

The Spirit of Immanuel

January 2019

Now there are varieties of Gifts, but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4



Immanuel Lutheran Church

- * Worship Services
Sundays, 10:00 am
- * Sunday School
9:00 am
for Pre-school
through High School
- * Weekly Fellowship
- * Choir and Chimes
- * Prayer Chain

In this Newsletter issue, we close the past year with the gentle reminder that Christmas was born with the heart of a child.

"Each is us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus."

- Neal A. Maxwell



We also look forward to a New Year of opportunities to live the life that Jesus commanded - to love our neighbors as He loved us.

"Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see."

- Roy T. Bennett

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The Pastor's Page

"All Solomon's sea of brass and world of stone is not so dear to thee as one good groan" once penned George Herbert.

Only one time in my life have I seen this quote used. There is something about it that I have never liked, and yet there is something about it that was perfect for the occasion. It was the second Thursday of April and the track team had gathered together; not for practice or a meet. Coach Olson led us in another of life's events. I cannot say that I remember a thing he said that day, though I am certain that it was meaningful and eloquent and real, as was everything that our college English professor / coach did. What I do remember that day in Ascension Chapel while I hunched over in the pew was the support of Kevin's hand on my shoulder, extended from the pew behind. Most times we extended hands it was to pass a baton, as one finished strong and one began to launch. That day in 1985 it was pure and simple support as we mourned the death of our friend.

It was the first Saturday of April thirty-one years later and Michelle and I gathered together with our immediate families and a couple close friends. Pastor Corinne led us in another of life's events. I cannot say that I remember a thing she preached that day, though I am sure that it was loving and full of grace, as is everything that our friend and colleague did. What I do remember that day in Trinity Lutheran while standing in the song and the Hall with the center aisle before us was the support of Michelle's hand, extended from beside. That day in 2016 it was pure and simple love as we promised ourselves to one another, ever and always.

It was the second Wednesday of December and I was making a rather unsuccessful

attempt at sleeping. When I had been laying awake for an hour or more, shortly after 1:30 in the morning, is when I heard the vibration. And then another. Each vibration on the wood of the nightstand held one word.

Sigh

Groan

The quote that I have never liked but that has a specific meaning to me was immediately roused. Two and a half hours of conversation later verified that there is indeed nothing 'so dear to thee as one good groan.' I cannot say that the person on the other end will remember a thing I said, though I am certain that God was present in it all.

George Herbert was born in April one day on the calendar after these first two events. King James (*vae, thou whoost commissioneth thee Bible thou mightest hast heardeth thereof*) thought well of George in his role of Public Orator of Trinity College, Cambridge. Herbert would become ordained in the Church of England, and was rather something of a poet. Yet what he was noted for [according to Wikipedia] was his "unfailing care for his parishioners, bringing the sacraments to them when they were ill and providing food and clothing for those in need." The kind of guy who might have his priorities in order such to know that one good groan is of more import than everything else about church or life that we might wrap around us, or wrap ourselves around.

As we begin a new year, might we remember again what really matters: care for one another and for all, as Christ cared - and cares, for us.

Pastor Tom

Community in Christ

WELCA NEWS for 2019

A new year is upon us and we would like to get started with collecting for Lutheran World Relief with special collections each month.

The current collection items will be highlighted in bold print .

ALL YEAR LONG – QUILT TIME –

Watch for group quilting days each month.

Quilting Dates

Monday, January 14 from 12:30 - 3:30 pm

Wednesday, January 30 from 8:00 - 11:00 am

Wednesday, February 6 and 13 from 8:00 -11:00 am

There is material to be cut in 21 inch squares, squares to be sewn together in 3 x 4 block quilt tops, and we will also schedule some knotting times. Can you imagine a person's face when they receive a nice warm quilt to cover up with, to lay on or share with a loved one!

January/February – Bars of soap – Gifts of soap not only helps needy people be able to wash up, but is also gives them dignity as they cleanse each day.

March – Fabric Kits – we will provide material and thread so that women can sew for themselves and their family. Please watch for information in each month's newsletter for more details.

April/May – Baby Care Kits - Layette items to help needy children be warm, dry and clothed. We will need pajamas without feet and t-shirts – **NOT ONSIES OR PAJAMAS WITH FEET** in them. We will again let you know what else we need to complete layettes.

June/July – Personal Care Kits – Washcloth, towel, band aids, comb, nail clipper, etc. Can you imagine what it would be like not to be have a washcloth, towel, comb, band aids and something to file and clip your nails. We will help make many people able clean and care for themselves and others.

August/September – School Kits – It is back to school time when August comes and we will want to get kids off to school with lots of great supplies. We will order draw string back packs to fill and have these available to fill.

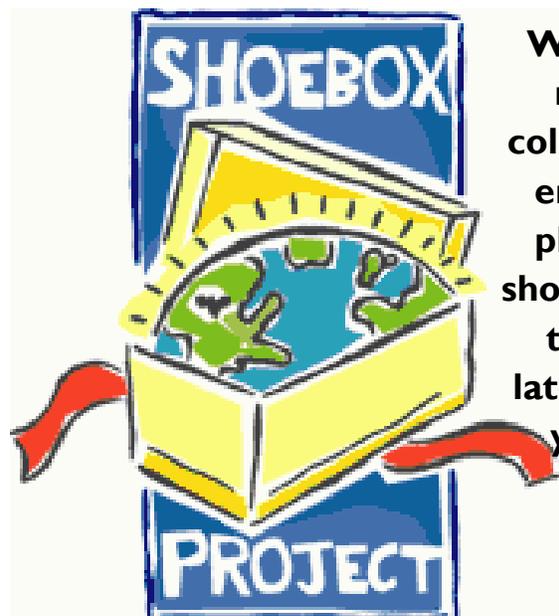
October – Finish Up/Dedication Time!!! – Time to pack boxes, count items, weigh the bars of soap, and deliver all of our donations to St. John's in Bloomington or the Gibson City site on the last Saturday in October.

