



And they will call Him
Immanuel -
"God With Us"
Matthew 1:23

Immanuel Messenger

Read to Immanuel Congregation on 12/29/13, by Tim Duin

February, 2014

Immanuel Lutheran Church

We, the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church, in joyful response to all that our gracious God has done for us, seek to glorify God by bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people.

We have GOOD NEWS! Jesus is ALIVE and LOVES YOU!



Immanuel Lutheran School

Where Faith & Education Meet

A **Child** nurtured in a **Christian** Lutheran setting will be **Prepared** to live a **Joyful**, productive, God-pleasing **Life**.

*Quality Christian education open to all children
Preschool through
Grade 8*

As President of Immanuel Lutheran Church, I was given a letter which reads as follows:

Dear Immanuel:

I, Pastor Bitz, effective 12/31/2013, officially resign and relinquish my call to/at Immanuel because of health issues and an inability to fulfill it.

*In Christ,
Pastor Michael Bitz*

As you know, ever since Pastor Bitz's breakdown at the pulpit on 2/3/2013, your Elders and I have

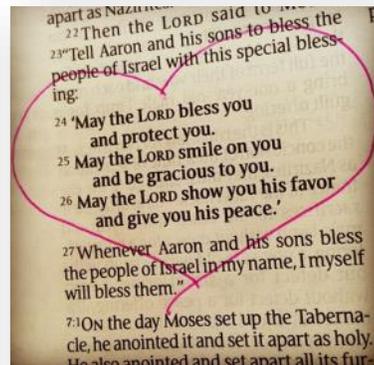
been working with Pastor Bitz on his mental health issues. Specifically Joel Vinkemeier, our Board of Elders Chairman, our Circuit Counselor Pastor Davis of Dorsett, our LCMS Minnesota North District President Pastor Fondow and I worked with Pastor Bitz's Christian Counselor Jim Otremba and his Doctor of Psychiatry Dr. Dean Watkins, both from St. Cloud. It had been our collective prayer and hope that

with time and treatment by those professionals, healing and progress toward a return to work would occur. Our specific goal was that Pastor Bitz would

be able to return to part time work during December and full time as our pastor on 1/1/14.

On December 3, once again Joel, Pastor Davis, President Fondow and I met with Pastor Bitz. We

agreed that Pastor Bitz would prepare a list of those duties he



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In case of emergency call Pastor Ed Behling at 218-732-3778 or Head Elder Joel Vinkemeier at 547-6733 or 612-865-1621.

Loving the Unlovable

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? - Jesus, Matthew 5:46



G.K. Chesterton wrote: To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless.

During this month of love it seems we often focus on romantic love, or perhaps that God loves us, or maybe even that we are to love God with all our hearts. And each of those are worthy of a lifetime of study and application. However, I was thinking of how difficult it is to obey God when He tells us that we need to love the "unlovable"! Can you think of anyone

who fits into that category? I sure can. How can I love them? Cute little babies—okay. Nice people—okay. But if perfect obedience includes loving those "prickly people" - well that's a different story for sure! That is until I think that maybe "me, myself, and I" might fit into that category! Oh my gracious!

Well, the Bible says (Romans 5:8), "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Oh boy. I guess I CAN love those unlovables with His help. After all, He did it for me!

I encourage you to encourage me and others as we walk in the steps of Jesus during this month of love. And if you know any "prickly people" - remember we CAN love them with the love of Jesus. Who knows, maybe once they experience God's love through us, their "prickles" will disappear! And I can say a huge HALLELUJAH to that!



Opportunities For Worship

Sunday Worship—We worship God each Sunday at 9:00 AM and celebrate The Lord’s Supper the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. Remember to invite your family member, your new neighbor or a friend to worship with you. Also, each “5th Sunday” is a bit more contemporary.

Lutheran Hour Ministries—Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on Sunday mornings at 6:05 AM on WCCO 830, 12:30 PM on KDHL 920, or 5 PM Sundays on KTIG 102.7.

The Lutheran Hour Ministries has expanded into additional markets. The Lutheran Hour is now available: online, MP3, Podcast, Sirius XM Satellite Radio. For local broadcast information visit www.lutheranhour.org

College Students—Students don’t leave home without Him! Connect with your Campus Church now or contact: www.lcmscampus.org.

