

Immanuel's Quarterly Newsletter

1000 Wisconsin Ave, Kewaunee, WI 54216
www.immanuellutherankewaunee.org

Pastor Michael P. Sullivan
388-2592; 388-6009 (H)

December 2014



Sunday, December 21st
9:00am

Children's Service (24th)
5:00pm

Christmas Eve Service (24th)
7:00pm

Christmas Day (25th)
9:00am

Sunday, December 28th
9:00am

New Year's Eve (31st)
7:00pm w/Holy Communion

Christmas Worship Schedule

*****Please note there will not be worship on Monday,
December 22nd or 29th.**

WHO VISITS YOU ON CHRISTMAS?

When I lived in Germany, there was a custom of little boys and girls getting up early on Christmas morning and running to the Christmas tree to see the gifts a very special person brought them.

So far it sounds like our American custom, doesn't it? True, but there was one major difference: the gifts were not left by Santa Claus, they were left by the "Christkind" (the Christ child).

Before the Reformation, gifts were given on December 6th in remembrance of St. Nicholas (a tradition still practiced in predominantly Catholic areas like here in Kewaunee). It is said that Martin Luther wanted to shift the emphasis off of St. Nicholas and onto Christ, so he encouraged parents to give gifts on Christmas Day instead of December 6th - and say that the gifts came from the Christ child. Gift giving would then be an opportunity for parents to talk to their children about God's greatest gift of all: his Son for the forgiveness of our sins.

The idea of the Christ-child giving gifts at Christmas spread across Europe and became a widely accepted custom.

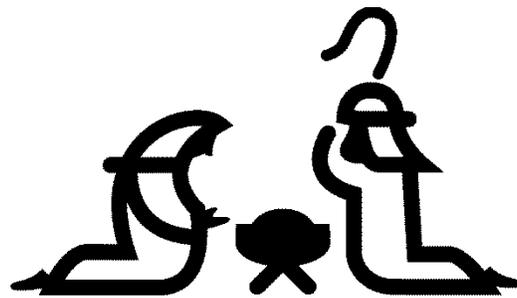
Sadly, in the early 1800's, Sinter Klaas, a shortened form of Sint Nikolaas (Dutch for Saint Nicholas) started making a come back in New York. Children's books and poems (like Clement Clarke Moore's "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas") were written about this child loving, gift giving saint, and he soon morphed into the Santa Claus spoken about today.

Who visits you on Christmas - Santa or Christ? The bad thing about Santa's gifts is that they are given as a reward for being good. That's horrible! Why? Because it teaches work-righteousness, and not grace.

Christ's gifts, on the other hand, are not tied to whether or not we have been good. They are given in spite of our wickedness. They are tokens of God's underserved love. These gifts flow from the merciful heart of God!

As you give and receive gifts this Christmas, remember God's greatest gift to you and use the opportunity to remind and teach your family about it. Luther had the right idea when He promoted "Das Christkind." Maybe we should do the same in our families. Why? Because Christmas is not about a reward for being good, its about *God, who so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (cf. John 3:16)

[Some Christmas Trivia: Do you know what the German name for a Christmas market (like the one we have in Kewaunee) is? It's "Christkindlmarkt" and it means: "The market of the Little Christ Child."]



MERRY CHRISTMAS

President's Letter

Oh what a wonderful time of year, attending our wonderful Advent and Christmas services, hearing the Word describing the birth of Christ spoken again, listening to our children sing, the opportunity again to sing Christmas hymns and carols together, seeing the decorations and exchanging the special greetings and gifts we have for each other. Oh, if we could keep those good feelings going year round! Besides our biological families, we have our Christian family, our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, also our Brother. What a wonderful blessing of love shared that others outside the communion of believers do not have. It is something to cherish, isn't it? I wish everyone a Merry and Joyous Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!

