

Inside East Immanuel

Volume 10 Issue 3

April 2011

Dear Family,

Mary came to the retreat feeling like an outsider. All the women there seemed so beautiful, so together, and deeply spiritual. She felt out of place, as if she didn't belong, as if she was wrong. Of course all the women were happy she came and glad to have her as part of the group. They saw her as "in" the group, but Mary still felt "out."

The next morning she went with the group to the early morning worship. After worship, Pam was walking just ahead of Mary following some other women on what appeared to be a shortcut on the trail. It was a shortcut all right – but one with a tricky jump off a rock to a trail below. Pam navigated the jump and thought "Hmm, this is a little treacherous. I wouldn't want anyone to get hurt." So Pam simply reached back and helped the woman behind her, Mary. Then Pam stayed to help a few more who had followed them down.

Jesus did the ultimate reaching back. He became human to be able to relate to us and our struggles. *Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness* (Philippians 2:5-7).

On Sunday Mary came up to Pam and explained all that had transpired over the weekend, relating how she had gone from feeling like an outsider, with lots of spiritual questions, to someone who now had the "inside scoop" on how a person could have a personal relationship with Christ. She said she enjoyed the talks Pam gave, but it was Pam's turning around that helped her feel "in"cluded.

Every week there are people who walk into our church building feeling like an outsider. These are individuals who have been worshiping with us for years, as well as individuals who are our guests and are "testing the waters." For the most part we have been able to assume that these individuals feeling like an outsider have had some type of church experience in their histories. However, that assumption may not be accurate for much longer as more people are seeking out ways to have their emptiness and longings fulfilled.

What am I saying? I'm saying that a generation who grew up without church is now seeking out a community in which they feel included. This community that they are seeking looks a little different from what we might consider to be church, but the basic elements are the same. It was not that long ago when the majority of U.S. citizens regularly worshiped, while today only 20% worship regularly. There are many reasons for this drop in regular worship attendance, and feeling like an outsider is stated as one of the reasons.

In the coming months we will be intentionally praying and reaching out to this generation who seeks to have their emptiness and longings fulfilled. Let us not let feeling like an outsider be an excuse for someone who decides our church community is not for them. Let us turn around on the trail we are on. Let us ask: "To whom can we lend a helping hand?"

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

Seven Wonders of the Word

Our mid-week Lenten journey continues on Wednesdays as we explore the *Seven Wonders of the Word*. Come to experience the power of God's Word in your life and in our world. A soup supper is served at 6 p.m. followed by worship at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6th – *The Word Sustains*

Supper served by WELCA. Pastor Matt Saarem (Balsam Lutheran, Amery) will be preaching.

Wednesday, April 13th – *The Word Commands*

Supper served by the Youth Group. Pastor Kathy will be preaching.

**Our Lenten journey will conclude with services at 7 p.m. on both,
Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.**

Chocolate Covered Easter Egg Fundraiser

The Youth Group is selling homemade creamy peanut butter filled, creamy coconut filled, and cherry coconut filled chocolate covered eggs to raise funds for the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering and other youth group activities. Please see a youth by Sunday, April 10th to order your homemade chocolate covered Easter eggs. All orders will be ready by Sunday, April 17th.

Eggs are being sold for 75 cents each or 3 for \$2.00.

Easter Breakfast

The Youth Group will be serving Easter Breakfast at the church on Sunday, April 24th beginning at 8:30 a.m. Come on out for a tasty, hearty breakfast and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Youth Lock-in

The Youth Group will have a lock-in on Friday, April 22nd following the Good Friday service (at 7 p.m.). Please invite your friends, and be prepared to spend part of the night outdoors. We will have a bonfire if the weather permits. All youth are to be picked up by 8 a.m. Saturday morning.

We are looking for some parents to help chaperone. Talk to Pastor Kathy for more information.

Need Help with Spring Cleaning and Yard Work?

The youth are able and willing to help individuals with their spring cleaning and yard work. If you would like assistance, please contact Lisa Ausen to work out an arrangement for your work to be completed.

All free-will donations will be put towards Youth Group activities, including the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering.

Information Technology Update

After some gross experimentation, we have finally produced some service recordings available for download. The first recording is from March 6, 2011. The recordings tend to include either lessons and sermon only, or the entire service, both of which will be available as MP3 files or WMA files. You can find them using the East Immanuel web site at <http://eastimmanuel-lutheran.com> (don't forget the hyphen) under the Service Archive. For those recordings that are unavailable, primarily due to technical difficulties, feel free to check out Pastor Kathy's posted sermons at <http://kathysbrew.blogspot.com>.

