

**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

"See, I am making  
**ALL THINGS**  
**NEW."**

*Revelation 21:5*

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**The OUTREACH**  
Volume XXXIV - Number 1 - January 2009

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## January 4 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas

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 11 - Baptism of Our Lord

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

## January 18 - 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 25 - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9:00 a.m. . . . .Worship/Holy Communion  
 10:00 a.m. . . . .Fellowship  
 10:00 a.m. . . . .**Annual Meeting**  
 10:15 a.m. . . . .Sunday School

*NO ADULT STUDY*

# ANNUAL MEETING

**January 25, 2009**

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 25, 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 14. A listing of all worship assistants for the year will be included in the Annual Report.

**The Annual Report will be assembled  
 Wednesday, January 14, at 9 a.m.  
 Helping hands are needed!**



# UHAMBISANO SUNDAY

We will observe Uhambisano (a Zulu word meaning "Walking Together") during a worship service in January (date to be determined). 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.

# SECRETARY'S

## January Office Hours

1/2 - Friday . . . . .9:00-11:00 a.m.  
 1/6 - Tuesday . . . . .9:00-11:30 a.m.  
 1/7 - Wednesday . . . . .3:00-7:30 p.m.  
 1/13 - Tuesday . . . . .9:00-11:30 a.m.  
 1/14 - Wednesday . . . . .9:00 a.m.-Noon  
 1/15 - Thursday . . . . .9:00-11:00 a.m.  
 1/20 - Tuesday . . . . .9:00-11:30 a.m.  
 1/21 - Wednesday . . . . .2:00-4:30 p.m.  
 1/22 - Thursday . . . . .9:00-11:00 a.m.  
 1/28 - Wednesday . . . . .9:00 a.m.-Noon  
 1/29 - Thursday . . . . .9:00-11:00 a.m.

*\*\*If possible, office hour changes will be posted in the office window. Hours are subject to change.*

# PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Recently, I read about the size of the military budget in the United States, and my jaw dropped... Our budget for the military is larger than *all* other military budgets of *all* the other countries in the world combined. How ironic, I thought, when our money states: "In God We Trust." We must think in new ways as we address the crises of our time. I believe Christians are called by God to work for peace between ALL people.

In the darkest time of the year, the good news and light of Jesus' birth radiates out to bring with it hope, joy and peace. The prophet foretold of the one who would be called "Prince of Peace." Jesus is that everlasting *Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6). How this world longs for peace. I believe, and understand, that God desires *all people* to experience peace with God both personally, through the Son, and for this world to grow in peace. Still we human beings resist God and peace is elusive.

Yet, once in a while, we get advance glimmers of the reign of God. One such glimmer happened in 1914, while WW I was raging on a European battlefield... On Christmas Eve, German troops began to set up small Christmas trees, lit with candles, outside their trenches, and they sang Christmas carols.

From the other side of the "no man's land," British and French troops responded with carols of their own. Soon the German soldiers proposed a Christmas truce, and the British and French units agreed. This was nothing formal, nothing worked out by generals, just a spontaneous agreement between common soldiers in the front-line trenches. Handmade signs popped up with messages like, "You no fight, we no fight" and "Merry Christmas." The men struggled to stay warm by their fires.

Soon soldiers from both sides left their trenches and shook hands. Next, they began to bury their dead who had been lying unreachable in no man's land. Then, remarkable as this seems, they even began to share gifts ... food and candy and chocolate (and perhaps some libations) that had been

sent to the front lines for the holiday. In some sectors, the two sides put down their rifles and played soccer.

Of course, it couldn't last beyond a couple of days. The generals didn't like it, and they soon commanded the troops to begin firing at each other again. For a few days, both sets of troops tried to keep the spirit of peace going, by firing *into the air* instead of at each other, but the generals soon made them aim.

But still, the truce happened, inspired by Christmas. And it tells us that peace on earth is not an impossible dream, *just a difficult one*. There is more work to be done...

And there's one more earthy part of this story: As the troops from the German side in one section of the line were trying to figure out how to communicate about the gift exchange across the no man's land, the solution they hit upon was this: They used a specially trained messenger to carry the proposal to the enemy.

Who was this ad hoc ambassador of peace? We don't know his name, but we're pretty sure about what division he belonged to. He was a four-legged member of the canine corps. *From S. Weintraub, Silent Night: The Remarkable 1914 Christmas Truce, (Free Press, 2001).*

As we begin a New Year, let us pray for and work for glimmers of peace in our world. May God bless all the world.