We are making progress on the organ fund. We have about one half of funds needed. Many thanks to all who have contributed to date! In the October Voters' Meeting the voters agreed to use loans to cover whatever we cannot raise by donations. This of course means we will have to pay off whatever loans we incur.

I've asked for your support on boards and committees in the past. There are wonderful opportunities for people to do the Lord's work by volunteering just a small amount of time to the church's ministries. It is not difficult work. Brian Dax stepped up to take an opening in the Board of Youth Christian Education. Thanks Brian! We are looking for men with past board experience who may be willing to serve on the Church Council.

Come to the Annual Voters' Meeting in January and thank your board members personally. Listen to their reports, ask questions and provide your input. One important vote will be on next year's budget proposal. I hope to see you there.

Because of income shortfalls last year the Board of Property was not able to execute some of the tasks approved by the voters. Please take a moment to remember the Lord in your planning for 2015. Read the book of Malachi. There are a couple sections in which the Lord chastises Israel for giving Him their cast offs instead of their best. I think it is a good corollary to how we may look at our giving ministry, with loving hearts, or as many of the Jews, a bill to be paid grudgingly, if at all.

Are you interested in financially supporting a particular project or ministry of Immanuel? You can contact a member of our Planned Giving Committee, Charlie Novak, Lou Richard, Larry Schneider or David Siegmund.

Do you have some feedback for me? Always feel free to give me a call or send me an email at glennbrunner1@gmail.com.

Your brother in Christ,
Glenn Brunner

150th Anniversary Update

The anniversary committee now has invitation letters available for the 2015 events. A copy is included in this newsletter. Additional copies are at the back of church. Please pick up some copies to share with your family members and friends who may not know about the upcoming events in 2015. With Christmas coming, you may be able to include the letter in your Christmas mailings, or hand them out at your Christmas gatherings.

We have cloth re-usable tote bags with the anniversary symbol for sale. We have green or purple available at a cost of \$3 each or 2 for \$5.00. Mari Fager will have them at the back of church after the service. You can also call Mari at 388-2841 to make arrangements to purchase them. These would make great Christmas gifts and could also be used as the gift bag to give your gift in.

Questions or comments can be directed to the 150th Committee, through Dan Fager, 920-255-2613, or email dnlfager2@gmail.com.

Elders

There will be a 2015 schedule of Sunday morning Greeters on the bulletin board in the back of church shortly. Thank you to Dick Stuebs for organizing this wonderful service for us.

Two items I wish to highlight from the December Forward in Christ magazine: a good article on Stewardship, p 12, and the Marriage Enrichment notice, middle of p. 19. Stewardship is part of our Elders duties, and this series of articles explains it well. The Marriage retreat is highly recommended; my wife and I attended last spring. The magazines are always in back of church.

The 150th Anniversary Committee has finalized the invitation letter; copies will be in back of church for distribution. A decision has been made to make a commemorative bookmark for our celebration, it will be out soon. Anyone interested in helping make cloth banners for our Anniversary, contact Dan Fager.

The 2015 offering envelopes will be mailed out soon. If you have any concerns about them, or if you want to switch to direct deposit please contact Julie Siegmund at 388-4541.

Finally, let's not forget the Organ Fund Drive we have going. In April 2015, we will start the celebrations with the Organ Service by Mr. Bono. We are assured it will be ready to go for that, and the estimated cost is about \$35,000. Our goal would be to have it paid off by that time, so keep this project in mind.

Dan Fager
Elders Board

Property

Goal; To keep Immanuel Lutheran facilities in good repair by careful planning, thoughtful decision making, and the supervision of such activities as they take place. This quarterly newsletter will keep you informed of the property board activity that will spark your interest.

Rest doesn't come easy with your hard working property board. Plans are already in the process involving budgetary items for the 2015 year. One priority project needing attention next year is the church organ rebuilding in honor of the 150th anniversary. Other projects to include the roof inspection of the church, apply seal coating to the parking lot, repair to the stained glass window wood work, along with the visual improvement of the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Other less costly projects as of very recent was the water bubbler replacement at the entrance to the Family Life Center, the front church exterior light fixture replacement, FLC bleacher work, elevator inspection and repairs.

