

SAVED
By Grace,
CALLED
To Serve.

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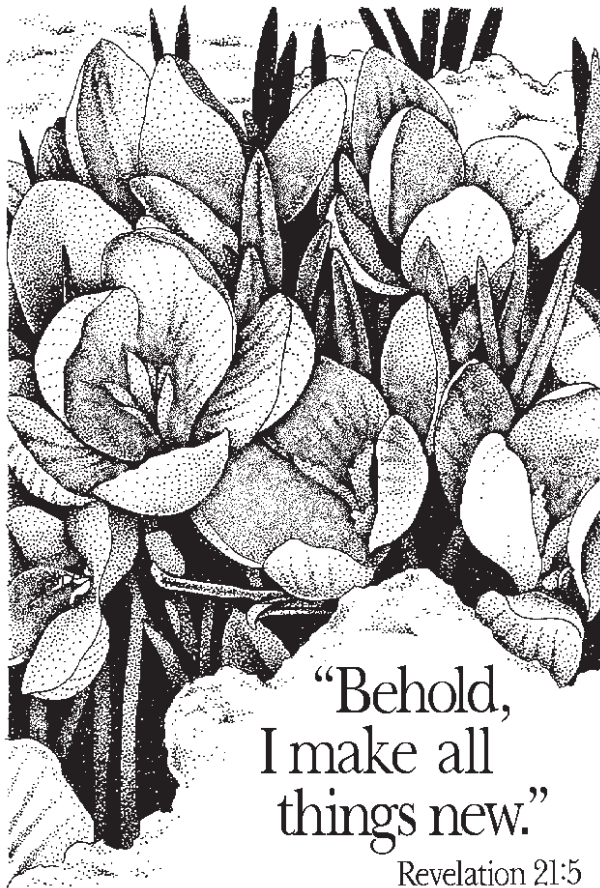
Immanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 55
Atwater, MN 56209

**Begin the
New Year
With
God!**

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“Behold,
I make all
things new.”

Revelation 21:5

Volume XXXIII - Number 1 - January 2008

The OUTREACH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 6 - Epiphany of Our Lord

9:00 a.m.Worship/Holy Communion
 10:00 a.m.Fellowship
 10:15 a.m.Sunday School
 10:30 a.m.Adult Study

January 13 - Baptism of Our Lord

RE-RALLY SUNDAY - ON CALL HERE

9:00 a.m.Worship with On Call
 10:00 a.m.Fellowship
 10:15 a.m.Sunday School with On Call
 10:30 a.m.Adult Study

January 20 - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9:00 a.m.Worship
 10:00 a.m.Fellowship
 10:15 a.m.Sunday School
 10:30 a.m.Adult Study

January 27 - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9:00 a.m.Worship
 10:00 a.m.Fellowship
 10:00 a.m.Annual Meeting
 10:15 a.m.Sunday School

NO ADULT STUDY

SECRETARY'S

January Office Hours

1/2 - Wednesday2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 1/3 - Thursday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 1/7 - Monday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 1/9 - Wednesday1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
 1/10 - Thursday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 1/14 - Monday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 1/16 - Wednesday9:00 a.m. - Noon
 1/17 - Thursday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 1/22 - Tuesday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 1/24 - Thursday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 1/28 - Monday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 1/30 - Wednesday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 1/31 - Thursday9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

***Any office hour changes will be posted in the office window.*

RE-RALLY SUNDAY

January 13

The Christmas season is over...now what?! Make sure that the blessing of Christ's birth continues to fuel your life all year! Re-Rally Sunday is a time that we all can make a resolution to continue our commitment to spiritual growth & worship.



Special Music

The Youth for Christ musical group, "On Call," will be leading music and offering special music and a skit during worship.

Special Sunday School Time

"On Call" will also be presenting music to our Sunday School kids after worship. Everyone is invited to the sanctuary for this time of music and celebration.

