

IMMANUEL MESSENGER
September - October
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 5

**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(EVANGELICAL & REFORMED)
W3694 COUNTY ROAD FF
PLYMOUTH, WI 53073-4819**

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1 Interim Pastor's Ponderings

Identity is a strange thing – we all have one, but we do not consciously think about it. We might think about how we look to others, what others think about the jobs that we are doing, or how others view us as individuals, but if someone were to ask, “What is your identity?” what would you answer?

Identity is defined as “the individual characteristics by which a thing or person is recognized or known.” Like it or not, we all have an identity by which others recognize us and Immanuel has an identity by which the community recognizes us. We may agree or disagree with them, but in many cases their perceptions become our identity.

What is your identity? What is the identity of Immanuel UCC and how does Immanuel communicate that identity to the community, to its members and to other UCC churches? Our identity should be so clear that when someone says something about our congregation without identifying our church name, someone else should be able to say, "Oh, I know that church, that is Immanuel.

Identity gives focus and purpose to a congregation. Identity attracts members who agree with the identity. Identity draws people together around a common cause. Identity can make a church unforgettable. Identity can make or break a church. Church identity can be conveyed by its focus, its vision, the work of its members, its theology, its mission, its worship, its activities, etc.

Immanuel UCC is in transition. Part of this transition is to determine, perhaps even re-define, the identity that we wish to pursue and convey to the community and to the UCC. Think about Immanuel's identity and what you want to convey, through the members, to the community. Bring those thoughts with you to our September 18th and October 16th sessions that follow worship and a potluck.

I look forward to serving with you as we continue to determine the identity of Immanuel UCC and how we fit in as a Christian Church of the United Church of Christ, in the 21st century.

Pastor Margaret

You Are Invited

To join us in the Fellowship Hall



PRIOR to our last two sessions, please take seriously the discussions we had in Session 5. Particularly the following, taken from the “future” discussion.

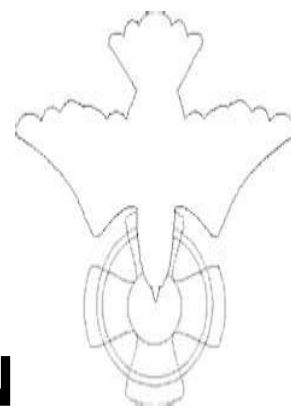
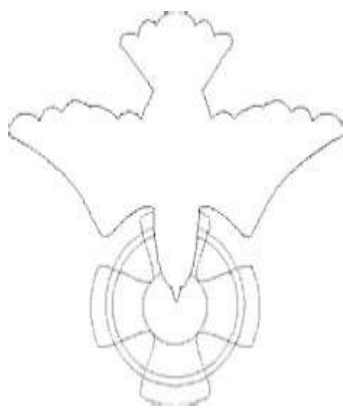
1. Open communication
2. More “life” together
3. At least half of the members involved in small group ministries
4. More people involved in leadership
5. Grounded in Biblical principles
6. Relevant for today
7. New forms of life together yet to be created – ministry, mission, education, worship, being church, etc...
8. Improved giving from our financial resources, time, and talents

September 18 (11:15am to 1:00pm) - In what direction(s) do you envision your ministry, mission, worship, education, and evangelism heading? How might you get this accomplished?

*This is a **Breakfast** brunch - Bring a dish to pass.

October 16 (11:15am to 12:45pm) - What kind of pastoral leadership are you looking for? What skills and gifts for ministry are you seeking in your next pastor? What personal qualities and characteristics do you see as necessary for your next installed pastor?

*This is an **Ethnic Foods** brunch - Bring a dish to pass.



CONFIRMATION

Yes! It is time to begin confirmation.

Mentors are those folks who walk the confirmation journey with you. **Seventh graders need to ask someone to be their mentor.** Your mentor will meet with you at least once a month; there is a curriculum you will work on together the first Wednesday of each month at the church. Your mentor will also worship with you on occasion, sign up to attend two or three confirmation classes, visit a shut-in member at least twice, and most important, travel your faith journey with you. Your mentor is NOT your parent(s).

