

SAVED
By Grace,
CALLED
To Serve.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 55
Atwater, MN 56209

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit Number 2

Address Service Requested

'ON CALL'-February 5
CAMP SUNDAY-February 19
Love OFFERING WORSHIP-February 26

Rev. Erick J. Thompson,
Interim Pastor
Phone: 612.306.4907

Janelle Eisenbacher, Office Administrator
Home: 320.664.4416

Melissa Rossell, Office Administrator
Home: 320.974.3150

Church Contact Information

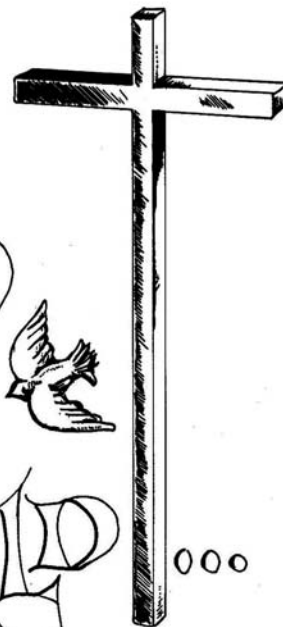
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GOD
SO
LOVED
THE
WORLD



Volume XXXVII - Number 2 - February 2012

The **OUTREACH**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 5 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m.Worship/Holy Communion

ON CALL SHARES MUSIC & MESSAGE

10:00 a.m.Fellowship

10:15 a.m.Sunday School

10:15 a.m.Confirmation

February 12 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m.Worship

10:00 a.m.Fellowship

10:15 a.m.Sunday School

10:15 a.m.Confirmation

February 19 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:00 a.m.Worship

CAMP SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.Fellowship

10:15 a.m.Sunday School

10:15 a.m.Confirmation

February 22 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m.Worship @ Bethlehem

February 26 - 1st Sunday of Lent

9:00 a.m.Worship/Holy Communion

WELCA LOVE OFFERING PROGRAM

WORSHIP WITH 'GOD GAVE THE SONG'

10:00 a.m.Fellowship

10:15 a.m.Sunday School

10:15 a.m.Confirmation

February 29

7:00 p.m.Lenten Worship @ Immanuel

ON CALL TO VISIT IMMANUEL

Immanuel will be welcoming the musical group 'On Call' Sunday,



February 5. 'On Call' is a group of 40 students from the West Central MN area in grades 10-12. They will be sharing their music and message with us during our 9 a.m. worship, and will also be leading the Sunday School students in a special opening music time at 10:15 a.m.

CAMP SUNDAY

It is again time to start thinking about summer Bible Camp! February 19, we will welcome Pastor Naomi Mahler from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. Naomi is a GLLM board member and is a former summer counselor, so she knows the camp well. She is currently helping out at the camp part-time.

She will be sharing information about camp and the opportunities available for youth, adults, and families. Following worship, she will also be talking to our Sunday School students and hopefully leading some great camp music for our opening music time!

OFFICE HOURS

The **church office** is typically open during the following times: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 9 a.m. - Noon.

Pastor Erick's office hours will typically be Wednesdays from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Some of these hours may be spent as home visiting times, so please call ahead if you would like to meet with Pastor Erick.

In the event that Immanuel's worship services are cancelled, Q102 (102.5FM)/KWLM (1340AM) radio in Willmar will be where the cancellation is announced. You can also check "Operation Snow Desk" at www.yourq102.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Do you remember what you received for presents at Christmas time? Are you able to recall everything you received? February is not normally a time to be thinking about our Christmas presents, but in Epiphany, it is precisely what we are called to do. Specifically, we are encouraged to remember the gift of Jesus Christ's birth and what it means for our lives today. Epiphany is a season for the good news of Jesus Christ to "shine forth" in our words and deeds. We are reminded that we are called to serve our neighbors; to bear God's love to the world.

In order to help us find more ways to share this love, the first step is an easy one: gratitude. If we are able to see all the gifts in our own lives, we can be grateful for all that we have. Living in an



attitude of gratefulness, we stop being in need of caretaking, but instead turn and become someone who can offer care to others. We see

all the assets we have in our lives, and how wonderfully blessed we are. It is this awareness of God's love for us that can spark our outreach to the world. This outreach is what we are called to do, and especially right now, during the season of Epiphany.