All projects that had been planned for this year of 2014 had been delayed due to the lack of funding. However, we recently have been given the go ahead to start the projects. They may not be completed this year due to scheduling of the contractors being so late in the year. Those uncompleted projects are the remodeling of fellowship hall restrooms, tree removal, stained glass window repair, and the focus on energy program which upgrades church interior lighting. Wow, talk about a massive traffic jam, we have plenty of projects to do, all waiting to be completed!

Joe's yard service has been contracted again this season for our snow removal needs.

The contract with Advance disposal will be cancelled for next year. The two dumpsters will be removed and will save us \$2,400.00 per year. The maintenance staff will simply place our waste material at curb side for pick up on Wednesdays. We have also had volunteers that offered to haul away garbage to the dump as needed.

A challenge has been issued to the property board to keep the heating bills lower than last year. In order to do this we pray for a warmer than usual winter. (Doesn't look like it already) Let's forget that, but, we'll pray anyway. You may feel the coolness in the air at church and school building. Thermostats are turned down and in some cases when the building is not occupied, the heat may be turned off. All maintenance staff members monitor the building on a daily basis. Prevention measures take place to keep water pipes from freezing. Persons using the facilities are asked to list your activities in the church bulletin. The staff regulating the heat does monitor the bulletin and adjusts the heat to make your meeting or event a comfortable stay.

The property board will not meet again until the month of January. We decided a well-deserved rest was in order during deer hunting and to enjoy the Christmas Holiday season. The holidays are a special time of the year. Whether you celebrate Christmas or New Years, there is always potential for fire and accidents. Please take all of the usual fire safety precautions. Inspect all smoke alarms and change batteries. Install carbon monoxide detectors. Never decorate a tree with real candles. Never leave burning candles unattended. Have a fire escape plan for your home and practice it with your family. Make sure escape routes are not blocked.

Have a safe Merry Christmas.

Steve Ihlenfeldt, Gary Hardtke, Fred Steffen, Jason Karnopp, Jeff Christian, Greg Hlinak

Evangelism

The Evangelism Board realizes that one of Immanuel's chief purposes for its very existence is to share the message of Jesus. We also realize that Christ's charge to share the gospel isn't only the Board's duty but also the responsibility of every member in our congregation. The Evangelism Board's purpose is to coordinate and assist our joint ministry of sharing the gospel so that each one of us is doing all that we can to reach the lost or dechurched (people not hearing God's Word regularly).

Did you know that we had a fantastic community response to our Vacation Bible School this summer? We had eleven different families (not just children but families) from outside the congregation enroll their children to learn about Jesus! Every one of those families was personally visited at their home (or info dropped off if they weren't home) to invite their children to our Sunday School. Seeds are being planted!

A prime time unchurched families think about attending worship is at Christmas. This is a golden opportunity to invite them to Immanuel to hear what the real Christmas gift is. This year we are sending post cards to every home in Kewaunee and some in the rural community. Yes, members will also receive an invitation but the most cost effective program the post office offers requires every resident to receive the mailing. Think of it around 3,000 people will be invited to worship with us this Christmas.

We would ask you to do the following:

- Pray for God's blessings upon these invitations.
- Pick up some extra invitations available in December at church and use them to invite a friend, a family member, a neighbor or an associate. If they already received a card, your personal relationship will further enhance the invitation.
- Be especially friendly to people. Sometimes just a smile gives a strong, warm and encouraging feeling to the other person whether a guest, or a returning or regular member you don't know. An initial warm, welcoming and friendly reception is a primary reason a visitor will return to church again. Let us each personally do all we can to create such an atmosphere for our guests.

