

## NEWSLETTER OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VIROQUA, WI      September, 2011

*...where in Jesus Christ, God gathers all generations to serve in, witness to, and pray for our church, our community, and the world.*

### PASTOR'S COLUMN

**Better is one day in your courts, better is one day in your house, better is one day in your courts than thousands elsewhere!**  
*(from a song based on Psalm 84)*

Again I find one of the songs from our recent praise band worship leadership sounding in my spirit. This is a really beautiful song, reminding us of how fortunate we are to have a good church building in which to gather, and a wonderful church family with which to gather!

We are planning out our educational and nurturing and mentoring ministries, especially among our children and youth; but it is important for all to know and continue to grow in the knowledge of the loving and saving work of God in his world, and especially through his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. That is why we gather in God's house, and why we are called to take that message home to be nurtured there, as well as to the places of our work and play and other community tasks. Along with Sunday School teachers and after-school helpers and confirmation guides, we have asked a group of people to be a learning and advocating group to guide the work of our youth and family ministry in the years to come. Watch for more about this group in the October newsletter.

As we met as a congregation in mid-July, we realized that we also need to be fixing and updating the Lord's house here at Immanuel. A new boiler has become a necessity, and there is an envelope in this newsletter for gifts to offset the cost. The council decided on complete replacement with two paired high-efficiency heating units - in order to be good stewards of the earth and of our resources, so that we do not have to deal with this task again for at least several decades. Your generosity is welcome! Please indicate your name and envelope number if you would like

your gift to be included in your giving record this year. We discussed at the congregational meeting in July that there are some other significant property issues we need to face in the next few years; and we will proceed with a more extended capital campaign when we have received some more bids on those projects and have had a chance to thoroughly review them.

I have felt my spirits lifted in the last few weeks, not just as I have sung this beautiful song, but as I see such excitement about our ministry and as I witness leaders being prepared among us for our ministry to continue into the future. Our Vacation Bible School, now held in mid-August, is always a high point of the year; and we had a large and lively group of kids and many great leaders and helpers. Thank you! And in mid-August we gathered around our seminary student Katie Deaver at worship and laid hands on her and blessed her and prayed for her as she prepared to leave for LSTC (Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago). Please continue to remember her as she responds to the call to ordained ministry...as we also remember all of our students as they begin their studies in public and private schools at all levels (and also those who teach and coach and mentor them!).

Thanks be to God for all these gifts!  
~ Pastor Kathy

### BUDGET UPDATE

To stay on track with our expenses it is helpful to receive an average of \$4,121 per Sunday. As of August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 we have received \$113,588 of \$140,114 needed (giving is at **81%** of what we need to fully fund our budget, which would mean becoming current with our benevolences & paying on our line of credit). It would be great to meet the challenge to raise that percentage higher in September!

***Thank you for your faithful giving!***

## **YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY**

With the beginning of the new school year upon us, I thought it would be appropriate to give you a couple artists relatively new to the Christian music scene. The first is Royal Tailor, a rock/pop group of college friends. They have their first hit on the Christian radio charts called "Hold Me Together". The song speaks to the strength we have with God by our side and reaching down to us. Check out the song on youtube and the video entitled "What does Royal Tailor mean?"

The other newcomer to Christian music is Jamie Grace. She is a currently a college student who has done several covers and original songs on youtube. Her music has been described as a mixture of hip hop, folk, and pop. Based on her music that I have heard, she has an acoustic sound with lyrical elements of hip hop and pop. Her hit song out right now is called "Hold Me", featuring Toby Mac. Check out the song on youtube. Her first album is coming out September 20<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you enjoy the new music! Let me know what you think!  
God's Peace, Ben

## **PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE**

Late service will be changing back to 11:00 am on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

## **USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

All month 8:30 am- Lee; 4<sup>th</sup> -10:30 am- A. Mithum  
11<sup>th</sup>- 11:00 am- Mithum; 18<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am- Bolstad  
25<sup>th</sup>- 11:00 am- Dobbe

## **SEPT. READERS/WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

4<sup>th</sup>-8:30 am- M. Forde; 10:30 am- A. Mithum  
11<sup>th</sup>-8:30 am- S. Olson; 11:00 am- K. Mithum  
18<sup>th</sup>-8:30 am- L. Reynolds; 11:00 am- OPEN  
25<sup>th</sup>-8:30 am- K. Amrhein; 11:00 am- OPEN

## **SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP SERVERS**

4<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Kathy and Thom Hunt  
11<sup>th</sup> – Rally Day treats  
18<sup>th</sup> –OPEN  
25<sup>th</sup> – No fellowship due  
to conf. prep.



