
IMMANUELITE

December 2011

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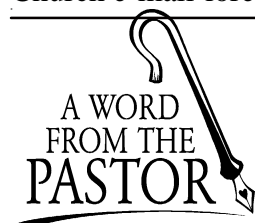
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FROM THE PASTOR

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch that withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:4-7

Jesus wants us to abide in Him. He wants to abide in us. That sounds great, but how does it take place?

It sounds metaphysical but that is not what Jesus means. He goes on to explain, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,..."

When the words of Jesus abide in you, Jesus is abiding in you. When Jesus abides in you, you abide in Him.

What are the words of Jesus? They are everything that Jesus taught His apostles. Jesus told the apostles to preach His words so that He would abide in people. He told them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." (Luke

24:46-48) He also tells them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20) Furthermore, "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15)

This is why the Church right away devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42). They knew that by doing so they were devoting themselves to the Word of the Lord. By doing so Jesus abided in them.

The apostles' committed the words of Jesus to writing. This writing is primarily in the Gospels where the words and actions of Jesus are specifically recorded for us. Furthermore the epistles of the New Testament come from the Lord (1Corinthians 14:37). The words of Jesus endorse the Old Testament as also being a word from Him (check Luke 24:46 again). When these words abide in us, then Jesus abides in us. It is the word of the truth that includes us in Christ (Ephesians 1:13).

Furthermore the Lord has commanded His ministers to preach that Word of Jesus from Scripture, "[D]evote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching." (1Timothy 4:13) When such teaching and exhortation takes place upon the Scriptures the word of the Lord goes forth to abide in those who hear it (Luke 10:16). Thus Jesus abides in them and them in Jesus.

When the words of Jesus abide in us, we abide in Him. It is then that we

bear much fruit (John 15:8). The Father will be glorified. We will ask whatever we wish and it will be done for us (John 15:7).

Because of Jesus,
Pastor



FIRST MONDAY SEWING

It was decided that the group will not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Tuesday January 4.

This will be a new beginning to a new year. If you have thought about joining the group that would be a great time to start. We begin sewing at 9:00 and break for lunch. Then finish up around 3:00. This still leave a little time in the day to complete another task of your choosing.

**REMEMBER Tuesday January 4th
AT 9:00**



The donut sign up sheet for January- April is on the bulletin board. Thanks to all who volunteered. Please pick a Sunday that you are able to pick them up. The donuts are available at the Homer Country Market. Thanks for helping with this and join us for Fellowship!



We have a collection box to help the schools by collecting Betty Crocker Boxtops. We will take our collection at the end of the school year and divide them among the schools that our students attend. This helps the schools purchase items that help the students. The collection box is at the guest registration podium in the entrance hallway.



Remember to save those printer cartridges. Turn them in at the office. We will recycle them and use the money to offset office expenses. The recycle company is now accepting old cell phones also. If you want to discard them, you may drop them at the office also. Thanks and happy recycling. Go Green!



G.R.O.W., a Christian ecumenical men's group in the Newman/Broadlands area, will meet Sunday, December 4th at Broadlands Community Church. All interested Christian men in the area are invited to attend the meeting, which begins with breakfast at 7:00am and includes a devotion and a spiritually uplifting topic or speaker each month. There is no charge for the meeting, although opportunity is given for a free-will offering, which is used in various ways to serve others in the community and beyond.





BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

Those celebrating the anniversary of their Baptism into God's Holy Family during the month of December include:

- 1- Jason Renfrow
Meghan Osborne
- 2- Jed Gerdes
Heather Luth
- 3- Craig Messman
- 4- Vicki Clem
Myron Luth
JoAnne Stahl
Collin Rohl
- 5- Ella Gerdes
- 6- Gabriel Goetting
- 7- Wayne Long
- 10-Christina Roberts
- 11-Larry Negangard
- 14-LeAnn Benner
Colby Luth
- 15-Katie Rutledge
Leslie Rutledge
Brian Rutledge
- 17-Norman Miller
- 18-Angela Hendershot
Donald Luth
Orthalyne Taylor
Lyndsay Rardin
- 19-Stacey Luth
Sofie Schwink
- 20-Scott Sanstrom
Laurie Umbarger
- 21-James Wright
Jessica Wright
- 22-Kevin Peregrine
- 23-Keith Rohl
- 24-Tyson Struck
Adria Slater
- 25-Annette Gerdes
- 27-Kari Schwink
- 29-Christina Mohr
- 30-Archie Boyd
Frederick O. Schwink



CHURCH
DIRECTORY

Here are the directory changes to date. Thank you! The new directory is in but as always we have changes already. Here are a few changes that may not be in the new directory.

