

A Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ

Immanuel Lutheran News

A Message from Pastor Sue

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a church family of Christian believers who celebrate with joy the renewing love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are committed to learning, sharing and living the Word of God and His sacraments in our worship, lives and community



"I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."
1 Corinthians 9:22b-23

Dave and I just returned from the LCMC Leadership Conference in Fargo, ND where we spent several days discussing the theme "Engaging the Culture" set around this verse from Paul's letter to the Corinthians. I have been to a lot of conferences in my 27 years of ministry but this one probably challenged me far more than any of them.

Just what does it mean to become all things to all people just for the sake of saving some? To begin to explore that question in the opening worship service the pastor preaching asked us simply "So how would you evangelize Lady Gaga?" [Now for those of you who have no idea who Lady Gaga is – she is a very popular pop singer, who dons rather interesting costumes, has

elaborate concert sets and takes her audiences beyond the imagination of the sexually suggestive]. That question out the gate set the tone for our conference in which we (pastors and lay leaders) had to confront within ourselves the safety of our church bubble in which we have all been living.



We have been challenged to imagine how we might reach those of our communities for whom Lady Gaga and the rest of our culture's lure is keeping people from experiencing true joy and life in Jesus.

To say that my head is spinning with all that we

considered is an understatement.

In powerful ways we were confronted with the reality that we indeed are no longer living in a Christian society. Our culture is looking more and more like the first century culture of the Corinthians to whom Paul was writing – a culture where corruption and immorality not only exist and are tolerated but is accepted as the norm. Now we might be able to argue that Door County is different – we're a close community where most every body knows each other and we look after our own – but do we? And can we really? When TV, the internet and cell phone technology put all sorts of unscrupulous things at our fingertips – and those things are not just available to adults but to our young people as well. The message of our culture devalues healthy relationships, objectifies women, promotes idolatry of all sorts, puts the individual's desires above family and community, promotes selfishness, hatred

Youth Group events...be a part of the plan

We had a great turn out for the evening and we decided on a couple of things - we will be meeting twice a month alternating between study and fellowship and/or service beginning in June.

We are going to host a youth concert with the band that Helen Muellers' grandsons are in - the date still to

be decided.

We are in process of getting things going for the youth group - there is a lot of interest and ideas and the planning team will be putting a summer schedule together so more info will be in the June newsletter.

Please pray for our young people and their parents!

Affirmation of Baptism

Service of Public Witness – Saturday May 19th at 5:00 p.m.

Confirmation Day – Sunday May 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Come and support our confirmation students – Joe Burlo, Lexie Joly, and Jordan Pluff - who have completed two years of Confirmation training and will be sharing their statements of faith and publicly affirming the faith into which they have been baptized. Please pray for them as they prepare for these important days.

A note from Pastor Sue (continued)

and sexual promiscuity. How do we as a church address all that from a perspective of love and hope in Jesus without becoming trapped in it?

One of the things that we all felt most convicted by was the fact that we as Lutherans have been living with sort of a Little Bo Peep mentality which says of our young people "Leave 'em alone and they'll come home" – that may have been true some years ago when we just expected young people to go off on their own trusting that "when kids come along they'll be back" - well, that hasn't necessarily happened and in the absence of the church's presence in their lives they have sought after all sorts of other options in life to provide meaning and purpose. If we don't start to act now we will lose the battle with the culture. That is not what God has planned for us. He has left us with a job to do, to love all of his people back into his arms and it starts with us – all of us – engaging our culture, listening to people to try to understand what's going on in their lives and helping them to know that God

is real and that in Jesus there is hope and life.

One of the things that we are doing at Immanuel to begin to address some of these things is with the formation of a youth group – something that has been missing here for some time. We are also working on promoting some family friendly options for the community. We have just secured a license to show movies at church and are in the process of getting the equipment we need to make that happen. The idea is that beginning in June we will be able to provide free movie nights with family friendly movies open to the public.

There are a ton of things that we could be doing to engage the culture and to open the door for conversation about faith and life; this is just a start.

When Mark Vander Tuig, the service coordinator for LCMC spoke at the conference he said that the biggest question that churches were asking him about belonging to LCMC is what expected of congregations financially to belong to LCMC. He said it is up to the congregations – but LCMC wants congregations to put their benevolence

monies first into their own communities to support those ministries that are essential to life and well being of our community – then to support a global project or missionary and finally to support LCMC. That is one of the things that we are excited about in that we have monies freed up to support the projects that fit who we are as a congregation and what we mission we feel called to support. Creating a deeper heart for our own community and families and finding ways to address the issues closest to home is something about which I am really excited.

We have some daunting responsibilities facing us, but we have some exciting opportunities to reach out into our own community with hope, and love, and grace in the name of Jesus. Lady Gaga may not live in our community but we do have those who seem unreachable – how can we share the Good News of an awesome savior with them. That is the question for all of us. Its time for us to roll up our sleeves – we've got work to do!

Still spinning – but in His Grace!
Pastor Sue

Scholarship Information

Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, We wonder where the scholars is?

Are you graduating from high school and going to further your education? Why not apply for the Immanuel Lutheran church scholarship? Applications and application renewals (for those already receiving a scholarship) may be secured by notifying Jim Jennings, council member, scholarship and memorial committee. See me after church or call me at 839-9167. Leave a message or talk to my wife – she is much more reasonable than myself! All applications, letters of recommendation and transcripts are due by June 1 in my mailbox. They will be presented at the June council meeting.

If you would like to help support the scholarship fund, there are special envelopes included in your pack of giving envelopes. You can also write "FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND" on your weekly envelop to direct your contribution. The future of your church rests in the youth of our church. What better way to support them than through a contribution to the scholarship fund!

Thank you,
Jim Jennings
Council member for scholarships and memorials



	Ushers	Reader	Acolyte
May 6	Joanne Peil	Jim Parent	Joe
May 13	Bob & Barb Shine	Judy Miller	Lexie
May 20	Dan Burlo	Roberta	Jordan
May 26 (Saturday)	Jim & Pam Parent _____		
May 27 (Sunday)	_____	Paula	

Bible School Events

WOW!!! It is hard to believe that our Wednesday Bible School classes are almost complete!!!!

The students are completing the "creation crazy quilts" and will be "selling" their cookbooks for 3 items for Feed My People.

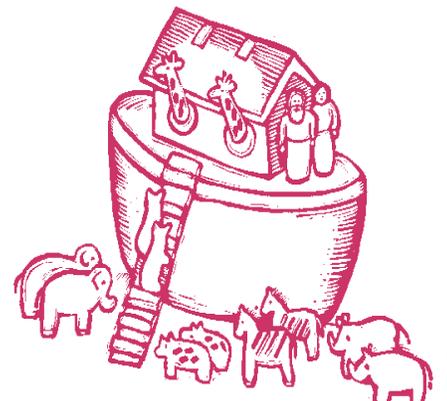
This has been a year focusing on SERVICE and the results have been GREAT! What a SUPER group of young people!!!!

You are all invited to "THE TWO BY TWO ZOO CRUISE" MAY 13—10:00 A.M.

We are excited to be bringing the "ark" into church and "cruise" to the end of our year. Ward and Judy Miller have really enhanced the fun for our children as they

enjoyed "climbing aboard" each week. THANK YOU WARD AND JUDY!!!!!!! Enjoying and working with children is what the Lord was all about!

SEE YOU MAY 13TH!!!!



Schedule for Wednesday Bible School

Schedule for May is:

May 2 — Program practice w/Praise Band (& snacks)

May 9 —Program practice w/Praise Band (& snacks)

Sunday May 13th 9 AM students and actors FINAL PRACTICE

Sunday May 13th TWO BY TWO ZOO CRUISE during 10 AM service

May 16 — Bible school PARTY and confirmation students

*"Two by Two Zoo Cruise" Sunday
May 13th
10 AM service*

WOMEN OF THE WORD

Spring finds the Women of the Word involved in a Bible study called "Stepping Up", which is based on the Psalms of Ascent. We will finish up the current study in mid-May and take a break until fall, when we will take on another in-depth study. We hope more women will join us, starting in September, when we plan do a study on Daniel. Be praying about whether it will be right for you, and maybe invite a family member or friend to also take part.

The Women of the Word Project group continues to meet every Monday at 9:30 AM. We have a wonderful time and have been making shawls (at least a dozen shawls have been shared with others in recent weeks) and items for babies. We are also creating items for the fall bazaar. At this time we have these handmade items to contribute to the bazaar: dish cloths, pot holders, covered hangers,

snack bowl covers, caps, hats and scarves. We hope to include kitchen towels with crocheted tops, quilted items, Christmas ornaments and cloth bags. We welcome all kinds of handmade items if you are willing to donate them to the event. More willing hands will provide so much more for us to offer at the bazaar, and you may have great ideas for things we have not even dreamed of doing yet. Please join us in our efforts, whether you come on Mondays or work at home. All items are being donated and all proceeds from the sale will go to a local Door County charitable organization.

Note regarding prayer shawls: If you know of someone you would like to see receive a shawl, please contact Judy Miller, Cynthia Crock or Pastor Sue (or the church office). Comfort often comes in the form of a gift to wrap up in, and may bring some far reaching joy and blessing to another person during a difficult time in life.



BRIDGES

A summer program for international students living and working in Door County

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY

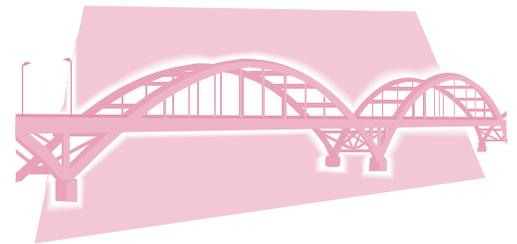
BRIDGES, the summer program for the international students working in Door County will start its 16th year with our first event on May 22 with an evening playing volleyball and basketball. Ten more bi-weekly events are planned through October 9. There is little to do in the evening in Door County for our foreign friends, and there is no public transportation, so originally this program was conceived as a way to show friendship to the international summer workers by organizing social events with a meal, and furnishing bicycles. Next ESL classes were added, and friendships were encouraged between Americans and internationals. Three years ago we added I-GIG discussions, an "International Group Investigating God." Some students come with an interest in religion, probing questions, and many misconceptions about Christianity.

Probably one of the most rewarding aspects of BRIDGES is The American Connection in which one or more international students are paired with an American family. This becomes a rewarding friendship in which both parties learn about different cultural approaches to everyday experiences. You discover that deep down, people all over the world are much like us, with the same longings for love, acceptance and belonging. Many long-term friendships have resulted from these relationships. It is our hope that many people will avail themselves of this opportunity to show American kindness and Christian love to the strangers among us.

Without public transportation in Door County, it is difficult for the internationals to travel very far from their place of employment or home base. The Lions Club of Sister Bay is managing the bicycle program for the third year. The students are very appreciative of having a bike. Additionally, BRIDGES offers free transportation to BRIDGES social events, ESL classes, and I-GIG discussion groups. There is a pool of about

35 drivers who are willing to serve in this way.

It's exciting to see how the five sponsoring churches are working together collaboratively and effectively. BRIDGES appreciates the help and support of Immanuel Lutheran Church in making this ministry possible. It takes approximately 300 people to cover all the bases in this program. If you have any questions about BRIDGES, or would like to participate in some way, please contact one of the BRIDGES liaison persons for Immanuel, Lee or Nancy Nordgren, or Ed and Marilyn Stone at 854-2407 for ESL.



It's an opportunity to help. It's an opportunity to grow. It's an opportunity to learn. Come and share the rewards and fun of the BRIDGES program this summer!

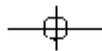
MAY

2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Hours 9:30—12:30	2 Office Hours 9:30—12:30 4:00 PM Confirmation & Bible School PLAY PRACTICE	3 9:30 AM Exercise Beth Moore Bible Study 10:15 AM & 6:30 PM	4 Office Hours 9:30—12:30	5
6 10 AM wor- ship service w/ communion	7 9:30 Exercise 9:30—noon <u>Woman's Project</u> <u>group</u>	8 Office Hours 9:30—12:30	9 Office Hours 9:30—12:30 4:00 PM Confirmation & Bible School PLAY PRACTICE	10 9:30 AM Exercise Beth Moore Bible Study 10:15 AM & 6:30 PM	11 Office Hours 9:30—12:30	12 8 AM Men's Breakfast and Bible study
13 10 AM Children's Program	14 9:30 Exer- cise 9:30— noon <u>Woman's</u> <u>Project group</u> 2—4 PM Grief Support Door of Hope	15 Office Hours 9:30—12:30 7 PM Council	16 Office Hours 9:30—12:30 4:00 PM Confir- mation & Bible school PARTY!	17 9:30 AM exer- cise Beth Moore Bible Study 10:15 AM & 6:30 PM 5 PM Praise Band	18 Office Hours 9:30—12:30 Newsletter Deadline	19 5 PM Service of Public Witness
20 10 AM wor- ship service 	21 9:30 Exercise 9:30—noon <u>Woman's Pro- ject group</u>	22 Office Hours 9:30—12:30	23 Office Hours 9:30—12:30	24 9:30 AM Exercise 5 PM Praise Band	25 Office Hours 9:30—12:30	26 5 PM Praise Service
27 9AM Worship <i>Pentecost</i>	28  Memorial Day <i>Remember Those Who</i> <i>Gave Their Lives</i>	29 Office Hours 9:30—12:30 Print newsletter	30 Office Hours 9:30—12:30	31 9:30 AM Exercise 5 PM Praise Band		

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Baileys Harbor, WI

PENTECOST



God sends the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-13

After Jesus went back to heaven, His friends prayed and stayed together in Jerusalem. One morning, a sound like a strong wind blowing filled the house where they were staying. Something that looked like a small fire sat on top of each person's head! The Holy Spirit Jesus promised had finally come!

There were people from many different places staying in Jerusalem. These people spoke many different languages. When they heard the noise, they gathered around the house to see what was going on.

Jesus' friends began to speak in other languages, telling all the people about Jesus. The people in Jerusalem were amazed because they heard what Jesus' friends were saying about Jesus in their own languages! Many people believed in Jesus and started to tell other people about Jesus, too.



EASTER BREAKFAST

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter breakfast. It was a great time of fellowship and some very good food.

THANKS ARE DUE to everyone who participated in the Lenten Soup Suppers and worship! Special thanks due to all who brought soups, salads, breads, and desserts, who helped with set up and clean up. Everything was **WONDERFUL!!!** And hats of to our Thespians who brought us the drama every week - the Gate Keeper and Chief Steward: Tom Schroeder, the Poet: Cynthia Crock, the Teacher: Roberta Burlo, the Pauper: Brad Prust, and of course the Peasant: Dave Gunderson. For all who helped with worship ushering, acolyting, reading and playing piano. And to all of you who came each week to eat and worship - **THANK YOU ALL!!!!** Its been a wonderful Lenten season! Let's do it again next year!



Easter Sunday worship
Alleluia! Christ has Risen!
He is risen, indeed!



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May highlights

- ◇ Mothers' Day Sunday May 13th
- ◇ "2 by 2 Zoo Cruise" Youth program
Sunday May 13th 10 AM
- ◇ Service of Public Witness Sat. May 19th 5 PM
- ◇ Confirmation Sunday May 20th 10 AM
- ◇ Summer worship schedule begins Saturday May 26th 5 PM
- ◇ Pentecost Sunday May 27th