Opportunity For Bible Study

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Join us for Sunday morning Bible study choices! First—a study on the morning Gospel reading prior to worship at 8:30 am in the back of the church. Then fill up your coffee cup and join a group right after Sunday Worship from 10:30—11:30, in the Fellowship Hall. Your input is valued. You will be blessed and be a blessing to us!

Youth Study: 5th—12th Graders meet by the Church Library after church each Sunday.

Thursday Mornings: Join us for Men's Bible Study every Thursday morning at 8 am in the back of the church. Join us if you can!



E-DiBS will electronically deliver to you a daily Bible study where we will go book by book, verse by verse and have a short explanation and application for better understanding. Sign up by contacting the Church office by phone, email or in

person.

Opportunity For Supporting Our Church

Will You Help? Stop by the bulletin board in the entry hall to read ways to help support our church. Immanuel receives many small to medium sized bills during the month. Some larger bills have been divided into smaller amounts in order to encourage members to “chip in”. The Board of Stewardship would like to thank those who have helped already and would like to ask the rest of the congregation, “*Will You Help, too?*”

The Endowment Fund for Immanuel Lutheran Church and School has been set up at the First National Bank in Walker. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, serving on the governing board for this fund, or want more information, stop in the office.

LCEF is a Place to Grow: Have you ever considered how you might help where individuals and ministries come together to grow in the Lord? Lutheran Church Extension Fund makes available resources and services that are used to equip Lutheran



Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries as they embrace God’s plan. These tools are all made possible through competitive-rate investments.

LCEF puts investors together with LCMS congregations, rostered church workers, schools, universities and seminaries, and other ministries with the common mission of sharing the Gospel.

If you are considering an investment, why not choose one that shares your Lutheran values and puts money to work directly through ministries in your neighborhood and around the world? We can grow together.

**Items always appreciated:
Kleenex , paper towels, coffee & lemonade**

THANK YOU!

Continued from page 1

felt he could perform and to provide that list to us at our Elders meeting on 12/6/13. Pastor Bitz did prepare a two page list of duties and gave it to us. However, he said that as he prepared the list and thought it over, it became clear to him that he had not recovered enough to allow him to be able to return to work even on a part time basis. Therefore Pastor Bitz decided that the best course of action for him and for our congregation, was to resign his call here at Immanuel. He advised President Fondow and us of his decision.

Pastor Bitz will continue to treat with his medical professionals. While he is under treatment, he and his family will continue to be covered by the Concordia Health Plan at no cost to our congregation. Also, from the Concordia Plan, Pastor Bitz will continue to receive long term disability payments for up to another year while his recovery continues. His short term goal is for he and his family to worship here and remain members of our congregation.

Our Constitution addresses this type of situation in Article 4.4 which reads as follows:

“When a vacancy occurs in an office of an ordained or commissioned minister, the

congregation shall notify the president of the Minnesota North District to receive assistance in temporarily filling the vacancy and to receive council in calling an ordained or commissioned minister.”

Pastor Behling has filled the role as our pastor during this time in an excellent manner. He will continue to do so for the near future.

Article 5.2 of our Constitution defines the right of choosing and calling ordained ministers through a Call Committee.

Section 11.0 of our By-Laws outlines how the Call Committee is to function.

The Board of Elders, Principal and 3 members at large from the congregation shall make up the Call Committee.

If you are interested in serving as one of the at large members on the Call Committee, please let me know.

Article 11.1.2 of our By-Laws states, among other things, that the members of the congregation may submit names of candidates for the position of pastor of Immanuel. Therefore, if you have a recommended candidate, please provide that name to the Board of Elders or to me as soon as possible.

Pastor Behling, would you please lead us in a prayer for the recovery and heal-

ing for Pastor Bitz and for his family.

Also, please lead us in a prayer for Immanuel Congregation as we go through the call process.

Tim Duin

“Therefore, if you have a recommended candidate (for our pastor), please provide that name to the Board of Elders... as soon as possible.”

