question of where do we go from here, to possibly start looking at the video project again in the hopes of possibly bringing in new members.** Diana has found the audio enhancements and is working on them for members to use who have a hard time hearing. We just need to see remember how they work with our system.

Diaconate: Palm Sunday is Altar communion and CE will be getting the Palms. Maundy Thursday service is April 9th at 7pm here at Immanuel. Easter services are at 8 & 10:30 with breakfast in between. Deacons will do the coffee hour for confirmands on the 26th. Summer worship schedule will begin on May 24th and run through Sept. 6th, it will be at 9:30am.

Music: We didn't meet this month. There will need to be some repairs made to the organ speakers.

Christian Ed: Our next meeting is April 21st. On March 25th the confirmands will visit the funeral home. We also discussed the question of the future of our church and recommendation from the five of us was in favor of a part-time minister.

Stewardship: No Report.

Pastoral Relations: No Report.

Immanuel Cares: We have Meals on Wheels the week of May 18—22.

Pastor: April 15th is the last confirmation class. On April 19th a service of the vows of confirmation and stump the pastor with the confirmands. Instead of a confirmation dinner, it was requested to just do a

coffee hour after the service on the 19th, since all the confirmands and their mentors would be in church already. Gary & Gloria Ruskell volunteered to help Margaret with coffee hour that day.

Moderator's Moment: Bob met with Gary and Peter and discussed a number of things. We still have a strong viable church. We want to pass this information along to Long-Range Planning Committee for discussion and give the notes to them that the other Boards have talked about and keep it moving along in a positive forward direction.

Old Business: None

New Business: Spring Salad Luncheon is April 25th, from 11am to 1pm. The Walworth Co. Homeless Shelter is having a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at Champs in Lake Geneva on Tues. April 28th from 5-8pm. Advance tickets requested. Aromas restaurant in Walworth is having a free soup supper on Wednesdays and is looking for volunteers to come and help serve. This will be added to our announcements.

On a Wenger/Abell motion the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Zindrick—Clerk

Administrative Board Minutes April 27, 2009

Assistant Moderator Peter Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:01pm, on Monday, April 27th. Present in addition to Peter, Lucy Abell—Christian Ed, Andy Pearce—Trustees, Judy Gildemeister—Music, Dee Warner—Pastoral Relations, Mike Bromeland—Deacons, Gary Ruskell—Treasurer, Madeline Zindrick—Clerk, Pastor Elizabeth opened with a prayer.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a Pearce/Gildemeister motion.

Treasurer: We ended the month of March with \$6,286.17.

Financial: Read and both treasurer and financial reports accepted on a Pearce/Abell motion.

Trustees: We received 3 quotes for the roof at the parsonage and garage. Craig Utesch was the lowest bid. It will be done soon along with the valley by our front entrance that is leaking. Diana found our assisted listening devices and has replaced the batteries and are in the closet by the computer. Gary has repaired both of the faucets in the Sunday school wing. The Coca Cola shares we have will be transferred into the churches names so as not to pay the fee associated with managing the account, and the interest will be reinvested back into it. Our parking lot needs to be sealed and we are receiving bids for it. Gary has a list of painting items to be done such as soffits and windowsills. The Rescue Squad would like to use the church for a training session. Also, we would like them to come again and instruct us with the Call and Pump again, and try to get as many people here for that. Lifeline Screening will be using the building on July 28th.

Diaconate: Most of everything we discussed at our last meeting has taken place. We served coffee hour on April 19th and 26th for our confirmands. There will be flowers for Mother's Day and CE will purchase those. The service by the Lake (Aurora) will be August 16th at 10am. A suggestion from Gary at this time came up that we should've had ushers at the 8:00 Easter service for the offering, and we should have them at both services that are high profile such as Easter.

CE: May 12th is our next meeting, because the 17th is Sunday School recognition and our last day of classes is May 13th. Three students will be presented with Bibles. We were asked if we needed the computers in the rooms and we don't, so Gary would dispose of them.

Music: We haven't been meeting very much because of health concerns. Bells will play on May 17th. We would also like to acknowledge a special young person who has brought a nice spark to our group, and has played all year with us, and that is Daniel Freitag. Thank you Daniel. Hopefully some of our younger talent will be home from college soon and will help us with filling in with some music over the summer. Melany is preparing an article for Bob Rauland about the bells to be put into a newspaper article and for the website.

Stewardship: Our next quarterly campaign is Strengthen the Church and will be in May. The mission moment will be on May 10th and the offering taken on May 31st. We did 32 Easter baskets. Our next meeting is May 10th at 9am.

Pastoral Relations: We have two new members and will be meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Immanuel Cares: We have Meals on Wheels the week of May 18th. We will need help that week too, because Mary will be gone.

Pastor: Pastor found a Sing Praise Book and bought a copy for herself to see if it was what we might be interested in. There's piano and guitar accompaniment. She attended a conference at Stevens Point on April 21st and the Association Annual meeting on April 25th. The Conference appointed a replacement for our SE Association, and her name is Karen King from Central Penn Conference.