**Pastor Dan Belgum-Blad**



## FEBRUARY OUTREACH DEADLINE

February Outreach **articles are due** in the church office on **Sunday, January 18.**

We will be **folding** the February Outreach Wednesday, **January 28** at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are needed.

# WELCA NEWS

## **Happy New Year with many Blessings Attached!**

What will WELCA be doing this new year? Hog roast, quilting, and spring auction. Maybe a Tea. Love Offering, Summer Fling, Holiday Happenings? Be on the lookout for what the Women of Immanuel will do.

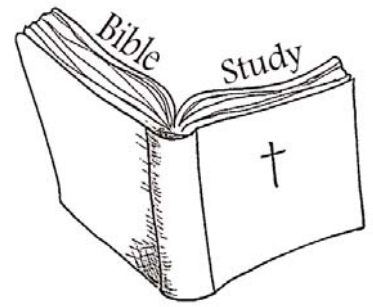
We are still looking for people to come forward and help out in the position of new officers. Maybe talk to a friend and handle the project together.

We had a lovely Christmas get-together in December. We laughed. Some cried. We revealed our Secret Sisters. By the way, if you were unable to attend, your Secret Sister gift may be in the kitchen. New Secret Sisters or Prayer Partners were drawn out of the hat for 2009. Thank you to all the devoted sisters we have. Many thanks go out to Janet and Robin for a tasty lunch and the program of "Christmas Tea." Everyone went home with a Christmas door prize.

WELCA has some business to go over. We need to distribute our donations throughout the community, so we will meet January 21 at 7 p.m. to start anew. Hope to see you there!

**Linda Burns**  
**Interim WELCA President**

## BIBLE STUDY GROUPS



### **Women's Afternoon Bible Study**

The Women's Afternoon Bible Study will meet Tues., January 13 at 1:00 p.m.

### **NEW LOCATION for Women's & Men's Morning Bible Study & Breakfast**

Starting January 6, 2009, any interested women are invited to join the Women's Bible study, Tuesdays, at 8:00 a.m., at Peaceful Thymes, on Hwy 12. The Men's study will also meet at Peaceful Thymes starting at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, January 8, for breakfast; and thereafter each Thursday. Come join in the conversation, fellowship and food!

## NOAH'S ARK

The Preschool Sunday School Class worked on making an ark and lots of animals to go in it during the first half of the Sunday School year. Here are some life lessons we can learn from the Noah story!



### **Everything I Need To Know About Life, I Learned From Noah's Ark**

Don't miss the boat.

1. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
2. Plan ahead...it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
3. Stay fit...When you are 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
4. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
5. Build your future on high ground.
6. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
7. Speed isn't always an advantage...the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
8. When you are stressed, float for a while.
9. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic, by professionals.
10. No matter what the storm, there is always a rainbow waiting!

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# 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 4, 2009**

**Ralston Deffenbaugh – A Refugee Named Jesus – Exodus 23:9**

Ralston (“Ralie”) Deffenbaugh knows his way around immigration issues. He is a first-rate lawyer who understands the intricacies of immigration law. But more importantly, for the past 17 years, he has been president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, a vantage point for getting inside the hopes and heartaches of refugees and immigrants around the world. In these times of contentious debate over how to handle immigration reform in America, Deffenbaugh has some wise and faith-inspired words to think about with special freshness about the subject.

**January 11, 2009**

**Jacob Needleman – Your Relationship With Money – Matthew 6:19-21**

It is a strange phenomenon to equate happiness with having money, especially since having more money (at least beyond a certain point) rarely makes people more happy. Jacob Needleman has a philosopher’s mind for thinking about the subject of money. Clearly, the pervasive inability among Americans to take money more seriously, and to talk about money with true honesty, distresses this San Francisco State University professor. Here is a program that gets to the heart of our relationship with money.

**January 18, 2009**

**Catherine Wallace – The Perplexity of Choice – Deuteronomy 30:19**

Most people will admit that we live in an age when a barrage of choices keep assaulting our lives. Bombarded by choice, we are forced continually to reevaluate our identities. We repeatedly must remember or figure out exactly who we are. Living in this confounded way rarely feels good. It fragments and divides up our lives. Catherine Wallace, a social historian and free-lance writer, joins this edition of Grace Matters to wrestle with the perplexity of choice in our modern world.

