

## **Worship is it boring?**

by Pastor Mark

*(Part three of a running newsletter series on worship.)*

One of the most prominent changes in American culture in the last generation is our expectation to be entertained. When I was a child I had no such expectation. I understood that there were times in life that were fun and there were times in life that were not. All of it was part of life.

Today's children (and adults) are bombarded with entertainment. They have hand held games, Facebook, Twitter, cell phones for talking and texting, ipods, the internet, satellite television and who knows what else is on the horizon. All of these incredible inventions are also an intrusion on our culture. Children and adults alike today have the expectation that they continually be entertained. If they are not, then whatever they are doing is of no value. How often does that infamous saying come from the mouths of our children, "I'm bored."

That is a sad state of affairs. The fact is there are many things in life of great value that are not entertaining! Casualties of such a perspective on life include:

1. Education – If school is boring then it isn't worth attending. Witness our growing rates of drop out in America.
2. Work – If employment is boring then there will be those who won't keep a job and will instead depend on welfare so they do not have to be bored with work.
3. Grandma – If visiting Grandma on Sunday afternoon is boring we just won't go anymore.

Yet another casualty of our culture's expectation of entertainment is the church. The unspoken expectation is that "Church should entertain me. If it doesn't, then I won't bother or I'll find one that does."

I will confess that I have as a pastor never sought to entertain you. I have much more important things to attend to in worship. God comes and speaks to us in His Word. God comes bearing forgiveness in the Absolution, in Baptism and in the Lord's Supper. If those great gifts of God Himself bores someone, where does the problem lie?

That does not mean that as a pastor I can be lazy, or closed minded or insensitive. I work hard at doing worship well. I work hard and diligently to bring to bear in your life the Gospel, the love God has shown you in Jesus Christ from a cross. Nothing is of greater importance to me in the way that we worship. However, it never crosses my mind how I might entertain you. It becomes us to help our children to understand that all of life is not intended to be fun. Some things have great value, eternal value, even though they may not entertain you.

**This coming weekend in worship think more deeply about all that God is doing for you there, forgiving, encouraging and empowering you. How could you be bored? See you in church!**

## October Birthdays!

*God's blessing to our members who celebrate birthdays in October!*

*(If your birthday is listed incorrectly, or if your name has been omitted, please contact the church office.)*

- |                           |                         |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Mark Blakley          | 12 - Betty O'Dell       | 22 - Tom Brinkmann      |
| 1 - Karen Fitzpatrick     | 13 - Bailey Brunjes     | 22 - Thomas Delleart    |
| 1 - Mary Hanneken         | 13 - Eleanor Dressel    | 22 - Isabella Edmond    |
| 1 - Karen Menke           | 13 - Bruce Pickart      | 22 - Ryan Lohrer        |
| 2 - Steve Ciegel          | 13 - Jason Stigge       | 22 - Tom Stelzer        |
| 2 - Michael Jaeger        | 14 - Benjamin Oberlies  | 23 - Doris Fleer        |
| 2 - Marcus Scheer         | 14 - Kathie Pehle       | 23 - Lena Nurnberger    |
| 3 - Callie Blatt          | 15 - Carolyn Brunjes    | 23 - Stephanie Wilka    |
| 3 - Andrew Brough         | 15 - Brockton Gau       | 24 - Joshua Bangert     |
| 3 - Kersten Mitchell      | 15 - Bernice LaBoube    | 24 - Tammy Beers        |
| 3 - Norvin Moritz         | 15 - David Meador       | 24 - Cody Gardner       |
| 3 - Elizabeth Seabaugh    | 15 - Sarah Schnakenberg | 24 - Matthew Mauldin    |
| 3 - Gene Thurman          | 15 - Rick Solter        | 24 - Kelsey Mitchell    |
| 4 - Kimberlee Heining     | 16 - Noah Hendrickson   | 24 - Evelyn Plessner    |
| 4 - Vera Hoemann          | 16 - Katherine Ince     | 24 - Helen Rolwing      |
| 5 - Ellyn Georges         | 16 - Joshua Marvel      | 24 - Tonya Rombach      |
| 6 - Gregg Ameiss          | 16 - Macy Robinson      | 25 - Robert Boehner     |
| 6 - Linda Struttmann      | 17 - Stephen Brunjes    | 25 - Ron Haddox         |
| 7 - Wayne Sachteleben Jr. | 17 - Dave Nadler        | 25 - Melissa Mueller    |
| 7 - Norma Scheer          | 17 - Katrina Oberlies   | 25 - Alicia Pruser      |
| 7 - Rich Ulsas            | 17 - Scott Rombach      | 26 - Norman Diederich   |
| 8 - Lyndia Geisert        | 17 - Dave Sherman       | 26 - Kelly Lang         |
| 8 - Madeline Ince         | 18 - Harriet Boal       | 26 - Mark Unger         |
| 8 - Pat Skaggs            | 18 - Rachel Grayson     | 26 - Jeff Unnerstall    |
| 9 - Patricia Maupin       | 19 - Hannah Plowman     | 27 - Patty Grafrath     |
| 9 - Randy Winship         | 19 - Ann Vogel          | 27 - Kaitlyn Tutt       |
| 10 - Duane Edmond         | 20 - Becky Brown        | 28 - Jaimie Kuddes      |
| 10 - Megan Frankenberg    | 20 - Debi Donoho        | 28 - Jora Weaver        |
| 10 - Shawn Krajcir        | 20 - Vince Lacefield    | 29 - Angela Hendrickson |
| 10 - Justin Terschluse    | 20 - Abby Loesing       | 29 - Mary Lou Luecker   |
| 10 - Khristina Tobben     | 20 - William Meador     | 31 - Mendy Hoemann      |
| 11 - Wade Ameiss          | 20 - Nicole Risch       | 31 - Carolyn Riemann    |
| 12 - Abigaile Barron      | 21 - Bob Barron         | 31 - Jim Stealey        |
| 12 - Heather Brinker      | 21 - Joe Heather        | 31 - Loren Warnecke     |
| 12 - Aimee Nadler         | 22 - Tara Bennight      |                         |