Prayer Corner

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.—Romans 8:26,27



Health Concerns & Other Issues: Pastor Bitz and Family, Floyd & Deanie Caster, Liz Dahn, Richard & Marie Donnell, Sharae Hogan (Nancy Albrecht’s sister-in-law), Darrell Iverson (brother of Lavonne Keske), Blanche Kennedy, Mary Lager (sister of Peggy Schmidtke), Trevor Lindahl (recovering from back surgery), Jim Loewen, Carla Morgens- tern (friend of Darin & Corina Bronczyk), Paul Nagel (brother of Mike Nagel), Jean Par- sons, Deborah Peterson (Mike Keske’s sister), John Schmidtke, Leona Strand, Leroy Strand, Mary Tetzloff.

Prayer of Remembrance: For all our loved ones who have passed away this year and their families and friends who mourn them.

Deployed Military: Kenneth Schaub (son-in-law of Kathy & Paul Pinsonneault) Operation Noble Eagle, Air Defense Team, Washington, DC

Missions: Immanuel Lutheran School, Missions of the LCMS Church

Stewardship

A Drop in the Bucket

Jesus once remarked, "You will always have the poor among you" (John 12:8). Those words, taken out of context, may lead us to think that our efforts to alleviate the problems the needy face are fruitless. The task, after all, is endless.

Jesus also commented, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37). The work is overwhelming! How can so few of us reach so many lost? And how can one congregation meet the needs and temperaments of such diverse people? The prospect is so daunting; it's enough to make us give up altogether.

And where's the money supposed to come from for all these ministries? My small offering is only a drop in the bucket. The same can be said for my abilities. The gifts I have to offer are only a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed. And my time is already stretched as far as it can go. The hour or two I can spare each

week for the work of the church is only a drop in the bucket in light of the time needed to fulfill our goals.

God would not want us to be discouraged. He would not want us to give up and quit. He knows the enormity of the task He's given us, but He also sees that what He has given us collectively as members of the Body of Christ is sufficient for the undertaking. He asks

only that we cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7) and regularly return to Him a "sum of money in keeping with [our] income" (1 Corinthians 16:2). He promises, "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Speaking of workers, Jesus returned to Heaven leaving the entire work of evangelizing in the hands of eleven disciples. Was He worried? I think not! For He did not leave them alone. Nor are

we! "Now I am going," He said, but "It is for your good [because] unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:5, 7). The Holy Spirit is doing the work after all. He's the One instilling faith in hearers of the Word. He's the One encouraging us not to "become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Do not be deterred by the erroneous belief that your efforts are not significant. Remember that a raging flood is nothing but the collection of many raindrops. No single drop of water is less important than another. God takes all our hours, all our gifts, and all our offerings, both small and large, and uses them and blesses them to fill that bucket, perhaps even to create a flood!

Blessings on your stewardship journey!



Drop in the bucket

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undertaking. He asks

only that we cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7) and regularly return to Him a "sum of money in keeping with [our] income" (1 Corinthians 16:2). He promises, "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

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Finances

Church Finances

2013 Actual to Budget Comparison General Fund

Income from Envelope/Plate/Special Services

Budget = \$112,000.00

Actual = \$107,088.00

Annual Shortage = \$4,912.00

Expenses

Budget = \$130,466.00

Actual = \$125,009.00

Under Budget = \$5,457.00

Building/Mortgage Payment Fund

Budget (12 Mortgage Payments) = \$26,732.00

LCEF Rebate Received = \$1,073.00

Actual Contributions Received = \$23,340.00

Annual Shortage = \$2,319.00

Income for both general and mortgage payment funds were less than budgeted, however, the "good news" is expenses were also less than budgeted. \$13,200 was transferred from Steward Account to meet general fund expenses and mortgage payments (Building Fund Contributions only) during the first half of the year. \$15,000 was transferred back to the Steward account during the second half of 2013 resulting in a current Steward (Sale of Parsonage) Account balance of over \$35,000.

School Finances

12/1/13-12/31/13 income = \$12,217.75

12/1/13-12/31/13 expense = \$12,455.20

(Actual income & expense –
loan amounts removed)

Lines of credit balance owed
as of 1/9/14 = \$20,255



LWML Update

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise appeal. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

BASKETS OF PROMISE



March 23: Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

March 30: Combs

April 6: Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)

April 13: (PALM SUNDAY) Bars of Soap

Our next meeting will be February 18 at 3pm at the church. All women are invited to join us.