Confirmation will begin with a potluck at the church on Wednesday, September 14, 2011. All **confirmands, parents, and mentors** are invited to attend. Following supper, the 2011/2012 program and expectations will be presented.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER SCRIPTURES

September 4	Psalm 29 “Naming God”	Matthew 18:16-20
September 11	Romans 14:1-12 “Seventy Times Seven”	Matthew 18:21-35
September 18	Psalm 105:37-45 “Grace”	Matthew 20:1-16
September 25	Ezekiel 18:25-32 “Adjusting Vision”	Matthew 21:23-32
October 5	World Communion Sunday “Remember Where You Came From”	
October 9	Isaiah 25:1-9 “Your Soul” CROP Walk	Matthew 22:1-14
October 16	Psalm 96 “To God”	Matthew 22:15-22
October 23	Deut. 34:1-12 “The Question”	Matthew 22:34-46
October 30	Psalm 34:1-9 “Of Heaven”	Revelation 7:9-17

Laurel Lorenz received the following information this past June. It is from “The Family Village Farm,” home of our sponsored children, Lakshmi and Pavithra, and the Global Ministries office in Cleveland, OH. Liz Wolfe took the attached picture in 1985 at “The Family Village Farm” in India.



“The Family Village Farm” would like you to know that they would love visitors. While you are there, you can see the little children who love being carried around and cuddled.

If you would like to partner with them on your own, over and above what Immanuel does, sponsorship is as follows:

- To sponsor a child for a month it is \$30.00. This provides food, shelter, education, clothing, medicine, and recreation.
- To sponsor a housemother or a grandparent for a month would be \$30.00. This is an urgent need because many are not sponsored at this time

- Support for their Endowment Fund for Higher Education. This fund goes towards funding their “aged-out children” that are 16 years old and up who are seeking professional courses such as Engineering, Physical Education, Para Medical education, etc.
- Sponsor a Day Student's education for a year at King's Matriculation Higher Secondary School for \$250.00
- Sponsor a meal for all our children during special occasions such as festivals, birthdays, family functions, etc. Breakfast is \$40.00 a year. Lunch is \$100.00 (for a non-vegetarian meal). Sweets/desserts for a year is \$30.00 a year.
- Or any gift - with an end use to be specified by you.

Interested donors from the USA may kindly contact:

Global Ministries
 South Asia Office
 700 Prospect Ave.
 Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1100, U.S.A.

(Make gifts out to MBKG Pannai)

Or you may contact:

lawrenci@ucc.org

The Director, MBKG Pannai
 Kasam, Katpadi-632 007
 Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India

(All contributions to MBKG Pannai are tax deductible under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.)

The contact person here at Immanuel is Laurel Lorenz.

You can contact her at: lorenzml@SBCGlobal.net

Also, from “The Family Village Farm”, we received the following updates from Pavithra (18) and Lakshmi (age 11 and in the 7th Grade.)
We received letters from the girls along with beautiful drawings.

For those of our very own Sunday School students here at Immanuel who chose to write Lakshmi – you may have received a response by now. For her birthday we sent a Birthday Card on behalf of all the children in Sunday School along with the photo we took of our Immanuel Sunday School Choir when they last sang in church. We sent small, delicate, colorful paper dolls with small cutout clothes and shoes in her card. She wrote that she attended Bible school and visited her family for one week before returning to the **Family Village Farm** for the first day of school that began on June 2. She says “Thank You” to all of us for supporting her and enabling her to live at the **Family Village Farm** to enjoy a childhood filled with love, safety, and provisions - something that we here all take for granted.

Pavithra – is now 18 years old and doing her RN RM course at Christian Medical College in Vellore. She is writing her first year exams now. She has done very well in her studies as well as in sports. She does not have parents to go home to so this is the first year she has celebrated her birthday with her new friends she met at college. She thanks God for adding one more year in her life. She sent a drawing of roses and leaves in her letter to thank us.

Global Ministries in Cleveland, Ohio, has made the connection we have with the girls possible. They provide assistance in all five regions of the world through 15 participating centers around the world. Remember that 100% of designated gifts for the child sponsorships themselves go to the centers and the children.

One example of Global Ministries good works is that it has made it possible for twin infant orphaned girls to now receive support in Zimbabwe at the age of three-weeks. They were admitted to Mt. Selinda Children's Home after their unemployed father abandoned them and their mother had died from malaria seven days after they were born. One of the baby girls was admitted with pneumonia and responded to treatment well. Life for these little girls began with many obstacles but now they are receiving the love and compassion they need and deserve, thanks to Global Ministries.

Here at Immanuel we sponsor two children for \$30.00 a month, each. Please help us keep our promise to them by contributing any way you can. All contributions to MBKG Pannai are tax deductible under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

If you would like to hear more details or have questions, please contact me.

Submitted by,
Laurel Lorenz

Fellowship

Anyone interested in hosting a fellowship time in the future, should please call Diane Vanderkin. (920-467-0574) We do not always need to use the Fellowship Hall downstairs; having the Fellowship Time outside when the weather is nice is always a treat. As always, coffee, cream, sugar, plates, and napkins are supplied. You are responsible for clean-up afterwards which usually doesn't take long as others are always willing to help along.