Wine Down

Join other women in winding down from your busy week on Friday, April 15th beginning at 7 p.m. We will be gathering at Konny Jorgenson's home.

Men's Group

The Men's group will meet at the New Richmond Family Restaurant (across from WITC) at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 2nd, 2011. We will have a presentation that morning by a good friend of mine, Pastor Alan Burish on the background/history of one of the books of the Bible (his choice).

Easter Flowers

If you would like to order a plant for Easter, the choices are:

Easter Lily \$10.00

Mum \$12.50

Cyclamen \$12.50

The orders need to be in by April 15th.

WELCA

We will start April off with a busy week for the WELCA. On April 4th we have been asked to furnish the food for the Amery Blood Bank to be held at Our Saviors Church in Amery. We will be making 2 large hot-dishes and 2 large salads for the workers. And bring 24 dozen cookies for the donors. On the 6th we will serve the soup and sandwich supper at our Lenten Service. The 7th is our monthly meeting and the 2nd is the Spring Day of Renewal at Our Saviors in Amery. This is always a very rewarding day. The cost is \$8.00. Call Mary Lou Wold 715-268-6394 if you plan to attend. Coffee and registration begin at 8:30 a.m., a program and lunch will follow. Several women and youth from Balsam Lutheran are putting on the program. Joyce lead us in devotions at our March meeting and Eloise was our hostess. There were 6 ladies that went to World Day of Prayer at Deronda this year. The program was on Chile, a very refreshing morning with the West Immanuel Psalmodikon Players on the program. The tables were decorated with large baskets filled with round and other shaped loaves of bread, like made in Chile. Each of us were given one to take home. We will again be giving each of the Confirmands going to Bible Camp at Luther Point this year \$35.00. Wishing each of you and your family a Blessed Easter.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:v13

Contact Us

Website: www.eastimmanuel-lutheran.org
Email: eastimmanuel@amerytel.net
Church Office: 715-268-2143

Pastor: Kathy Pennington
Church Secretary: Katrine Antolak
Organist: Jane Johnson
Custodian: Nancy Ausen
Newsletter Mailing: Beverly Meyer
WELCA President: Blanche Ausen

Church Council

President: Arvid Flanum
Vice President: Irv Elkin
Secretary: open
Treasurer: Lynn Munson
Financial Secretary: Eric Elkin
Fellowship Deacon: Gloria Feyen
Youth Deacon: Bob Johnson
Education Deacon: Michele Bleskacek
Worship & Music Deacon: Sandy Westlund
Property Deacon: Gary Hagen
Council Member: Brent Elwood
Council Member: Gary Lillie
Council Member: Wayne Peterson

Announcement & Article Deadlines

Items for the bulletin should be submitted no later than 10 a.m. on Thursday each week.

Items for the newsletter should be submitted by the 20th of each month.

Inside East Immanuel is now available on our website. Go to www.eastimmanuel-lutheran.org and check it out!

Also, our monthly newsletter can be emailed to you if you would prefer to receive an electronic copy rather than a paper copy. If you would like it emailed to you as soon as it is published please send an email to the church at eastimmanuel@amerytel.net with "Newsletter Request" as the subject line.

April Servants

Greeters: Darlene & Gary Lillie

Ushers: open

Lay Readers:

April 3 Konny Jorgenson
10 Eric Paulson
17 Bonnie Hagen
24 Brandon Johnson

Communion Set-up:

Bonnie Hagen

Communion Assistant:

Bonnie Hagen

Radio Broadcast: Eric Paulson

Counters: Eric Paulson & Jean Aus

Acolytes:

April 3 Alex Riley
6 Jared Shelby
10 Ondre Bleskacek
13 Brielle Hopkins
17 Colton Link
24 Brandon Johnson

Church Council Minutes 9 March, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Arvid Flanum.
Pastor Kathy offered a devotion to start the meeting.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Lynn Munson. A motion to accept the report was made by Gary, seconded by Gloria. The motion carried.

Education – Michele

Sunday school is continuing status quo.

Worship – Sandy

New hymnals are being ordered and there is enough in donations to cover the cost.

Youth – Bob

Moving ahead on getting Bible Camp registrations.