WELCA ladies (and gentlemen) you ROCK!!!!!! Thanks so much for your time, effort and donations to our projects.

Karen, Dee and Suzie



Even though these kids are busy with school activities, they still find time to volunteer and lend a hand when it's needed. Thank you to Briana Ray for being a shining leader in their faith journeys.



We are now collecting empty plastic shoeboxes to fill later this year.

Church Council Minutes

November 5, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Danny Harms, Elton Mau, Marcia Buchs, Angie Kratochvil, Terry Bose, Don Brucker, Tracy Harms, Pastor Tom

Pastor Tom opened the meeting with prayer. Danny led devotions with a story of God's presence in the life of a newly baptized 8th grader from Africa.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Angie read the October 8th minutes. Don motioned to approve, and Elton seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Marcia presented the October Balance report as well as the January-October Profit and Loss report. We now have a separate checkbook for mission investments. Angie motioned to approve, and Elton seconded. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor presented his report. Terry motioned to accept the report, and Don seconded. Motion carried.

Don motioned and Marcia seconded to welcome Dennis and Kay Griepentrog into membership through transfer. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

With the wet weather, sidewalk repair by Windel Concrete will likely be delayed until next spring, in which we will hopefully be first on the list.

NEW BUSINESS:

A few cracked panes on stained glass on the west side of the sanctuary will be looked at for repair.

We are waiting until after the first of the year to look more into sound system repair.

Don motioned, and Terry seconded, to provide Fairbury and Ridgeview food pantries with up to 50 hams each for November and December, respectively. Motion carried.

Marcia presented the Immanuel Lutheran Stewardship Program based on Matthew 25. Angie motioned, and Tracy seconded, to put this program in the December newsletter and on the agenda for discussion and approval at the annual meeting. Motion carried.

Council prepared the 2019 budget to be distributed to congregation on November 11, 2018. The congregation will vote separately on the Pastoral contract and the budget.

Don motioned to adjourn, and Terry seconded. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Monday, December 10 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Kratochvil

Council Members

Dan Harms

Elton Mau

Don Brucker

Terry Bose

Dan Kukuck

Tracy Harms

Kolton Brucker

Marcia Buchs

Angie Kratochvil

Pastor Tom Krieger

Parish Education Committee

Yvonne Becker

Rebecca Casson

Louann Harms

Jeanie Weber

Youth Director

Briana Ray



January 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Each Sunday - 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship |  | 1 <i>Kevin Powell Kyle Calvert</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 <i>Julie Mosier</i> | 5 <i>Cindy Wilson</i> |
| 6 Jr/Sr High Sunday School - 9:00 am | 7 7:00 pm Council Meeting <i>Marcia Buchs Dave Pilgrim</i> | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11  <i>Jim & Jacquelyn Burns Kelsey McNamara</i> | 12 <i>Dan Kukuck</i> |
| 13 <i>Cindy Jaskowiak</i> | 14 <i>Quilting Day - 12:30 - 3:30 pm</i> <i>Claire Edwards</i> | 15 <i>Rose Dawson</i> | 16 <i>Brad Poppe</i> | 17 | 18 <i>Jeff Harris</i> | 19 |
| 20 | 21 <i>Connie Petersen Rob Weber</i> | 22 | 23  <i>Todd & Rhonda Harris Zachery Cavinder</i> | 24 <i>Dee Winterland</i> | 25 <i>Louise Winterland</i> | 26  <i>Dennis & Kay Griepentrog Ivan Miller</i> |
| 27 11:00 am Annual Meeting <i>Kayce Hall Rodney Kellar</i> | 28 <i>Ashley Jackman Carrie Ummel</i> | 29 | 30 <i>Quilting Day - 8:00 - 11:00 am</i> <i>Julianne Jacob</i> | 31 <i>Alan Petersen</i> |  | |

Worship Assistants

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Reader</u> | <u>Greeters</u> | <u>Communion</u> | <u>Ushers / Acolytes</u> |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan. 6 | Cindy Harris | Andrew & Stephanie Harper | Joyce Miller, Chuck Weber | Peyton & Cam R. |
| Jan. 13 | Janelle Hoffman | Jeff & Megan Harris | | Cale & Brec Hoffman |
| Jan. 20 | Erin Ifft | John & Cindy Harris | Alan & Sabrina Petersen | Annalyn, Alex Harper |
| Jan. 27 | Angie Kratochvil | Chad & Janelle Hoffman | | Phil & Angie K. |
| Feb. 3 | Jerry Kukuck | Ron & Deb Jaskowiak | Norman & Karen Harms | Jerry & Suzie K. |
| Feb. 10 | Suzie Kukuck | Sharon Kessinger | | Elton & Spring Mau |

