

Inside East Immanuel

Issue 9

November 2011

Dear Family,

Thank you for giving East Immanuel your time, talents, and financial gifts to support our congregational ministry and mission. It is your participation that allows us to do everything that we do because without you we would not be able to share God's love and mercy to the many individual lives we touch every single day.

Three congregational mission meetings were held in October. There was great conversation at these meetings as we reminisced about our congregation's past, discussed our current circumstances, and dreamed about the future. The opportunity also allowed each of us to gain a better understanding of one another as we had the time to clearly share where we were coming from with our ideas. People have been asking me for the results of these meetings. In all honesty, I cannot explain everything that happened at these meetings in a one-page letter. However, simply put, the result of these gatherings made us realize that we have a lot of work to do. None of it is unachievable; but, focused, persistent attention will be required of us as we work to be intentional about proclaiming the Gospel in an ever-changing world.

The entire task is still to be completed. Our church council did some work in the spring, additional work was completed during our summer huddles, and lots of work was done during these recent mission meetings. Now it is time for everyone who is involved in the life of our congregation to complete a questionnaire. This questionnaire can be found on the reverse side of this letter. I will warn you, they are difficult questions to answer. Please understand that your answers to these questions will determine how we move forward over the course of the next few years.

A brief synopsis of our meeting results is as follows: much of our focus will be increasing our involvement in the Amery-Deer Park community so that the community will see East Immanuel as a central part of the community; our second focus will be to increase the frequency of intergenerational congregational activities; and our third focus will be to increase everyone's participation in our congregation's ministry (i.e. identifying and sharing our spiritual gifts). You will be hearing specific stories and conversations shared at these meetings in sermons, as well as at our annual meeting in February.

In the meantime, please complete the questionnaire. I encourage you to talk it over with your family and friends, too. Once the questionnaire has been completed council will have more work to do so that we do not lose our ultimate purpose: to go out and make disciples of all nations, teaching them about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I am grateful to God – whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did – when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

1 Timothy 1:3

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

The council is asking for the congregation to answer the following questions. They are questions about our congregation's life and work, and your answers will help us focus our vision and mission as we move into the future. Please **complete** this questionnaire and return it to Pastor Kathy's mailbox **by Sunday, November 27th**. Thank you for sharing your time and thoughts in helping us establish a spiritual mission plan.

Do you believe our spending reflects our priorities? Do you believe our spending supports mission (serving the community and world) or maintenance (keeping our building and grounds maintained)?

Our mission statement is: *A growing community of faith that welcomes all to worship and to proclaim the Gospel in an ever-changing world.* As we pursue our mission and ministry, do you believe we work out of scarcity or out of abundance?

Is there something that East Immanuel is not doing in ministry that you want to see us start doing? Explain.

If East Immanuel were to stop a particular task or ministry, would you miss it? Which ones?

What do you believe is central and what is peripheral to God's mission?

Do you believe East Immanuel is doing the same things over and over again but expecting different results? Explain.

Is East Immanuel willing to give up even treasured things in order that the church and God's mission can live?

How do you see God steering, inspiring, and driving East Immanuel's mission and ministry?

Making Sense of Scripture

Participate in an exciting study called *Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions about the Book of Faith*. We don't pretend to have all the answers, but we do want to share what the Bible means to us and how it may be able to speak to our lives.

Some of us may have spent a good deal of time with the Bible. Most of us haven't read it as much as we might like. But together we hope to come to it anew, as if opening this book for the first time.

We will gather on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Discussion Topics Include:

November 1: Is the Bible the Word of God?

November 8: Where Did the Bible Come From?

November 15: How Can I Read the Bible with Greater Understanding?

November 29: Is There a "Center" to Scripture?

December 6: What Kind of Authority Does the Bible Hold?

Don't worry if you can't make it every week. Come when you can. We will have great conversation as we learn more about the Word of God.

Youth Lock-in

A lock-in for all 7th-12th grade youth will be held Friday, November 18th beginning at 7 p.m. until 8 a.m. Saturday morning. Your friends are always encouraged to join us. Specific details will be mailed to the youth.