Over the coming days, I encourage you to notice how God has been

gracious to you, and how you have been blessed. God's call to us to be good news for others will seem so easy once we remember how wonderfully gifted we actually are.

Peace,
Pastor Erick Thompson



LENTEN WORSHIP

We will be sharing Lenten worship services with Bethlehem. The schedule is as follows:

February 22 - Ash Wednesday	.....	Bethlehem
February 29	.....	Immanuel
March 7	.....	Bethlehem
March 14	.....	Immanuel
March 21	.....	Bethlehem
March 28	.....	Immanuel
April 5 - Maundy Thursday	.....	Bethlehem
April 6 - Good Friday	.....	Immanuel

All services will be at 7 p.m. with a Lenten Supper served from 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. at the host church.

MARCH OUTREACH DEADLINE

March Outreach **articles are due** in the church office on **Sunday, February 19.**

We will be **folding** the March Outreach Wednesday, **February 29** at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are needed.



WELCA NEWS

February is the time of Love and also the time we reach out to celebrate Love Offering month. This year, we will have the group "God Gave the Song" entertain us during worship February 26 at 9 a.m. They are a non-denominational group that brings the love of God with song and a message. We are planning for their visit closer to the end of the month, when the group is available. Please invite friends and family to participate in the worship. This event we are doing is to avoid extra work for someone else to have to line up catering and a program besides. So, let us all enjoy our Love Offering program.

Lakeland Conference is having their winter retreat at Green Lake Bible Camp February 20, 2012. Registration at 9 a.m. If you are interested, please send your registration and \$10 for you noon meal by February 10 to Sandra Mathison in Belgrade. (More information on the bulletin board by the kitchen.)

We are looking ahead for our Hog Roast already. Since Easter is earlier this year, we have thought about the date of April 22. Please share your input with one of our ladies. Any ideas will be considered. Actually, any idea for anything will be considered.

On a personal note, I would like to again thank all of the people at Immanuel that have remembered my husband and myself during my recovery time from 2 back surgeries. It is so nice to know that others care about us, and we are family at Immanuel.

*Sisters in Christ,
Linda Burns, Interim WELCA President*

P.S. - Still looking for a replacement for this position...no qualifications necessary!



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Women's Afternoon Bible Study

The Women's Afternoon Bible Study will meet Tues., February 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Men's Morning Bible Study/Breakfast

This Bible Study has been suspended until Peaceful Thymes opens in its new location. Watch the Outreach and bulletins for updates.

LIONS



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
DAD'S BELGIAN WAFFLES

WAFFLE BRUNCH

& preschool bake sale



Sunday, February 5

9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center

Cost is \$6.50/person... children under 5 eat free!

**Proceeds Benefit the "Cash for Kids" Scholarship Program,
which provides scholarships for ACGC Preschool students.**

your support will be very much appreciated!!

Supplemental Funds applied for through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

MOVIE NIGHT

The February 13th movie presented by the Atwater Living At Home Block Nurse Program starting at 1:30 pm will be THE HELP.

In 1960, Jackson, Miss., aspiring writer Eugenia Philan crosses taboo racial lines by conversing with Aibileen Clark about her life as a housekeeper, and their ensuing friendship upsets the fragile dynamic between the haves and the have-nots. When other long-silent black servants begin opening up to Eugenia, the disapproving conservative Southern town soon gets swept up in the turbulence of changing times.

THE HELP is a timeless, universal and triumphant story about the ability to create change. Join us for coffee, treats, comfortable seating and a fun afternoon. Bring your elderly neighbor alone to give them a time of socialization. See you at the movies.

WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST TIMES

Our Sunday Worship is broadcast on Channel #8 every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

If you have a special request for a church service broadcast, please call 320.974.3388.

Immanuel's Website is New & Improved!