Thank you for your continued support.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

March 9: Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz, any brand, in original wrapping)

March 16: Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)

Men of Immanuel

Next Breakfast Meeting Date Saturday, February 8, 2014. Gordy Dahn & Tim Duin are the cooks. All the Men of the congregation are invited and encouraged to come and enjoy the breakfast fellowship.

Board of Education



Upcoming events – Bible Bowl on February 22nd (Saturday). It is a fun event and is an opportunity to help for a few hours and possibly learn new Bible facts in the process! Contact Janna Kietzman if you would like to volunteer for a few hours.

Beef Stew/Chili Cook-Off/Silent Auction on March 16th. Reserve that date for an evening of good food, fun and music plus the opportunity to purchase some good auction items.

Look for information regarding CPR/AED training opportunities so that we can get our AED available if needed. Our pie sales fundraiser had a

banner year selling **624 pies** and netting approximately \$5,000!

The Board of Education is looking for someone (or many 'someones') to head up our biggest fundraiser, the ABC Sale in 2014. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this important fundraiser. You may speak to any of the Board of Education members, or Janna Kietzman for additional information.

Thank you all for your continued support for the school through our Annual Fund Drive "Touching Lives Forever" as well as volunteering your time and talents.

Opportunities to Support Our School

RECYCLING: Immanuel School can now recycle your old cell phones. Just drop them at the office or deposit them with the ink jet cartridges.

On-Line Search: Immanuel School has signed up as a charity on www.goodsearch.com. Every time you use this search engine, they donate 1 cent to our school. Please choose Immanuel Lutheran School as your charity when it asks you, "Who do you "Goodsearch" for?"

Scrip Orders: The school's scrip program is a great way for parents, grandparents, family and friends to help pay for tuition! 50% of each scrip order's profit may be designated toward a student's tuition. Many retailers participate in the gift card program and also offer ScripNow, where certificates can be downloaded from your account through orders placed online at www.shopwithscrip.com. Scrip packets are available by the office. New order deadline: 10th of each month. Contact Angela Bitz (547-1330) or Kelly Schmidtke (547-1080) with any questions.



From our Congregational President

Installation of Officers: Our new officers and committee members were installed at our 1/12/14 worship service.

Voter's Meeting: We had an enthusiastic group of members at our annual meeting on 1/19/14. The reports from all the committees and groups were interesting and informative. We discussed the updated report we had received concerning the Sally Moore estate which told us that we can expect there to be some action toward resolution of the estate after 2/1/15. The final financial result will depend on the outcome of the sale of a piece of property in Edina, MN.

The congregation passed a motion which was made by the Board of Elders which reads as follows: The Immanuel Board of Elders recommends to Immanuel Congregation that it accept with regret the resignation of his call by Pastor Michael Bitz with a prayer for his complete recovery from his health issues. On the front page of this edition of the Immanuel Messenger is information concerning the resignation of Pastor Bitz. With that resignation, consistent with the constitution, a call committee was established. Two meetings have been held. The call committee presented a motion which reads as follows: The Immanuel Call Committee recommends to Immanuel Congregation that it call a pastor from the field versus

calling a candidate from either of the Seminaries. The congregation passed the motion.

If you have the name of a pastor that you would like to nominate to be considered for a call to be the next pastor of Immanuel, please provide me with that name as soon as possible. The congregation also passed a motion to close the nominations as of **2/9/14**. After that date, the names will be provided to District President Fondow, who will add some names for consideration. A background check will be made on each candidate. Once that is completed, a congregation meeting will be held



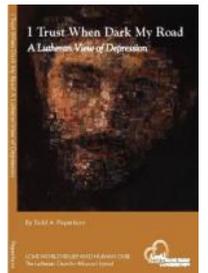
to determine which pastor will be given a call to our congregation.

This is an exciting time of change at Immanuel. We are so thankful to Pastor Behling for helping us through this transition.

Please keep Pastor Behling, Pastor Bitz and your church in your daily prayers.