UHAMBISANO SUNDAY

We will observe Uhambisano (a Zulu word meaning "Walking Together") Sunday in January. We will be lifting up and making connections with our South African Companions in worship. Note: The Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the South Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa have been in a companion synod relationship since 1990.

ANNUAL MEETING

January 27, 2008

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall during our Fellowship time.

If you would like an Annual Report mailed to your home, please contact the church office, otherwise Annual Reports will be available at the church after Wednesday, January 16. A listing of all worship assistants for the year will be included in the Annual Report.

**The Annual Report will be assembled
 Wednesday, January 16.
 Helping hands are needed!**

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Is Being a Christian Easy?

Grady is a big man, a former lineman for the NDSU Bison football team. I met him at a Via de Cristo weekend retreat this fall. This retreat is a Christian spiritual retreat with a Lutheran flavor. Grady didn't grow up a Christian and, as I gathered it, had little, if any, knowledge or involvement with the church. He gave a talk about how God has been at work in his own life and his family. His talk was nothing short of profound and inspiring. Afterwards, he said, "I wish someone had told me how HARD it would be to be a Christian. I got the rush, the joy of the new life I found in Christ... But living it out, day-in and day-out, year by year, is tough."

Sometimes I think we sugarcoat Christian faith. We act as if knowing and trusting God is easy. We speak as though being a Christian is a "piece of cake," as though believing God, and being a follower, all comes naturally. However, I think Grady is on to something. My experience tells me that *being* a Christian is often times a deep joy, yet also it is a profound challenge. Frequently, we hear about the Gallup poll surveying Americans. Occasionally the Gallup folks will ask a cross section of people: "Do you believe in God?" Of course, something like 92 percent of Americans answer "yes". However, *believing* in God, and *being* a Christian are related, yet two different aspects of the faith life. How many people in America really follow Jesus' teachings? How many go beyond "believing" to *practicing* the faith?

Being a Christian is difficult. In Mark we read, "He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'" (Mark 8: 34-35) That doesn't sound easy, does it? How many advertisements have you seen lately suggesting you "deny yourself"? No cross is easy. Crosses will come when we follow him. The first disciples found great joy in following Jesus. They also found it difficult ("Many are called, few are chosen."). They were often confused about Jesus' words and teachings; and they even denied him when he was nearing the cross.

To be generous, to be just, to be kind, to walk humbly with God is our calling (Micah 6: 8). That doesn't mean it is easy! God demands things of us: "Choose this day whom you will follow"...

Christmas is a time that we remember that Jesus came, God came, among us. Thank God for Christmas, God's grace in human flesh! God came to seek us, just as God sought Adam and Eve in the garden in the beginning. God still comes and seeks us. Without the Savior, our sins are not forgiven and we do not really know God. Faith is a powerful thing because by faith (trust) we are given access to the incredible riches of God's grace. Being a Christian is impossible apart from the grace and mercy and help of the Holy Spirit of God.

Immanuel Lutheran Church's wonderfully brief faith statement says of us, "Saved by grace, Called to Serve." It is not always easy to believe or trust God, nor is it easy to follow, or serve. Yet, what are the options? Also, there is a marvelous richness in life, through this gift of God manifest in Jesus Christ: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (St. Paul, see II Cor. 9:15) And there is even joy as we seek to be faithful and follow Him. To *believe* according to John's gospel, also implies to be a follower. So, Grady, God's strength to you!

And as we enter this New Year, 2008, may the God of all faithfulness, and grace abounding, strengthen you (and me) to not only trust God, but also to be Christians. It's not easy, but it is our calling in Christ Jesus.

*Blessings to you,
Pastor Dan Belgum-Blad*

FEBRUARY OUTREACH DEADLINE

February Outreach *articles are due* in the church office on Sunday, January 20.

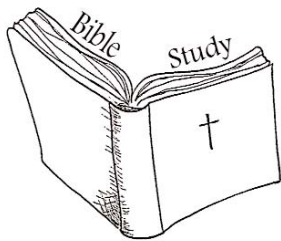
We will be *folding* the February Outreach Wednesday, *January 30* at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are needed.

