



# The Torch

February 2010  
Vol: 34 Issue: 2

*The Torch is the monthly newsletter for Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dixon, Illinois.*

## **Council Corner** by Bob Gingras, council president

Hello Immanuel members. I am both honored and humbled to have been selected as the Council President for 2010. Quite simply I will use my skills and talents to do the best job possible in providing guidance and leadership to the Council, Staff and church.

Having been in this position before, I will provide in this column information of the council's activities as well as things our committees are planning as they look for ways to stimulate more activity and involvement within and outside our church. With that said, probably the most significant decision made at January's meeting (other than

approving the 2010 budget for the annual meeting) was to rescind the policy established in 2008 to appropriate designated funds to reduce our line of credit. If you remember, the policy was to pay \$1,000 per month and then it would step up until we were paying \$5,000 per month, which is where we were at the end of 2009. However, we were not able to pay that amount the last month of the year and our budget will be so tight for 2010 that we will not be able to do so for this year. So the plan is now to pay off the line of credit with those who have pledged towards reducing debt. If we should have "extra"

funds, then we can apply it for further reduction. The good thing is that our line of credit is still frozen.

The council recently held their annual retreat to brainstorm goals for our church for this year. A total of 17 ideas were generated by this energetic group. After this, we drilled the list down to the top five and then the top three. Even though we still need to develop specific objectives and an action plan for each, I will tell you that the broad categories are to improve communication of all types with the congregation, to significantly improve the things we do for outreach, especially in our commu-

nity and beyond, and to either re-establish or develop social groups within the congregation to promote more involvement and fellowship. Stay tuned for more later.

Some of you may remember that I liked to end my column with an inspirational phrase or comment. If it will help just one of you to think about something different or motivate you to do something you haven't done in a while, then it is worth the effort. Until next month.

*"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it."*

## Church Information

### Office Hours:

8 a.m. -4:30 p.m. M T W F  
8 - 12 Thursday

### Worship Times:

Saturday @ 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday @ 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
*Communion is offered weekly*

### Our Ministers:

The People of Immanuel

### Our Staff:

Pastor Frank Langhoff  
Parish Administrator: Lorrie Conry  
Youth Coordinator: Kelly Albrecht  
Caretakers: Glen Hart, Greg Currens  
Organists: Barb Wiggins, Sandy Johnson  
Parish Nurses: Gleason Lohse (coordinator), Cindy Hoyle, Kathy Schutz  
**Church Contact information**  
Phone: 815-284-2804  
Fax: 815-284-2809  
Church Cell (Pastor) 815-973-2804  
Email: [immanuel@grics.net](mailto:immanuel@grics.net)  
Website: [www.immanueldixon.org](http://www.immanueldixon.org)  
Address: 1013 Franklin Grove Rd.  
Dixon, IL 61021

**Bright Beginnings Christian Day Care**  
815-285-1033

## Our mission statement

As a body of believers created in God's image, called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we desire to proclaim the gospel by providing opportunities to grow in faith and love and promote healing and wholeness in our church, community, and world.

## We want your news!

The Torch is the newsletter for all of Immanuel Lutheran Church. If you have something you would like to share with the congregation, please let us know. Drop by a typed note or email it to [immanuel@grics.net](mailto:immanuel@grics.net). Please try to get all your items submitted by the 20th of each month. Thanks!

## From pancakes to Famine

Pancakes make people happy. That is one of Julia Nusbaum's favorite sayings. She has a mug with that on it. I must say I agree with her. Who doesn't love pancakes?

If you love pancakes then be sure to come out to the Shrove Pancake Supper on February 16th in the Fellowship Hall from 5 - 7 pm. It's a good excuse to stuff yourself silly with yummy pancakes before Lent begins. All the proceeds will go to fund the youth trip this summer.

On February 20th and 21st the high school youth group will be leading worship services at the church. They will be doing the message and helping with communion and acting as worship assistant and reader. They have chosen a very important message to share, so

please make it a point to come to worship that weekend.