In His and your service, Tim Duin

In the church office, we had a hard copy of the book, " I TRUST WHEN DARK MY ROAD: A LUTHERAN VIEW OF DEPRESSION " by Reverend Todd Peperkorn which we loaned out to someone to read. We would like it back. Would you please look through your books and see if you happen to have it? It has been missing for some time so don't worry – no one will say a word to you about forgetting you had it just like we won't say a word about our forgetting to make a note of the person to whom we loaned it. Please drop it off at the church office or return to the Duin's. Thank you.



Friendly Billboard Reminder:

The cost to cover the church and school billboard just east of the church is \$175 per month. If you have committed to cover a share of that expense (we're on year two of the two-year contract), please remember to send it in. We had 10 people agree to contribute \$17.50 a month or \$210 for the year. Or even if you haven't pledged and would like to contribute to that fund please send your contribution to the church. THANK YOU for being a part of this great opportunity to witness to our community!

Evangelism Board:

Mike Schmidtke is looking for volunteers to be a part of the Evangelism Team. What a perfect time to step up and be involved in accomplishing God's call for His church—and on YOU!



What About Mormons?



Starting in February, our Sunday morning adult Bible Study class will be focusing on Mormonism. What do you know about the Mormons, their history, and what they teach and believe? Did you know that Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, called the Christian Church “abominable?” Can that possible be true? Want to know more?

Join on beginning February 2. Pastor Behling will lead us through a thorough look using materials he has ordered from the Lutheran Layman publication. Join the group following the fellowship time and find out what else there is to the Mormon church besides a talented choir!

Secret Servants

Thank you to **Meg Duin** for getting all the Christmas Decorations up and down. Also thank you Meg, for decorating the fellowship room with the wonderful quilts, the wall calligraphy, and many other lovely and warm touches.



100th Anniversary of Immanuel is coming up in 2015. If you would like to be a part of the anniversary planning committee, please notify Meg Duin, Kathy Hope, Bev Johnson, or Myra Schmidtke.

Be Ready to Stand Firm, by George Johnson

“Put on the whole armor of God.” Ephesians 6:11. God explains why in Ephesians 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Martin Luther helped us to understand the importance to be in God’s Word and understand it, “Whoever believes and holds to Christ’s Word, heaven stands open to him, hell is shut, the devil is imprisoned, sins are forgiven, and he is a child of eternal life.”

If you want to increase your time and your family’s time in being in the Word, some very good resources are available for a modest investment if you don’t already have them at home.

1. The Lutheran Study Bible
2. And of course Luther’s Small Catechism. (A version of this is included in the study Bible)

The Lutheran Study Bible was copy write in 2009. This Study Bible was put together by cooperation of our seminaries, Concordia Publishing House, the Seminary Libraries, Pastor Consultants (28 Pastors), writers of the footnotes which help our understanding of the text. (58 people, 53 pastors 4 Dr.’s (professors)

and 1 lay person)

This team had 6 goals to create a Study Bible that does the following:

1. Presents Justification by grace alone, through Faith alone, as the chief teaching of Scripture.
2. Properly distinguishes between Law and Gospel.
3. Emphasizes God’s work through the Means of Grace.
4. Functions from a “Scripture alone,” point of view, and presents “Scripture interprets Scripture”.
5. Equips the Laity for works of service.
6. Presents a uniquely Lutheran Study Bible

In the Lutheran Church, a broad range of readers use study Bibles. Users vary in age from thirteen year-old confirmation students who may be reading the Bible for the first time to mature Pastors with a Masters degree in Theology. It is a great help to all ages.

A great place to get into a Study Bible is by using it for the Bible readings that are planned for the next Sunday that are printed for us in our bulletins each week. A suggested plan

printed in the Study Bible is as follows: Monday-Old Testament, Tuesday-Epistle (second reading), Wednesday- Holy Gospel, Thursday Old Testament (first reading), Friday Epistle,



Saturday – Holy Gospel. This plan will help you receive the truth’s of why these readings are grouped as such.

It may be spiritually beneficial to know you are worshipping on Sunday with brothers and sisters

in Christ in over 6,000 congregations who are using these same Lectionaries.

If you are interested in purchasing either the Lutheran Study Bible or Luther’s Small Catechism stop in the church office and order a copy.

-George Johnson

Walker Area Pregnancy Support Center



LIFE. Love it. Protect it.