## **WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER**

### **September 4<sup>th</sup> Labor Day weekend**

*We will be keeping our 10:30 am time for late service for one more Sunday than we have in the past. Please come in your work clothes, or bring a tool or symbol of your work. We will gather at the altar for the Lord's Supper.*

### **September 11<sup>th</sup> A Time of Remembrance**

*We will never think of September 11<sup>th</sup> as just another day, will we? On this Sunday, we will have special prayers to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a day of national tragedy - and heroism - and to pray for understanding among all people of the world. It will also be a day to celebrate hope and the future! We will have an early Rally Day this year at 8:30 am worship, and install our teachers and bless our backpacks and briefcases for the new school year; and the Sunday School time will focus on creativity and celebration (curriculum lessons will begin on September 25<sup>th</sup>). We will also celebrate Holy Communion at both services and a baptism at late service, moved to 11 am.*

### **September 18<sup>th</sup> Fair Weekend**

*This is always a big weekend in Vernon County – but don't forget that we still do gather for worship at 8:30 and 11 am! However, we will suspend Sunday School for a week.*

### **September 25<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Sunday**

*On this Sunday we will all have a chance to renew our baptismal promises; and at late service, our sophomores will affirm their baptism as they share their faith statements and celebrate with their families. Holy Communion will be a part of the late service.*

**THE BACK PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER  
HAS INFO ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND  
OUR WEDNESDAY AFTER-SCHOOL  
PROGRAMMING!**

## **COUNCIL MINUTES (for 2 months)**

**June 20, 2011**

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Council met on June 20, 2011 at 6:30 pm. Members present were Karin Iverson, Vickie Van Blarcom, Konna Spaeth, Mark Solverson, Becky Baumgartner, Derek Dregne, and Pastor Kathy.

The meeting was called to order by President Karin Iverson. Devotions were given by Pastor Kathy. The Secretary's Report was presented. Motion by Becky, seconded by Vickie, to accept the minutes with a few minor corrections. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Pastor Kathy. She indicated that we need to plan for a fund appeal for the boiler repair/replacement. The reports from Chentel were reviewed. There were a few questions that Pastor Kathy will relay to Chentel and let the Council know next month.

Motion by Mark, seconded by Becky to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Motion carried. Pastor Kathy's report and Ben's report were presented. Pastor Kathy was then excused to attend another meeting.

Committee reports:

Education Committee: Will meet on Sunday after late service. Vacation Bible School plans are underway. Karin read a recommendation by the Schlicht Scholarship Committee to award a \$5000 scholarship to Katie Deaver for her first year in seminary. Motion by Becky, seconded by Karin to approve the recommendation. Motion carried.

Music and Worship: The Praise Band will lead the midweek service this week.

Property Committee: Pictures of different types of shrubs were distributed by Mark Solverson. The pictures were from Lisa Andresen and were different options for the front landscaping. Motion by Becky, seconded by Mark to allow Lisa to purchase the plants and shrubs for the front landscaping up to the budgeted amount of \$450. Motion carried.

Pastor Kathy returned from her meeting. She indicated that the Education Committee will be reviewing the confirmation program and informed the Council that we will be partnering with Good Shepherd in the after school program for 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth.

Stewardship Committee: Met before the Council meeting. A capital campaign was discussed for the furnace. A boiler phase will need to be started by September. Motion by Vickie, seconded by Becky to hold a Special Congregational Meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup> to address the need for a new boiler and to hear the suggestions from the Stewardship Committee and Property Committee. Motion carried. The Property Committee will meet after the special meeting. The Special Congregational Meeting will be advertised in the next few bulletins. Personnel Committee: Has not met.