Fellowship – Gloria

Planning an Easter Basket raffle for Easter Sunday. Considering an old fashioned box lunch social for May 1st.

Report from trustees

Status from energy audit. Gary contacted a contractor about what it would take to replace the ceiling as recommended by the energy audit. The cost is close to \$30,000 to put in moisture barrier, insulate to R44 and enclose with sheetrock. It would be an additional \$10,000 to do the same to the walls. After discussion no decision was made.

The washing machine in the parsonage is broken. After determining it was around 15 years old we decided it was not worth fixing. Pastor Kathy and Dan donated theirs.

Pastor Kathy – Need to register for the Synod event on March 26. A notice was received from Luther Point for membership. Apparently the notice for membership was not received for last year. Instead of paying membership for \$750 for last year we could pay the \$55 discount for each camper that would attend. Bob moved that we pay the discount for this year for campers' fees rather than paying the back membership. Funds currently designated for Luther Point will be paid toward the 2011 dues. Brent seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Beginning April 10th and running through May 8th there will be an opportunity for the Luther Point capital campaign.

Good Friday service – discussion about how many attend the service and whether it should be evening or afternoon.

The service will be in the evening.

Salary discussion covering custodial, secretary, organist, and pastor. A clear job description for custodial duties will be developed by Gary and Arvid. Pastor Kathy is working on something similar for the secretary position. The recommendation is to change the organist compensation to \$35. Bob made that a motion, seconded by Gary L. The change to take effect immediately. The motion carried.

Discussion of Pastor Kathy's salary. The suggestion by the Executive committee to the council is to increase base salary by 3.2% based on area comparisons. The suggestion was made into a motion by Irvin, and seconded by Sandy. The motion carried. The change to take effect 1 June.

Janet Krueger has agreed to fill the 2 year unexpired term of Rob Hopkins.

Michele made a motion that the council designate the funds from the soup and sandwich super for Luther Point, seconded by Gary. The motion carried.

Bob moved that the Lent offering be designated for LSS, seconded by Gary. The motion carried.

Review minutes: The minutes were read back. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Brent and seconded by Gary L. The motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Attending:

Arvid Flanum	Sandy Westlund	Irvin Elkin
Eric Elkin	Gloria Feyen	Brent Elwood
Lynn Munson	Michelle Bleskacek	Gary Lilly
Wayne Peterson	Gary Hagen	Pastor Kathy Pennington

East Immanuel Lutheran Church

Financial Report - February 2011

Account Balances as of February 28, 2011

Bremer Checking Account	\$29,303.44
Parsonage Loan Balance	\$27,122.25 Maturity Date 12/5/14
Jerdee Estate Funds	\$26,155.98
Window Fund Cert of Dep	\$8,910.43 Maturity Date 2/26/12
	Mission Investment Fund-
ELCA Loan - Interest Bearing	\$40,000.00 Maturity Date 2/18/12

Committed Funds

Benevolence Fund	\$679.43
Building Fund	\$3,450.66
Cemetery Fund	\$222.21
ELCA Loan Interest Fund	\$3,346.12
Hymnal Fund	\$3,180.00
Jorgenson Scholarship Fund	\$122.50
Luther Point Fund	\$285.00
Mission Fund	\$100.00
Non-Designated Memorial Fund	\$5,716.88
Outdoor Chapel Fund	\$4,487.81
Security Fund	\$250.00
	*added to Window Fund Cert of
Windows Fund	\$475.00 Dep on 3/1/11
Total Committed Funds	\$22,315.61

Balance Sheet - February 28, 2011

Beginning Balance	\$29,618.41
Income/Contributions	\$10,027.43
Expenses	\$12,830.91
Ending Balance	\$26,814.93
Committed Funds	\$22,315.61
\$ Available for Expenses	\$4,499.32

Contributions/Income 2011

	Jan-11	Feb-11
Tithes/Sunday Envelopes	7840.48	6565.25
Loose/Sunday Offering	264.55	204
Benevolence/Sunday Offering	130	105
Mission/Sunday Offering	5	25
Radio/Sunday Offering	0	0
Building/Sunday Offering	45	0
Luther Point/Sunday Offering	25	50
Olson Endowment/General Fund	3333.2	0
Olson Endowment/Benevolence Fund	444.43	0
Olson Endowment/Building Fund	444.43	0
Olson Endowment/Cemetery Fund	222.21	0
Parsonage Principal Payments/Donation	1500	0
Memorial Donation	300	0
Flower Reimbursement/Congregation	24	0
Miscellaneous Income	46.6	0
Interest Income	1.33	199.6 MIF/Bremer Checking Int
Sunday School Offering	0	14.58
Hymnal Fund Donations	0	1741
Utilities Donations	0	638 Roast Beef Lunch/Lighting Rebate
Outdoor Chapel Donations	0	485 Valentines Day Dinner
Total	14626.2	10027.43