**January 25, 2009**

**Wayne Messmer – Finding Release From Hatred – Revelation 21:5**

Wayne Messmer has quite a story to tell. This professional singer and broadcaster was shot at point blank range in the throat one night during a bungled robbery attempt. His vocal cords survived, as did his life and spirit. Through an amazing act of courage and faith, Messmer later found his way to the prison where his assailant was doing time. What happened there is a testimony to the dissolution of hate when one understands life as a supreme gift of God.

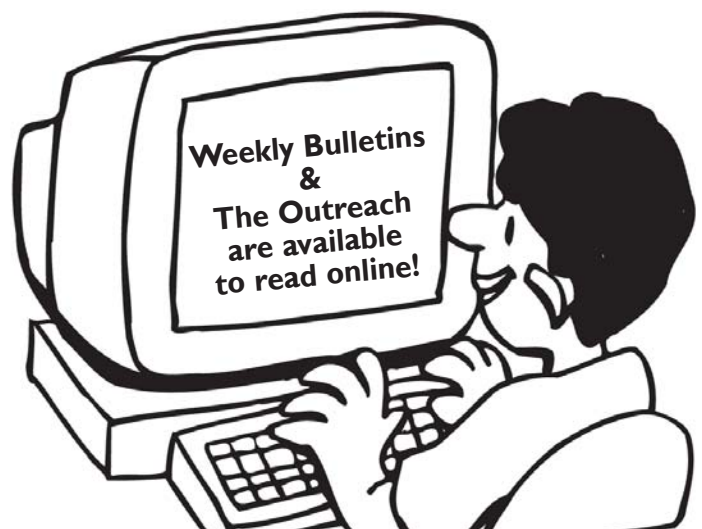


www.immanuelatwater.com  
email: imman@frontiernet.net

## 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.



# THANK YOU

Thank you to Roger Holm for completing two oak tables for use in worship. Your talents are much appreciated!

Thank you to all who helped with the sidewalk improvement in the front entry of the church. We are hopeful that this will reduce or eliminate the "ice pond" each winter that was forming between the parking lot and the walkway up to the main doors. Special thanks to Dale Kragenbring and Jim Halvorson for their efforts, and to any others who helped with this improvement to our church entry.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of Immanuel Church for your thoughts, prayers, and all of the cards and well-wishes I received during my recent illness. It is wonderful to know that there are so many caring members in our congregation.

**Thanks again! Deb Mickle**

THANK YOU to everyone who sent a greeting and/or gift or goodies at Christmas. We really appreciate it. God's blessings to all in 2009!

**Pastor Dan, Sally and family**

## DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

**"Christ In Our Home" Light for Today - January, February, March Edition**

This is a small devotional booklet with wonderful messages of God's love in an easy to read format, followed by a short prayer. This is available in a large print book also.

**The Lutheran Digest - Winter 2009 Edition**

The Lutheran Digest has many wonderful short stories, quotes, and jokes included within its pages. A variety of topics for everyone's enjoyment!

**Davey and Goliath's Devotions For Families On**

**The Go! - Winter 2009 edition**

Every week you'll find four fun-filled pages of activities for experiencing the Bible. Set aside 10-15 minutes at the beginning of each week to read the Bible story together, say the prayer, and consider Goliath's question.

These devotional booklets are available on the table outside the church office.



## NEW ADDITIONS

**Jordan Lee Meyer**

Congratulations to Jesse Meyer and Tanya Dengerud on the birth of a baby boy, Jordan Lee. Jordan was born November 22 in Willmar. He weighed 8 lbs. and was 20.5" long.

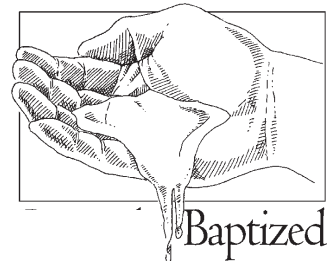


God's blessings to Jordan and his family!

## RECENTLY BAPTIZED

**Brody Robert Straumann**

We welcome into the Lord's family, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Brody Robert Straumann, son of J.J. and Kristin Straumann. Brody was born September 3, 2008, in Willmar, and was baptized November 30, 2008. Brody's sponsors are Christine Malvin and Courtney Malvin.



God's blessings to Brody and his family!



**Donna Wersal**

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ivan Wersal and family following the death of his wife, Donna. Donna passed away December 9.