WELCA News

At our September WELCA meeting we had an election of officers. Blanche resigned as president. Officers are: Janet Elkin—president, Elaine Solum—vice-president, Jean Aus -secretary, Virginia Aasmundrud—treasurer. At our October 6th meeting Jean led us in devotions with Gloria as our hostess. 11 members were present. On October 22nd there was a leader training meeting at Deronda Lutheran. We will be packing Christmas bags for the shut-ins this year. Last year we did Thanksgiving, but most wanted to go back to Christmas. We will be giving each confirmant a long stem red carnation as they have completed their instruction and made public affirmation of their baptism. Michele will present them. We will be donating ingredients for a roaster of chili for the chili feed for the Northwest Homeless Shelter that will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Amery on November 6th. On November 5th we will

Pie Sale

Our youth will be taking orders for home-made Apple and Pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving. Cost is \$6 per pie. Orders are being collected now through November 20th. Pies will be ready for pick-up November 20th- 22nd. Please see one of our youth to place your order.

All proceeds will go towards the ELCA National Youth Gathering Trip in July 2012.

Thank You

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Amery Area Food Pantry, I thank you for your donation of many boxes and bags of groceries over the last months. Because of the generosity of churches like yours, we are able to continue to provide food assistance to the many families in need in the Amery area. We are serving well over 100 households each month at the present time.

It is with deepest appreciation that we acknowledge your donation. We are very blessed to have your support. Your donation will assist many families in our area and please know that they are very appreciative of your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,

David Fish, Executive Director

Mitten Tree & Operation Christmas Child

Items for the Mitten Tree and filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child are being collected through Sunday, November 20th.

again have a Bake and Craft sale at the Roast Beef Dinner, and on Friday, December 2nd we will once again have our annual bake sale at Bremer Bank in Amery. Please help support these bake sales. Along with your support and help, your donations, work and food you provide for the Memorial Day dinner, money from funerals, money from our bake sales and from the two weekends we worked at the brat stand at Dick's, we turned over from our treasurer to the church council \$3,000.00 to be used to pay on the principal of the parsonage loan. Working together is what makes wonderful things happen. Thanks for all the support you have given me these last 3 years.

- Blanche

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: Janet Krueger

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 available on our website. 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 an electronic copy, please send an email to the church at eastimmanuel@amerytel.net with "Newsletter Request" as the subject line.

WOW

WOW (Women of Wine down) will meet Friday, November 4th at 7 p.m. at Bonnie Hagen's home. Bring a bottle of wine or other beverage to share. Friends are always welcome.

November Servants

Greeters:

Jon & Kris Riley

Ushers:

open

Lay Readers:

November 6 Konny Jorgenson
13 Barb LaVigne
20 Mona Flanum
27 Terri Nustvold

Communion Set-up:

Konny Jorgenson

Communion Assistant:

Konny Jorgenson

Radio Broadcast:

Eric Elkin

Counters:

Eric Paulson & Jean Aus

Acolytes:

November 6 Ondre Bleskacek
13 Amy Johnson
20 Jared Shelby
27 Griffin Bryan

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Mark your calendars and reserve some time. We will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Dick's Market on Saturday, December 3rd beginning at 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex, or contact Pam Elkin.

Special Offering Collection

There will be a special collection to go towards our Luther Point Annual Membership Dues on Sunday, November 13th. \$300.00 is needed.

Another special collection will be held on Sunday, November 20th to go towards replacing the Sunday School exterior door. Estimated cost is \$600.00

Church Council Meeting Minutes 10-12-11

President Arvid Flanum called the meeting to order.

Pastor Kathy gave devotion on Ten Commandments and read from Exodus 20, followed by a prayer.

Lynn gave treasurer's report. Reviewed the September's financial report. A motion was made by Gary and 2nd by Eric to accept the report. Discussed the financial contributions and expenses report printed in the bulletin weekly. Council decided to not print on a weekly basis the monthly and year-to-date contributions and expenses numbers, this will be done quarterly to reflect more accurate numbers. Lynn reported to the council that there is still a need of \$300.00 + for Luther Point Bible Camp to fulfill our yearly obligations.

Education- Pastor Kathy reported that Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes would be due in November. Hat and Mitten tree will be going up soon. Sunday School is in need of volunteers to help on Sunday mornings, please speak to Michele if you can help one or more Sundays.

Worship – (Sandy) Chapel railings on the sides and steps are done. Rest of the landscaping will be completed in the spring. October 8th there was a great /beautiful wedding in the chapel.

Youth- Four youth will be going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July; they are Amy and Brandon Johnson, Amanda Worthington and Ondre Bleskacek. Fundraisers are in progress. Spaghetti supper will be October 15th and Pie Sales in November.

Fellowship – (Gloria) There is now a back up plan in place for coffee fellowship for Sunday mornings when needed.

Trustee – (Gary) Foundation of the church has been painted. Sunday School wing windows will be caulked this fall. All the windows in the Sunday school wing will need to be replaced in the near future. Sunday School wing door is rotten and trustees would like to see that replaced this fall.