Expenses 2011

	Jan-11	Feb-11
Advertising Expenses	148.75	0
BOP-Disability Insurance	112.19	112.19 Pastor Kathy
BOP-Flex Spending Account	300	300 Pastor Kathy
BOP-Health Insurance	970.88	970.88 Pastor Kathy
BOP-Housing Equity	180.42	180.42 Pastor Kathy
BOP-Pension	431.5	431.5 Pastor Kathy
BOP-Retiree Suppot	30.21	30.21 Pastor Kathy
BOP-Survivor Benefit	43.15	43.15 Pastor Kathy
Cleaning Supplies	26.24	0
Continuing Education	0	175 Pastor Kathy
Dues & Subscriptions	23.5	401 Icon Systems/Augsburg Fortress
Educational Materials	0	64.71 Augsburg Fortress
Employee Mileage	0	307.53 Pastor Kathy
Fuel - Church	1190.6	1144.8
Fuel - Parsonage	370.63	365.7
Garbage Pick-up - Parsonage	54	0
Insurance-Church Package	0	1111.25 Church Mutual Quarterly Installment
Outside Professional Services	40	750 St Croix Energy Solutions-Church/Parsonage
Parsonage Loan Payment	237	1737 Regular Loan Pmt/\$1500 Donation from January
Pastor Salary	3090	3090 Pastor Kathy
Postage & Delivery	0	49.6 Stamps
Repairs and Maintenance	170.33	0
Shipping Charges	13.13	95.4 Augsburg Fortress, American Church, CSS
Telephone - Church	27.84	27.84 Telephone
Telephone - Parsonage	84.25	88.85 Telephone/Internet
Utilites - Church	154.52	163.08 Electric
Utilities - Parsonage	165.1	190.67 Electric
Worship Supplies	199.99	775.13 Donation Envelopes-Bulletins-Display Materials
WXCE Radio	180	225 February Broadcasts
Totals	8244.23	12830.91

East Immanuel Lutheran Church

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8 a.m. Men's Group @ New Richmond Family Restaurant
3 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion	4	5 9-11 a.m. Office Hours	6 9:30—noon Office Hours 5:30 p.m. Praise Team 6 p.m. Supper 7 p.m. Lenten Service	7 2 p.m. WELCA	8 4:30 p.m. Youth Group Candy Making	9 4:30 p.m. Youth Group Candy Making
10 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship	11	12 9-11 a.m. Office Hours	13 9:30—noon Office Hours 5:30 p.m. Praise Team 6 p.m. Supper 7 p.m. Lenten Service 8 p.m. Council	14	15 7 p.m. Wine Down @ Konny Jorgenson's	16
17 Palm Sunday 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion	18	19 9-11 a.m. Office Hours	20	21 7p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	22 7 p.m. Good Friday Service 8 p.m. Youth Lock-in	23
24 Easter Sunday 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion	25	26 9-11 a.m. Office Hours	27 9:30—noon Office Hours 5:30 p.m. Praise Team 6 p.m. 7th & 8th Gr. Confirmation 7:15 p.m. 9th Gr. Confirmation	28	29	30

Serenity Home

East Immanuel serves a meal at the Serenity Home on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Your assistance is needed by either providing a meal for about 20 people and/or serving the meal at Serenity Home in Balsam Lake at 5:30 pm. Please sign-up for serving a meal one month. Talk to Pam and Eric Elkin for more information. The sign-up sheet is on the table under the mailboxes.

Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution takes place in Amery every second and fifth Saturdays of each month. Registration is from 7 am to 9:15 am only. Distribution begins at 9 am. A \$15 donation to help cover cost of the food, its transportation and storage is recommended.

For more information, call 715-268-7390 or email heaven@amerytel.net or visit www.ameryucc.com.

Bringing God's Groceries to All of God's People!!

Mission Statement

A growing community of faith that welcomes all to worship and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an ever-changing world.

East Immanuel Lutheran Church
207 120th Street
Amery, WI 54001



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED