

The Voice of Immanuel

Pentecost Edition 2011

No. 521

WJH

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Type the words "Mainline Christianity" into your search engine, and you'll find a vigorous discussion about the decline of the Mainline Churches. Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists, and Lutherans were once the dominant form of Protestant Christianity in the United States. They founded universities, and gave us our Presidents.

Not so any more. Consider these changes in membership from 1960 to 2000:

	1960	2000	change
PCUSA	4.2 M	2.4 M	down 43%
ECUSA	3.4 M	2.3 M	down 32%
UCC	2.3 M	1.3 M	down 43 %

The Mainline Churches as a whole have lost about one-third of their members since their peak in the late 1950's. At one time, you almost had to be a member of a Mainline Church to be a "somebody" in town. Today, about 15% of American adults belong to one of these churches.

Why? Many books and articles have discussed this. Suggestions include things such as: the loss of their historic doctrinal stances, the end of the Baby Boom, the location of many of these churches in "neighborhoods that have changed."

In the 1990's a study was conducted by Johnson, Hoge, and Luidens, and they identified the primary challenge as a lack of commitment among the members of Mainline Churches, a phenomenon they called "Lay Liberalism." They defined Lay Liberalism as the belief that Christianity is "true for me" in the same way that Buddhism is true for Buddhists, or Hinduism is true for Hindus. These respondents don't want to be identified as nihilists, so they say that all religions have "common threads." They say that they do not try to convert anyone to their religious views. In fact, they have trouble identifying any reasons anyone should be a Christian. Additionally, they believe that missionaries should not attempt to convert people in other nations to Christianity, since those people are in equally valid faiths.

Johnson, Hoge and Luidens say that Lay Liberalism esteems honesty, tolerance, and civility, "but it does not inspire the kind of conviction that creates strong religious communities."

Studies among Baby Boomers have asked whether or not they agree with the statement that salvation can be found only in Jesus Christ. "Nearly all" of those who say "yes" are still active in a Church, while 95% of those who said "no" are not.

Another researcher, Bibby, did a study of people who have left the Episcopal Church. Bibby found that most did not leave because they were angry at the Church, but when he asked them what the Church could do to get them back, "the most common response was that it could do nothing."

How should we respond to this? One response is of course to abandon the Mainline Churches—to conclude that their day is over and that the work of the Holy Spirit will go on somewhere else. Many have done this.

The other possibility is to talk about Revitalization. Happily, there are a growing number of people who think that these Churches ought to be saved, and these people have begun to think and write about what that means.

A couple vignettes:

* On vacation, I visited a United Methodist Church. The pastor's sermon was thoroughly biblical, and focused on Jesus Christ and His work. During the Sunday School hour he dropped by the adult Sunday School class and gave a lengthy presentation about why that Church was starting a Small Group Ministry.

*At a Jericho Partnership event I talked with a Bishop of the ELCA. Our conversation turned to the health of the Church today, and she said that if our Churches want to grow they'll have to get involved with Word and Prayer.

WJH continued page 2

WJH continued...

I've already said that many have decided to revitalize the Mainline Churches. It's interesting to note that a growing chorus is also saying the same thing: Word and Prayer, Small Groups.

The point of these things is that they are the way God works among His people. It's not about another clever "program" with a catchy slogan. Instead, God has promised that when His Word is active among a group of people, then well-being, "shalom," will come to that people. He also earnestly desires our prayers, hears and answers them. And He loves to see His people experience a sense of community and support.

Notice: no one is saying "do this, it works," in a mechanical way. But if we do these things with both head and heart, with true searching for God and His will, then they are indeed the things "that work."

Long ago, with the nation of Israel in mind, God asked the prophet Ezekiel: "Son of man, can these bones live?" Ezekiel wasn't sure what to say, and so he answered, "O Lord, You alone know." And so God gave the answer He always gives: "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord!'" In Ezekiel's day, they did listen, and they did experience revival.

Put me and Pastor Joel in the camp that sees a life of shalom for the Mainline Church, if we allow God's Word to do its work.



JEC

How is your devotional life going these days? I will be the first to admit that it is hard to set aside time to read the Bible daily and have time for prayer. It means that something else must be sacrificed. Yet, it is also the only way to keep growing in our relationship with God. If you are like me, your schedule is already filled to the brim and the first temptation is usually to make cuts when it comes to God. It is easier to cut time with God, because He doesn't seem to complain about it as much as our boss, our family, or our close friends. Yet, God does suffer and we too suffer when we neglect being in the Bible and prayer with God. It is during that time that God communicates to us through His Holy Spirit. The Bible describes that our relationship with God should be as intimate as a marriage. *"For your Maker is your husband- the Lord Almighty is His name- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth (Is. 54:5)."* Wow, that means the God of the universe wants to be an important part of your life!

You will notice that as a married couple grows older, they become more and more like each other, for better or worse! They know each other's thoughts and can even finish each other's sentences. When I was on vicarage in Michigan, I often visited an older couple. They both had strokes, but it affected them in different ways. He couldn't talk and she couldn't walk. She often translated for me and he would make sure that she could get around. Together, they were complete! This is a beautiful picture of the kind of relationship that God wants to have with us. When we look over our walk with God, are we growing closer and closer to Him through our devotional life, are we stagnant, or are we growing further away? The more time that we spend in God's Word and prayer, the more God's Spirit conforms us to Himself and the more we become like Him.

1 John 2:6 says, *"Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did."* The more we spend with God and live with Him in our lives, the more and more Christ-Centered we will see ourselves becoming. Make the sacrifice and take the time to build your relationship with God daily. It's the greatest sacrifice you will ever make. Spend enough time with Him and He will change your life; your desires, your priorities, your values, and your joy. Don't settle! God loves you enough to meet you where 'you're at', but also cares enough about you to take you places you have never been.

Can You Help?

Donate Used CD Players to our shut-in ministry. They need to have speakers and work properly.