Together we can offer Christ and his kingdom of grace to our community.

Youth Christian Education

BOARD OF YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Board Members are Chairman Brian Dax, John Tess and David Chaudoir.

2014 Goals/Mission: Expand and nurture Christian Education (Sunday School, VBS, Elementary & High School). Encourage participation of young people in our ministries and services.

This past quarter has been a busy one due to preparation of the season of Jesus' birth. Christmas trees will soon go up in Church and supplies are being purchased to fill the children's bags for the Christmas Eve service. The Christmas Trees are being donated by Lee Wessel of Auto Tech in Algoma. If you see him, please give him a thank you. The Sunday School children are busy preparing for their Christmas Eve service in which they will tell us about Jesus' birth. It will be a full house. Get there early as seats are first come, first served.

The 2015 budget has been finalized and approved by the Church Council. It will be brought to the voters at the January voters meeting for their approval. Also being developed are the 2015 goals, objectives and expectations for the YCE Board. They will be finalized at our January Board meeting.

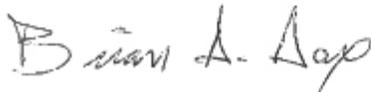
Little Lambs are continuing to meet on a regular basis. A couple of non-member moms and their children have attended. Confirmation Classes are progressing well. We look forward to four new confirmands joining our congregation in May of 2015.

Young Peoples Society (YPS) is being headed up by Amber Binney and David Chaudoir. They are looking at an inaugural meeting sometime in January. Please watch the bulletins and newsletters for further information. Please encourage the young adults to attend. Amber and David are working very hard to make this a worthwhile and fun organization.

Lastly, we will be looking for a 5th and 6th grade Sunday School teacher for next school year. Michelle Dax will be resigning at the end of this school year. If anyone is interested or has questions, please contact any member of the YCE Board or Michelle Dax.

John Tess's term on the Board is ending in January and he will be replaced by another individual on the ballot at the voters meeting. I would personally like to thank him for his years of service and hope that he continues to serve our Church in other capacities.

Respectfully,



Brian D. Dax

Planned Giving Committee

Charitable Gift Annuity - A Gift that Also Pays You

Would you like to give a gift to Immanuel Lutheran Church now, receive retirement income and a tax deduction, and best of all know that when you are gone, a gift will be made to the Lord's work? Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity.

For example a member who is 75 years old gives the minimum gift of \$10,000 in cash or securities. That member would receive a tax deduction of \$4,503. The CGA payment rate for that age group is 5.8 %. That would mean the member would receive \$580 in annual payments of which \$443 is tax-free each year for 12.4 years. In other words, a gift that also pays you.

If you are interested in more information on a Charitable Gift Annuity, please contact our WELS Christian Giving Counselor, Rev. Dennis Kleist, either by email: Dennis.kleist@wels.net, or call him at 920-740-5899.

The Planned Giving Table is always an option when considering planned giving or simply making a memorial gift. Included in the table is the Organ Fund. The estimated cost to repair our organ is now \$35,000. The goal is to have our organ repaired for our 150th Anniversary celebration beginning April of 2015. Current gifts for this project total \$15,380 or 44%.

Christmas Giving "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19 NIV

At Christmas we celebrate the ultimate gift—the birth of Jesus, mankind's Savior from sin—by making gifts of love to God and other people. It's important to remember how Christ is our motivation for Christmas giving so that we can avoid some of the temptations that come with the holiday celebration.

Let the love of Christ compel actions that emphasize and spread the true spirit of Christmas.

Merry Christmas from the Planned Giving Committee!

Lou Richard
Charlie Novak
Larry Schneider
David Siegmund

CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!

Organ Fund Update

"The voters have decided to establish an organ repair fund drive. Our goal is to raise \$35,000 so the organ can be fully repaired and its full range of capabilities and sound restored. We would like to accomplish this in time for our 2015 anniversary. We may have to take out a loan to accomplish this timeline but hopefully we can avoid this if funds are forthcoming. Please prayerfully consider an extra gift above your normal weekly gift and specify 'Organ Fund'. Thank You, Glenn Brunner, President."

