

Immanuel's December/Jan Newsletter

The Parts of Worship by Pastor Mark

(This is part five of a running newsletter series on worship.)

Worship in the Lutheran church is structured and ordered. The Church has done this for millenium and for good reason. It assures that the Law and the Gospel predominate in our worship. It assures that the Scriptures are read, heard, and explained each week. It assures that all of the gifts that God intends to distribute are actually given. Over the next few months I'll examine a few of the parts of our worship so that we more fully appreciate what God is doing.

Every worship service begins with The Invocation which uses those sacred and familiar words, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." With those words we simultaneously enjoin the dialogue that is worship.

The first thing the invocation does is invite our triune God to be among us in worship. Is that a wise thing to do? Invite an all holy and just God who punishes sin to come and be among us? How dare we?

We dare because of the second part of the dialogue that is the Invocation. With those trinitarian words God reminds us of our Baptism. We dare invite God to come among us because we have already been baptized by Him with water and those very words. That Baptism has joined us to the death and resurrection of Christ, washed us clean

and clothed us in the righteousness of Christ. Why do we dare invite God to come among us in worship? Because He has already prepared us through His action in Holy Baptism.

By the way, we use not only Baptism words, but also Baptism actions during the invocation. The sign of the cross, encouraged by Luther in the Small Catechism, was first made upon the Christian at his/her Baptism when the pastor said, "Receive the sign of the cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified." The sign of the cross is an appropriate sign during the Baptismal words of the invocation as further reminder of Whose we are.

As further reminder of our Baptism, in our new sanctuary the Baptismal font, continually filled with water, will take a far more prominent place in our worship space.

These Baptism words, actions, and prominent places all serve to remind us why we dare seek God's presence among us in worship. We already belong to Him! We come to worship anxiously awaiting the Gifts He brings. See you in church!

Pastor Mark

**State of the
Church & School
Address
Sunday, January 3
9:30 a.m.**

Pastor Bangert and Principal Hopfensperger will share important information regarding the state and the direction of our shared ministries. Details are being worked out to include a special congregational breakfast that day! Watch for details in an upcoming bulletin.

**God With
Us Where
We Gather
Building
Committee**



Two initial meetings by our new sanctuary building committee have already happened. The first task is to interview and hire an architect. The committee has developed a short list of about five architects and will be scheduling interviews over the next months. Please keep the committee

in your prayers. They will keep us informed of all their progress.

**February Newsletter
Articles are due in the
church office by
January 15th!**

**Quarterly Congregation
Meeting
Sunday, December 13th
7:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this very important quarterly meeting. At the meeting we will be adopting the 2009 Budget, electing officers, elders and school board members; as well as reviewing board reports and financial reports.

**“Beautiful Feet – Led by
God”
LWML District Convention**

Beautiful Feet – Led by God (*Isaiah 52:7*) is the theme for the LWML District Convention in Springfield, June 11-13, 2010. The Saturday

evening banquet entertainment will be provided by Tina and Lena, with reverent humor, new songs plus renewed arrangements of “good old song,” with a light-hearted air. The “merry hearts” of Tina and Lena truly are “good medicine.”

LADIES AID CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at Ponderosa Steak House in Washington. The cost is \$10.00. Please notify Barb Hill (239-4256) if you plan to attend. If you are interested in joining Ladies Aid and would like to be our guest at the luncheon, please notify the above also.

December/January Birthdays!

God's blessing to our members who celebrate birthdays in December & January!
(If your birthday is listed incorrectly, or if your name has been omitted, please contact the church office.)

December....

1 - Tim Brinker
1 - Brad Thurman
2 - Jessica Quaethem
3 - Carter Riegel
4 - Donald Oberlies
5 - Garrett Gardner
5 - Jolene Schultz
5 - Kassidy Webb
6 - Angela Kaemmerer
7 - DeTrisha Jones
7 - Cindy Massmann
8 - Susan Cichon
8 - Donna Gerwitz
8 - Christie Nicks
8 - Diana O'Dell
8 - Brandon Solter
8 - Jenny Wallach
9 - Ryan Nauman
9 - Graycie Neuberger
9 - Cynthia Noelker
10 - Rachel Bauche
10 - Terri Gerhart
10 - Ellen Ranney
10 - Jim Reddick
10 - Robert Roller
11 - Leslie Hays
11 - Mike O'Dell
11 - Leah Otto
12 - Joe Liesmann
12 - Kim Liesmann
12 - Jody Stigge
13 - Rose Olivio
14 - Mark Birkmann
14 - Spud Maupin
14 - Asriel-Marie Schuh
14 - Claire-Marie Schuh
14 - Gary Vogel