WELCA NEWS

There Will Not Be A WELCA Meeting in January.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Women's Afternoon Bible Study



The Women's Afternoon Bible Study will meet Tuesday, January 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. Lucille Carlson will be serving.

Women's Morning Bible Study

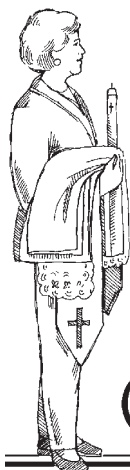
All women in the community are welcome to join us weekly on Tuesdays from 8-9 a.m. You can start any time...come and join the conversation! Meeting locations are listed on the Outreach calendar.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast

The Men's Bible Study will be meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursdays at the churches this winter. This schedule will run into the winter, 2008. We will be meeting at the same Atwater churches as the women do on Tuesdays of each week (see monthly calendar). No men's study on January 2. Newcomers are welcome! We will have goodies and coffee along with our study.

ALTAR GUILD

Members Needed



Altar Guild

Altar Guild is looking for new members! This group is responsible for the general care and cleaning of the altar area of the church. Altar Guild also sells flowers for Easter and

Christmas, and assists with communion set-up, wedding, funeral, and baptism set-up. This is only a two-month commitment per year, and monthly duties are usually shared between two

Altar Guild members. Contact Sandy Edwards if you are interested in joining Altar Guild.

LBW'S AVAILABLE

Anyone who would like a green Lutheran Book of Worship, please contact the church office as soon as possible so one can be set aside for you. We have found a church in Nebraska that could make good use of the hymnals we have left, but we want to make sure that all our members have had a chance to take one before we make arrangements for shipping them.

SAVED

By Grace,

CALLED

To Serve.

CARPE DIEM

Live your life to the fullest
Be proud of who you are
Don't settle for less than you deserve
And you'll go very far
Make each day a happy one
Don't hesitate to have some fun
Walk a dog
Take a jog
Bake a cake
Give, don't take
Play a game
Sing in the rain
Flash a smile
It's worth the while
Do a dance
Take a chance
Share a laugh
Think of all you have
A simple "hello" may
Make someone's day
So Carpe Diem,
Seize the day!



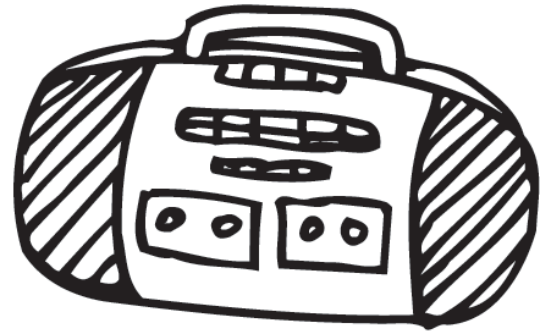
RADIO BROADCASTS

Listen to Peter Marty, on **Grace Matters** each Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on station KWLM 1340, 10:30 p.m. on WCCO 830 or on KDUZ 1260 AM at 11:30 am.

January 6, 2008

**Philip Gulley – If Grace is True...
Romans 11:33-36**

One of the favorite questions many Christians love to ask is, "Who is saved? Is She? Is He? Am I?" The question grows in interest when people who do not profess Jesus Christ are included in the question. Philip Gulley, a popular author and Quaker minister, has some very important things to say about who gets saved. If grace is true, as a concept, a word, and as the defining characteristic of God, reasons Gulley, then it must be true for ALL people.



January 13, 2008

**Jim Autry – Rethinking Miracle Stories
John 10:38**

Jim Autry is a former Fortune 500 business executive, a leadership consultant, poet and author. But he is something else too. He is the loving father of an autistic son. Raising this son has caused Autry to read the healing miracles of Jesus in a way that might surprise many conventional or orthodox Christians. If you are wondering whether or not to believe in miracles, and whether they might be pointing to something larger, this program is for you.

