



**‘Sacred Head, Now Wounded’ theme follows the Savior to resurrection**

Follow the way of Jesus to Jerusalem, to the cross and the empty tomb from Palm Sunday on April 5 to Easter worship during Holy Week and Easter services on April 12 as Immanuel observes the theme of “Sacred Head, Now Wounded.”

Here is the schedule:

- “All Glory, Laud and Honor to King Jesus Alone!” (John 12:12-13, 19b), Palm Sunday worship at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 4 and at 7:30 and 10 a.m. Sunday, April 5.
- “A Meal for the Wounded” (Ex. 24:3-11), divine service with Holy Communion, Holy/Maundy Thursday, April 9.
- “The Wounds that Heal” (Is. 53:1-6), service observing Good Friday, noon and 7 p.m., Friday, April 10.
- “The Very Flesh that Dies is the Same Flesh that will Rise” (Job 19:25-26), Easter vigil with Holy Communion at 9 p.m., Holy Saturday, April 11.
- “Easter Joy: Christ’s Real Resurrection is a Profound Revelation” (John 20:8-9), Easter sunrise devotion, 6 a.m. Sunday, March 12.
- “Easter Joy: The Word of Death is vanquished!” (Mark 16:1-8), Easter festival service with Holy Communion at 7:30 and 10 a.m. Sunday, April 12.



**Treasurer Charles Hacker, along with President Don Carter, explains the church’s finances during the Congregational Forum held March 30 by the Revitalization Oversight Committee.**

**Voters approve the replacement of furnace, air conditioning units**

Replacement of the furnaces in the church building and several procedures and activities related to revitalization were approved during the regular Voters Assembly on Feb. 5.

A major decision was to replace the heating and air conditioning units in the church building, following a report by the Board of Trustees. The trustees had three contractors inspect the units and learned that the small ones are running at about 70 percent efficiency. The large unit is working at about 45 percent efficiency. The trustees received two bids of \$139,725 and \$200,000 to replace the units and recommended the lower bid from Premium Mechanics of Jackson.

The voters approved the low bid. The Concordia Lades Aid will fund the project.

The trustees also reported that new florescent light bulbs have been installed in the sanctuary, replacing the incandescent bulbs. The new bulbs are much higher efficiency. The result is about a \$50 a

☺ ☺ ☺

**Youth will serve Easter breakfast**

Immanuel’s youth will serve Easter breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran School. Plan to join your friends and fellow members for fellowship in the light of a risen Savior.

*(See Voters Assembly, page 4)*

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE:



### What about 'The Shack?'

Occasionally a book comes down the pike that captures the attention of people in both secular and church settings. "The Shack," by William Paul Young, is the latest to do so. Since I have not yet personally read it, I will share some comments about it from other sources.

An article in the Southeast Missourian (March 7, page 10a) referred to it as a "controversial book." Rev. Scott Moon said, "... there are some very promising and constructive approaches to some timeless themes. This is using one man's *fictional* [emphasis mine] work to get at truth in a fresh way."

The article went on to report, "Since at least January, churches throughout the area have been using the book, which has sold about 5.5 million copies, in an attempt to shed light on themes for its members, regular attendees and occasional churchgoers."

#### **Dealing with pain and suffering**

In addition, "The Rev. Ron Watts, pastor of La Croix Church in Cape Girardeau, said some have expressed concern that God is portrayed as a woman but he emphasized that the novel is fiction and should be seen as such. Watts went on to say, "'The Shack' at its heart deals with the issue of suffering and how you can deal with a real God in a world of pain. That's the heart of it."

A former pastor of our congregation read the book and wrote a review of it that was passed on to the LCMS Missouri District pastors by President Ray Mirly. Following are some quotes from his review:

"This 250-page novel is about a man coming to terms with the murder of his daughter. It is fiction, yet its theme is understanding God's will and the Christian faith. Apparently it has struck a nerve, because the front cover claims over 3 million copies of *The Shack* are in print in just 2 years. ... The book has some areas that ought to be examined, rather than accepted as 'the way it is.'

"This novel is not the Bible. It's a book based on the author's imagination. ... Young misrepresents the Christian faith. 'The Shack' has made some people so excited they believe it is a new source of truth.

"After an emotional reading of the book, some think that we who criticize the doctrine in 'The Shack' just don't get it. This novel makes errors that confuse the clear teaching of the Bible, so be open to think about why one would want to embrace a teaching different from what we confess."

(If you want to read the entire review please call our church office for a copy of it.)