IMMANUEL'S BUSINESS

As summer approaches the business of Immanuel once again shifts to matters of current fiscal year *vis a vis* projections for next fiscal year, combined with seasonal facilities maintenance and improvements. As of yesterday's (May 15th) Voter's Assembly, I am happy to report that all systems are go with the Voter's passing both a relatively aggressive budget and an ambitious Sanctuary improvement plan. Both plans were received favorably and passed without a single dissenting vote although the design for the colorful stained glass window did garner far more applause than the black and white budget. Please note we are projecting the budget to again be in the black thanks to the good stewards of Immanuel. Kudos in particular to those submitting pledges this spring which make accurate forecasting a possibility and are a big help to the budget and finance committees. We thank you for your support.

Scheduling wise, our facilities should be bustling this summer with the Sanctuary project slated to begin as soon as ILS lets out and proceeding throughout the season both before and after VBS. Combined with the usual walls, halls, floors, and doors there is much to be done and volunteer opportunities abound. To volunteer please contact the Church Office or the Trustees, thank you. Also, please check the enclosed calendars or the website for dates and times of such something-for-everyone events as the Danbury Brass Band concert and the giant WSO tag sale and we'll see you around the campus.

In His Service,
Bill Hunt, Business & Facilities Manager



Dear Friends and Members of Immanuel:

First off, I'd like to thank everyone who attended the recent Voters meeting. We were presented with a lot of good information showing how we are being good stewards with what God has entrusted us with, not only from a financial perspective but also our time and talents. We heard and are thankful that Immanuel's small group ministry is exceeding expectations with the Holy Spirit active in many members, leading them to step forward and start new groups. We were encouraged to hear that funding for the State of Connecticut to purchase our two downtown properties is before the Governor for his approval. If approved, this would be one significant step forward in realizing our dream of building a family life center. We saw and heard of many needed upgrades that will be made in the coming months to our Sanctuary, which will be great to see.

Looking forward, there continues to be a lot of work to do. Many of you may have noticed the high number of visitors coming to Immanuel, at a minimum at the 10:45 which I usually attend with my family. We must be doing something right in attracting so many visitors. Now of course the bigger task is retaining those visitors for which we all have responsibility. Greet them and engage them. Invite them to one of the many small groups. If you see them a second Sunday, make a point of greeting them again. I'd like to start working in Council and with the Pastors in developing an assimilation program, but the front line is your interaction with any visitor, as we work in "Making Disciples".

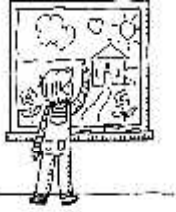
Council meets again on the second Tuesday in August. As always, if you have any concerns or issues that you'd like to discuss, I'd like to hear from you.

In Christ,



Field of Flags Note

This memorial display will be at Immanuel though through June 14th (Flag Day). This is an extension of the original time frame we were given. Take down is a two -day process and will begin on June 15th at 9 am. As part of this tribute to our fallen troops, please help us clean the flags and ready them for drying and transport to the next exhibit. Let Adele Tarlton (860-210-1742) know if you are able to help.



Immanuel Lutheran School News ...

- The anticipated school year ending enrollment for K-8 is 86, full day PK - 10, and ½ Day PK - 17.
- The new full day PK maxed out at an enrollment of 10 students this year.
- The departmentalized Middle School has been quite successful this year. This program will help students be better prepared for high school.
- Our current 8th grade students plan to attend the following high schools: 2 - DHS, 2 - Henry Abbott, 1 - Wooster, 1 - Immaculate
- Elizabeth Brose, PK teacher, was officially installed as a called teacher in March 2011.
- Our MS science teacher, Carol Ann Lutz, is currently enrolled in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) training program. She will begin training and mentoring classroom teachers in the lower grades starting next fall.
- Emily Napp, 4th grade, returned from her maternity leave in February.
- Joanne Archibald resigned from her school music teacher duties in December. Lauren Larson replaced her in January of this year.
- We recognized two of our teachers that have been teaching at Immanuel for over 10 years. We presented Sylvia Person and Vickie Baker with certificates of appreciation and gift cards for their hard work and dedication throughout the years.
- Student scores on the Iowa tests (standardized testing) were in the 90th% for grades 2-8. This means our students scored higher than 90% of schools nationally.
- We introduced a new mathematics program, “*enVisions*” this year. Student math scores and skill levels have already shown significant improvement.
- Teachers have embarked on a year-long curriculum review. Teachers have mapped all programs and are currently working to align the curriculum to the newly instituted Core Curriculum State Standards (CCSS) which will take effect in the 2013-14 school year.
- Our PTL board changed in the 2010-11 school year. President-Marianne Gannon, VP- Elmer Palma, Treasurer- Bonnie Dice, Secretary- Amy Santoro. They are bringing in many new ideas for the upcoming year. Church members are reminded that they may join the PTL and do not need to have a child in the school.
- Thank you to the many supporters of the PTL Family Nights Out throughout the school year. They look to continue this next year.
- The Middle School hosted its first (and hopefully annual) Oktoberfest in November. About 100 people came out to enjoy traditional German food, music, and fellowship. Thanks for your support!
- Due to the numerous snow days this year, ILS does have to make up some days. The final day of school is now June 17.
- Students continue to support the community in a number of ways. Some examples are: Veterans Day Assembly, monthly chapel offerings, collecting change for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (\$2,000), and donating items to the local food pantry.
- ILS celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week in March. The theme for the year was “Securing Each Child’s Future-Making Disciples.” Students participated in many fun activities and completed a number of service projects throughout the week.
- The annual Education Fair took place the weekend of May 13-15. Students presented samples of their work from throughout the year.
- Upcoming dates to remember:
 - o PTL Movie Night - 6/3 6:30pm
 - o 8th Grade Graduation - 6/10 6:00pm
 - o Pre-K Graduation - 6/16 7:00pm
 - o Last day of school I- 6/17
 - o Open House - 6/18 9am-12pm

In Christ’s Service,

Nate Palkewick, Principal

2nd Grade Goes Around The World With Flat Stanley



Second grade has been busy finishing their Social Studies project that is based on the book Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown. This project connects Social Studies, reading, writing, cultures from all over the world and the students have even been working on this project with Mrs. Lutz in computers! In the book the character Stanley is flattened by a bulletin board and learns he now has many advantages such as flying like a kite, helping people solve problems, and traveling in an envelop to different places.