January 20, 2008

**Immaculée Ilibagiza (Part I) – Burning Hate
John 15:23-25**

Immaculée Ilibagiza is an amazing woman. She narrowly escaped death in the Rwandan genocide of 1994 by hiding in the bathroom of her pastor's house for 91 consecutive days. In this compelling interview, the first in a two-part series, Immaculée gives an inside look at the faith that carried her through a horrific ordeal. She discusses the mystery of hatred and the necessity of Christian hope.

January 27, 2008

**Immaculée Ilibagiza (Part II) – Forgiving the Unforgivable
Luke 7:36-50**

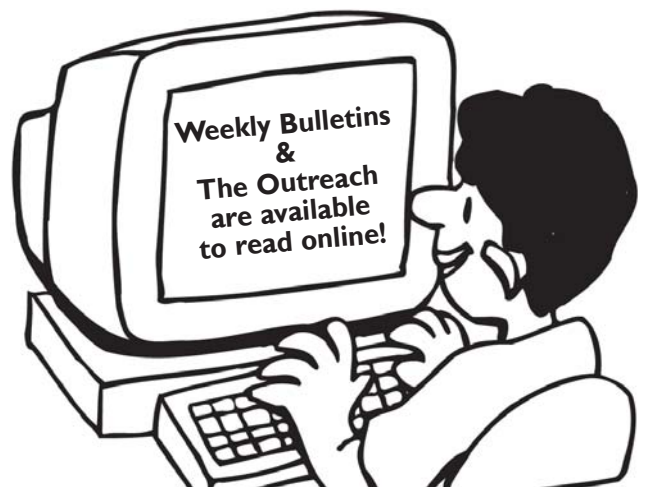
Immaculée Ilibagiza returns for the second of a two-part series on the tragedy of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. She is the author of the book, *Left to Tell*, a gripping narrative of the ordeal that left her family and most of her village dead. In this broadcast Immaculée relives the jail encounter that brought her face-to-face with the killer who stabbed her parents and brother to death. This woman of faith will reawaken the power of forgiveness for all who are seeking a new way of life.

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

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.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails.

Mark Twain



HMMMM...

1. Isn't it strange how a 20 dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?
2. Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?
3. Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?
4. Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel or ZANE GREY book?
5. Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row tickets to concerts or games, but they do whatever is possible to sit in the last row in church?
6. Isn't it strange how we need to know about an event for church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events at the last minute?
7. Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God and to share it with others, but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?
8. Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say, but we question the words in the Bible?
9. Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven, but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?
10. Isn't it strange how we send jokes in e-mails and they are forwarded right away; but when we are going to send messages about God, we think about it twice before we share it with others?

It's STRANGE, isn't it?

ARTHRITIS

Exercise Course

This program uses gentle, practical activities to improve joint range of motion and muscle strength. It has also proven to decrease pain. Course offered free of charge by the Atwater Living At Home Block Nurse Program and the Arthritis Association. Dates are January 22, 25, 28, February 1, 6, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29, March 5, 7, 11, 12, from 10-11 a.m.

WAFFLE BRUNCH

February 3

The Atwater Lions Club will be sponsoring a Waffle Brunch on Sunday, February 3 from 9:00 am to 12:30 p.m. at the Atwater Community Center. There will also be a bake sale during that time. Part of the proceeds will support the ACGC Preschool Scholarship Fund.

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



A unique weekend experience for a husband and wife who value their marriage! Register soon! Registrations are due 4 weeks before date.

Feb. 22-24, . . .Crown Plaza, Brooklyn Center, MN
Mar. 28-30, . . .Country Inn & Suites, Duluth, MN
Apr. 25-27, . . .Crown Plaza, Brooklyn Center, MN

For information and registration, please call:
Chuck & Nancy Roberts651-464-1858
Peter & Phillis McMahon763-561-1575
Dale & Carol Ure800-235-1010

Or register online at www.ilme.org.

TWO FOR THE ROAD

The Two for the Road support group will begin 2008 meetings beginning Thursday, January 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Immanuel library.