Donations as of December 15, 2014

<i>From</i>	<i>Honor/Memory of</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>Cash Donations</i>		<i>\$3,575</i>
<i>Ruth Siegmund</i>	<i>M of John Siegmund</i>	<i>\$500</i>
<i>Kim Koss</i>	<i>M of Lois Koss</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>Kim Koss</i>	<i>M of "Uncle Jack" John Voyles</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>Jan Tess</i>	<i>M of Ruth Holub</i>	<i>\$150</i>
	<i>M of Leon Dax</i>	<i>\$400</i>
<i>Kim Koss</i>	<i>M of Steven Gutoski</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Ladies Aid</i>		<i>\$300</i>
<i>Kathy Vanness</i>	<i>M of Gertrude Heuer</i>	<i>\$10</i>
	<i>M of Milton Fager</i>	<i>\$135</i>
<i>Sandi Christman</i>	<i>M of Leon Dax</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>Dawn Kieckbusch</i>	<i>M of Robert Drews</i>	<i>\$50</i>
<i>Louise Ihlenfeldt & Family</i>	<i>M of Harlan Ihlenfeldt</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>

MLHS Christmas Concert All are invited to this year's concert "REJOICE" on Tuesday, December 23rd at 4:30 & 7:30 at the Capitol Civic Centre. The concert is free and open to the public, so please consider inviting a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to join in hearing of our Savior's birth!

St. Paul's School Christmas Service St. Paul's (Algoma) Christmas Service will be held on Wednesday, December 24th at 6:30pm at the Church. Additionally, they will have a Candlelight Worship Service at 10:00pm.

Interactive Faith – An Online Bible Study Series Start 2015 with a new Interactive Faith Series! Rev. David Scharf, Immanuel, Greenville, Wis., will lead a six-week study called "Breaking the Cycle with Grace (a study of the book of Judges)." "In our lives, we go through cycles of ups and downs – we think God is pleased one moment and that he is not the next. Come and break the cycle of uncertainty with grace as we study a book full of God's love and patience!" Rev. David Scharf. The study will be steamed live online twice every Wednesday night between January 7 and February 11 at 6:00pm and 8:00pm (central time). Please let Pastor Sullivan know if you would be interested in meeting at church as a group or you can participate from home. www.wels.net/interactivefaith

PIZZA DAY 2015 -- Please mark your calendars for the annual pizza making day on February 28th. Watch the January bulletins for details.

Ladies Aid The Immanuel Ladies Aid wants to thank everyone who contributed money for the Holy Rosary Food Pantry. \$200 was collected from the congregation, and Ladies aid added \$100 for a grand total of \$300. A thank you was received from Holy Rosary Food Pantry for this generous contribution.

At the November meeting the members voted to contribute \$300 to our organ fund.

Manitowoc Lutheran High School (MLHS)

Delegate Report

At the last Lead Delegate meeting, Carrie Ungemach, International Student Coordinator, presented a wonderful summary of the excellent work being done to bring students from all over the world to MLHS. We have eight international students and two exchange students. There are five students from China, two from South Korea, two from Thailand and one student from Germany. Two children have been baptized and confirmed. Principal Rathje was invited to visit China to give a briefing on the school and help develop our relationship with the Chinese International Student Program.

In sports, the school has been moved from the Olympian conference to the Big East conference.

MLHS SCRIP is available! Don't forget SCRIP is available from MLHS. Your purchase of SCRIP from MLHS is a simple way for you to support Christian education. You can put money into an account for future Immanuel HS students if you designate it to Immanuel's account, or you can specify a future Immanuel student. Our account name is: Immanuel Lutheran, Kewaunee. The SCRIP is available at the SCRIP office at MLHS. Their office hours are from 7:30 to 3:30, Monday through Friday and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. The office is closed whenever the school is closed for a holiday, etc. Use of SCRIP from MLHS and shopping at our resale store are some active ways of supporting Christian education.