Kristin Block
105 Schoolview
Homer, IL 61849

Creighton Pierce
P. O. Box 134
Sidney, IL 61877

I do not have correct address for the following. If you know how to reach them, please let the office know.

Juanita Kresin- phone number
Tammy Grafton
Kathy Richter
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Kelly
Rebecca Rahe
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Laws
Mr. & Mrs. Brian O'Donnell
Ryan Rahe
Brad Wakefield



Due to the holiday season the Knit-Wits will not meet in December. We will meet again on January 16, 2012 at 7:00 pm. Here's wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a joyous and blessed Christmas.



Immanuelite articles will be due in the office on, Friday, December 23rd. If you would like something in the newsletter, drop off or email your articles. It would be much appreciated if the boards would update the office on calendar events and meeting dates for each month. Thanks!!



Merry Christmas



For those doing the two year bible reading, the website for the schedule is www.nelsonbibles.com/admin/uploads/pdfs/ChronologicalReadingPlan.pdf. If you have any questions, contact Linda Pierce.



CHURCH COUNCIL

It was reported that Charles and Mary McDuffee have transferred from Trinity Urbana and Pastor and Karla Podoll have transferred to Peace, Thomasboro.

Plans for entertaining OAF were discussed. They were to be canvassing both Allerton and Newman.

The Board of Education is working on criteria for the Scholarship Fund applications. Also plans are being made for the Christmas Eve program.

It was decided to install a microphone in the bell tower at a cost of \$200.00.

It was decided to proceed with the 125th anniversary picture. It will remain the size of the present picture and Roland Renfrow will be contacted about making a frame for it. The cost will be approximately \$500.00

Brian Rutledge announced the nominating committee: Jay Hageman, Gary Luth and Keith Rohl.

John Rothermel presented the budget for 2012. A motion was made to increase the mission budget to \$30,000.00. After the adjustments were made the budget was approved.



Special thanks to *Caleb & Diane Bundy, Bill Taylor, Bob Rothermel, and Merle Schweineke* for picking up donuts for November.



The Jr. Disciples Bike-a-thon raised \$2300.00. We appreciate all the donors and riders who participated. We received a thank you note from the Food Pantry. The money to purchase food was greatly appreciated especially at the holiday time.



The men's club met with Herb Aden reading from Col. 2 verses 1-10 and Psalm 138. Six members and 1 guest were present. Don Luth reported the treasury had \$1809.54. Easter breakfast took in \$1493.00 and had expenses of \$282.00. Wayne Long moved with Don Clem 2nd to approve treasurer report. Motion by Don Luth and 2nd by Wayne Long to give \$300.00 to T.I.M. Don Luth moved to have clothing drive for Fort Wayne Seminary. Clothing drive will begin November 13 and will end December 11. Seconded by Wayne Long. Don Clem moved and Wayne Long seconded to give \$500.00 to the Fort Wayne Seminary Food Bank. Wayne Long moved 2nd by Don Clem to have Men's Club Christmas party December 21st at 6:00 pm. Jay Hageman and Herb Aden are to bring chili, Myron Luth - meat and cheese tray, Alan Wienke- relish tray, Wayne Long-crackers and bread, Don Luth- drinks. A \$10.00 gift exchange will follow supper. Wayne Long moved to give \$300.00 to the Broadlands Food Bank. Don Luth seconded. Meeting closed with Lord's prayer. Herb Aden furnished refreshments.



Thanks to everyone who packed a shoebox. We packed 141 shoeboxes. Linda will send them on to their next destination. Great job!!!

FROM OUR DCO INTERN-

KATIE MARTIN

"Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."
-Psalm 46:8-11

"Articles are due Monday the 21st," said my e-mail from Loretta. I thought to myself, "Wait... it's the end of November, I am writing my December newsletter article? There has to be a mistake. No, my count-down says that there are 8 days left until Thanksgiving. How did it get to November 16th?" 126 of my 366 days here are done, that means I have only 2/3rds of a year left. I feel simultaneously like I have been here forever, and like it has only been a week since I moved to Broadlands, like I have done a million things, and like I have yet to scratch the surface of my job here. This month, I get to teach the confirmands and Adult Bible Study. I have some awesome Junior disciples events to participate in, a few meetings, and my big event: Neighbor to Neighbor. There is a lot of excitement and anxiety with the events this month and with the Directions events in January.

When my brain starts thinking about all that needs to get done I get anxious and my thoughts bounce around in my head like a hundred bouncy balls all ricocheting off of each other. It is when the bouncy balls get really active it seems like God whispers in my head, "Be still, my child." God must have created the bouncy balls in my head just as he did with the wind and the waves because when he commands them to stop, miraculously, they do. It is an amazing gift he has given me in this: he has given me the ability to shut down. If he did not, I think I would go crazy.

I absolutely love the Psalm at the beginning of this article. I read it as if there is a musical diminuendo notated next to the text. I imagine the Psalmist begins shouting his song as it begins with chaos and then gradually gets softer and softer, calmer and calmer, as he sings of his absolute trust and peace in the Lord. In my

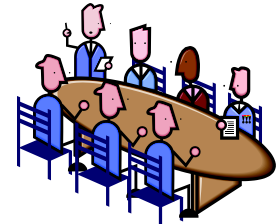
chaos I remember these words and praise God for the peace in my soul. After all, how could there not be peace in the midst of my chaos, when all of this is over I will finally get to rest in the presence of my God? Isn't that wonderful?

This season is a busy one for everyone. I do not doubt some of us will forget about the peace of our souls once or twice this month. Not only are there most likely events on just about every day of your calendar, but there is also the church calendar, the church's intern asking you to participate in events, traveling, visiting, and lots of shopping. In the midst of all of this I pray you hear God whisper in your head, "Be still, my child."

Take time to shut down; God created Sabbath for a reason. Whether your Sabbath is enjoying time with your family, reading a book, taking a nap, or just breathing for a few minutes, please find a way to enjoy this hectic season and remember the true miracle we celebrate at the end of this month. Oh, and if you see me running around like a chicken with it's head cut off, please remind me of my own advice.

Peace in Christ

Directions:



When I first arrived at Immanuel I started looking at making promotional materials, such as the Sunday School brochure that was delivered to the families of our congregation. What I kept getting stuck on and continue to wonder about as I look at the outreach in our congregation are these questions: what is our purpose, what are our goals, and what is our vision for the future? Is everyone looking toward the same future or are we all pulling the congregation in different directions? When I make promotional materials for Immanuel I do not know what to include; what is the unique reason people should come to our church?

In response to this need, every Saturday in January the congregation will be getting together to find our values and work through our vision. We will be looking at all of our directions and consolidating them into one. This process will be an enriching Bible Study and will hopefully help Immanuel work more effectively than it already is. I would like at least one

person from each of the boards to participate, I would also like people from all of the different backgrounds here and all walks of life to participate so we can honestly and prayerfully consider the future of this church. I look forward to this time with you and ask that you can let me know if you are planning on participating. Thank you. -Katie Martin



Junior Disciples:

This month the Junior Disciples can look forward to two awesome events! First, on Saturday, December 3rd, they will do Babysitting to give parents a chance to go Christmas shopping! We would love to have lots of older Jr. Disciples help out! 4:00-8:00 pm.

Second, on Sunday December 4th we will go ice skating (leave-2:00 pm), supper (5:00 pm) and Champaign County Park Districts Parade of Lights- "Sounds of the Season (6:00 pm). If you have any questions or are interested in chaperoning at any Junior disciples events contact Katie Martin or Darci Struck.



Dear Family and Friends,

Achoo!! It's cold and flu season. Ever wonder how you came down with a cold or the flu? You were not around anyone that was ill so how did you get sick? You might be surprised where the source came from. Colds and flu are spread primarily in two ways: airbourne and contact. If a person who has the cold or flu coughs or sneezes the particles in that cough or sneeze can travel up to an almost 3-foot radius. Once the particles are airborne, they can easily be inhaled by anyone within that 3 foot radius. Viruses (cold and flu are from viruses) can live on surfaces. So even if you were not standing next to someone who coughed or sneeze you may still pick up the virus if it has landed on a surface that you touch.

Germs can live on surfaces like doorknobs for more than 2 hours. If someone has coughed or sneezed on their hand and has touched a doorknob, you may still be at risk to pick up those germs. If you then touch your face, your eyes, nose or mouth, you

just introduced those germs into your systems.

Contact surfaces that may put you at risk include: doorknobs (especially where these are in high use such as an office door, bathroom door at the mall, etc.), grocery cart handles, the first floor elevator button (anyone that went up has to come down!), escalator handrails, phones (especially if shared or used by multiple people), the office computer keyboard when shared by others and handshaking. So what's a person to do? Is there no hope? Are we all going to become ill?

Fortunately, there are prevention steps you can take. The first is to make sure to take care of your immune system. You can do this by making healthy food choices, getting regular exercise, getting enough rest and decreasing your stress levels. Secondly, your mom was right: wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands. Good hand washing includes soap and water and 15-20 seconds of scrubbing to get rid of the cold and flu germs. Any time you touch any of the above mentioned contact surfaces, wash your hands. If soap and water is not immediately available, consider carrying a small bottle of hand sanitizer especially during cold and flu season months.

Not shaking hands with someone might appear rude but remember to avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth after shaking hands. This will reduce your likelihood of introducing the virus into your system. You can wash or sanitize your hands later when it is convenient. Common sense and old fashioned good hygiene will go on a long way to decreasing your chance of getting a cold or the flu this season.

Mark 7:3-5. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.

Your Parish Nurse,
Tiffany Paul



NEIGHBORHOOD
CANVASS

Saturday December 10th is Neighbor to Neighbor. N2N is an invitation to church for Christmas acting upon the commandment to love our neighbors. Yes, our neighbors includes our families and friends but God has called us to love even beyond this. Our neighbors actually do include our physical neighbors. N2N is a simple event that will help our members experience what being a neighbor can mean and let our physical neighbors in Newman know that we are here and they are welcome. We would love as many members as possible to be a part of this event. There is no age limit, the only requirement is a desire to let our neighbors know they are welcome at Immanuel. We will meet and prepare at 9:30 am, go out at 11, and come together for lunch at 12:30. If you want to come or have concerns about what the event will entail, please call Katie Martin.



The nuts have arrived and we have excess. The price for all nuts are \$9.00 a pound. We have pecan halves, pecan pieces, mixed nuts and lots of cashews. Check with co-workers, family and friends to help us sell these nuts. Thanks!!! If you have any questions, contact Elizabeth Rothermel.



On Saturday, October 29, 2011, Mason Robert Renfrow was baptized in a private service. Mason is the son of Jason and Roberta Nixon Renfrow. He was born February 9, 2011 at Provena at 12:06 am and weighed 6 lb 9 oz and was 19 inches long. Sponsors are Jason Lakey and Jamie Nixon. He is welcomed home by sisters Kayla and Klye Phillips. We welcome Mason to the Immanuel family.

On Sunday, November 20, 2011, Drake Alan Siuts was baptized during the service. Drake is the son of Bradley and Courtney Hatfield Siuts. He was born August 2, 2011 at Carle at 10:15 pm and weighed 9 lb 8 oz and was 20 inches long. Sponsors are Rich and Sarah Siuts. He is welcomed home by Logan. We welcome Drake to the Immanuel family.

“WANTED”

I need a 50 cup or larger coffee pot for my 4th grade classroom at Unity East. I thought someone may have one in their basement or somewhere they are not using any longer.

Linda Pierce

Thank You

The Altar Guild would like to thank Negangard Pumpkin patch and especially Charles and Donna Negangard for the beautiful Harvest arrangement.





....Sunday, December 4th, we will have a special offering for the "Children's Christmas Treats". Use the "Love" envelope in the pew rack. Please note on your check that your gift is for the "Children's Christmas Treats".

....Sunday, December 11th, we will hold our fourth and final "Car Fund" special offering. This money is used for repairs or replacement of the car the church owns that the pastor uses for church business. Please use the "Love" envelope and put "Car Fund" in the memo section of your check.

....Saturday, December 24th, we will hold our plate offering that will go to the "Lutheran Child and Family Services". Be sure to put your number on your check and thank you for all your contributions throughout the year.

....A reminder to our groups that support T.I.M., we need to complete our commitment before the end of the year. If writing a check please indicate on the memo line that it is for the T.I.M. Thanks to all who contribute to the church.



Peace Lutheran Church, Thomasboro will hold a Live Outdoor Nativity Pageant on Sunday, December 4th. There will be Christmas Music, Free Food, Hot and Cold Drinks, Conversation and Children Activities. Free will donations will be accepted with proceeds going to Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County and Salt and Light Ministries of Champaign. This Live Nativity is being sponsored by Thrivent Financial.

For those of you who have not been able to see the updates on the parsonage or wonder about the new windows and doors, I have some good news for you! Pastor and I will be having a Christmas Open House on Sunday Dec 18th from 2:30-5:30. If you have seen the parsonage or aren't particularly interested in the windows, I still have good news....there will be food for eating and perhaps even wine for drinking!

So we hope you are able to come. I think it will be a lot of fun. We are looking forward to having you all over for a "little" party!

Christy
(you're Pastor's wife)

SPECIAL DATES

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2011
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2011
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2011
- First day of winter, December 22, 2011
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2011
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2011
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2011