15 - Le'ah Gruber
15 - Terry Hinrichs
15 - Madison Puetz
15 - Kenneth Rolwing
16 - Don Blakley
17 - Scott Dieckhaus
17 - Amber Hoemann
17 - Jonathan Stigge
18 - Chris Becker
18 - Steve Brown
18 - Breanne Grim
18 - Rachel Lohrer
19 - Aaron Hallien
20 - Kyle Brewster
20 - Alexa Jaeger
20 - Stacy Landers
20 - Cassidy Nurnberger
21 - Erica Means
21 - Matthew Steffens
22 - Beverly Strauser
23 - Julia Birkmann
23 - Sophie Freise
23 - Robert Kamper
23 - Karen Rabe
23 - Sonja Witthaus
25 - Nancy Wood
25 - Eloise Young
26 - Brian Lock
26 - Judy Wisdom
27 - Julie Akin
27 - Henry Ferguson
27 - Ansel Witthaus
28 - Emmaline Jones
28 - Peyton Rice
29 - Ami Briggs
29 - Lana Kloppe
29 - Jacob Tershcluse
30 - Heather Boehner

30 - Daniel Potts
30 - Christopher Rice
30 - Justine Stigge
30 - Natalie Vogel
30 - Amanda Warnecke
31 - Marilyn Baricevic
31 - Meg Becker
31 - Aaron Spurgeon

January....

1 - Emily Hays
1 - Sharon Heather
1 - Kailey Robinson
1 - Olivia Robinson
3 - Joel Ameiss
3 - Chuck Byrd, Sr.
3 - Paul Kellough
3 - Geri Krajeir
3 - Blaine Vancil
4 - Rev. Mark Bangert
4 - Kassy Briggs
4 - Marie Quaethem
5 - Brien Grim
5 - Cooper Herbert
5 - Marvin Mueller
5 - Gabe Oberlies
5 - Robert Phillips
5 - Arlyne Roller
6 - Andy Becker
8 - Joshua Grellner
8 - Lydia Lock
8 - Katelyn Mittler
8 - Laurie Pull
8 - Dan Walther
9 - Eric Briggs
9 - Eunice Luehrs
9 - Bernice Mittler
9 - Rebecca Thompson
9 - Sean Turlington

10 - Evann Dunn	22 - James Lucas
10 - Sherry Norvell	22 - Felicia Skaggs
10 - Cindy Potts	22 - Meghan Walker
11 - Matthew Pagan	23 - Brian Redd
12 - Jordan Epperson	23 - Bob Stork
12 - Milton Kaempfe	23 - Ellie Turlington
13 - Duane Liesmann	24 - Sam Chapman
14 - Don Flamion	25 - Jane Phillips
14 - Lisa Lynch	27 - Rick Hays
15 - Christopher Grellner	27 - Brad Scheer
15 - Adam Swann	27 - Bill Sieve
15 - Ethel Utterback	27 - Allissa Tobben
15 - Kim Wunderlich	28 - Rev. Sam Nafzger
16 - Matthew Dunn	28 - Kevin Nelson
16 - Mark Stettes	29 - Brian Ameiss
16 - Lydia Vincent	29 - Kevin Nadler
19 - Ashley Mueller	29 - Anna Schaible
19 - Jonathan Nafzger	29 - Kim Wehmeyer
20 - Danielle Fredrick	30 - Brady Frost
20 - Nichole Fuhr	30 - Irene Gerdes
20 - Hannah Krajcir	30 - Martin Koirtyohann
20 - Jim Kuehler	31 - Elsa Aufdembrink
21 - Ina Hachman	31 - Jamie Brewster
21 - Debbie Hinrichs	31 - Charlene Wylie
21 - Mary Ruth Marschel	
21 - Robin McCoy	Happy Birthday all!!!!!!
21 - Brianna Pagan	
21 - Samantha Sherman	

Angel Tree Thank You!