Our project began with the 2nd graders hearing the story and then the students made their own Stanley to take home for a week. The students kept a journal of all the fun and exciting things they did with him. Next we mailed out our own Flat Stanley's to family and friends around the world! While we waited to get some mail from Stanley the students learned all about the different regions of the United States, and the different countries and continents. We have received mail from all over the world and have loved learning about these new places! Some places Stanley has visited are Australia, Taiwan, California, Canada, Thailand, Ireland, Florida, South Africa, Italy, Oregon and Hawaii and North Carolina!

Here are some things 2nd grade loves about the project so far:

Jolene: I learned about Washington, DC because I sent one of my Stanley's there. I can't wait till the other ones come.

Andrew: I liked sending Stanley to my best friend that moved away!

Maxwell: Stanley and I went to the movies!

Alexis: Stanley is super duper flat and can be a kite!

Joseph: I liked when we open the Flat Stanley's and Jack's Flat Stanley had clothes on!

Jack: Stanley went to Vermont to visit my Grandmom and Grandpop, and he went ice fishing, skiing, snowmobiling and ice skating!

Alex: Stanley plays what I like best.

Sasha: What I really liked was when we got to see Stanley visiting the temple built on water in Thailand!

Kathleen: If you send Stanley somewhere you can know more about that place!

Luke: My favorite part is sending Stanley places!

Eden: I liked how Stanley went skiing in the boot with Jack's Grandmom!

Dionie: I liked in the book when Stanley caught the snake thieves!

Leo: I liked hanging out with Stanley and sending him places!

Evan: My favorite part was mailing Stanley!

Yvonne: My favorite part is when Stanley came to Jamaica with me!

Matthew: I like that Stanley stayed with me when I took him home for the week.



Katherine Marino, Teacher



Hello from Preschool !

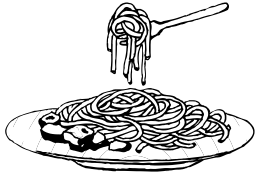
We had a lot of fun learning about the farm, plants, and healthy foods for the Education Fair. We had carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, squash, marigolds, and beans growing in our rooms. There were crafted rabbits, cows, pigs, horse, sheep and even a real chicken came to visit. She even laid an egg an hour before the Ed Fair started. We had also enjoyed watching our caterpillars since returning from Spring Break. The Lord watched over them for us and they all emerged from their chrysalis as beautiful Painted Lady butterflies by the morning of the Education Fair. Everyone enjoyed tasting the wheat bread that had been baked like the bread baked by the Little Red Hen in stories we had been reading. The week after the Education Fair we will be able to go to New Pond Farm in West Redding and experience a real farm. We will get to make beeswax candles after observing the bee hive on the farm. What a wonderful way to enjoy God's wonders of nature firsthand.

It is hard to believe that the 2010-2011 school year is ending. June 16, 2011 will be the Graduation Celebration for the Full and Half Day Four Year Old PreK classes. The students have been learning and growing this year and are prepared for so many more exciting things in the future. They have made terrific friends and have become more familiar with their special best friend, Jesus. Congratulations to Jackson Amos, Allie Black, Sarah Bollacke, Arlan Edwards, Natalia Feliciano, Anthony Fernandez, William Gray, Hemtej Gundra, Jenna Haitisch, Sarina Johnson, Anselm Juan, Rebecca McCormack, Ella Orgera, Sarah Palmer, Kayden Riley, Nick Santoro, Nicholas Shankey, Gustavo Toledo, Jordan West, and Zachary West for a job well done and a great PreK year!

Elizabeth Brose and Sylvia Person, Teachers

News from the Middle School

By Vickie Baker



Here we are in May —where has the year gone?? Can you believe that another school year is almost over? We have had quite a year and have been super busy. One of our favorites was when we participated in Pasta for Pennies, raising about \$2000 for our school. The middle school students raised the most money, so we received a pasta lunch from the Olive Garden which included two types of pasta and sauce, those yummy bread sticks, and huge salad bowls. Now that was a high point —middle schoolers and food is always good!!

As I write this article, many of the middle school students are preparing for a trip to Space Camp in Montreal for a few days with Mr. Palkewick, Pastor Joel, and some parents. They will be busy doing various space like activities including a G-force simulator. Can't wait to hear how that works out for them. Some of the students will be staying back and will be completing a mini-unit about the Titanic. We are even going to compare the Titanic to Noah's ark. Let's see what we see about that. Watch for a bulletin board about it up-stairs. Those who are staying back will also be helping out next week with setting up for the Field of Flags.

A special thanks to the church members who came to our annual Education Fair or who walked around after this past weekend's services. The students work so very hard, and are so proud of their work. It really means a lot to them knowing that their work has been seen by so many of you. As always, thanks so much for making ILS one of your missions of the church.

Greetings from the Immanuel Lutheran School PTL ...

We continue to see our church members at the PTL Dinner Nights out, and we are thankful for the constant support that church members continue to give. The Dinner Nights Out have been a big success this year. A big thank you to Caroline Calabrese-Gavay for coordinating this! With the support of church and school families the are the Dinner Night Out totals:

Chuck E. Cheese 2010-2011: \$153.00
Mannen Japanese & Chinese Cuisine 2010-2011: \$250.00
Elmer's Diner 2010-2011: \$153.00

Other Fundraising news:

Square One Art Fundraising – our "Wall of Art" was unveiled at the Evening of the Arts on 5/24/11. Thank you so much to everyone who purchased tiles – we are so excited to see how the wall turns out! Dennis Ruopp is helping us with the installation of our "Great Wall of Art" ...many thanks to Dennis!

Did you know that Immanuel Lutheran School collects Box Tops?

Please check around your home to see if you have any. They really add up! The school has earned \$498 this year through this program. Another \$119 in Box Tops has already been submitted to be credited next school year. Thank you to everyone for clipping, and a big thank you to Kelly McCormack for coordinating this program!

As the end of the school year approaches the PTL has a few events left on the calendar. Keep in mind that all church members are always invited to participate in ALL PTL events

Movie Night, Friday June 3rd @ 6:30pm (Movie up for Vote) A movie will be shown in the cafeteria come in your pajamas and bring your sleeping bag and a friend. Popcorn and water are provided and there will be "Pizza" available for purchase.

Monday, June 6th from 11:00am till 2:00pm FUN/FIELD Day! Every year the PTL puts on a Fun day to celebrate the school year coming to an end. This year the PTL would like to gear towards more of a "Field Day" type of event.

Wednesday, June 8th at 7:30am is Honor Roll Breakfast. The PTL provides breakfast to children who have made the honor roll during the school year. Honor roll children are recognized also with a certificate and trophy. Student and family are invited to the breakfast.

Also at **Muffins with Mom** (see next page) the *Zumba* Small Group here at Immanuel Lutheran Church awarded one very luck Mom ,Gerry Ritacco ,mother of Lauren Ritacco (5th grade) with 6 weeks of *Zumba* (\$60 value, courtesy of the Lathrop School of Dance. Tickets were handed out at the door and one was pulled from a basket to determine the winner. *Zumba* is held at the cafeteria on Mondays from 7:00pm - 7:45pm.

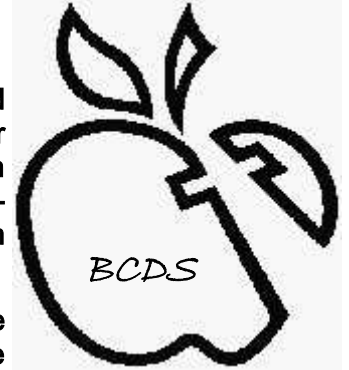
Heartfelt regards,

Marianne Gannon, PTL President



PTL Thank you page/photos

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL



- Enrollment:** Enrollment for the 2011-2012 School Year is projected to meet and potentially exceed budgetary and the Board's Goals, but still far below historical or capacity levels. Surveys were conducted with exiting families and church families not enrolled - there are a myriad of factors affecting their decisions – moving, busing, no gym space, finances.
- Staffing:** Staff changes will occur due to budgetary and performance strengths. The BCDS is pleased with Principal, Mr. Nate Palkewick, and the staff, but still challenge them to seek higher professional and spiritual goals. We continue to work toward developing a staff which mirrors the missions of Immanuel Lutheran Church and LCMS.
- Facilities:** The Church and School campus has served us well this year. We have adapted from Foster Street and a majority of our students and families now know us only in our current location. The huge drawback continues to be no gymnasium/auditorium. Events such as Pastabilities, is limited due to insufficient dinner seating and the sanctuary is transformed into a stage setting.
- Budget:** All efforts have been made to meet budget income and expenses. We will continue to focus on growth and income potential from additional students. Additional income above budget should be earmarked for pay raises. Our staff salary scale is woefully below standards and our goal.

The BCDS has been active to remedy and act on the causes. We have increased incentives to current families to stay and attract new families. We will continue to explore advertising mediums and make recommendations to leadership. ILS staff has been asked to make marketing part of their professional duties and several have responded. The BCDS is surveying families to determine where best to allocate resources to affect growth.

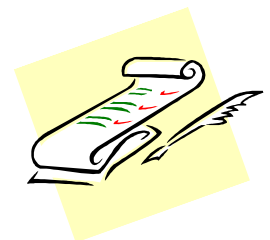
- Activities:** 8th Grade Graduation, Friday, June 10th at 6PM
Pre-K Graduation, Thursday, June 16th at 7PM
Last Day of the 2010-2011 School Year Friday, June 17th
Open House Opportunity: Saturday, June 18th 9:00 AM to 12 Noon

BCDS Goals Statement 2011-2012

1. Maintain an average growth of 5% student enrollment to a max enrollment of 162, K-8.
2. Replace 25% of all CPUs every year.
3. Increase Full-Time Homeroom teacher salaries to 75% of Danbury Public School Scale.

In Christ,
Joel Wardenburg, BCDS Chair.

ILS ALUMINI NEWS: The BCDS has initiated an attempt to update the Alumni list of Immanuel Lutheran School. The project is larger than the BCDS can handle alone. We may need your help to let alumni know what is happening at ILS, find out what they are doing while encouraging them to remain steadfast in the faith. A few of Immanuel's members have already contributed the contact information for their family members. If you can help us, please leave a note in the BCDS mailbox at the back of the sanctuary. And if you are a Facebook fan, start reaching out to our former ILS' ers !!

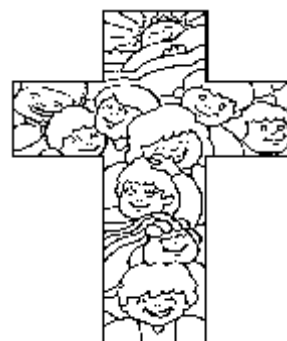


Margaret Schneider
BCDS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastabilities on March 19th was another huge success! This annual talent collaboration between Immanuel's Sunday School and Day School students is always a good time. Results were:

- Winner: Rachel Prince
- 2nd Place: Julie Wang
- 3rd Place tie: Dina Cui and The Jail Birds
- 4th Place: Dynamite



Sunday School students have been singing during the 10:45 worship service. Third to sixth graders sang in March; Nursery to 2nd grade sang on Mother's Day. Thanks to Deanne Schultz for coordinating this!

Day.