ADULT CHRISTIAN RETREAT

This spring, you are invited to attend a special retreat close to home! Via de Cristo weekends are a great way to strengthen & renew your faith.

First Lutheran Church, Marshall - Men: April 3-6, 2008 / Women: April 10-13, 2008

You may have heard about Cursillo and Walk to Emmaus. These are some of the many "versions" of the same retreat. "Via de Cristo" is the Lutheran flavor. These structured 3-day retreats help Christians from every walk of life experience God's grace in new ways. The cost for each weekend is \$30. The experience is priceless!

The weekend begins Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening. Men attend the first weekend and women attend the following weekend. Live, study, worship, and commune together daily, focusing on the person and teaching of Jesus. Through talks and personal stories, Via de Cristo helps basic Christian truths come alive! There is music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and a time for prayer.

Registration has begun and is limited. If you'd like more info, to see a short DVD, or would like to attend, please contact Pastor Dan.

GLLM RETREATS

Registration forms for these retreats are available online at gllm.org. For more information, call Green Lake Lutheran Ministries at 320-796-2181.

It's a Tea Party! Quilt Retreat
Session I-3 Day: March 9-12 \$173
Session II-3 Day: Mar. 30-Apr. 2 \$173
Session II-5 Day: Mar. 30-Apr. 4 \$267

There is nothing like enjoying a warm cup of tea on a chilly day. You may say the same about hearing the hum of your sewing machine stitching your newest quilt creation. Check out more information about this retreat in the form below.

Knit Retreat: February 29-March 2
St. Andrew Village, New London
Retreat Fee: \$95.00

Joined & Knit Together - Ephesians 4:15-16
Learn new techniques, bring UFOs (unfinished objects) or just join in the fellowship with other knitters. Our projects will focus on felting. Whether you just bought your first pair of needles or you knit at red lights, you won't want to miss this relaxing weekend! Come retreat with us and fill your lives spiritually. There will be time each day for Bible study and devotions.

CORNER

Christian Education

offering Goal

Thanks to everyone who generously contributed to the Sunday School Noisy Offering December 9. We received nearly \$400 to add to our total! We will be announcing our final goal total in January. Our goal for January - May will again be \$500. Half of our offerings will be designated for the ELCA Hunger Appeal, & half will support our Sunday School program.

sunday School

The Youth for Christ musical group On Call will be at Immanuel January 13. They will be leading our Sunday School time that day. Students, please go to your classrooms and your teachers will bring you up to the sanctuary when On Call is ready to sing. Anyone is welcome to join our Sunday School youth to listen to On Call.

confirmation Classes

Thank you parents, and Bob Carruthers and Jennifer Schwartz (Council members) for serving meals! This adds to the fellowship and helps feed some hungry kids. We have studied Baptism and Martin Luther, and now are studying the Ten Commandments. Please contact the pastor if you have any suggestions or concerns. Please come a minimum of 15 minutes early if you are serving as an acolyte. This allows adequate time to dress, review what is happening at worship, and light the candles.

Christian Education Ministry Team Members

Pastor Dan Belgum-Blad
Shane Hagstrom ♦ Janelle Eisenbacher
Barb Everson ♦ Nick Rossell

camp Sunday

It is not too early to start thinking about Bible Camp! Early Bird Registrations are due March 3, 2008! Early Birds receive \$15 pre-deposited into their camp bank. Dave Eliason from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (GLLM) will join us Sunday, February 10 to talk about Bible Camp opportunities for the summer of 2008. Dave will be preaching and presenting a special children's message.

Following worship, Dave will be speaking to all camp-age (1st grade - high school) Sunday School kids and families (family camp is available, too!) in the sanctuary. 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 half of the youth cost of attending Bible camp at a GLLM camp. Camper fundraisers are currently being planned, including a Tastefully Simple fundraiser, and serving some of the Lenten suppers.

****WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME OF OUR 2007 CAMPERS TALK BRIEFLY ABOUT THEIR CAMP EXPERIENCE DURING WORSHIP FEB. 10. PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SHARE!**

adult Study

The Adult study will be finishing up the book of Ephesians on January 6th. We will begin a seven-week course entitled "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" in February, completing in March. If you are interested in how to interpret the Bible, this study is for you. If you want to learn how Lutherans understand the Bible, this study is for you. If you know nothing about the Bible, or quite a lot, this study is for you!

The seven sessions include:

1. The Word of God
2. What Lutherans Say About the Bible
3. Where the Bible Comes From
4. Interpreting the Bible in Context
5. Determining Right from Wrong
6. The Many Meanings of the Bible
7. Devotional Bible Reading

christian education Calendar of Events

(watch for monthly updates!)

DATE	TIME - PLACE	EVENT
January 2	After School - 5 p.m./Immanuel	Good News Bearers
January 13	9 a.m. & Sunday School time/Immanuel	Re-Rally Sunday with On Call
January 16	After School - 5 p.m./Immanuel	Good News Bearers
January 27		NO ADULT STUDY
February 10	9 a.m. & Sunday School time/Immanuel	Camp Sunday
March 3		Early Bird Registration Deadline for GLLM Bible Camps

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - December 12, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: President Bob Starz

DEVOTIONS: Jennifer Schwartz

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Fluck, Arlys Winkelman, John Hagstrom, Nick Rossell, Roger Johnson, Glenn Grahn, Pastor Dan, Harlan Madsen, Daryl Winkelman, Jennifer Schwartz, Bob Carruthers, Bob Starz, Treasurer Julie Evenson

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion to approve, 2nd, passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to approve, 2nd, passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Reports from scholarship fund investment; Broman money is in the Evergreen Fund, Anderson money is in Thrivent (Bob Starz will research use of the funds.). LSS letter requesting donations- will be handled as budget item. Luther Seminary request for donations toward tuitions- no council action, information will be placed in Outreach to give individuals an opportunity to donate. Carley estate sent a check for just over \$34 to clear up some interest disbursements, motion, 2nd, passed to put the money in the general fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education: Christmas program went well. Need a pre-school teacher for balance of Sunday School term. VBS plans continuing

Worship and Music: Thanksgiving service went well with good attendance. Special music for December services is set. Work on usher, lector, greeter, communion assistant lists is nearly complete.

Evangelism/Faith in Action: Mitten Tree project did not happen. Annual report is done.

Finance and Stewardship: Giving has been keeping pace with expenses. Motion made, 2nd, passed (show of hand vote, 10 in favor - 2 opposed) to send balance of benevolence commitment of \$7,275 to the ELCA for 2007- money on hand and general fund giving to fund this.

Property: No bids received for snow removal-so far volunteers have taken care of shoveling. A suggestion by a member about the possibility of purchasing an inexpensive snow blower to have at church to eliminate hand shoveling was not acted on.

SUB-COMMITTEES: Altar Guild- still recruiting potential members. Memorial committee needs volunteers. Mutual Ministry committee has met and will continue working on employee job reviews.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Written report presented - Written report available at church office. Discussed looking at program, "Natural Church Development", to be discussed further at council retreat in February. Discussed the need and how to involve youth in church- things like ushering and lectoring will be looked at. Pastor asked about the possibility of carrying forward (to 2008) one week of vacation and funds from education allowance for a trip to the Holy Land-discussion centered on the feeling we would be funding a vacation rather than continuing education, no approval given. Motion made, 2nd, passed to provide a letter to Pastor regarding salary and housing allowance split similar to previous years. Motion made, 2nd, passed to give old hymnals to a church in Nebraska (after allowing our members to take one) if they arrange/pay for shipping. A joint Lenten service with Bethlehem is being planned. Council strongly supported this joint effort.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Ministry teams (Committees) need to complete and turn in their annual reports. Suggestion that senior girl parents be in charge of St. Lucia day. The resolution prepared by Bob Starz regarding increasing the council's emergency spending limits from \$2,500 to \$7,500 was presented, motion made, 2nd, passed to present it to the congregation at the annual meeting for a vote. Bloodmobile update-3

local churches are planning to do it- our turn is November of 2008. 2008 budget proposal was presented. Motion made, 2nd to approve; an amendment motion made to increase the benevolence amount to \$8,000 like last year, 2nd, passed with show of hand vote of the members remaining, 6 to 3 in favor, original motion (as amended) passed. 2008 budget amount proposed is \$179,978.64 2007 budget was at \$183,666.62.