#### **Profitable reading: the source of truth**

I personally encourage you to faithfully read the source of all truth, The Holy Bible, whose author is Almighty God Himself, which makes it absolutely reliable. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17 *ESV*). St. Peter wrote, "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21 *ESV*). St. Paul instructed Pastor Timothy, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17 *ESV*).

Let's use this season of Lent to begin or continue rehearsing a daily reading of God's Holy Word and carry that very worthwhile practice over into every day of our lives. It will strengthen our faith in Jesus, reassure us in times of uncertainty, comfort us in times of sorrow, and equip us to do God's purpose for our lives, namely, to tell the Good News about Jesus to all whom God places in our paths.

*Pastor Thomas Handrick*

#### **Congratulations for perfect attendance**

Congratulations to these students who achieved perfect attendance during the second trimester of Sunday school:

Brett Baker, Nicolette Baker, Alexandra Bohnert, Trevor Bohnert, Caleb Bohnert, Eli Bohnert, Rachel Bohnert, Owen Bollinger, Sydney Buerck, Eli Brown, Emily Cates, Faith Cates, Aeryal Davis, Hunter Davis, Mavrick Davis, Tyler Hansen, Caitlyn Hoff, Karley Kaempfe, Kristen Kaempfe, Jake Kluender, Dylan Krauss, Maddy Krauss, Ryan Palmer, Treyon Scrugg, Hailey Seabaugh and Ethan Weber.

## **More important than you imagine! Please teach others about the Lord**

**By Jessica Koenig**

Have you ever really thought much about life? What is our purpose? Why are we here?

I have often asked myself these questions, but until Heather (my sister) died, I was never really satisfied with the answers. I knew our purpose was to serve the Lord and bring others to Him. While that was something I really wanted to do, I wasn't always convinced that was all there was to it and I had no idea how to "sell God."

When Heather died, it all became so clear. Our only purpose is to serve the Lord and bring others to Him, because without Him life is meaningless. What would there be to look forward to without Him? Nothingness? Hell? These are not the things I live for.

I asked God to take Heather back home about eight hours before she died. As much as I wanted to keep her and though I knew I would miss her greatly, I wanted her to enjoy the gift of heaven. I couldn't ask her to stay here in that state. I wanted her to see our Heavenly Father. I wanted her to have her glorified body.

It was then that I realized that I shouldn't have to "sell God" to anyone because He "sold" Himself in Jesus Christ. He gave us the good and perfect gift of heaven through His life, death and resurrection. So I now live in the hope of the resurrection that He has promised.

I know that following the Lord and growing our relationship with Him is not easy. We must give up the desires of our human flesh and follow Him. We must endure hardships and grief and use these times and the good times in life to draw us closer to Him.

I look at how family life is today. There are so many places to be and so many things to do. It is easy to put God toward the bottom of the list. But I have begun to look at things differently. Now I see that God is number one! We should never put anything else first!

And I see the importance of parents raising their children to do the same. Don't give them an excuse to miss church or Bible study. Don't give yourself an excuse to miss church or Bible study. Don't only spend time with the Lord on Sundays, but every day.

Be a good role model to your children. Show them that God is number one. Telling them is not

enough; help them to learn to love the Lord! Get out your Bible: They will not learn how to do this if you don't show them. They won't learn how to do this if you don't also love the Lord.

So, grow — grow by leaps and bounds. Make the Lord your everything. Make Him the first thing you think of in the morning, the thing you think of all day long and the last thing you think of at night! Grow closer to Him: your salvation is at stake. You are not saved by the good works you do or by how many prayers you say. You are saved by grace through faith. That means that Jesus has done the work ... the benefit is ours through faith in Him.

So grow in your belief: Love Him, believe in Him, trust Him. Let Him be your everything! He is the most important — and all of us have the responsibility to lead others to Him as well. So spread the good news of Christ and what He has done for you. Don't wait one more second. The Lord loves you and wants you to come to Him!

May the Lord bless you as your passion for Him grows!

*Jessica Koenig is a member of Immanuel and is currently serving a deaconess internship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fremont, Neb.*

## **Join the parade! Invite to VBS**

As part of the effort to promote this summer's vacation Bible school, the Board for Parish Education will have a unit in the Perryville Mayfest parade on May 8. Participants will hand out treats and a message inviting children to come to VBS this summer.

Sign up in the church library and receive a free t-shirt when you participate.

Volunteers also are needed to be teachers, leaders and helpers and to fix meals, lead games, supervise crafts, etc. for VBS. Anyone, male or female, high school age and above is welcome to help. The board hopes to see some new faces.

"Gadget's Garage" is the theme for VBS this year.

Please prayerfully consider helping us with this worthwhile mission project. The dates are July 19-23, and the closing service is July 24. It takes a lot of time and a lot of work to make VBS a success. Everyone in the congregation is invited to help in any way.

Please contact any of the Parish Board of Education members or the church office if you will be able to help at VBS.

## Voters

*(Continued from page 1)*

month savings in electricity so the bulbs will pay for themselves in two years. The Fellowship Club and an individual donation funded the change.

The trustees also are exploring ways to replace the roof on the Youth House with a truss rafter roof. The cost is estimated to be \$15,000, which the youth group is willing to fund.

Approved were procedures for the Revitalization Oversight Committee and finance review.

The committee is reviewing various issues and will make recommendations as resolutions to the Voters Assembly after review by appropriate boards and the Church Council, as well as giving the pastors and Board of Elders opportunity to review the resolutions to be scripturally correct and doctrinally sound. In the procedures, the committee also was authorized to have access to records and minutes, to call special Voters Assembly meetings to consider important resolutions, and to have access to staff, boards and committees to gather information. All meetings of the Revitalization Oversight Committee will be open meetings and the minutes will be available in the church office.

The financial procedures allow an appointed committee to annually review financial records of the congregation and to review the cash flow structure of the congregation to assure policies and procedures are in place for transfer of funds and accountability. The congregation president will appoint the volunteer committee.

The voters also approved the Endowment Committee recommendations to disburse funds from the John Weber estate, which included \$3,051.23 to the school building fund and \$1,326.62 to the church operating debt. Also approved was the committee's recommendation to disburse \$358.62 from the Lorene Spring bequest to support Matthew Heise, a missionary in Russia.

Also adopted was the appointment of Kurt Schoenherr to the Board of Budget and Finance, as well as receiving seven new members and transferring 11 members to sister congregations.

Official minutes of the meeting are available in the church office.

The next Voters Assembly meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 11. On the agenda will be the election of various leaders and review and adoption of the congregational budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.



**Tillmon Petzoldt made crosses throughout the past year to display and sell at the annual Pancake Breakfast. He donated the proceeds to the Immanuel School Tuition Fund.**

## Memorials

### Immanuel Lutheran School Building Fund

- *In honor of Melvin Prevallet's 80th birthday* from Brian and Michelle Mueller
- *In memory of Howard Schremp* from Orville and Laverne Schaefer
- *In memory of Willard Sandlin* from Neltha Wills, Sylvia Crites, Orreal Katt, Berean Bible Class, Pastor and Sally Handrick, Ruby Schubert, Dorothy Wills, Elsie Sandlin
- *In honor of Bernard and Michelle Schnurbusch's 20th wedding anniversary*
- *In loving memory of her husband, Walter,* from Dorothy Wills
- From Lynne Hecht: *in memory of William Bock, who passed away March 3, 1975 and Wilpert Bohnert, who passed away March 19, 2001; in celebration of her parents, Ron and Betty Bohnert's 49th wedding anniversary on March 5; in celebration of Lynne's birthday on March 19.*

### Immanuel Lutheran Church

- *In memory of Marvin Rodewald* from Richard and Carolyn Hurst, Perry County Sportsman Club
- *In memory of Robert Blythe* from Ronald and Joan Unterreiner
- *In memory of Willard Sandlin* from Rev. Kenneth and Kathie Kaufmann, Irma Hoffstetter, Berean Bible Class

### Immanuel Radio Broadcast

- *In memory of Walter Schubert* from Ruby Schubert

### Immanuel School Tuition Fund

- From Tillmon Petzoldt
- Berean Bible Class

## **School News:**

### **Immanuel school year progresses; Lutheran Schools Week observed**

In February the students completed their standardized testing. Kindergarten and grades two, four, six and eight took the complete battery. Grades one, three, five and seven took the Cognitive Abilities test. This is a savings of almost \$1,000 for the school budget.

Boys and girls basketball seasons are complete. Adam Brewer and Dylan Hellman from the boys team and Andrea Kueker and Loegan Griffith from the girls team were selected for All-star games.

### **Celebrating Lutheran Schools Week**

During the first week in March, our school celebrated Lutheran Schools Week with schools across the nation.

We began with a celebration at Saxony High School on March 1. The Immanuel drama group, "Acts of Praise," directed by Sandy Roth, shared a skit about Nicodemus. "Nick at Night" also was presented at Chapel on the following Wednesday.