Visit the church website to view The Outreach, Weekly Bulletins & The Monthly Calendar.

www.immanuelatwater.com
email: imman@frontiernet.net

Other Helpful Internet Links:

Prayer Ventures:

<http://archive.elca.org/prayerventures/>

Synod Update:

<http://www.swmnelca.org/html/Synod%20Update.html>

GLLM Retreats: www.gllm.org

**2011 GIVING STATEMENTS ARE READY AND AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.
IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PLEASE PICK UP YOUR STATEMENT.
AFTER JANUARY 29, REMAINING STATEMENTS WILL BE MAILED.**

CORNER

Christian Education

sunday school *Offering*

Sunday School students can bring their offering to opening music each week. We will be collecting offering at that time.

bible *Camp*

The theme at GLLM's summer camps this year will be "Cling to the Cross" and will focus on 1 Corinthians 1:18: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." There will be some exciting new opportunities for campers of all ages; including fishing, art and much more. Brochures will be available in late January but online mid January. Member Church Individual Registration begins February 14.

camp *Sunday*

It is not too early to start thinking about Bible Camp! Early Bird Registrations are due March 15, 2012! Early Birds receive a discount on camp fees. Pastor Naomi Mahler from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (GLLM) will be joining us Sunday, February 19, to talk about Bible Camp opportunities for the summer of 2012.

Following worship, Naomi will help lead our opening music time with some great camp songs, and will talk more about camp. Plan to attend & learn more about many fantastic camp programs!

Immanuel is a corporate congregation of GLLM, so our members receive the corporate rate for camp programs. Immanuel funds a portion of the youth cost of attending Bible camp at a GLLM camp. Camper fundraisers have been ongoing the past year...thanks, again, for all your support!

NEW THIS YEAR: Immanuel plans to fund 1/2 the cost of youth camper costs, but in order to qualify for this financial support, you **MUST BE REGISTERED WITH GLLM BY APRIL 29**. If you register for a certain week and find the need to switch to a different week as summer gets closer, GLLM is very willing to help you do this. In order for us to get our payment made in time, we need to have our final camper numbers by this date. If you have any questions, please talk to Janelle.

bible *Camp Fundraisers*

The "Book Sale" Bible Camp Fundraiser continues. Anyone who has gently used books that you are finished with (including children's books) is encouraged to donate books for our sale. **Cost: \$1/hardcover, \$.50/softcover**. Thanks for supporting our campers, and thanks to all those who have donated and purchased books. We plan to continue this fundraiser as long as we have books to sell, so please check out the selection of books regularly!

We are in need of another adult (or two!) to serve as a Confirmation Guide during Sunday morning Confirmation classes. Please talk to Pastor Erick or Shane Hagstrom if you have questions or would like to help out.

first *Communion*

During the Lenten season, 5th graders will be invited to learn more about the sacrament of Holy Communion. Pastor Erick will be scheduling a meeting soon with 5th graders and their parents to discuss the schedule for First Communion. Watch for more information in March.

confirmation *Classes*

Pastor Erick is planning to incorporate service projects as part of the confirmation curriculum. Students will be planning to serve one of our Lenten suppers. More details later.

8th Graders - Please choose your mentors before Ash Wednesday and notify the church office of your mentor's name. 8th-9th graders should plan to meet with mentors during the Lenten season. More details to come.

Christian Education *Ministry Team Members*

Shane Hagstrom ♦ Barb Everson
Janelle Eisenbacher ♦ Nick Rossell ♦ Bethany Ehrenberg

christian education *Calendar of Events*

(watch for monthly updates!)

DATE	TIME - PLACE	EVENT
February 5	10:15 a.m. - Immanuel	On Call Leads Sunday School Opening Music
February 19	9:00 a.m./Immanuel	Camp Sunday
February 19	10:15 a.m./Immanuel	Opening Sunday School Music - CAMP-STYLE!
March 15		Early Bird Registration Deadline for GLLM Camps
April 29		Deadline to Notify Immanuel of GLLM Camp Registration

2012 Greetings from the Sacks

2011 was quite a year in Japan. On March 11 we were reminded of our humanity and mortality when the huge earthquake shook our very foundations, and then as we gazed in disbelief at the televised events unfolding north of us with unprecedented tsunami force. Through the months that have followed, we have been reminded again of why we respect our Japanese friends so much and feel honored to share and receive the Love of Christ in this country.



This photo was taken in August, when Bethany returned to do summer school teaching alongside her brother and sister at their alma mater, the American School in Japan. It was such fun to be together. **Jon** is still a kindergarten assistant at that school, and will be starting a master's course in January to certify him to teach secondary math in the future. **Bethany** returned to Minneapolis in March from her service in Palestine. She does waitressing to pay the rent and is highly involved in the Palestinian movement in the Twin Cities. She also did an internship through the Minnesota Council of Churches, helping refugees to get their feet on the ground.