Submitted by Diane Vanderkin

German Partnership



This past week I was asked if a trip to Germany is being planned for next year. My reply was: "I don't know." I do know that in a few years, Pastor Andreas Weissbach will be retiring so it would be to our benefit to visit Germany while he is still there. He, as well as myself, are looking for

someone to lead our visits. While no one has stepped up to help yet, it would be nice to continue our Partnership. Anyone who has had a part in either visiting Germany or hosting guests knows that we have learned lots and experienced many things that we would not have known about without having the Partnership in place. It has been a blessing to all of us. Please contact Diane if you would be willing to take over the coordinator position. (920-467-0574)

Submitted by Diane Vanderkin

A few words from the Sound Room...

As many of you know, the Sunday services are recorded on cassette tapes for historical purposes as well as for making the service available to our shut-ins. In the last year or so, I have been getting requests for the Sunday Service to be placed on CD media because the technology has changed and many people no longer have tape players. (I still can play 8-tracks but that just shows how long I have been around.) In a lot of instances the CD player has replaced the tape player.

The following items were purchased because the Dreier Family generously donated funds from Arlisle Wernecke's Memorial Fund for: a CD recorder, a CD player, and a CD duplicator so a master copy can be archived and used to make copies for our shut-ins.

The church will still be able to record and play back on cassette tapes, when needed, as the equipment still has a lot of good hours in it. I will, however, in the near future migrate to CD recording and record on tapes only by request. The system will be set up to do both tapes and CD's at the same time and this way we can best serve our congregation's needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Gottsacker

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our July 24th potluck was a very nice social time. It was held at Gail & Mike Gottsacker's home. This was our get together during the summer since we were not meeting regularly to work on prayer shawls. We gave a few shawls out over the summer to some people needing some extra support. Fall is coming and so is the time to get together again on a regular basis. We will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings starting on September 25th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Gail & Mike Gottsacker's home.

We will also continue our study on prayer that starts some great discussions. If you have an interest in knitting or crocheting or would like to learn, you are welcome to join our group. Not only are we making something that comforts people; we are also enhancing our relationship with God and each other. For more information contact Gail Gottsacker at 920 565-2672.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gail Gottsacker

Small Group Ministry

We had great success doing a book study on the book titled "**The Shack**" by William Paul Young. The Sunday morning study group ended their sessions in July and the Tuesday night study group ended in May. Between the two groups, we started with 22 participants. If anyone would like to read "**The Shack**" contact Gail Gottsacker and I'm sure some of our participants would let you borrow their book.

Our Sunday study group will start the Sunday after Labor Day, which is Sept. 11th. We will be studying the Gospel of



....encourage one another
and build each other up...

John, which was used as a base in writing "**The Shack**". Peter Warner will be leading the group. He will be using some commentary books that Rev. Michele sent us for our library. Come join us. We have some very good discussions and always try to associate what we read in the bible

into our life today. We meet each Sunday morning from 8:45-9:45 a.m. Please watch the bulletin for the meeting place; it is very likely that we will be meeting at the parsonage each Sunday.

This Fall we will be starting two small group sessions using the DVD series of "**If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat**" by John Ortberg. The plan is to meet Monday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. starting Sept. 19th or Wednesday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 21st. I realize that consistory meets on Monday nights and if we have consistory members come to our Monday night study, we can skip meeting the nights of consistory. We will be finished with the 6-session series by Thanksgiving.

I read the book **“If You Want To Walk On Water, You’ve Got To Get Out Of The Boat”** and watched the 1st of the 6 sessions. What we will learn and discuss while doing this study will not only enhance our faith life but also our work life and our personal life. This series is for all ages, confirmation and up. This series is especially good for High School students as well as their parents since High School students are deciding what course to take for the rest of their life. Please sign up for the session you would like to participate in. All are welcome; you do not need to belong to Immanuel to participate so you can bring a friend. The sign-up sheets are on the table in back of church or call Gail Gottsacker 920-565-2672.

After the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays we will do a 4-session series on marriage called **“Staying in Love: Falling in Love Is Easy, Staying in Love Requires a Plan”** by Andy Stanley. Andy Stanley is a well-known author on many different subjects. I have heard great reports on all of his work. Watch the bulletin and future newsletters for more information.