Sunday School attendance awards were distributed at the end-of-the-year pancake breakfast on May 22nd. Those receiving an award for attendance in 25 week increments were:

25 weeks	50 Weeks	75 Weeks	125 weeks	175 weeks	350 weeks
Joshua Bowen	David Bond	Jennifer Grant	Maisie Gordon	Rebecca Harkopf	Abbey Walter
Olivia Schulz	Haley Merrill	Dominique Harrison	Audrey Marr	Jennifer Roos	
Aaron Trammel			Ella Wiegand	Bailey Wagner	

WANTED: A new Superintendent for the Sunday School program. We will be stepping down as of June 12th. The ideal situation would be one Superintendent with the time and versatility to effectively run the entire program. Responsibilities include: Curriculum review and selection; staff recruitment and support; research and selection of missions for offerings; parent communication; attendance at and participation in Church Council meetings; liaison between program and congregation. Are *you* that person?

WANTED: Two individuals willing to teach Sunday School for the 12 weeks of the summer program (June 19th to September 4th). This will allow for the division of students into two more age-appropriate groupings. Accommodations can be made for any weeks teachers would be on vacation.

WANTED: An additional teacher for the 1st/2nd grade class. They are a fairly large group. An extra pair of hands as well as someone to share teaching duties with would be very much appreciated.

We have enjoyed our tenure as Superintendent/Co-superintendent very much! We want to thank everyone we've worked with for their support, dedication, encouragement, and prayers! Best of luck to the new leadership in this vital program.

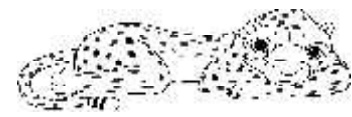
God's richest blessings.....Debbie and Janet

Vacation Bible School

July 11 – 15, 2011

9 a.m. – 12 noon

Come join us for a BIG Jungle Adventure, a faith journey with Jesus! We will be learning *"The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen."* 2 Tim. 4:18. Please pray for the leaders and the children. Watch for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex and many opportunities to help...painting, supplies, donations, etc. We are looking forward to another exciting VBS with your children! If you have any questions, please call Renee' Harper 203-743-0481 or Twyla Walter 203-438-0818.



Registration forms are included in this issue of the Voice; please complete one form per child registered and return forms to the church office.....



The best thing the Board of Lay Ministry is doing is the shut in visits. We continue to go out once each month and bring communion to those unable to make it to church. An addition to our care of our members is Pastor is encouraging all members of the board to make two phone calls a week. These are phone calls to any member that has had a good thing happen such as a birthday or a new baby. These are phone calls to people that have had a prayer concern such as an illness. We have a large church but if everyone reaches out to those they know we feel we can better minister to each other.

The next confirmation class is about to be confirmed so our board is getting ready. One thing we do every year is host a reception for the confirmation families on the Thursday night of the questioning service.

The Board of Lay Ministry is charged with reviewing the pastors, the music minister and the office staff. We are currently working on the pastors and the office manager position. The office manager has a very broad and varied job description and it seems to grow every time we have a new need, so we want to look at that. The pastors also perform a wide range of duties. Pastor Harper has given the board some information on how churches of different sizes function and it has been interesting to consider what we want the pastors to do in our size congregation.

Looking forward we have in the past two years had a service day of work each fall. I expect you will hear more of that as we get closer to September.

Respectfully submitted

Mark A Walter

Confirmation Sunday is
June 12th

The Rite of Confirmation and Recognition of
Confirmation Anniversaries
will be
Celebrated at the 10:45 am service

The Confirmation Class of 2011

Gabriel Bowen
Olivia Fahr
Jamie Gherna
Kaylee Hancock
Leslie Huinker
Katie Keller
Joe Leo
Devin Menge
Eilish Nobes
Lindsay Scholten
Kayleen Walter

*To the Confirmation Class of 2011 and
all who are remembering
special Confirmation anniversaries,
whether confirmed at Immanuel or
elsewhere, may you always be
renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit,
remain faithful
in hearing Christ's Word, and
find joy and comfort in Him.*



This years' stewardship campaign saw 61 members pledging \$265,000 in support. I would like to send thanks out to everyone who participated in this campaign. If you have not as yet made your pledge, we would like to encourage you to join us in your commitment to Gods' work here at Immanuel. For next years' Celebration Luncheon, stewardship would like to bring back the Pot Luck supper. Please stayed tuned for more information as to time date and location for this event. We look forward to all the good food that Lutherans' make!

Also stay tuned for opportunities to become involved in short term mission projects in the Danbury community. Dates and times for these events to follow.

Yours in Christ ~ TJ Keller



Board of Missions & Evangelism

Greetings Immanuel -

One of our goals is to keep the Congregation informed of the missions which Immanuel supports. Listed below is a list of the missions your tithes help support.

1. **Hope for the Children of Haiti** \$ 2,512.87
 Hope for the Children of Haiti supports a home and school for the orphaned boys and girls of Haiti. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti makes this work even more important than it was in the past.

2. **Real Hope for Haiti** \$ 1,005.15

3. **Voice of the Martyrs** \$ 1,005.15
 VOC serves Christians in countries where they face persecution. They provide medical assistance, Bibles and legal counsel.

4. **Open Doors, USA** \$ 1,005.15
 Open Doors provide support and help to persecuted Christians who have no where else to turn. This includes Egypt, the Arabian Peninsula, Maldives, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Bangladesh, Laos, Nepal, Vietnam and the Sudan.

5. **Lutheran Bible Translators**
 All LBT translators must raise their own support. Without congregations such as Immanuel and interested individuals, the important work of translating the Bible into the heart language of people would not take place.
 - a. John Strassen \$1,507.72
 Mr. Strassen recently completed the Dhimba Translation for the people of Namibia. He worked in an isolated area that would have been very difficult for many missionaries. He is waiting a new assignment.

 - b. LBT's work of recruiting and training new Bible translators. Because it takes two years to prepare for being a translator, the start-up costs of preparing a translator before they arrive on the field, LBT relies on contributions. \$1507.72

6. **Papua New Guinea** \$2,010.30
 Currently Julie Lutz is continuing the work of the late Dr. Stephen Lutz in Papua New Guinea. LCMS missionaries must now raise their own support. For this reason it is critical that Immanuel continue to support individual missionaries.

7. **Capstone Ministries, Kenya** \$1,507.72
 Dan and Patty Schmelzer work with street boys in Kenya who for various reasons are not with their families. This unique ministry provides spiritual, emotional and education support to the boys with the intentional goal that they return to their families.

8. **Concordia College, Bronxville** \$2,001.30
 Immanuel is a member of the East Coast Association of Churches that supports Concordia, the only LCMS institution of Higher Learning on the East Coast.

(Continued on page 12)

(Missions continued from page 11)

9. Lutheran Social Services of New England \$1,005.15

LSS of New England supports homes for the elderly, refugee resettlement and Supports services for troubled youth. LCMS congregations can designate where they desire money to be used.

10. Jericho Partnership, Danbury \$2,512.87

This ministry is the cooperative effort of Christian Churches in Danbury working toward being a visible Christian life changing presence in Danbury.

11. HOPE Seeds \$1,507.72

HOPE Seeds is a recognized service organization of the LCMS that provides seed, small gardening equipment and agricultural know how to people throughout the world who lack the means to grow their own food. They provide seed packets in 13 countries working with 28 Christian ministries. Each family seed packets contain 10 vegetable seeds appropriate for their particular climate and country.

12. Bethesda Hospital, India \$1,507.72

Bethesda is the oldest and primary medical mission of our partner church in India, the India Evangelical Church. Bethesda is in a poor community and serves people who have little or nothing to pay for medical care. The hospital provides acute care as well as many walk in clinics.

13. The New England District of the LCMS \$25,128.71

The NE District is the major recipient of contributions to Christian mission and ministry beyond Immanuel. The District depends on congregations to sustain the continued presence of the LCMS in New England. The District forwards a portion of this to the LCMS headquarters in St. Louis.

14. Children's Christian Concern Society \$1,507.72

The mission of CCS is to "Share Jesus with children through Christian Education and working to release children from poverty." Currently CCCS, a recognized service organization of the LCMS works in Bangladesh, Thailand, Cambodia, Paraguay, Bolivia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guinea, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Haiti, and Bethlehem in Palestine.

15. Immanuel Lutheran School Tuition Assistance \$3,015.45

16. Matthew Hass, Japan

Matt Hass has been a volunteer in Japan. This particular youth volunteer ministry has been terminated by the LCMS. Matt will be returning to the USA in May and will seek employment, probably in Wisconsin, for a year before attending seminary.

These missions are supported by Immanuel in 2011. We are a blessed congregation which the Lord is using to help others. Remain faithful to your commitment and pray for God's protection upon our congregation so we can continue to share our tithes with these people who are doing God's work.

God's Blessings to you and your family.

Twyla Walter

A Gentle REMINDER ...

If you or a family member will be admitted to the hospital, rehabilitation center or nursing home for any reason please let us know in the church office. We would love to know how you're doing, but we need to be notified. Thank you.

God's Blessings ~ Pastor Walt and Pastor Joel



The Boards of Immanuel have set goals to help guide our projects through the year and I'd like to share the goals for your Board of Trustees:

- **Provide services for and assisting in developing maintenance, repair and replacement plan for the facilities of ILC&S in order to provide a God pleasing house in which we can grow spiritually.**
- **Continue to provide fellowship opportunities for ILC&S family members through service projects around our campus.**
- **Work with Immanuel's Building Committee to assist with the Family Life Center Project as the Holy Spirit continues to grow ILC&S family.**



We will need your help, or rather your eyes; to help meet our goals and insure we don't miss any needed repairs. Please take a few moments to note what needs attention in our building and drop it in the Trustees mail slot in the white mailbox to the right of the sanctuary as you leave worship. Regardless of how minor you may think a repair is, drop us a note to let us know what needs attention. Please leave your name and contact info if we have any questions.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that all are welcome to help out at Immanuel's quarterly Clean-up/ Fix-up Days and the Trustee's monthly workday. One Saturday during the spring, fall and winter months are set aside to do seasonal items around our campus and cemetery. Your Trustees meet on the first Saturday of the month starting at 8:30 AM till about 1:00 PM to do various repair/ maintenance projects; feel free to drop in unannounced if you find yourself with a desire to help out around your church home! During the summer break we tackle larger projects and there are various days and/or evenings that you can help out. Please contact me (203-792-7558) if you are interested in having a bit of fun while keeping our church home up so all will be proud to invite friends and those in need to hear about what we share- Christ's Love!

In Service to our Risen Lord,

Dennis Ruopp
Chairperson, Trustees

MEN'S
NETWORK
www.lhmmen.com

High fives to all the bracketologists who joined our March Madness competition and a double high ten to our winner, Joel "Homer" Wardenburg, for being the one and only to stick with the UCONN Huskies all the way, good job! Rather than wait for the NFL to open up we're going to try a couple more hands on challenges this summer. Are you ready for some BOCCE!!! and maybe horseshoes Thurs. June 23? We'll set up a couple of grills and coolers backyard style behind the school and invite all the men of Immanuel (guests welcome, no ringers please) to come on down. The idea is to get as many guys from the different men's small groups all together at the same time and place along with anyone else who would like to join in a good old time Men's Club event. Please save the date - Thurs. June 23 from 6/6:30 - 9. Rain date June 30. Possible July & August dates as well, plus the baseball trip to Baltimore! Please RSVP to me at bill.hunt@immanueldanbury.org or (203)748-3320.

Bill Hunt

**WOMEN'S
SERVICE
ORGANIZATION**



WOMEN'S SERVICE ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES 45 YEARS

We will be celebrating 45 years since our inception as a women's group here at Immanuel. In 1966, the idea of a nightly meeting appealed to many working and stay at home women, so Alice Voss got a group together and thus began W.S.O. We joined the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and have participated in zone, district, and international events since that time. Our focus has been "Serving our Savior" here in Danbury and around the world through "mite box" offerings and mission projects.

Our celebration dinner will be at **The Hearth** in Brookfield on Tuesday, **June 21, 2011** beginning at 6:30pm. Our guest speaker will be **Rev. Bill Meyer**.

We are inviting any of Immanuel's members who have helped us in any way over the years. If you have kept in touch with those who have moved away, please invite them to come or have them send a note with their memories of time spent in W.S.O.

RSVP: to Sylvia Finger by placing your reservation in the W.S.O. box in the back of the church or calling her at: 845-279-3467 by **June 12**.

Name: _____

Menu Selection: _____

Attach your check made out to W.S.O. _____

You're Phone Number: _____

Choices:	Stuffed Chicken Breast	\$21.00	Entrée includes:	Fruit Cup w/sherbet or Soup
	Baked Scrod	\$22.50		Hearth Bread & Butter
	Stuffed Shrimp	\$24.50		Salad
	Prime Rib	\$26.00		Baked Potato
				Mixed Vegetables
				Coffee/tea & Dessert

****Tax and Tip Included****

TAG SALE ----- FRIDAY-JULY 29, 2011 -----3PM-7PM
SATURDAY- JULY 30, 2011 ----- 9AM- 2PM (see flyer on inside cover)

MITES - The collection since the last Voice was \$80.54.

Reminder: Food Pantry needs food all summer long .

No meeting in August.

The next WSO meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at 7:30 pm in the Upper Room.

Previous Business / Accomplishments / Events



Board of Youth

- The youth room recycled can / bottle collection is indefinitely suspended. Since mid-January 2011 two batches was returned and \$55 was redeemed.
- In January due to weather, The New England District LCMS Youth Lock-in was postponed and later cancelled by the NED organizing team.
- In February, Sixteen of our Youth and Parents enjoyed an “Open Skate” at the Danbury Ice Rink.
- In March, ~8 Sr. Youth, two parents and two LYF Board members attended the Movie – DaVinci Code / Taco Bell night at Pastor Walt’s parsonage.
- Lenten Activities - The LYF board via email messages and verbally, placed the emphasis on the meaning of Lent and encouraged attendance by all children and parents for the weekly Lenten Vesper Services more than emphasizing the Soup & Salad fundraiser. Not sure what the impact of our message actually was as far as youth attendance but we averaged a consistent 45 for fellowship each week, and S&S LYF donations were up, and it was our perception that church attendance appeared to be (*no hard data was gathered*) steady and slightly higher for “all” the previous 6 weeks than in years past for the Lenten season?
- Lenten Soup & Salad - Special recognition for Kimmy Barrett, Nick & Joe Leo, Evan & Kayla Sinitsky, Joe Harper, Abbey & Christian Walter, Andy and Andrea Stock for participating in the set-up/serving and clean-up multiple weeks during the Lenten Season.
- Lenten Soup & Salad – Special thanks to all those who donated Soups & Desserts... Walters family, Lutz family, Sinitsky family, WSO, Kurt Habeck, Harper family, Haidar family, Gannon family, Sherwood family, Barrett family, Ed & Linda Stock families. (my apology upfront if I missed anyone all efforts were much appreciated)
- ILC LYF will not be participating in the Maryland Mission Trip in July 2011. As board members we got a late start in the planning and once we were able to get the appropriate information etc the youth that had expressed interest had made other commitments that would conflict with the trip. Inasmuch, we have the info for next year and will push to attend this useful and important Mission trip in 2012.
- A special thank you to Marianne Gannon for the renewed effort and upkeep of the LYF Bulletin Board for Events Calendar and Publicity of Youth Events held and future events for congregation to view in the Narthex area.
- April 24th, 2011 -Easter Breakfast - in ILS Café between 8am & 10:45 am Easter Sunday Services. LYF Sponsored. (Joanie Sherwood & Carolyn Barrett coordinating)
- May 13th, 2011 - NE District Retreat - We had four ILC youth participating and one adult volunteer attending. Cost etc per person is \$135. (\$35 subsidy is budgeted for each youth attendee by the LYF Board and the adult expense’s are covered by the Board) (please note there is a Calendar conflict with the ILS Ed fair and Track Meet this weekend) (Art Stock – Dean Hollrah coordinating)
- May 20th - Christian Concert Series at Palace Theater Danbury – (Jayson Sherwood Coordinator)

(Youth - Continued on page 16)

Future Events

- June 2011 – Joint Mission project for ILC LYF / Jericho Partnership to collect basic essentials (toiletries etc...) for those in need at the Jericho shelters. (Carolyn Barrett - coordinating)
- June 2011 – Mini-Golf and Barbecue at RW's barbecue on Rte 7 Brookfield date and time to be announced. – Art Stock / Jayson Sherwood coordinating
- Fall Season - the traditional Meadow Farms (a.k.a. -Joe Corbi) Pizza etc... sales fundraiser was postponed from the Spring (finding new vendor) and we expect to rollout a new fundraiser for the fall / winter. (Joan Sherwood – coordinating)
- Fall Season - Plan and execute adopt a Shut-in Visitation Program. Two kids from each age group will be matched to an appropriate shut-in visitor(s) based on our most current list of shut-ins twice per year. (Carolyn Barrett coordinating)
- Fall 2011 or Spring 2012 - LYF Fundraiser Golf Outing or Tournament.
A. Stock getting details for feasibility of running an event similar but not as high level \$\$\$ as the "Driving Fore the Dream" efforts in the past. Profits into the LYF account to possibly have the Board sponsor an entire Quality Fellowship Event TBD. Also, provide funding for the National Youth Gathering.

In HIS Service,
Art Stock – Chair Bd. of Youth



Thank You to everyone who made the College Care Packages possible! We sent out 11 care packages with homemade cookies during Finals Week.

New Sunday Morning Bible Study begins June 19 for college students and young adults. It will be held during the 9:30 am Bible Study hour and will run through the end of the Summer.

Fellowship Dinners are great opportunities to connect with young adults in our church through food and games. They are held monthly, so check the bulletin for dates and times.