Old Business: The website is at 85% stage of being complete. Long-Range Planning met and thought it would be a good idea for us to get some social functions for us to do together. We know how to work together for fundraising, but we don't play together. Starting in September have each Board handle a party of the month or every other month, for setting up something fun for us to do, and let us know at the next Ad Board meeting what some of your ideas are. The Salad Luncheon didn't stack up to be as successful as it has in the past, and discussion on whether to keep it or should we put our efforts into the one that works the best for us, such as, the Turkey Dinner. The Salad Luncheon two chairmen's response was we should drop it and work well together on the ones that do bring in the funds.

New Business: Bob Rauland is willing to do a series of articles for the newspaper (not written by him) of different groups in the church (Bells, Lydia's Helpers, etc.) with pictures, to help promote our name in the community. On a Ruskell/Bromeland motion the meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Zindrick—Clerk

Thank You!

Dear Pastor Elizabeth and Immanuel Friends,

Thank you so much for the many visits to Golden Years and for the great funeral service for our mom Louise Slayton.

The luncheon at Immanuel was fabulous. Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules for us.

Sincerely,

The Family of Louise Slayton
David & Grace Slayton—Kenosha
Jack & Sandy Cunningham
Forrest (Jr.) & Cherry Slayton—Milw.
Jerry & Phyllis Slayton—Texas
Alan & Pat Macgowan—Walworth

Dear Immanuel Family,

God sends us special people to help us on our way, and through them, we're reminded of His loving care each day. Thanking God for the blessing of wonderful people like you. Thanks for everything.

The Family of Jessi Pobursky

Dear Immanuel,

Thank you so much for your cards, gifts and ladies for the lunch together on my birthday. It meant more than I can say.

Elizabeth

Dear Immanuel,

We would like to express our thanks to everyone at Immanuel who sent cards, helped at the funeral and offered their support to our family during the time of Ray's passing and the week's following Dorothy's recovery from bypass surgery. It's comforting to know we were in the thoughts and prayers of so many. And thank you to Pastor Elizabeth for all the visits and prayers.

The Family of Ray Kolnik

Dear Immanuel Family,

Thank you for your prayers and cards for Adam. During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us. Thank you.

The Family of Adam Pobursky

A reminder there will be **NO Sunday services** at Immanuel on **August 16th**. We are at Worship by the Lake that Sunday. Hope to see you there!

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.

Inspiration!

By Diana R. Bromeland

What is "inspiration"? Where does it come from? How is it used? My Funk & Wagnalls dictionary describes inspiration as, "The infusion or imparting of an idea, an emotion, or a mental or spiritual influence."

Inspiration can come from virtually anywhere; the sights and sounds in the world around us; from the people we come in contact with; or, from the Word of God. I see inspiration as a seed or a spark that is entrusted to us to care for and nurture until it bursts into the full glory God intended it to be.

I would like to share with you an experience of being inspired, to have caught a spark that grew into something glorious.

Over the years we have had quite a few pastors and guest ministers preach from our pulpit; most of them have commented on the beauty of our stained glass windows. Then Pastor Elizabeth Hazel came to Immanuel. Pastor Elizabeth, coming from an artistic family, was struck by the jewel tones of the colors in the windows when the morning sun shone through them on a bright Sunday morning. She had the idea of using the windows as a teaching tool for the Confirmation class, and asked if I would help. I agreed to do so.

The windows portray images from the Bible, the Old Testament at the top of each window, and the New Testament on the bottom. If you follow them around clockwise, beginning on your right as you face the pulpit, you will see the story of God's providence from creation through Jesus' death and resurrection. I looked at the first few windows, read the texts on the placards fastened to the sills, and thought I was prepared to present a lesson. We met in the pastor's study with the two confirmands. I was ready, or so I thought. Pastor Elizabeth said, "*I thought we would go out into the sanctuary and **really look** at the windows while we talk about them*". Well, this wasn't part of **my** plan, so, I must admit, a little begrudgingly, I packed up my materials and we moved out to the sanctuary and sat in a pew to **really look** at the windows. By the

time we got to the second window, I had what I can only describe as an epiphany. Suddenly I saw so much more in the images, colors and shapes in the windows. The words of the Bible became alive with new meaning as I sat staring at the windows. I was seeing for the first time what a marvelous gift the windows are for Immanuel. I immediately scrapped my old lesson plans and immersed myself in the pictures and stories of God's abiding love that I now could now see so clearly. I wanted to share the excitement I felt with more of you, so I put pictures of the windows on a CD and wrote a series of lessons on the windows for the Adult Bible Study.

If not for that inspiration, that seed, that little spark that Pastor Elizabeth kindled and passed along to me, all of this would not have been.

The scripture is alive with sparks of inspiration. Listen to the sermons that are presented to us as a gift each Sunday. Be open and receptive to your inspiration. "Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than what was sown." Luke 8:8. Open your hearts that they may be fertile ground for the seeds that are planted as we listen to the preaching of God's Word.

Big Foot Emergency Food Pantry First Half 2009

With the change of the seasons (finally), now is a good time to let everyone know how the Big Foot Emergency Food Pantry has been doing so far this year.