Unfinished Business: Pastor Kathy asked if we would consider having just one service the weekend of the fourth of July. She will be gone and Ben will be handling the service. Motion by Becky, seconded by Mark to have just one service on July third at 8:30 am. Motion carried. Also, the sabbatical working group will meet early August. New Business: Pastor Beckstrand is requesting to be able to use our downstairs office space. Motion by Becky, seconded by Karin to allow Pastor Beckstrand to use the office space through the end of the year if needed, and to be reviewed at that point in time. Motion carried.

Next meeting date is Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> after the Congregational Meeting.

Motion by Bill (arrived later in the meeting), seconded by Becky to adjourn. Motion carried. Respectfully submitted, Konna Spaeth, Secretary

**July 17, 2011**

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Council met on July 17, 2011 at 9:30 am. Members present were Karin Iverson, Vickie Van Blarcom, Konna Spaeth, Mark Solverson, Becky Baumgartner, Derek Dregne, Sandy Favor, Bill Moilien, and Lisa Andresen. Kevin Schlicht and Tim Van Blarcom from the Property Committee were also present in the beginning of the meeting to discuss the boiler bids.

President Karin Iverson called the meeting to order. There is one more bid to come in so a decision on the boiler purchase was postponed until we receive it. Derek will check with the other companies that submitted bids on the warranty information. Kevin

Schlicht offered to finance the boiler purchase at 0% interest.

The Secretary's Report was not distributed so this will be approved at a later date.

The Treasurer's Report was presented. Chentel regretted to inform the Council that she had to borrow \$2210.73 from the undesignated funds account to make the payroll last week. This amount will be repaid on Monday from the monies received on Sunday. The Council discussed whether to allow Chentel to borrow from the undesignated funds when needed instead of going to the line of credit. It was decided to have her continue with the current practice of using the line of credit instead of undesignated funds since it probably creates more work for her. The current balance on the Line of Credit is \$12,677.73.

Motion by Lisa, seconded by Bill to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Motion carried.

Pastor Kathy's report was presented. Pastor Kathy had one baptism, one wedding and one funeral in June. She made a total of twenty-nine visits to hospitals, nursing homes and homes. She attended Synod Assembly, helped with the hunger booth at the farmer's market and attended various meetings.

The Youth and Family Ministry Director's Report was presented by Ben. Ben has been working with Good Shepherd to plan the joint programming for the Wednesday after school program. He also planned and attended Lifestart and has been assisting with the Wednesday evening services. Karin and Ben informed the Committee about the need for a Youth Board/Committee. The Board/Committee would provide support for the Youth and Family Ministry Director's position and programming. It would be made up of 5-6 people from the congregation. Motion by Sandy, seconded by Becky to proceed in developing a Youth Board/Committee. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Education: Vacation Bible School is ready to start on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Music and Worship: Midweek services have been going well.

Property: Lisa will pick up the shrubs and plants to be planted out front. Ben will be in contact with

Mark Solverson when he finds some students to help plant the shrubs. Motion by Bill, seconded by Lisa to accept Kevin Schlicht's financing offer on the boiler purchase. Motion carried.

Steward and Finance: We will be hearing from Finance regarding the fund appeal.

Personnel: Needs to meet.

Unfinished Business: Pastor Beckstrand has been using the basement office and all is going well.

New Business: The big screen TV in the fellowship hall has quit working. The Council discussed whether we should purchase another TV or just replace the projector screen. Ben will look into the different options and present it to us at the next council meeting. Vickie will let Sheila Olson know that the TV is not working for Vacation Bible School.

Mark Solverson asked why we had so many boxes of envelopes left that had not been picked up.

Sandy explained that some of them are for students because once you are confirmed, you start receiving a box of envelopes. Sandy volunteered to look into other options and ways to save money on envelopes.

Karen brought up an idea she had for some of the anonymous gift money. She suggested starting a community garden out back where the garden produce could be donated to the food pantry or to members in need.

Next meeting will be at Lisa Andresen's house on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm due to VBS.