The last part of February will see the youth of Immanuel going hungry for a good

### Youth Calendar for February

**Feb 16th** - Shrove Pancake Dinner, 5 - 7 pm

**Feb 20 & 21** - Youth Led worship for congregation

**Feb 26 & 27** - 30 Hour Famine

cause. The 30 Hour Famine will be on the 26th and 27th. The students are raising money for world hunger. If you haven't found a student to sponsor and would like to, please talk to me and I will assist you.

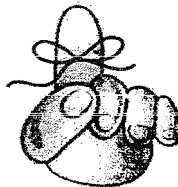
Have a spirit and love filled February!

- Kelly Albrecht

## It's time to start thinking about spring cleaning!

**We are taking items for the Church Rummage Sale**

**now to allow everyone plenty of time to donate. Items can be brought to the church and put in the old Boy Scout Room near the kitchen, or the Church office. No clothing please. Questions? Call 284-2804**





## Joys and Sorrows

### Joys

*Ella Jane Johnson was received into holy baptism on January 24th. Parents are Jeff and Sara Johnson. David and Martha Zierke will take on the joys and responsibilities of sponsorship.*

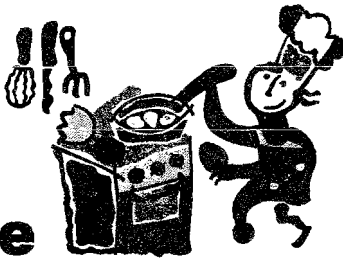
### Sorrows

*We remember this month those members, friends, and family who have passed from this life and await resurrection.*

*Ericka Ann Kerley  
daughter of Ted (Tracey) Kerley  
and Shelia (Ronald) Bender*



# Kitchen Task Force Update



*All things work together for good to those who love God; to those who are called according to his purpose.*

*Romans 8:28*

LENTEN BUTTER BRAID SALE  
WE WILL BEGIN TAKING ORDERS FOR OUR  
LENTEN BUTTER BRAID SALE. FORMS ARE  
AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY OR YOU MAY FILL OUT  
THE INCLUDED FORM. JUST FILL OUT YOUR  
ORDER AND ATTACH A CHECK, THEN PLACE IN  
THE BOX PROVIDED IN THE LOBBY. IF YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO HELP BY SELLING SOME AT  
YOUR PLACE OF WORK JUST TAKE A SUPPLY OF  
FORMS FROM THE LOBBY.

WE WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS SUP-  
PORTED OUR EFFORTS WITH DONATIONS AND  
ENTHUSIASM. YOU ARE A BLESSING!  
THANK YOU,  
KITCHEN TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

## February Birthdays 80+



Theodore Scheffler 2/03

John Burhenn 2/07

Dorothy Wehrley 2/26

# 30 HOUR FAMINE

The 30 Hour Famine will be February 26th and 27th. A sign up sheet for food for the "break-fast" meal will be posted in the lobby. Please consider donating to food or money to Immanuel's youth as they do their part to end world hunger.

## A message from Bishop Mark Hanson

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,  
"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

-1 Corinthians 12:26

Almost two weeks have passed since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The outpouring of gifts from members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to ELCA Disaster Response has enabled a swift response on behalf of this church.

Thank you for your generous financial support which now totals more than \$1.6 million.

Thousands of other gifts are still being counted. Our community-based partners are already providing:

- Two water purification systems to bring clean water to 25,000 people.
- Emergency food and medical supplies to thousands.
- Blankets and tents to shelter 10,000 people who are homeless.
- Funding, distributed through three partners, will increase as giving continues.

\$300,000 has been sent to The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a key responder and member of Action by Churches Together (ACT). The funds support LWF efforts to provide shelter to people left homeless by the quake.

\$150,000 has been sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Baltimore, for material aid.

\$150,000 will be sent to Church World Service (CWS) for construction of temporary water sys-

tems and distribution of water purification materials.

In addition, \$25,000 has been sent to Lutheran Services of Florida for initial support to refugees and Haitian Americans entering or returning to the United States.

We are pleased that Louis Dorvillier, director for International Development and Disaster Response in the ELCA Global Mission program unit, is part of a delegation to his country of origin with LWF and ACT.