Patronage appliances needed repair. Oven and clothes dryer were repaired the clothes washer needed to be replaced.

Pastor Kathy report.

She will be on vacation November 10 –14th and December 25 – January 1st.

Congregational Mission meetings continue on Sunday October 16th and 23rd.

Sunday, October 23rd Gideons will be here.

Sunday, October 30th is Confirmation Sunday there will be 4 confirmed.

Sunday, November 6th is All Saint Sunday, remembering those who have died this past year.

Sunday, November 20th there will be 'sending blessing' for the quilts made by the church quilting group. Quilts will be going to shelters.

Tuesday, November 22nd is "Light up the Park" in Amery East Immanuel will be doing a float for the parade volunteers are needed to work on the float also needed is a trailer to use, let Pastor Kathy know if you can help with this.

December 3rd ringing of the bells for Salvation Army will be at Dick's Market, there will be a sign up sheet for volunteers.

Pastor Kathy reported that Bible studies are going well.

Constitution and bylaws committee will begin work soon.

Church letterhead stationery and business cards have been ordered.

Church directory is being worked on and may be completed by February.

Old Business- none for discussion.

New business- Under committed funds, the council discussed the 'Security fund' money, a motion by made by Eric and 2nd by Gary to transfer funds to the building fund.

Council members that will be completing their 2nd term in February 2012 and will be going off council are Eric and Wayne; two other members of the council have completed their 1st term.

Wayne Peterson requested to retire as head usher.

The minutes were read back motion to accept the minutes was made by Irv and 2nd by Gloria

Council Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Attending:

Pastor Kathy	Arvid Flanum	Irv Elkin	Lynn Munson
Eric Elkin	Gloria Feyen	Sandy Westlund	Gary Hagen
Brent Elwood	Wayne Peterson	Janet Krueger	

East Immanuel Lutheran Church

Financial Report - September 2011

Account Balances as of September 30, 2011

Bremer Checking Account	21,180.80	
Parsonage Loan Balance	23,638.49	Maturity Date 12/5/14
Church Loan/Roof	25000	
Jerdee Estate Funds	26,215.02	
Window Fund Cert of Dep	9,385.43	Maturity Date 2/26/12
ELCA Loan - Interest Bearing	40,000.00	Mission Investment Fund Maturity Date 2/18/12

Committed Funds

Benevolence Fund	893.00	
Building Fund	424.45	
Cemetary Fund	0.00	
ELCA Loan Interest Fund	3,603.40	
Jorgenson Scholarship Fund	122.50	
Luther Point Fund	0.00	Remaining due for 2011 - \$305
Mission Fund	165.00	
Non-Designated Memorial Fund	5,398.50	
Outdoor Chapel Fund	2,022.94	
Security Fund	250.00	
Total Committed Funds	12,879.79	

Balance Sheet - September 30, 2011

Beginning Balance	22,904.91
Income/Contributions	8,873.38
Expenses	12,624.94
Ending Balance	19,153.35
Committed Funds	12,879.79
\$ Available for Expenses	6,273.56

East Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 9 a.m. Quilting 7 p.m. Making Sense of Scripture	2 6 p.m. 7th & 8th Gr. Confirmation 6:15 p.m. Praise Team 7:15 p.m. 9th Gr. Confirmation	3 2 p.m. WELCA	4 7 p.m. WOW @ Bonnie Hagen's	5 8 a.m. Men's Group 3:30-7 p.m. Roast Beef Dinner
6 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship	7	8 9 a.m. Quilting 5:30 p.m. Serenity House 7 p.m. Making Sense of Scripture	9 6:15 p.m. Praise Team 7 p.m. Council	10	11	12
13 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship	14	15 9 a.m. Quilting 7 p.m. Making Sense of Scripture	16 6 p.m. 7th & 8th Gr. Confirmation 6:15 p.m. Praise Team 7:15 p.m. 9th Gr. Confirmation	17	18 7 p.m. Youth Lock-in begins (until 8 a.m. Sat.)	19
20 Blessing of Quilts 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship	21	22 6 p.m. Light Up the Park Parade	23 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Balsam Lutheran	24 Happy Thanksgiving!	25	26
27 9:30 a.m. Education 10:30 a.m. Worship	28	29 7 p.m. Making Sense of Scripture	30 6 p.m. 7th & 8th Gr. Confirmation 6:15 p.m. Praise Team 7:15 p.m. 9th Gr. Confirmation			

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 7:30 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.

Because You Eat . . . !
BLESSING PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF JESUS

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