## THANKSGIVING OFFERING

This year's Thanksgiving offering was given to the Kandiyohi Food Shelf in Willmar. A total of 127 pounds of food and \$246 in cash or checks were donated. Thank you to all who donated!



# GLLM RETREATS

Registration forms for these retreats are available online at [gllm.org](http://gllm.org). For more information, call Green Lake Lutheran Ministries at 320-796-2181.

## Baskets of Fun Quilt Retreat

GLBC, Spicer

March 8-11

March 27-29

March 29-April 1

Retreat Fee: 2-Day \$139, 3-Day \$173, 5-Day \$267 (\$50 deposit)

It will be a basket of fun during the spring quilt retreat. Besides working on your own projects, you will have the opportunity to work on a basket pattern or two. Pack your sewing basket and join us for baskets full of food, fun, faith, and fellowship.

## Elementary Retreat: April 3-4

GLBC, Spicer

Retreat Fee: \$38.00

This is a great opportunity to prepare kids for their first camp experience or tide experienced campers over until next summer. We will recap 2008's theme, "Just for Life," focusing on the five L's: last, lost, least, little, and lifeless. Games, music, food, and worship will tie it all together for a great overnight adventure!

## Knit Retreat: March 13-15

Medayto Lodge - GLBC, Spicer

Retreat Fee: \$95.00 (\$50 deposit)

Join us for a wonderful weekend filled with faith, fellowship and fun. This is a great opportunity for all knitters, regardless of skill. The Medayto Lodge will be the perfect setting for that relaxing and re-energizing weekend you've been longing for.

# WAFFLE BRUNCH

## February 1

The Atwater Lions Club will be sponsoring a Waffle Brunch on Sunday, February 1 from 9:30 am to 1:00 p.m. at the Atwater Community Center. There will also be a bake sale during that time. The proceeds from the Waffle Brunch and Bake Sale will be given to the Cash for Kids Scholarship Program, the fund which provides scholarships for ACGC preschool children.

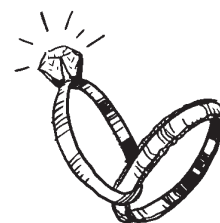
# 5TH QUARTER

On Friday, January 16, after the ACGC basketball game, the gym will be open until 11:00 p.m. for volleyball, basketball, and the concession open for pizza and pop.



Music, too! Invite a friend. Open to 7th-12 graders. This is sponsored by the ACGC Area Ministerial Association. (Snow day is Friday, February 5th).

# LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



Start thinking Valentines! Say "I Love You" with a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. Get away from the everyday demands of the world so the two of you can really focus on each other. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at 7 p.m. to Sunday at 5 p.m. Four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions the couples discuss in the privacy of their hotel room. There is no counseling and no group sharing. No one tries to change who you are. It's great for couples who already have a good marriage and want to enrich their relationship, but it also does wonders for those marriages that have lost their luster through years of child rearing and work obligations.

Registrations are due 4 weeks before date.

Feb. 13-15 .....Brooklyn Center, MN  
 Mar. 27-29 .....Duluth, MN  
 Apr. 24-26 .....Brooklyn Center, MN

For information and registration, please call:

Dick & Judy Dehnel .....952-432-3105  
 Peter & Phillis McMahon .....763-651-1575  
 Or visit [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).

## Memorial Gifts: July 21 - Dec. 28, 2008

<b>In Memory of Don Evenson</b>	
To Sunday School Remodeling	\$5.00
<b>In Memory of Donald Peterson</b>	
To Sunday School Remodeling	\$5.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
<b>In Memory of Gloria Jansen</b>	
To Sunday School Remodeling	\$5.00
To Building Fund	\$5.00
To Building Fund	\$200.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
To Organ Fund	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
<b>In Memory of Doug Hamilton</b>	
To Building Fund	\$5.00
<b>In Memory of Elaine Johnson's Brother</b>	
To Building Fund	\$5.00
<b>In Memory of Bonnie Mohr</b>	
To Building Fund	\$5.00
<b>In Memory of Rosella Flygare</b>	
To Building Fund	\$5.00
<b>In Memory of Marion Kingery</b>	
To Sunday School	\$20.00
To Sunday School	\$15.00
To Building Fund	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
To Organ Fund	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$10.00
To Bloodmobile	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$35.00
To Organ Fund	\$50.00
To Organ Fund	\$25.00
To Organ Fund	\$20.00
To Organ Fund	\$20.00
To Organ Fund	\$20.00
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To Organ Fund	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$10.00
To Organ Fund	\$10.00
To Building Fund	\$10.00
To Choir	\$20.00
To Building Fund	\$5.00
To Grahn Scholarship	\$50.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
<b>In Memory of Gladys Narragon</b>	
To Building Fund	\$10.00
To Building Fund	\$15.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
To Immanuel	\$50.00
To Immanuel	\$15.00
To Immanuel	\$10.00
To Immanuel	\$100.00
To Building Fund	\$5.00
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
<b>In Memory of Donna Wersal</b>	
To Organ Fund	\$5.00
To Building Fund	\$10.00
Undesignated	\$50.00