We would like to thank the congregation for supporting the Angel Tree project. Through your generosity we were able to give gifts to children from Concordia Seminary and families in the local community. In addition, money was given to "Into the Light" Church in Bangkok, Thailand. Again, thank you and God's blessings to all! --The Board of Christian Care

Worship Opportunities in December

Midweek Advent Worship Schedule



Wednesday, December 2nd at 12:00 pm, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 9th at 12:00 pm & 7:00pm

"Service of Lessons & Carols"

This service will anticipate the celebration of Christmas. The 7 pm service will feature a variety of music and choir & congregational

singing

Wednesday, December 16th at 12:00 pm

This noon service will be in the sanctuary



Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00pm

“Choral Vespers Service”

This service is by the Immanuel School Children and is held in the gym.

Christmas Worship Schedule



Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th at 4:00 pm, 6:00pm and 11:00 pm

With Holy Communion in all services

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31st at 7:00 pm

With Holy Communion

May God richly bless your worship this month!



Poinsettias



Once again this Christmas season, poinsettia plants will beautify our church. They will be displayed in our Services on

December 24 through December 31. If you would like to place a poinsettia to the glory of God in memory of a loved one, or to honor someone, please email Terri and put your your money in the offering plate by DECEMBER 4th. PUT IN ENVELOPE, SEAL, WITH YOUR NAME AND MARKED FOR POINSETTIA. The cost of each

plant will be \$9.00. The Altar Guild will take care of getting the plants from the florist.

If you would rather give a monetary gift (instead of purchasing a plant) in memory of a loved one, please fill out the “tear-off” below and return it with your money to the church office by December 4th. All money received will be placed in the Memorial Fund.

Time to begin preparing for dinner auction

Once again it is time for another fun-filled night at the ILS Dinner Auction! With your support almost \$50,000 was raised during our 2009 dinner auction to assist in funding capital improvements, tuition assistance, and educational materials for the children of Immanuel. With this wonderful blessing, we also made a contribution to help rebuild a Lutheran school in New Orleans.

Thank you for your continued support!

Come and enjoy “Springtime in Paris” with us at our 2010 Dinner Auction. Please accept this invitation to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship at **Immanuel Lutheran School** as we celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Dinner Auction. We would be honored for you to be a part of this very special

evening. In an effort to increase our attendance, we are offering a discount on tickets when a full table of 8 is reserved and paid for at the time of reservation. Invite your friends to enjoy this special evening with you.

“Springtime in Paris”

Saturday, March 13th, 2010

(Seating is limited, so please make your reservations early.)

All donations are graciously accepted. Donation forms will be located in the Narthex next to the reservation forms. Please contact the church or school office for forms regarding Thrivent matching fund donations. Donations may be dropped off at the school starting January 11th, 2010; or, for your convenience, please contact the school office and a committee member will pick up your donation.

Your contribution is sincerely appreciated. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office or myself. Thank you for helping us to provide a tradition of excellence in Christian Education at Immanuel with your generous donation and attendance at our 2010 Dinner Auction.

Thank you again for your support as we enjoy “Springtime in Paris.”

In HIS Name,

Shelley Nadeau -Chairperson

New Sunday Morning Bible Class

“Portraits of Christmas”

This Bible Study, beginning Dec 6, is designed to acquaint God’s people with the people, politics, places and prophecies that relate to the Christmas story. Certainly the Lord had everything ready and in place when that time had fully come.

The insights, comments and discussions will add to the love and appreciation that God’s people feel toward the birth of our Savior.

“LifeLight – Daniel” and the “Parent Forum” Bible Studies will also continue through December r & into January.



Bible Study Series

SCHOOL NEWS

Veterans Day

Veterans were recognized and honored for their service to our country in chapel last month. Approximately 75 veterans and their guests were in attendance for the reception and chapel service! The service featured essays written by upper grade students, music played by our band students, and songs sung by our Primary Choir and Praise Choir. What a wonderful way to share our appreciation for the freedoms that we enjoy today!

Basketball Season

Basketball practices have begun for our six basketball teams! The first games of the season begin shortly after Thanksgiving break. For a complete and up-to-date sports calendar, visit the

FastDirect website at www.fastdir.com/immanuelwashington.

Click on the "Bulletin Board/Calendar" tab on the left side margin to see a listing of the upcoming games and tournaments.

Choral Vespers

Choral Vespers is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 pm. Mrs. Kaaz is again coordinating this worship service and is working with the teachers and students to prepare for this wonderful evening! A special appeal will be made to the church and school families for contributions to be made toward School Operations. In addition, all offerings that are collected during the Choral Vespers worship service will supplement this fund.

The State of the School Address

The State of the Church and School Address is scheduled for Sunday, January 3rd (during the Bible Study hour) and again on Tuesday, January 5th and Monday, January 11th. We are requiring all families of the school and encouraging all church members to attend one of these meetings. This presentation will give an overview of the past year and what they can expect during the coming year. It will also be an

opportunity for us to give families an update on the budget, upcoming tuition rates, and where help is most needed. Babysitting will be available for the evening meetings.

Looking for just the right gift?

There are still jars of apple butter available for purchase! Stop by Not Just Cut and Dried or Loaves and Fishes to pick up some apple butter – what a great Christmas gift to share with others!

Digital Newsletter

Our weekly school newsletter is now available digitally! Each family that has supplied the school with an email address has received an email with a link to our school website. At this site, families will find a copy of the weekly newsletters. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, please contact the school office.

Enrollment Campaign

We recently began a campaign with our school families to increase our total enrollment by 20 students for the 2010-2011 school year. Individual contacts and personal relationships continue to be the most effective marketing tool for ILS. We

will continue to equip and encourage all school families and congregational members in this ongoing effort.

YOUTH NEWS

MANY THANKS TO ALL THE YOUTH AND (ESPECIALLY THE PARENTS) WHO HELPED RAKE LEAVES LAST MONTH. WHAT AN AWESOME OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT! THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDESS AND HELPING IN THE FUN! Thank you also to those who shared donations for the youth. While not necessary please know we appreciate your kindness!

5th & 6th Youth will meet on Sunday, December 20th for a Christmas Carol Scavenger Hunt. All 5th and 6th graders are invited to join us for this event from 1 - 3 PM on the 20th. We need parents to help with transportation around town. Please contact Mr. Wunderlich if you are able.

Jr. High Youth - A new Bible study opportunity is starting for 7th and 8th graders after school on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. All interested Jr. Higher

are invited to join us for a study entitled, "It's Not All about Me." The study will run until 4:30 on the 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons.

The Jr. Youth will sponsor the 1st Advent Dinner on Wednesday afternoon, December 2nd. All youth are invited to join us after school to help set up for the event. Funds raised will go into their individual accounts for their District Youth Gathering in the Spring.

Jr. Youth will have a Christmas Carol Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, December 13th from 4 - 6 PM. We need parents to help with transportation around town. Please contact Mr. Wunderlich if you are able. We will also have a post-Christmas movie afternoon on Sunday December 27th from 4 - 6 PM.

In January we hope to have our regular meetings for both groups on the 10th, and then on the 24th have each group have a play-off party with one of the conference championship football games that day. More

information will follow in the bulletin as the games approach.

Sr. High will continue with **BYOB** every Wednesday school morning. **Chillin'** will also continue on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in December. The Sr. Youth have been asked to sing at the Frick home which will be on display during the Christmas House tour. We encourage Sr. Youth to participate in this event. We will need to meet at Church at 3:30 PM and will return around 8:30 PM.

The Sr. Youth will sponsor the 2nd Advent Dinner on Wednesday afternoon, December 9th. All youth are invited to join us after school to help set up for the event. Funds raised will go into their individual accounts for the National Youth Gathering in the summer.

Reflections (our Bible Study for Juniors and Seniors) will take place on Sunday, December 20th from 7 - 9 PM.



Bird Seed....News from Robin McCoy

Philippians 3:20 But our home is in Heaven and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

Leaving home to go home

After boarding our flight in Detroit, that would take us to Tokyo, we waited about an hour to take off, then our pilot announced we would have to disembark the plane and wait for another plane to be readied for us because there was an electrical problem on our plane (better to find out before take off!!). We had to wait for the switching of luggage, food, passengers, etc. While waiting the 3 hours before we boarded again, I met a Japanese woman named Naomi, she was my seat neighbor on the plane. She lives in Detroit and was going home to visit her family in Japan. We began to talk and I found that she was also Christian. She told me a beautiful story of how a missionary led her to Christ, and so she had a very special place in her heart for missionaries. I'm always in awe of each story I hear of how the Holy Spirit works through the lives of the people. During the flight, Naomi and I got to know each other better and later exchanged emails. Since we were so delayed, when we got to Tokyo, there were no more flights leaving from there to go to Bangkok, so we, who were going on to Bangkok, were rerouted to Osaka and then on to Bangkok. On this flight I met a woman (Nee) and her son (Pop) from Thailand. The son could speak well, the mother could speak some. He asked me why I was going to Bangkok and I told him. The mother replied, "Missionary teacher" then she put her hand over her heart and smiled at me. Her son told me that a missionary had come to their village and shared love and very good words with them. So, I talked and shared with both of

them during our flight. It was a great 6 hours to Bangkok. After a total of 30 hours, I arrived in Bangkok. I give thanks for the safe flight and for the opportunities of visiting and sharing with people such a Naomi, Nee and Pop.

My first week of classes after returning from my furlough in the states was a wonderful week of reunion and witness! During 3 of my 5 teaching days I either had the opportunity to bring up Christianity....or for students to ask me questions about Christianity. In my Level 3 conversation class on Friday night, I had 4 new students and one former student. The former student (Nat) and I were talking before class. It was fun to get to see and visit with her again. She asked me if I was going back home for Christmas this year and I told her no, I was staying with her and my other students this year. She said, "You don't want to be home for Christmas?" I told her I wanted so much to be home for Christmas, but that I also wanted to be here with my students and my church family. She asked me if Christmas was the same here (Bangkok) as in America and I told her it was nothing like Christmas at home. She asked me to explain Christmas at home to her, so I painted a picture from my heart. Tears welled up in her eyes and she said, "I would love to know what that is like." I told her I would love for her to know and feel it too. Then we walked into our room for class. I had the students introduce and talk about themselves. Then it was time to ask and find out about (me) teacher. One of the students asked me if I was a Christian. I showed them the cross around my neck (one my sister Gail gave to me; thanks Sis) and said I was. Then the new students and Nat began asking me questions about Christianity. They wanted to know more about church, Christmas, Saints, Heaven, Easter, "Jesus dying and coming back to life" and about Jesus coming back again to

the Earth. The questions were coming as fast as I could get each one answered. Three fourths of my conversation class was Christian conversation. I didn't even get to my planned materials and of course that was fine with me!!! After class, Nat came to me again and said, "You greatly impressed my heart tonight when you talked to me about Christmas and when you talked to us about Christian." "I want to know and feel what you do and, I wish I go to America for Christmas sometime so I can know too." I told her I would love for her to come home with me sometime and learn, know and feel Christmas. So, I said a prayer with her, for her to get to go to America for Christmas some day and also for Jesus to come into her heart so she could know Him and feel His love in her heart. With tears once again in her eyes, she hugged me, thanked me and went home. I prayerfully look forward to many more classes such as the ones this week throughout this term. Please keep Nat in your prayers as she seeks the Savior.

We had our annual Thanksgiving party, sponsored by Lutheran Hour ministries (Journey Into Light), on Saturday. It was a wonderful celebration of Thai Christians gathered together to worship, give thanks and praise, fellowship with each other, have a dinner and share in the many blessings God has given to them (us). There were around 200 in attendance from the Bangkok area. How wonderful it was to be with so many Thai Christians in one room. Please pray that this number would greatly increase for our next year's celebration

I want to take this opportunity to give thanks to God for everyone who made my visit home so great, for all of the help I received through fundraising, pastoral leadership, a great place to live for my full stay home, for a wonderful new computer, storage for my car and things, secretarial help, the many, many great meals, help with sewing projects , fun

outings, gifts, words of encouragement, prayers and the wonderful love of family and many great friends! Thanks to my wonderful monthly/yearly supporters too! All thanks and glory to God for all of these blessings.

To help support me, please send your check to:

LCMS World Missions

1333 S. Kirkwood Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63122-7295

(Please write "support Robin McCoy" in the memo part of the check)

For

correspondence : bangkokbirdie@gmail.com

In His Grace, Robin

(Birdie)