Community Coffee House is a new ministry that we have partnered with. There are 2-3 concerts each month for you to hear good music, meet other young Christians, and enjoy some good coffee.

No Summer Bible Study: There will be no Wednesday night Bible study during the summer, but we will begin a new series in the Fall. It will begin September 14 and run for 11 weeks until Advent begins.

Liked A Sermon? Listen To It Again!

Sermons on iTunes can be listened to by searching under podcast, "Immanuel Lutheran Church Danbury".

Can You Help?

Donate Used CD Players to our shut-in ministry. They need to have speakers and work properly.



Tyler Christian Madyda
son of John & Crystal (Benson) Madyda
Born May 6

Mia Rose Thoennesen
Daughter of Kurt & Andrea (Behling) Thoennesen
Born May 13



Brooke H. Guinyard
Daughter of Jahmal & Danielle (Graham)
Guinyard
Baptized May 1

ADULT BAPTISM

Jahmal Guinyard
Baptized May 1

JOINED THE CHURCH



Henry Fitze
Died February 24

Marion B. (Schoen) Bingham
Died February 28

John Harold Senior
Died March 26

Marie Davis
March 22

Irene M. Loorman
Died March 29

Eleanor Bowlby
Died May 12



Anniversaries

Shirley & Fred Vitale
40 years on June 12

Weldon & Gladys Donsbach
65 years on June 19

Michael & Kara Dogali
1 year on July 3

Lance & Rebecca Wallin
10 years on July 7

Kyle & Grace Carpenter
1 year on July 10

Kenneth & RuthAnn Malchisky
10 years on July 11

Mark & Maria Schweitzer
10 years on July 21

Karl & Brenda Wagner
15 years on July 27

Brien & Kim Merrill
10 years on July 28

Gary & Charlene Thomas
50 years on August 25

A word of thanks to all at Immanuel who offered support, prayers and memorial donations following the loss of Jack. Words cannot express how comforting your actions were at this time of loss for our family.

Gratefully,
Thea Senior and family





In loving memory of **Werner Janssen**
Eileen Bailey
Sam & Jeri Surovy
Elaine & Jack Schweitzer

In loving memory of **Ruthann Haitsh**
Dick Haitsh

In loving memory of **Irene Loorman**
Eileen Bailey
Evie Caprio
WSO
Fred Ruopp
Mary Ann Frede
Margaret Bjurback
Pat Toefer
Linda Dawson

In loving memory of **John H. Senior**
Dick Haitsh
Gladys Ivansco
Sam & Jeri Surovy
Claude & Ellen Silkman
Richard Schulz
Joanne Gregory
Dr. Allen Inankur
Kurt & Priscilla Behling
Connie Jennings
Adele & Tary Tarlton
Eileen Bailey
Joseph & Linda DaSilva
Eileen & Ken Post
Ruth-Ellen Nuno
Joan Stietzel
Ethel & Steve Omasta
Jan Bieser
Linda & Larry Lindenmier
Sarah & Vernon Pfiefer
Dennis & Debra Bieser
Joanne & Lon Lentz & Family
Don & Pat Bieser

In loving memory of **Lewis & Anna Beck**
Lewis Beck, Jr.

In loving memory of **John Bailey**
Eileen Bailey

In loving memory of **Marie Davis**
Marsha Cohen
Evie Caprio
Eileen Bailey
Joseph & Dorothy Straiti
Kathleen & Michael Winston
Lucy & John Wood & Family
Donna Cyr
John & Janet Smith
Helen Dickens
Mike & Leslie Bardelli

In loving memory of **Henry Fitze**
Fred Ruopp
Ann Davis
Jeanette Mayer
Geraldine Swanson
Rachel Williams
David & Jen Marr

In loving memory of **Marie Blatt**
Winthrop N. Smith Foundation



Take a moment to check out the plantings in the "Memory Garden". The plantings and garden are around the new church sign on Clapboard Ridge Road. There is a bench that was donated, along with the many flowers, so anyone can just sit and meditate when needed.



The Board of Fellowship invites you to ZUMBA, the best workout party around...

Board of Fellowship

Join us in Immanuel's cafeteria!

When:

Mondays May 2 - Sep 26th

(no classes May 30th, July 4th, August 8, Sept 5)

7:00PM-7:45 PM

Cost:

\$70 for 6 sessions

Drop in fee is \$15 per session

SPECIAL DISCOUNT for

Immanuel Lutheran Church or School Families

\$60 for 6 sessions

Drop in fee is \$12 per session

Suitable for all abilities, ages 12 & older

Babysitting available

Please register by contacting :

Diane Wardenburg

(203) 426-5757 or

diane@lathropschoolofdance.com



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®
Let's thrive!

Has your life changed?

I see it every day. A person who has never needed financial guidance walks through my door right after a significant life event, seeking advice for important decisions.

Those events include:

Marriage. About two-thirds of married people say they disagree with their spouse about money.

Birth or adoption of a child. Adjusting your budget is important. So is evaluating your need for additional disability income and life insurance coverage, as well as considering college savings plans.

Inheritance. Many people plan for their deaths, but often overlook the fact that they might receive a loved one's legacy.

Retirement. Both financially preparing for retirement and appropriately tapping one's financial assets in retirement are key needs.

Whatever life changes you've experienced, talking with a financial professional about your values, goals and needs can help secure your financial future.

For financial guidance, contact, Mark Manning, Financial Associate at (203) 241-0858 or mark.manning@thrivent.com today, or visit Thrivent.com.

Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. *Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, 800-847-4836, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.* Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. They are also licensed insurance agents of Thrivent Financial.

For additional important disclosure information, please visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

- NOT A DEPOSIT • NOT FDIC INSURED
- NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY
- NOT GUARANTEED BY THRIVENT FINANCIAL BANK • MAY LOSE VALUE

Next

VOICE DEADLINE

August 15th

ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY

August 25 - 10 am

(Volunteers are Welcome....)