Motion by Lisa, seconded by Vickie to adjourn.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Konna Spaeth, Secretary

#### **A NOTE OF THANKS....**

We are thankful for the service of Erma Erickson on our council for more than one term – but she has decided she needs to step away from this responsibility in her second term, and also from being treasurer. So at its August meeting, the council elected Bill Moilien to serve as our treasurer until the next round of officer elections at the first meeting of the new council in 2012. The council will function with 9 members instead of 10 until the annual meeting elections (the council can be from 8 to 14 members, according to our constitution).

## MEMORIALS FOR AUGUST

### Undesignated:

Roscelia Buros	\$45
Sara Christianson	\$10

### Land:

Roscelia Buros	\$10
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### Boiler:

Elden Traastad	\$5,000
Fred "Pete" Howell	\$10

**TOTAL** \$5,075

### CIRCLE NOTE

Circles will be meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Ruth meets at 9:30 am and Martha at 7 pm.

### QUILTERS NOTE

Quilters meet on September 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

### BOOK CLUB

Book Club will be meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to discuss "So Big" by Edna Turben.



### FORTNEY HOTEL MEAL

Sign-up sheet is available for the Fortney Hotel Meal on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship I received. I will use it when I go to UWL in the fall. I am proud to be a member of this church and I really appreciate this gift! *-Logan Favor*

### SUGAR CREEK EVENTS COMING UP

Annual Quilt & Antique Auction Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 10 am – 3 pm at camp. Lunch will be available to purchase and the country store will be open all day. Theme Basket & pie donations are asked of each church for the Silent Auction. If you would like to donate either, please leave them in the church office or bring directly down to Sugar Creek before September 9<sup>th</sup>. Pie tins are available at church.

"Grandma's Favorite Gospel Hymns": Fundraiser for Sugar Creek Bible Camp on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 4 pm at Good Shepherd. Tickets are available for \$10 at Good Shepherd, Sugar Creek and here in the office. CDs will be for sale at the event for \$15.

### BETHEL HOME GOLF OUTING

The ILC team won the church challenge at the Bethel Home and services golf outing! Players

were Tom Weston, Mike Stalsberg, and Ron & Patty Moilien. Congratulations to all! We will be reclaiming the travelling trophy from the St. Mary's team that won last year!

### FYI: FARMER'S MARKET

We will be having a stand at the Farmer's Market selling fresh produce to benefit World Hunger and local needs NEXT MONTH on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Produce donations can be brought to the church the Friday before or the Saturday of the sale or to the Farmers Market stand on the day of the sale as soon after 7:30 am as possible. Thank you for supporting this great cause!

### CHICKEN-Q BENEFIT

A benefit is being planned for our fellow Immanuel member, Charlie Gartner, will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Events will be taking place both at Charlie's workplace in LaCrosse (McLoone at 75 Sumner St.) from 11 am – 7 pm, and also some events will happen here in Viroqua – chicken Q, drawings for prizes...watch for more information, and help out if you are able.

### DALE TORGERSON BENEFIT

There will be a benefit for Dale Torgerson at the VFW on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 11 am – 5 pm. If anyone is interested in baking for the bake sale, donating items, or volunteering their services that day please contact Karri Yttri, 608-606-0644 or [ekyttri@frontiernet.net](mailto:ekyttri@frontiernet.net).

### EXPLORE GALENA, ILLINOIS

Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> Bethel Home and Services will be taking a motor coach bus trip to Galena, Illinois. There are two options to this trip which both include dinner at the Courtyard restaurant in the historic Desoto house. Option 1 is a boat trip on the Mississippi and Option 2 consists of tours through 3 Historic mansions (Ulysses S. Grant, belvedere & Downing house). The cost of the trip is \$85 per person. Please contact Bette at 637-6323 or [fdn@bethelhome.org](mailto:fdn@bethelhome.org) for further information.

### HAND BELL RINGERS NEEDED

The Viroqua Community Bell Choir has two positions open for the fall session starting in September. The choir practices on either Monday or Tuesday at 5:30 pm at United Methodist Church, 221 South Center Avenue, Viroqua. If interested in becoming a member of the bell choir, call Irene Fortney, director, at 637-2521.