Please pray for our parents who may be struggling financially but remain devoted to Christ-centered education free from the sinful teachings of evolution and contemporary thought on moral values, human relationships based on accepted "norms" of behavior and all the rest of the anti-Christian teachings children face in public schools, and also for our children in public schools who must endure and overcome these challenges to their faith.

Thanks,
Glenn M. Brunner
MLHS Lead Delegate

Gloria
IN EXCELSIS DEO



We will be celebrating our 150th Anniversary with several special events:

- **Sunday, April 19, 2015** 10 AM church service with Charles Bono, Brunch after
- **Sunday, July 19, 2015** 10 AM church service Pastor Mark Schroeder, WELS President, guest speaker. Leonard Epple, a former 5th and 6th grade teacher will be the organist. Program and meal to follow.
- **Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015 Picnic** Featuring the Koine Band, 10 AM devotion service, noon picnic lunch, 1 PM concert, childrens, teens, and adult activities, bouncy house and other activities planned.
- **Sunday, August 2, 2015** 10 AM church service, Kip Wilson, former teacher, is guest organist, coffee and doughnuts to follow the service.
- **Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015** 10 AM church service: Pastor Stephen Sauer, Pastor Joel Sauer, and organist Faith Sauer

In order to plan, and prepare the food for an event, we are asking for RSVP by e-mail: 150Immanuelkew@gmail.com; Regular mail: return the bottom segments (note the reverse order of events); or a phone call to one of the following contact people. Sharing of pictures and/or special memories of Immanuel are also invited and encouraged.

Ruth Siegmund
410 Terraqua Drive
Kewaunee, WI 54216
920-388-0294

OR

Diane Kratz
N2560 Lakeshore Road
Kewaunee, WI 54216
920-388-9501

Oct. 18, 2015 Potluck Meal _____
Name

_____ Adults Attending _____ Children attending

RSVP by Oct. 1, 2015

.....

August 1, 2015 Picnic _____
Name

_____ Adults Attending _____ Children attending

RSVP by July 15, 2015 Please bring your favorite lawn chair along if you can.

.....

July 19, 2015 Meal _____
Name

_____ Adults Attending _____ Children attending

RSVP by July 1, 2015

.....

April 19, Brunch _____
Name

_____ Adults Attending _____ Children attending

RSVP by April 1, 2015

Important Information Regarding 2015 Offering Envelopes

2015 Offering envelopes will be **MAILED** to each confirmed member on a quarterly basis by **United Envelope and Mailing Co.** A handful of Sunday School Children who have requested envelopes will also receive them through the mail. Excluded from the mailing are those on the Automatic Transfer program called Simply Giving.

The mailing program will ensure that **ALL** of our members receive envelopes, and for some it will be a reminder that they still have a church home.

Some may question the cost for this program and it's very reasonable at **ONLY** \$2.75 per envelope set per year. The total cost for envelopes and mailing them will be under \$800.

An updated mailing list will be e-mailed to the company on a quarterly basis, which will allow for changes due to transfers, marriage, death, etc.

We will still keep a supply of **WHITE** envelopes in the Narthex as a courtesy to our members. Just remember to put your name or envelope number on it for tracking purposes. We also have **PINK** envelopes in the Narthex which are used for special designations – Missions, Family Life Center, Student Aid, Debt Reduction, etc.

This is an excellent opportunity to sign up for the Automatic Transfer Program. Your offering can be transferred to the church account at various times and frequencies each month and doesn't cost you anything.

Please call Julie Siegmund at 388-4541 or e-mail her at juliesiegmund@outlook.com if you have any questions or concerns about your

2015 offering envelopes.