Motion to adjourn meeting, seconded, approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Daryl Winkelman, Secretary

COUNCIL AND MINISTRY TEAM SCHEDULE

Christian Ed. Meets:
January 6, 5:00 p.m.

Ministry Teams Meet:
January 9, 6:30 p.m.

Council Meets:
January 9, 7:30 p.m.

Devotions & Lunch:
John Hagstrom

NOVEMBER OFFERING

General Fund

First Sunday	\$12,117.00
Second Sunday	1813.00
Third Sunday	2424.00
Fourth Sunday	1333.25
Total	\$17,687.25

Building Appeal

First Sunday	\$105.00
Second Sunday	580.00
Third Sunday	170.00
Fourth Sunday	15.00
Total	\$870.00

Pony Express

First Sunday	\$160.00
Second Sunday	10.00
Third Sunday	75.00
Fourth Sunday	10.00
Total	\$255.00

Per Sunday

Average Attendance	110
Avg. General Giving	\$4421.81
Avg. Building Fund Giving	\$217.50
Avg. Pony Express Giving	\$63.75

Offering Needed

Per Sunday	\$3,532.05
Per Month	\$15,305.55

Income for 2007 (Thru November)

General	\$137,139.29
Building Fund	\$9538.00

Needed for Remainder of 2007

General	\$25,782.33
Building Fund	\$11,402.00

This Year's Budget

(including Building Appeal):**\$183,666.62**

MEMORIAL GIFTS

October 15-December 22, 2007

In Memory of Delmar Buer

To Memorial Fund\$5.00

In Memory of Leroy Heining

To Altar Guild\$5.00

In Memory of Don Witte

To Altar Guild\$5.00

In Memory of Mrs. Carlton Hanson

To Altar Guild\$5.00

*Please read these memorials over carefully and let the church office know if there are any additions or corrections. Please note that there may be more memorials that have not yet been received in the church office at this time

BENEVOLENCE

Gift Request

Members of Immanuel have been asked to prayerfully consider giving a benevolence gift in support of the Student Aid Scholarship Fund at Luther Seminary. Scholarship support of any amount is extremely important and helpful to students. In order to support students currently enrolled this year, it would be most helpful to receive your gift by February 29.

If you have a member currently attending seminary, you could designate your gift in support of that student.

If you do not have a member attending, please consider giving generously to the Student Aid Scholarship Fund for students with the greatest financial need.

Luther Seminary's fundraising goal for scholarship support for students is \$1 million.

Luther Seminary is the largest of the eight ELCA seminaries, and is located in St. Paul, MN. This year, they have 830 students, with about half studying to be pastors. Other students are pursuing advanced degrees such as the Doctor of Ministry and Ph. D., and other students are preparing to be children, youth and family leaders, music directors, Christian education coordinators, chaplains, and Christian social workers.

Thank you in advance for your continued investment in the church. Your gifts make a significant difference in the lives of these students and in turn, the future of the church!

Excerpts of a letter from Kathleen G. Hansen, Vice President for Seminary Relations

PHONE COUNSELING

From Lutheran Social Service

The Southwestern MN Synod - Lutheran Social Services telephone counseling service will continue. Up to now, almost all LSS counseling has been done in a face-to-face fashion in LSS offices or in the homes of the clients.

How will the project work?

A Person, who wants to talk to an LSS counselor, calls the 888 number during business hours (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) and gives LSS the name of your congregation. (1-888-881-8261.) The direct number for the Willmar LSS office is 235-5411.