Your generosity makes this life-saving work possible. As we celebrate this outpouring of gifts and prayers, we also know that we have a long road to travel together. There is so much more to be done. This church is committed to walking with our brothers and sisters in Haiti for years to come; your continued support is needed to provide ongoing care.

I encourage you to visit the ELCA Disaster Response (<http://www.elca.org/disaster>) Web site for updated information, worship resources, bulletin inserts and details on how to offer financial support. General mission-support dollars and gifts to ELCA Vision for Mission make it possible for 100 percent of your gifts designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief to be used entirely for this response effort.

To give today, go online ([www.elca.org/haitiearthquake](http://www.elca.org/haitiearthquake)) or call 800-638-3522.

In God's grace

### **Lent at Immanuel:**

Ash Wednesday services at 11 AM and 7 PM.

Lenten small groups will be meeting weekly beginning the week of Sunday February 21. Look for details in the bulletin, or call the church office.

Community Lenten Services on Sundays at 6 PM beginning February 21 at the following locations: 2/21-First Baptist, 2/28-Grace United Methodist, 3/7-here at Immanuel, 3/14-First Presbyterian, 3/21- to be announced

# God With Us

## Thoughts for the congregation

By Pastor Frank Langholf

I was reading a Bible story at Bright Beginnings this week and I asked the children what holiday comes in the month of February. The answer they gave was "Valentine's Day". February is synonymous with Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is synonymous with love. I invite you to pray with the following thoughts on love.

"God is love, those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them" 1 John 4:16b The Christian definition of God is love. The love of God is revealed through the life death and resurrection of Jesus. The love revealed in Jesus is a self-giving love focused on the needs of another.

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19 God loves us unconditionally, and has given us the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Assured that we are loved unconditionally, we are free to love others.

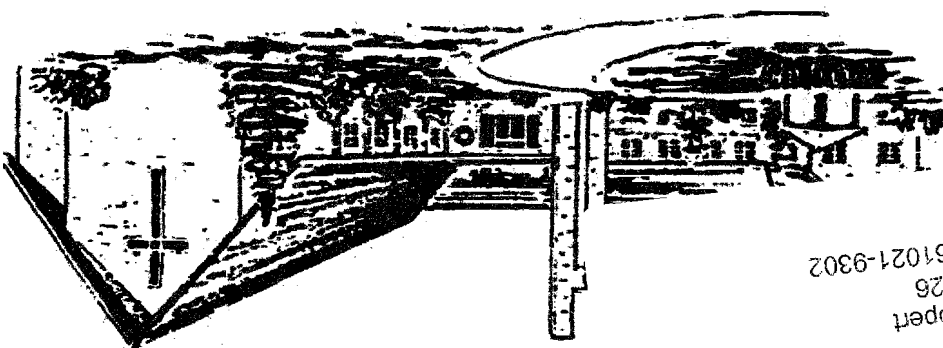
"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" 1 John 3:18 Love is a verb.. Love is not a thing that one can give or withhold. Love is action. Love is action that can be done or left undone.

I invite you to express love for people in some very concrete ways this month.

- Give generously to the relief and rebuilding of Haiti, and remember that there is great need all around the world. Human need does not go away when the television camera crews go home.
- Join our youth on their 30 hour famine: eat your lunch on Friday February 26, drink plenty of water and Gatorade type drinks, until 7 PM Saturday, and then end your fast with a light meal such as soup. DO NOT end it with a big meal. Take the money you would have spent on food, and give to the youth for World Vision. If you are not able to join the fast give anyway.
- Consider fasting one meal for the entire length of Lent, and donate the money to World Hunger.
- Find some setting to care for people who cannot give back to you. For example, sign up to spend the evening at PADS, or volunteer at the Food Pantry.
- Simplify your life during Lent and spend more time with the people in your life.
- Consider one way you give more of yourself in concrete action to your family, or friends.

I leave you with this final thought for your prayer, reflection, and action.

"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love" 1 Cor. 13:13



DO NOT DELAY  
PLEASE  
MATERIAL  
TIME-VALUE

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