The Walker Area Pregnancy Support Center exists to provide physical and spiritual life affirming choices for women and families facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Spring Fundraiser Banquet April 15, 2014: Northern Lights Event Center, Speaker: Kirk Walden. An evening with Kirk Walden is an evening filled with humor, challenge, vision and hope.

Please pray for: 300 attendees, volunteer coordinators, greater participation of area churches, the many details involved in putting on the banquet, necessary funds to accomplish this mission.

Also needed are a few more Table Hosts for the Banquet. There is no charge to you. Invite and fill a table (dinner is free) with 10 people including yourself. More info by calling Priscilla at 218-547-5433.

Please keep us in prayer: not only regarding the banquet, but also for the important life-saving work that happens daily. Pray for the men, women and children who hear the Gospel through contact

with the Center – that Jesus will change their lives.

Still praying for Board Members from Longville, Laporte, Onigum, Hackensack, Remer, and Cass Lake. We wish to be represented by all of our service areas.



Good Search—Good Shop: This is a very easy way to support the center in everyday life! Just go to their site and select the Walker Area Pregnancy Center and every time you use this search or shop, the center receives support.

ITEMS NEEDED: Our Incentive Room is getting bare. We are in need of good used or new CRIBS, strollers and swings. Also Diapers: Newborn, Size 1 and Size 2. And: Wipes, diapering ointment, baby wash, really anything someone would give as a baby shower gift.

Location: The pregnancy center is located at 507 Front Street in Walker. Hours are Monday through Thursday, from 11 AM to 4PM.

Celebrating God's LOVE and LIFE!

Thoughts on Loving God

“ ... Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” ~ Joshua the son of Nun (Joshua 22:5)

Altar Flowers



The Altar Committee has decided to try to have live flowers on two stands every Sunday. It is right and proper to use real flowers rather than artificial in the altar area. Using small arrangements of three colorful stems with filler and greens would be adequate. Walker Floral was willing to work with us. The following prices were quoted: Carnations = \$1.50, Iris (seasonal)= \$1.00, Tulip (seasonal) = \$1.00, Larkspur (seasonal) = \$1.00, Daisy = \$2.00, Alstro = \$2.00, Rose = \$3.00. The filler and greens would be free.

Using these costs, the average cost for both stands each Sunday would only be \$9—\$18. Most arrangements would last for two Sundays.

If you would be interested in purchasing a vase of fresh cut flowers, please let Bev Johnson know your Sunday preferences. Flowers could also be used in memory of a loved one, or in commemoration of anniversaries or birthdays. Please join us in this opportunity to enhance our worship services.

—Bev Johnson, The Altar Committee

The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread. - Mother Teresa

February Celebrations

Anniversaries

- 2/8 Gordy & Liz Dahn (56 years)
- 2/21 Brad & Angie Thompson (10 years)



Birthday

- 2/2 Helen Paulsen
- 2/2 Aiden Salvhus (4)
- 2/2 Dominic Schmidtke (3)
- 2/4 Kristina Harder (16)
- 2/4 Lilly Schmidtke (4)
- 2/9 Sis Geiser
- 2/9 Don Taschner
- 2/12 Clark Daniel
- 2/13 Jim Loewen
- 2/15 Nathan Bitz (6)
- 2/18 Warren Anderson
- 2/19 George Johnson (84)
- 2/25 Matthew Salvhus (14)
- 2/27 Mackenzie Mitchell (10)



NEWSLETTER NOTE:

A study was done to research the cost of printing and mailing our "Immanuel Messenger" each month. We have discovered that by emailing the newsletter, we will be saving approximately \$1,270 each year (at current mailing costs). Therefore, a motion was made and passed at the last Voter's Meeting to discontinue bulk mailing. If you do not have email, we will have a few copies for you to pick up at church (there are 34 of you).

We would encourage you to forward your newsletter to the "ends of the earth"! This publication is great for Christian outreach—and a tool for you to "brag on your church"!

If ever you would like to include an article, just send it to the church office (immanuelutheran@arvig.net) or to Pam Kruger at: pamk@uslink.net.

Also—please remember to notify the office of any email address change!