An appointment will be scheduled at a time mutually convenient for the caller and the counselor. Counseling sessions can be made available during daytime and evening hours.

The counselor will call the client at the appointed time and offer phone counseling.

The LSS counselor will recommend more sessions or other services if needed.

The client will be asked to evaluate the session.

Other Information:

There will be no charge for this service at this time. The counseling sessions will be scheduled on an "as available" basis. All sessions are confidential and conducted with counseling professionals. It is anticipated that the number of sessions per phone counseling episode will range from one to three.

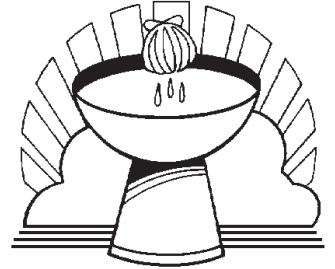


HOLY BAPTISM

Quinn Muriel Eisenbacher

We welcome into the Lord's family, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Quinn Muriel, daughter of Harold and Janelle Eisenbacher.

Quinn was born November 10 in Willmar and was baptized December 24. Quinn's sponsors are Greg & Tracy Madsen, Ashley Krug, Brieyanna Krug, Kari & Dave Bonfield, and Gabriel Eisenbacher.



God's blessings to Quinn and her family!

GREETINGS FROM HAZEL KUSLER

"Best wishes and Happy New Year to everyone at Immanuel. You will be missed by me."

*Sincerely,
Hazel Kusler*

*Hazel's new address
and Phone:*
1010 8th Ave. NE
Watertown, SD 57201
1-605-878-2345



CONGRATULATIONS

To our St. Lucia Queens!



Our 2007 Saint Lucia Day Queens are Amanda Peterson, Kyri Rouser, Brittany Bolton, and Emily Johnson. They were crowned during our Celebration of Light Program December 16. Star Boys were Kobe Holtz and Jeremy Nelson. Mint Girls were Alex Hovey, Emily Naber, Kiara Rosenquist, and Rose Snavelly.

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

- 1-1 Lee & Debra Mickle
- 1-5 Kevin & Kay Bomstad
- 1-15 Duane & Muriel Aljoe
Kevin & Deb Gruenhagen
- 1-25 Ronald & Sharon Cramlet
Eugene & Sharon Ruchti
- 1-30 Joel & Stephanie Heining



- 1-1 Randy Hultquist
- 1-2 Audrey Hoffenkamp
Larry Rohloff
Greg Madsen
- 1-3 Kristin Cluka
- 1-4 Susan Popowski
Brittney Naber
- 1-5 Jessica Halvorson
- 1-10 Kiara Rosenquist
- 1-11 Blanche Hoepner
Jonathan Hanson
Kevin Schwartz
Taylor Bengtson
- 1-12 Wesley Bosch
Hannah Bolton
- 1-13 Alyssa Buisman
- 1-14 Sandra Nelson
- 1-16 Tereasa Link
- 1-20 Mary Warszynski
Kristine Anderson
Shelly Hadley
Jase Peterson
- 1-21 Elsie Potter
Lori Hutchinson
- 1-24 Jonathan Nelson
- 1-25 Kevin Gruenhagen
- 1-27 Dean Goehring
Derek Peterson
- 1-31 Jacob Peterson

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.

Ron Cramlet
623 2nd St.
Atwater, MN 56209
974-3340

Ron Snavely
Lake Lillian
Assisted Living
Lake Lillian, MN 56253
664-4755

Rosella Flygare
Bethesda Heritage
Room 223, 1012 3rd St.
Willmar, MN 56201
214-0299

Harold Windsor
Rice Care Center
Willmar, MN 56201

Erma Miller
Bethesda Pleasant View
901 Willmar Ave. So.
Willmar, MN 56201
235-1353

Gladys Narragon
Bethesda Heritage
Room 110, 1012 3rd St.
Willmar, MN 56201
231-2457

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

Gladys & Arley Rossell
14755 15th Ave. SE
Atwater, MN 56209
974-8384



JANUARY