Emily studied at Parson's The New School of Design in New York City, and then decided to continue her education in Japan. She is now attending Temple University, Japan. **Jim** continues his pastoral care efforts through the Personal Growth and Counseling Center and the Clinical Psychology Department of the Japan Lutheran College and Seminary. **Carol** is finishing her sixth year/third class of women who are training to use Pastoral Harp at the bedside.

One important family member is not included in the above family photo: Jon's wife Miho, who, in typical Japanese fashion returned to her parents' home for a month before and two months after their baby's birth.



Meet
Kaya
Evelyn
Sack
Born
October
21,
2011!



Needless to say, we are pretty thrilled! Wow, what a cutie. And how blessed we are to have her (and her parents) living only 15 minutes away from us!

In the cycle and miracle of both life and death, we yielded Carol's father, Carl Manfred, (93) into the hands of the Lord on December 11. Carol's mother Miriam (94) is doing remarkably well, having cared for Carl at home with help of Home Hospice, and Jim's mother Lorine (92) is still lovely, being cared for at Martin Luther Manor.

We send our love and prayers that God will bless you richly in 2012.

DECEMBER OFFERING

General Fund

First Sunday	\$4171.00
Second Sunday	2893.00
Third Sunday	1926.00
Christmas Eve	7468.00
Fourth Sunday	2759.00
Total	\$19,216.00

Building Appeal

First Sunday	\$105.00
Second Sunday	57.00
Third Sunday	130.00
Fourth Sunday	100.00
Total	\$392.00

Pony Express

First Sunday	\$0.00
Second Sunday	0
Third Sunday	0
Fourth Sunday	0
Total	\$0

Per Sunday

Average Attendance (per Sunday)	101
Avg. General Giving (per Sunday)	\$2937.00
Avg. Building Fund Giving (per Sunday)	\$98.00
Avg. Pony Express Giving (per Sunday)	\$0.00

Offering Needed

Per Sunday	\$2880.00
Per Month	\$12,481.00

Income for 2011 (Thru December)

General	\$142,629.00
Building Fund	\$12,617.00

Needed for Remainder of 2011

General	-\$7361.00
Building Fund	\$3853.00

2011 Budget

(including Building Appeal): **\$149,769.00**

SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM

Simply Giving is a program designed to help you conveniently contribute to your congregation. Through Simply Giving, your offerings are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account or credit card. You determine the frequency of your automatic gift—weekly, semi-monthly or monthly. Your offering is deposited into Immanuel's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account, at no cost to you or the recipient. If you are on vacation, or unable to come to worship, Simply Giving program allows you to still, conveniently, make your offering. To find out more, just google "Simply Giving Thrivent." If you are interested, contact the church office. Give.

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THANK YOU

Thank you for loving thoughts and memories of my wife, June L. Miller. I will miss her forever & ever. We were together 61+ years. I am glad she is in God's care.

Thanks to the church for food that was brought to my home. Thank you, every person, again for the cards & money.

Philip Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Atwater, MN

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - January 11, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: President Harlan Madsen

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Erick led devotions.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Harlan Madsen, Deb Mickle, Dean Nelson, Harold Eisenbacher and Bethany Ehrenberg, Chuck Stranberg. Members Absent: Pat Walsh, Shane Hagstrom, Brian Hovey. Also present: Jacklyn Frericks.

ORGAN INFORMATION: Rogers Organ was at the meeting. Motion by Dean, second by Chuck to finalize contract. Motion passed. Contract was finalized and signed to purchase new organ console. Downpayment of \$24,800.00 was made. Next payment is due 30 days after installation.

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP/TREASURER'S REPORT:

Submitted by Dean. Motion by Deb to accept report as written. Second by Harlan. Motion passed.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Christian Education:

1. Motion by Dean, second by Chuck, to pay from the General Fund half the cost of youth Bible Camp fees for campers attending Green Lake Lutheran Ministries camps who are registered by April 30.
2. Curriculum is ordered for second half of Sunday School
3. Second adult leader is needed for Confirmation classes. Pastor Erick will be using a 4-week rotation for confirmation, incorporating fellowship time and service projects.
4. VBS is "Christmas in June" at Bethlehem.
5. March is Food Shelf month. Would like to get some kind of incentive for Sunday School kids to donate food/money.