Food Shelf

Food Shelf Volunteers
 (Five Volunteers Needed!)
 Feb 4, 11, 18, 25
 (See calendar for times)

Sunday, February 9

Deadline for submitting
 your call candidate to Office
 or Call Committee



We want to include YOU!
 Please let the office know your special days
 so we can celebrate with you!

Bible Bowl

Immanuel Lutheran School
 Bible Bowl
 February 22
 9:30-Noon



"You weren't an accident. You weren't mass produced. You aren't an assembly-line product. You were deliberately planned, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on the earth by the Master Craftsman." - Max Lucado

JESUS LOVES ME

One of the very first Christian songs most children learn to sing is “Jesus Loves Me”. Even as I write this I can hear my 1 year old niece in the other room trying hard to sing this song. I was surprised to hear the tune as clear as day even though the words sounded like la la, ba ba, and ya ya. A song for all ages, “Jesus Loves Me” clearly portrays the unconditional love of God to us in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

During this month of love and friendship, I thought I would share the origin of this wonderful song. You may not know that “Jesus Loves Me” began as a poem in an 1860’s best-selling novel. It was written by Anna Bartlett Warner to be included in her sister’s “Say and Seal” novel. Anna and her sister Susan, grew up near West Point Military Academy, where they became known for leading Sunday school services and Bible studies for the young men there. Anna and her sister were both accomplished writers. It was through this one poem, written in a story to com-

fort a dying child, that Anna’s faith in Jesus would touch many hearts and lives. In this fictional story the little boy asks his Sunday school teacher to sing him a song. John Linden, the Sunday school teacher, holds the boy in his arms and composes the song, “Jesus loves me”.

One of the scores of readers who memorized this poem was William Bradbury (composer of “Just As I Am” and “Sweet Hour of Prayer”). Bradbury was an accomplished composer and built his own music company to publish and distribute his works. William Bradbury added simple musical notes to Anna’s beautiful poem and published “Jesus Loves Me” in 1862. William also wrote the chorus: “Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.” As the civil war was beginning, and the nation was facing the most horrible fighting ever, the new children’s hymn, “Jesus Loves

Me”, worked it’s way across the North and South. No one will ever know how many families, soldiers, mothers, fathers...were comforted by the assurance that Jesus loved them, died for them and prepared a place for them in heaven.

Today millions of voices around the world sing these words: “Yes, Jesus Loves Me.” Although the song has been edited and we may only recognize a few verses, and we may not know or recognize the names of the author or composer,

we know the profound yet simple truth of their faith, inspired by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yes, Jesus loves me -- that is a truth worth singing about.

Have a Blessed Valentine’s Day! Celebrate Jesus Love.

Janna Kietzman



JESUS LOVES ME!

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but he is strong.

Jesus loves me! He who died,
Heaven’s gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin.
Let his little child come in.

Jesus loves me! Loves me still,
Though I’m very weak and ill.
From his shining throne on high
Comes to watch me where I lie.

Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Then his little child will take
Up to heaven for his dear sake.

Chapter XII of *Say and Seal*, Vol. II
Anna Bartlett Warner (1820-1915)

Immanuel Lutheran School
is hosting the Annual

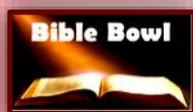
LUTHERAN SCHOOL BIBLE BOWL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014

9:30 - 12:00

Join us in welcoming families from
our MN North District
Lutheran Schools as teams of 4th -
8th grade students gather
together to compete in 6 rounds
of questioning.

If you would like to help us with
this event please call: 547-4139



Dates To Remember

February 4:
Preschool/Pre-K Dad’s Night 6-7

February 17:
NO SCHOOL

February 18:
School at Immanuel - NO Bus

February 22:
Bible Bowl 4th - 8th grades

February 28:
K-8th grade goes to May Creek

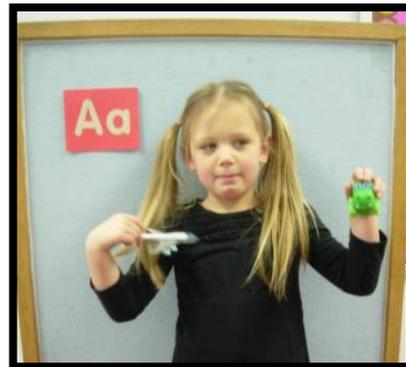
March 6:
Open House & Registration

March 16:
Beef stew/Chili Cook-off & Silent
Auction

March 24:
School at Immanuel - NO Bus



The Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten students are learning the letters and sounds.