Last July the average number of families we normally see each week jumped up from 12 to 16. Each family is only allowed to come to our food pantry once each month, but when they do they will receive at least one week's worth of groceries. Last December we saw an average of 24 families a week in the middle of that month. Things got a little scary in January when we had a record 75 families coming to our pantry that month. 75 families times

four people per family times over one week's worth of food for each family equals a lot of food. With all the generous donations given to the pantry during the holiday season we were able to properly service each family. Our concern was how to deal with everyone if that intense pace continued. It did not. Since January we have "settled" back into the average of 16 families per week we were seeing last fall.

What happened, and what can we expect next? My opinion is that the larger number of families we are working with increased from a year ago due to the current recession we are all feeling. I think we have not seen overall increases since last fall because this recession is being felt more by upper income families than by lower income families. Not that anyone was or is immune. Going forward, I fully expect to see a "trickle down" as the economy worsens. Even if the economy stays about the same for awhile, the effect on lower income families will intensify. That will be especially true in our area where so many minimum wage jobs are tied into the tourist trade. The tourist industry is fueled by discretionary income, and that fuel source is having problems. One comment I don't ever remember hearing from anyone coming to our pantry before this year was, "I am so embarrassed to be here. I used to donate food to this pantry, and now I can't believe I'm here to get food". I've heard that statement a number of times this year, and I suspect our volunteers will hear that many more times before this year is over.

With all of this going on, there has in fact been some good news. Falling food prices have allowed our pantry to continue a high level of service and have dropped the average cost of items we need to purchase (eggs, dairy products, produce, etc) from a little over \$18.00 per family to about \$15.00 a family now. Donations from churches, businesses & organizations, customers buying the food bags for us at Sentry, schools, and generous individuals have kept us in pretty good shape. We also started receiving "commodities" via Community Action this year. That venue has mainly helped supply us with canned fruit & vegetables, cereal, and frozen meat. In spite of reduced donations to Second Harvest of Wisconsin, they have been able to continue to have available for bread produce, specials, and us bakery items that vary every week.

So far this year we have been able give every family that comes in at least one week's worth of food on every visit. **We are at a time of the year though when donations characteristically are down, and it could be a tough summer/fall until the holiday season. If you have a garden, please consider dropping off any extra produce at our pantry. Food donations are always welcome and needed.** Financial donations are always critical. We get a great bang for a buck by

averaging only about \$15.00 of purchased food to feed a family of four for over a week, but that is still \$15.00 times 16 families each week. It adds up. Anything you can do to help would be very much appreciated.

On a final note, there is also one problem some of you can help with. We know that there are families in our community that need help, but for a variety of reasons are not coming to us for assistance. [By the way, our community happens to be the entire Big Foot School District minus Sharon, which has its own food pantry. We also have been giving food to families from Williams Bay since their pantry closed about a year ago.] If someone needs a helping hand, then please tell them about us. We are right across from the Walworth Grade School and located at the far North wing of the Walworth Immanuel United Church of Christ there. We are open on Friday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 and Saturday mornings from 9:00-11:00.

Thank you all for your generous support. Some even more challenging times may be ahead, but with your generous support we will be able to continue providing much needed assistance to many of our friends and neighbors.

Jack Meredith
Director, Big Foot Emergency Food Pantry
111 Fremont Street, Walworth, WI 53184
(262) 275-3252

Madeline will be out of the office on vacation, August 25-28th

Address Change

Rev. John & Cindy Helt
5281 Hogsback Road
Hubertus, WI 53033

Servants of Immanuel

Pastor: Elizabeth Hazel
Home phone: 262-275-3094
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Office hours: Mon.—Thurs.—9am—Noon
Administrative Assistant/Lamplighter
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

Free Books from John Helt

Dear Friends of Old Books, I have completed a six and one half year interim ministry sojourn and brief "exile" in another state. I am back in Wisconsin Conference, called to St Paul's UCC, Erin (SE). I am downsizing my library, getting rid of some theology, history of Christian thought, church history, classics, etc. I would be happy to have you pick through these things and take whatever you want. No cost. No strings. Grace. I live near Holy Hill and the Kettle Moraine Forest NW of Milwaukee. Even if you don't find a book you want, the drive here might make it worth your time. Give me a call or reply to my 262 623 6106 e-mail: cjhelt@yahoo.com

John Helt



August Anniversaries

- 1**—Al & Nancy Lehman
- 13**—Jack & Jan Meredith
- 17**—Bill & Marlene Baxter
Peter & Susan Gordon
- 22**—Carroll & Judy Gildemeister
- 29**—Rick & Denise Freitag



August Birthdays

- 3**—Loren Morris
- 4**—Nancy Rasmussen
- 6**—Newt Dickie
- 7**—Barb Toynton
- 15**—Peter Gordon
Dorothy Kolnik
Andy Pearce
- 18**—Gloria Ruskell
- 19**—Chuck Christenson
- 21**—Ed Riley
- 22**—Richard Hafferkamp
- 25**—Denise Freitag
- 28**—Christa Bernstorff