We have numerous small groups at our church and are expanding. Our current small groups are: the Consistory, Women’s Fellowship, Youth Fellowship, Sunday Morning Adult Study Group, and the Prayer Shawl Group. When these small groups get together there is a format that should be followed according to the Leader’s Booklet from the Laity Empowerment Project led by Ron Farr. It has four parts. The first is Opening Prayer, which includes remembering the reason this group exists, Community Building that includes going around the group and asking “How Has Your Week/Month Been” as an example, Group Task or Purpose

which would be the business meeting, book/DVD/Study, or mission. The last part of the small group format is a closing prayer/caring time, which would include asking the members of the group “How Can We Pray For You Tonight/morning/day”. If you are a leader of any of these groups, try this format and see the benefits you will get. Small groups are more than a few people getting together to do a task. They are a means of building relationship with God and each other.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gail Gottsacker

Women’s Fellowship

The Women's Evening Fellowship did not meet in July or August. The next meeting will be Monday Sept 12, 2011. All women of Immanuel are invited to attend and are encouraged to become active with this service group.

Respectfully submitted by,
Chris Thieleke

Library News

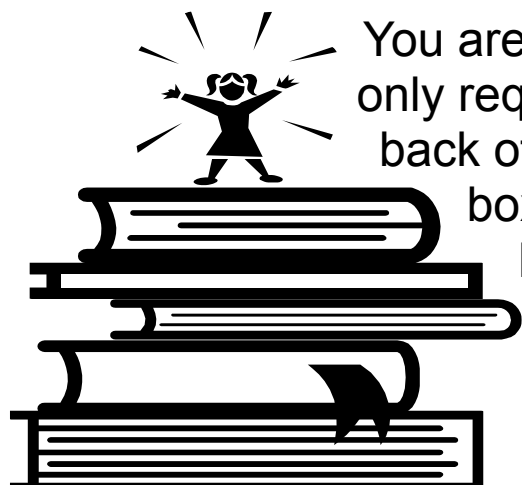
As summer comes to an end and the children are getting ready for school and Sunday school, we want to remind everyone the Church Library also has a children's section.

We have in our collection a series of four books, each of which would be perfect for a family devotional series or for home schooling. The series is "**The Wonder of God's World: by Bonita Searle-Barnes**. You can find these books in the children's section at 534.20 SEA.

Children's books on science and faith can be hard to come by and are frequently laced with adult misunderstandings. The four books are on sound, water, light, and air. Written for ages 5-7, each book has a factual discussion about the subject followed by a series of simple experiments that children can do. In the unit on light, for example, light is explained, the rainbow is discussed with a simple explanation of refraction, and a lab using soap bubbles is presented to explain the nature of color. In the unit on air, the child builds a parachute. In the unit on water, Archimedes's principle is explained and the child builds a boat and is taught why it floats. In the unit on sound, the child builds a zither with a meatloaf pan and rubber bands. The labs are scientifically sound and easy to do. The book is a hardback and is very colorful.

The main attraction to Christian parents is that the book is very friendly to faith and to the Bible. In each section, there is

a quote from the Psalms or a reference to a biblical event to which the subject applies.



You are encouraged to use the library. Our only request is that you sign the card in the back of the book and place the card in the file box. There is no time limit for returning the book. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Librarian for September - Vanessa Thieleke
The Librarian for October - Diane Vanderkin
The Librarian for November - Karen Ausloos

Respectfully submitted by,
Vanessa Thieleke



Please let me know if you would be willing to receive your **Immanuel Messenger** by email. If so, please send your email address to Immanuel@tds.net so that I can add your information to a mail group. This will help reduce printing costs. I will still be printing out hard copies for those who want them. Thanks. Kim

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9 a.m. Worship Scrip Sales	5	6	7	8 7 p.m. – Senior Choir	9	10
11 8:45 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Scrip Sales	12 Women's Fellowship Meeting 7 p.m. – CONSISTORY Meeting	13	14 Confirmation Potluck Meeting with Confirmand's, Parent(s), and Mentors	15 7 p.m. – Senior Choir	16	17
18 8:45 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Scrip Sales Congregational Meeting 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m. Breakfast Potluck – bring a dish to pass	19 7-8:30 p.m. Book Study Group	20	21 10-11:30 a.m. Book Study Group Confirmation	22 7 p.m. – Senior Choir	23	24
25 8:45 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Scrip Sales 6:30-8:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Group Meeting at Gail & Mike Gottsacker's Home	26 7-8:30 p.m. Book Study Group	27	28 10-11:30 a.m. Book Study Group Confirmation	29 7 p.m. – Senior Choir	30	

October 2011

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