"A" is for airplane and alligator. →

"C" is for call 📞
"C" is for color 🖍️



"A" is for Matthew's friend, Addison.



Pastor Harvey Kietzman teaches the K-3rd grade students how to make home-made ice cream. This was part of a science lesson on what happens when you mix ice, salt and water. The ice cream was delicious!



The 4th - 8th grade students are budding artists. Check out their artwork displayed on the wall by their classroom.



Partner Reading with the K - 8th grade students.

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

4656 State 200 NW
P O Box 307
Walker, MN 56484



Join us for worship on Sundays at 9

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Immanuel Messenger
February, 2014



And they will call Him
Immanuel
"God With Us"

Immanuel
Lutheran Church
The Missouri Synod

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218.547.3156
Pastor's Private Line:
218.547.3580

School/Fax:
218.547.4139

Email:
ImmanuelLutheran@arvig.net
School Website:
ImmanuelLutheranWalker.com

You are welcome, wanted and needed!

"I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. When you come looking for me, you'll find me." - God

- Jeremiah 29:11-13 (TMSG)

Dear God ♥
I've tried my best, but
if today I lose my hope
Please tell me
that Your plans are better
than my dreams

Put your business card here and help pay for this publication!
Check in the church office for details!

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Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord, and not for man. Colossians 3:23

Picture Frames ~ Matting ~ Glass Cutting ~ Shrink Wrap

Country Memories

Will & Dar Pehling
PO Box 665
Walker, MN 56484
Phone: 218-547-3173

Servants in the Lord's House for February

Altar Duty: Nancy Albrecht

Elder: Mike Schmidtke

Greeters

2/2 Mike Schmidtke

2/9 Mike & Lavonne Keske

2/16 Lou Eckoff

2/23 Mike Schmidtke

Acolytes

2/2 Andrew Salvhus

2/9 Jessica Schmidtke

2/16 Bradley Foster

2/23 Kristina Harder



Fellowship Servers

2/2 Barb Vinkemeier

2/9 Marie Bakker & Liz Dahn

2/16 Peggy & Karla Schmidtke

2/23 Lavonne Keske & Corina Bronczyk

Ushers

2/2 Gordy Dahn & Dale Ross

2/9 Gordy Dahn & Dale Ross

2/16 Neil Butenschoen & Rick Schmidtke

2/23 Neil Butenschoen & Rick Schmidtke

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who continue to serve our congregation! Bless you!

| Immanuel Lutheran Church | | FEBRUARY 2014 | | | "God With Us" | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| Jan. 26 3 ^d Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study | Jan. 27 | Jan. 28 | Jan. 29 3:30 pm Confirmation | Jan. 30 8 am Men's Bible Study 8 am-7 pm School Open House & Registration | Jan. 31 | 1 |
| 2 Presentation of Our Lord 9 am Worship w/Communion 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study | 3 | 4 11am- 3pm Food Shelf Volunteers 6-7pm Dad's Night Preschool & Pre-K | 5 3:30 pm Confirmation | 6 8 am Men's Bible Study | 7 | 8 8 am Men of Immanuel Breakfast |
| 9 5 th Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study Call Candidate Names turned into office or call Committee | 10 Scrip Deadline | 11 11am- 3pm Food Shelf Volunteers 7 pm Council meeting | 12 3:30 pm Confirmation | 13 8 am Men's Bible Study | 14  <i>Valentine's Day</i> | 15 |
| 16 6 th Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Worship w/Communion 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study | 17 President's Day NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NO SCHOOL | 18 11am- 3pm Food Shelf Volunteers 3:00 pm LWML | 19 3:30 pm Confirmation | 20 8 am Men's Bible Study | 21 | 22 8am Bible Bowl |
| 23 7 th Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Bible Study | 24 | 25 3pm- 7pm Food Shelf Volunteers | 26 3:30 pm Confirmation | 27 8 am Men's Bible Study | 28 | March 1 |