## LWML News

During October, LWML societies all over the country choose a Sunday to celebrate the work of this unique organization. As a part of this year's celebration, we offer the following:

This is a summary of an article that appeared in The Lutheran Layman in June 1967, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. It was written by Ruth F. Meyer who wrote about the history of the LWML in a book titled Women on a Mission. (The entire article is on display on the LWML bulletin board.)

The service of women in the church has been determined by the culture in which they lived, by its reflection on the church, and by the practical application of the church's doctrine to the role of women. The first women's societies, founded in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and St. Louis, Missouri, in 1852 were to do the work of sewing, washing, ironing, and mending for the students attending the seminaries in these cities. Because of the cultural emphasis on woman's role as one of "silence", formation of women's organization in LC-MS was much slower than in other synods and

other denominations. The founding of the Walther League in 1893, and the formation of the Lutheran Deaconess Association in 1919, as well as the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which gave women the right to vote, compelled the church to examine its stand on the role of women in the church. The Lutheran Layman's League proposed a national women's federation as an auxiliary to its organization. With the help of the LLL, a group of interested women met in 1929 to form a national federation of Lutheran women. In spite of opposition from the College of Presidents (whose members feared that a woman's organization would make more work for pastors), the women kept looking toward their goal. In 1941, a synodical committee suggested that the formation of a national women's federation be approved. As a result, the LMWL came to be on July 7 and 8, 1942, in Chicago, Illinois.

From the beginning, mite boxes have been used to support mission projects world-wide. Compare the total of 25 years of projects (1942-1967) \$1,863,262.33 to the goal of \$1.7 million for the 2007-2009 biennium, and you will get an idea of the amazing growth

with which God has blessed this organization.

Our local LWML will meet on October 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom. Our program will be a presentation by Robin McCoy, missionary to Bangkok. Beth Woll will lead the mite box ingathering. Guests are always welcome.

## **LifeLight Sunday Bible Study Begins in November**

With the close of 50 Days Ablaze, you may miss the fellowship of a small group being formed by God through His Word. If so, on November 8, you will have another opportunity to join a small group Bible Study. On Sunday morning, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the LifeLight Bible Study will begin during the Bible Class hour. LifeLight was previously held during the evening, but this new time on Sunday mornings will be a chance for more of us to meet together to study Holy Scripture and to grow closer to our Lord. We will begin studying the book of Daniel, which will be an interesting study of God's providence and power in the life of Daniel. There is a sign-up sheet in the

narthex, and we need all interested people to sign up because we need to order the materials. The cost of the materials is \$9.00 per study guide which you may donate back to the church at the beginning of the class if you are able. Each study will last 9 weeks before we begin with a new study guide on a different book of the Bible. Do not miss out on this chance to grow in faith closer to our Lord through His Word!

--Vicar Ted Hopkins

**November  
Newsletter Articles  
are due in the  
Church office  
by  
October 15<sup>th</sup>!**

## **Angel Tree**

Advent and Christmas will be here soon. Although it is only October, plans are underway for our Angel Tree giving again this year.

We plan to put up the Angel Tree around the middle of November and



the gifts will need to be returned very early in December.

These early dates are necessary so the gifts can be distributed before the Seminary takes their Christmas break and local agencies will have time to fill all their clients' needs.

Further instructions will be in the November newsletter and the weekly bulletins.

Thank you for your support of this special ministry project! --Board of Christian Care



## 67th Annual Pork Sausage Dinner

Immanuel will be serving the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Pork Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m.

This is a congregational event that needs the support of every member of Immanuel to be a success. All proceeds are returned to the congregation through various projects.

Every member of Immanuel will be asked to serve in some way with this function. Please volunteer your time and talents!

## Newsletter Changes

Beginning in 2010, the Immanuel Church newsletter will undergo some changes! In an effort to cut back on paper and ink usage, and save some money in an already tight budget, we hope to send the majority of the newsletters out by email. We would ask that you consider having the newsletter sent to your email inbox. Of course, we realize that not everyone uses the internet, so we have some other options.....

As we have many groups of people who receive our newsletter, we would ask that you find your "group" below and respond to the church office appropriately for your situation.

1. **Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church** – please contact the church office (either by email to [churchsecretary@imlutheran.org](mailto:churchsecretary@imlutheran.org) or by phone 239-4705) and let us know if you wish to receive your newsletter by email

or by picking it up in the narthex. Shut-in members of the church will have their newsletter sent or delivered to them.

2. **Families of Immanuel Lutheran School** (*not families who are also church members*) – please contact the church office by email or phone (listed above) and let us know if you wish to receive your newsletter by email or by having it sent home in your child’s Monday envelope.
3. **Friends of Immanuel** (*if you do not fit in either of the above groups – then this is you!*) – please contact the church office by email or phone (listed above) and let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email. If receiving the monthly newsletter is important to you and you do not have internet access, we will make other arrangements for you to still get the newsletter. However, if you do not wish to receive the newsletter at all, we will remove your name from the mailing list. As we will not be able to personally contact everyone who receives the newsletter, we will only be able to send to those who contact us!

**Please don’t delay! Please contact us now and make your preference known!**

PS: If have already told us your delivery method – please do not send another note. One sign-up is sufficient!

Thank you so much for your help with this project. If you have any questions at all, please call the church office and talk to Terri.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### What could be better?

All the hard work of the Apple Butter cook is behind us! Thank you to everyone who helped out in some way throughout the event. According to our lists, we had over 100 people sign-up for over 150 time slots.

Apple butter is now available for purchase. You may purchase your jars of delicious apple butter at “Loaves and Fishes”, “Not Just Cut and Dried”, as well as a limited number from the school office. Your purchase of apple butter raises money for the PTL, which supports the school by providing student

assemblies and teacher appreciation events.

*Student Council members*

The members of this year's Student Council are very excited about the start of another school year! The following students are serving the student body this year:

**Officers:** President – Kristen Bretzke;  
Vice-President – Katelyn Mittler;  
Secretary – Morgan Anderson;  
Treasurer – Nathan Mauldin; Spiritual Life Officer – Jenna Riegel

**Classroom Representatives:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Carrie McGettigan and Brianna Pagan; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Rachel Fredrick and Olivia Edmond; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Macy Robinson and Robbie Cichon; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Ryan Lohrer; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Morgan Riegel; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Brendan Pagan

**Members-at-Large:** Brien Grim, Jenna Rose Backs, Catherine Reifschneider, Tara Bennight, Kierstyn Mitchell, Lyndsy Siedhoff, Ashley Sincox, Megan Mauldin, Haley Woll, Lydia Juengling

We look forward to the many activities that will be planned for this year and the leadership that they will share with the ILS student body!

*Missing Yard Signs*

We are still missing a few ILS yard signs. If you still have a yard sign displayed, please return it to the school office or in the narthex. Thanks again for your support!

*Are your child's grandparents connected?*

The first "Grandparents Newsletter" for the 2009-2010 school year has recently been sent out. Did your child's grandparents receive it? If not, we encourage you to help us keep them connected to ILS! Our goal is to keep grandparents (and other friends of Immanuel) more informed of the great things that are happening at ILS. If you know of someone who would benefit from or enjoy receiving these mailings, please contact the school office.



## EPHESIANS

### *A Breathtaking View of God's Love!*

Over 30 people are registered and participating in this new class on the book of Ephesians. We have decided to meet twice a month. The next Bible class will be on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM, and Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Youth room. We start each class with a time of fellowship & coffee with the Pastor and Principal. *EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US!* *Those who have attended don't forget to bring a friend if you are able!* See you there!

## SCHOOL OPERATIONS UPDATE

Many of you have read in previous bulletins about our efforts through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to raise additional funds to help us through our current shortfall in the budget. Thrivent will grant a 50% match to funds gathered for the school. (up to \$300 match by Thrivent for a \$600 gift per Thrivent member.) Thrivent member's gifts designated to "School Operations"

will be placed into our general fund to help in our shortfall.

We are very close to breaking the \$6000 mark in this special effort.

**WE JUST FOUND OUT THIS WEEK THAT THIS THRIVENT PROGRAM WILL END AT THE END OF THE YEAR. PLEASE CONSIDER UTILIZING THIS PROGRAM WHILE YOU STILL HAVE TIME.**

## YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FIRST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ALUMNI REUNION

TYPE: FAMILY PICNIC

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17,  
2009

TIME: 4:00pm – 10:00pm

WHERE: FAIRGROUNDS PAVILION  
@ the Washington Fairgrounds

*A catered BBQ buffet will be  
provided at 5:00 pm.*

Please share information about the reunion with your family and friends who attended Immanuel and are past college age. We do

not have contact information for MANY alumni. You may also email us their address so we can send them a formal invitation.

Things to bring along:

- any photos or memorabilia from your years at Immanuel that you'd like to share for the evening
- If you live in the area, and are able to bring a dessert to share, please bring it to the event.
- Lawn chairs

Please RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 30th:

Email:

[ILS.ALUMNI.REUNION@gmail.com](mailto:ILS.ALUMNI.REUNION@gmail.com)

or call

Angi (Dawson) Grellner 636-390-0362

Tammy (Fleer) Beers 636-239-7983

\*Please join us at Immanuel on Sunday morning, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45am for worship service. For those of you who have been away for quite some time, following the service, we will be having tours of the school building.

### *Men's Bible Study*

The Monday morning Men's Bible Study has just begun their study of the book of Isaiah. We encourage all men to attend, both ILS members and guests! Join us each Monday morning at Cowen's Restaurant from 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. as we gather for breakfast, coffee, and studying God's Word.

### **YOUTH NEWS AND NOTES**

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth** started last month with 19 students participating. We enjoyed games, food and a Bible Study on the topic of "God's Word - A Lamp to my feet and a light to my path." All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to our next youth event on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM - 3 PM. Hope to see YOU there!

**Jr. Youth** also had a great start to the year with over 30 youth involved in the program. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 4 - 6 PM. We are

also looking at a Lock-in for later this month. Mr. Wunderlich will have more details in the near future about this possibility.

**Sr. Youth** kicked off the year with close to 30 youth at our first Bible study. We will be going "On the Road" again in October to Ebenezer Lutheran Church, as we will be joining with youth from Port Hudson and hopefully other Lutheran churches in our circuit for our program. This will occur on Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>. The time will be posted in upcoming bulletins, or see Mr. W. for details.

**Sr. High** also had a nice start to the upper grade (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade) Bible Study entitled "*Reflections*" based on the book of Romans. All 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join us on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> for our next study.

**WE ARE EXCITED BY THE FACT THAT WE MAY HAVE 25 - 30 SR. HIGH STUDENTS ATTENDING THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS NEXT SUMMER.** The Gathering occurs once every three years and brings together close to 30,000 Lutheran young people from around the nation and the world. We have started to raise funds for this event as well as for our Jr. High students who may have the same number interested in going to their Missouri District Retreat next March. Any help and support offered by the congregation is **GREATLY** appreciated. ***Please keep us in your prayers!***

**BYOB** (Bring Your Own Breakfast) will continue for Sr. High on every Wednesday morning from 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM. And ***Chillin'*** will be on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> this month in the evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.