## In Memory of Earl Johnson

To Building Fund .....\$5.00

## In Memory of Gloria Anderson

To Sunday School .....\$25.00

\*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

# NOVEMBER OFFERING

## General Fund

First Sunday	\$3840.50
Second Sunday	1585.02
Third Sunday	2141.00
Fourth Sunday	1557.72
Fifth Sunday	1815.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,939.87</b>

## Building Appeal

First Sunday	\$200.00
Second Sunday	275.00
Third Sunday	120.00
Fourth Sunday	85.00
Fifth Sunday	80.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$760.00</b>

## Pony Express

First Sunday	\$15.00
Second Sunday	110.00
Third Sunday	10.00
Fourth Sunday	10.00
Fifth Sunday	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$195.00</b>

## Per Sunday

Average Attendance	115
Avg. General Giving	\$2187.97
Avg. Building Fund Giving	\$152.00
Avg. Pony Express Giving	\$39.00

## Offering Needed

Per Sunday	\$3440.05
Per Month	\$14,906.87

## Income for 2008 (Thru November)

General	\$123,987.58
Building Fund	\$12,290.00

## Needed for Remainder of 2008

General	\$35,596.80
Building Fund	\$6270.00

## This Year's Budget

(including Building Appeal): .....\$179,882.38

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - December 11, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Bob Starz      **DEVOTIONS:** Dana Hedberg

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pastor Dan, Daryl Winkelman, Bob Starz, John Hagstrom, Jennifer Schwartz, Dana Hedberg, Dan Pirsig, Sheryl Stranberg, Roger Johnson, Paul Hedberg, and Treasurer-Julie Evenson.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Report presented to members via email. Motion to approve, 2nd, passed. Reaffirmed that no changes to minutes are to be made except at a regular meeting by way of 'corrections or additions'.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Julie was present to discuss the report. Motion to approve, 2nd, passed. Giving for this quarter is lagging behind our needs to meet our budget-our 2008 Benevolence commitment has not been paid.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Christian Education: Expressed concern over lack of pre-kindergarten teacher for after Christmas. Estimate that 15 Bibles will be needed for next year, 5 each for 7th grade, 3rd grade, and 3 year olds. Plan to use Christian Education budget for those given to students and the general fund for any others needed. Requested a 'white board' for Sunday School use.

Worship and Music: St. Lucia Day event is set. Lists of ushers, coffee hour, etc. are complete. Christmas services are set for music. "Chosen Ones" group scheduled to be here in July 2009.

Evangelism/Faith in Action: Coffee hour server lists are complete.

Finance and Stewardship: Proposed budget for 2009 has been completed, is presented for review & approval.

Property: Back door repair is being done. Snow removal for parking lot is being donated by Hedbergs-for large snow events they will also do sidewalks with front end loader. Still have no one for side walks for smaller accumulation snow events. Parking lot water that drains to the south has been a problem for our neighbor to the south; will attempt to correct by Hedberg's hauling in more granite on the south to change the slope and re-direct the drainage. Still deciding on final finish for re-done Baptismal Font (Paint or Stained wood) will have to have decision right after January 1.