Council & Ministry Team Schedule

Christian Ed. Meets: TBD
Ministry Teams Meet: Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m.
Council Meets: Feb. 8, 7:00 p.m.
Devotions: Deb Mickle

Property: Window in Preschool classroom is broken and needs to be replaced.

Worship & Music: No report. See Organ Information.

Evangelism/Faith in Action: - No report given.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Submitted by Pastor Erick. Detailed copy is available in the church office.

1. Need a more active Mutual Ministry team and need to replace missing members.
2. Suggestion to start the church directory process so one can be done shortly after a called pastor is installed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Easter Service - 6:30 a.m. Sunrise, Easter Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Worship.
2. Decided to continue Sunrise/Easter Breakfast for at least one more year.
3. Lenten Suppers will be served before each Lenten service.
4. Discussion about local benevolence giving to be addressed at the Annual Meeting.
5. Motion by Chuck, second by Bethany, to renew copier contract and upgrade to a color copier. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Stranberg, Acting Secretary

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAY LIST



Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

- 2-7 Paul & Denise Hedberg
- 2-9 Arthur & Sandra Nelson
- 2-14 David & Joan Hedberg
- 2-22 Scott & Debb Fredrick
- 2-25 Dean & Beth Nelson
- 2-26 Stanley & Mary Peterson
- 2-27 Dana & Krista Hedberg

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Please remember our homebound members with a visit, a card, or a special prayer to bring a little added sunshine into their lives.



Doris Berscheid
Box 266
Atwater, MN 56209

Mark S. Berscheid
Willmar Care Center
500 Russell St. NW
Willmar, MN 56201
Room 5

Lucille Carlson
Bethesda Heritage
1012 3rd St. SE
Room 360
Willmar, MN 56201

Blanche Hoepner
Sunnyview
316 Sunrise Lane
P.O. Box 686
Atwater, MN 56209

Ole Hovey
Sunnyview
Side #1, Room #2
316 Sunrise Lane
P.O. Box 686
Atwater, MN 56209

Bill Hutchinson
Bethesda Heritage
Room 322B, 1012 3rd St.
Willmar, MN 56201

Robert & Darlene Kirk
20277 105th Ave. SE
Atwater, MN 56209

Linnea Johnson
Bethesda Pleasantview
901 Willmar Ave. SE
Room G10
Willmar, MN 56201
262-5033

Russell Olson
Sunnyview
Side #1, Room #1
316 Sunrise Lane
P.O. Box 686
Atwater, MN 56209

Grace Peterson
11055 180th St. NE
Atwater, MN 56209
974-8273

- 2-1 Kristi Wareing
- 2-2 Jill Bengtson
- 2-3 Elaine Wothe
- Dennis Wallin
- Danny Petersen
- Brent Mahn
- 2-4 Steve Bomstad
- 2-5 Hazel Kusler
- Jennifer Schwartz
- 2-6 Elizabeth Buisman
- 2-7 Ed Jansen
- 2-8 Lisa Schultz
- 2-9 Marty Kragenbring
- 2-10 Sandy Walsh
- Erin Hovey
- Heidi Hoekstra
- 2-11 Sheila Tanata
- Lily Hansen
- 2-12 Betty Stranberg
- Sandra Petersen
- Kirk Elton
- Anna Shoultz
- 2-14 Kathy Mahn
- 2-16 Shirley Walsh
- Becky Fordyce
- 2-17 Donald Anderson
- Nathan Rimmel
- 2-19 Doug Anderson
- Shane Hagstrom
- Steven Fluck
- 2-20 Robert Carruthers
- 2-22 Gregg Kragenbring
- David Olson
- Caitlin Ehrenberg
- 2-23 Jeff Johnson
- Sarah Lease
- 2-25 Brian Hovey
- 2-26 Travis Christensen
- 2-27 Jean Stranberg
- Kim Anderson
- 2-28 Larry Rossell
- 2-29 Danita Hansen

Please remember to notify the church office of any corrections that should be made to birthdays, anniversaries, names, addresses, etc., so we can keep our files updated. Thanks!