**SUB-COMMITTEES:** Altar Guild: Attendance at training and orientation session on November 22nd was very poor – workers for January through May are in place, still need people for balance of December. Some maintenance needs (polish some brass, fix chipped paint, repair of statue base) have to be addressed.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Written report presented and available in church office. Motion made, 2nd, passed to have base salary for 2009 be divided to show \$30,000 is for housing allowance. Motion made, 2nd, passed to table discussion of sabbatical until January 2009. Council retreat date set for February 14th (Saturday), location to be decided.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Flygare bequest funds have not been received and no time table is known when to expect them. Motion made, 2nd, passed to table any use discussions until funds are in hand. Discussed benevolence payments, not enough funds at present, will decide when and how to pay in January. Treasurer was directed to pay the budgeted \$800 for Mission Support (Sacks). Request by Pastor Dan for reimbursement for Continuing Education expenses; \$311.05 balance of his allowance will be reimbursed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Annual reports from various groups are coming in, due in church office December 14. Discussed proposed budget, Motion to approve as presented, 2nd, passed. Pastor Dan was asked to determine how many services Deb Mickle has played organ, to let Bob Starz know so he can have treasurer make payment to her.

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 7, 7:30 p.m.

Ministry Teams Meet:  
January 8, 6:30 p.m.

Council Meets:  
January 8, 7:30 p.m.

Lunch/Devotions:  
Harlan Madsen

# CORNER

# Christian Education

## adult Study

What can the historical background, literary insight, and Lutheran theology teach us about understanding the Bible? Join us for a new study using Lutheran insight to learn ways to dig deeper into God's word. We will be studying: Jan. 4 - Study 1: Exodus 3:1-15 - The call of Moses at the burning bush.

Jan. 11 - Study 2: Jeremiah 1:4-19 - The call of the prophet Jeremiah.

Jan. 18 - Study 3: John 8:31-36 - "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed," Jesus told the Jews who believed in him. How does Christ make us free?

Feb. 1 - Study 4: Romans 7:15-25a - Paul wrestles with the war at work within him between the reality of sin and his desire to please God. What has Christ done *for us* in regards to this battle?

Please join us at 10:30 a.m. in the library for these hour-long studies.

## confirmation Classes

Confirmation resumes on January 7. We continue our study of the Old Testament (or "First Covenant."). Thank you, parents, for serving meals each week! We still need two families to serve dinner - February 11 and 18. Please call if you can serve.

## bible Camp

**Bible Campers: Please submit your camp pictures and written memories/camp thoughts to the church office ASAP.**

## Christian Education Ministry Team Members

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

## sunday School

Because we did not have our final Sunday School class on December 21, we will be having our "Birthday Party for Jesus" on Sunday, January 4. We will be coloring pictures and creating messages for Rushford Lutheran Church in SE MN, enjoying cupcakes, & watching a Christmas video.

## offering Goal

Thanks to everyone who generously contributed to the Sunday School Noisy Offering December 14. Our noisy offering brought in more than \$200 for our offering goal. We will be sending a portion of this money to Rushford Lutheran Church in SE Minnesota in January. Our new goal will be announced soon!

Remember to keep bringing in your offerings. Our 7th grade class is doing a great job of tracking our offering goal and serving as our ushers!

## camp Sunday

It is not too early to start thinking about Bible Camp! Early Bird Registrations are due March 6, 2009! Early Birds receive \$15 pre-deposited into their camp bank. Someone from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (GLLM) will join us Sunday, February 8 to talk about Bible Camp opportunities for the summer of 2009.

Following worship, all camp-age (1st grade - high school) Sunday School kids and families (family camp is available, too!) can get more information about GLLM camps 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.

**\*\*WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME OF OUR 2008 CAMPERS TALK BRIEFLY ABOUT THEIR CAMP EXPERIENCE DURING WORSHIP FEB. 8. PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SHARE!**

## christian education Calendar of Events

(watch for monthly updates!)

DATE	TIME - PLACE	EVENT
January 7	After School - 5 p.m./Immanuel	Good News Bearers
January 21	After School - 5 p.m./Immanuel	Good News Bearers
January 25		NO ADULT STUDY
February 8	9 a.m./Immanuel	Camp Sunday
March 6		Early Bird Registration Deadline for GLLM Camps

# 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



## 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

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

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

**Byron Nielson**  
609 N. Main  
Atwater, MN 56209

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

**Gladys Rossell**  
Central MN Sr. Care  
(formerly Sunnyview)  
P.O. Box 686  
974-3460

**Ron Snavelly**  
141 4th St. W.  
Spicer, MN 56288

**Harold Windsor**  
P.O. Box 744  
Atwater, MN 56209



- 1-1 Randy Hultquist
- 1-2 Audrey Hoffenkamp  
Larry Rohloff  
Greg Madsen
- 1-4 Susan Popowski  
Brittney Naber
- 1-5 Jessica Halvorson
- 1-7 Brody Bingaman
- 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

# JANUARY