Monday through Thursday of Lutheran Schools Week were dress-up days. Favorite sports team, casual wear (it looked like a slumber party!), construction work and vacation spots were the themes.

Using biblical names, the students were regrouped into "families" with eighth graders through pre-kindergarteners being part of the same group. These 16 groups ran "The Amazing Race." They were not to yield to the world; instead they were to construct the best life, give of themselves in service and bring other kids into the kingdom. We closed each day in the gym with songs and prayer.

Friday was a fun day. We walked to the Perry Park Center for the movie, "Finding Nemo." After lunch, the teachers *again* prevailed in a volleyball match, winning two games to one! This was followed by a "dance" for all. The tunes were the fun dances like the Chicken Dance, the Twist, the Hokey Pokey, etc. We had a blast!

A great big "Thank You!" to all the staff and especially to our organizing committee of Donna Ozark, Kelly Carstens, Kayla Thole and Kevin Bartels. It was an enjoyable — and very meaningful — week.

### **And other activities**

The third quarter ended on March 13. We have "intent to return" forms from ALL of our current students, and our kindergarten enrollment for next

fall looks to be even larger than this year. Praise be to God!

Yard signs (18-inches by 24-inches) are available at school. If you are willing to display one on your property, please stop by the school. In case you haven't seen one already, the signs say "Immanuel Lutheran School, Quality Education, 547-6161" on both sides.

The PTL rummage sale was March 21 and PTL fish fries were March 13 and 27. There were weekly meals served at school between the Lenten services.

*William Unzicker, Principal*

### **LWML Altenburg Zone sets spring rally for April 18**

Building on the theme "A Time for Everything," the LWML Altenburg Zone will put a workshop form to its spring rally on Saturday, April 18, at Trinity Lutheran School.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with opening devotion at 9 a.m.

Based on Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven," presentations will focus on the purposes and objectives that surround the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Various techniques and media types will be used to demonstrate how members or friends of the LWML can use their talents and gifts to help spread the Word of God.

As the women gather in a relaxed round-table setting there will be time for studying God's Word, videos, reporting, singing, mentoring, sharing, skits, activities, eating, presentations and having fun.

In addition to an offering, "Gifts from the Heart" packages will be collected and distributed to local charities such as the Women's Crisis Center or Lutheran Children and Family Services. (Ideas for these packages can be found in the Winter 2008 issue of The LWML Quarterly.)

For more information, speak with Nancy Wills, 517-0975. Watch for information in the bulletin.

### **LFCS offers program on 'Memory Matters'**

Lutheran Family and Children's Service is offering "Memory Matters," a group for older adults with early memory loss. It deals with causes of memory loss, coping strategies, feelings and talents. It is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 3178 Battner Drive in Cape Girardeau. For information, call Carol at 573-334-5866.

## Immanuel students encouraged to apply for college scholarships

Immanuel students who plan to attend college are reminded that several scholarships are available through the congregation, especially for those who plan to seek church-work professions. Priority is given to students who plan to attend an LCMS college or university.

Application forms are available in the church library for the following scholarships:

- **Lohmann Scholarship** — Awarded on academic performance, financial need and plans to attend a Lutheran college or university. (The latter criterion is used in the event of a tie after the first two are considered.) Application deadline: April 15.
- **Elmer H. & Norma A. Prevallet Scholarship** — Awarded on these criteria: pursuit of a music degree, preferably in piano; pursuit of a career in church work; plans to attend a LCMS college/university or seminary. Deadline: April 15.
- **Immanuel Scholarship** — For students planning to attend a LCMS college or university while preparing to become a pastor, teacher, full-time professional church worker or full-time lay worker. Deadline: April 15.

In addition there are these scholarships:

- **Lutheran Women's Missionary League** (LWML) has study grants for church-work students for the 2009-2010 school year. Applicants must be a member of a Missouri District congregation for 12 months before applying. Grants are made according to financial need and commitment to Christian service. Applications are available at LCMS seminaries and colleges, online at [www.missourilwml.org](http://www.missourilwml.org) (under "forms") or from the study grant chairman, Linda Verman, 20816 E. 13th Terrace South, Independence, MO 64057. Deadline: April 30.
- **Missouri District Lutheran Laymen's League** (LLL) Grant — Call the church office for information. Applications due by April 30.

## LWML sets April 25 for Mothers and Others Luncheon

Immanuel's Lutheran Women's Missionary League is planning the fourth annual Mothers and Others Luncheon at Immanuel Lutheran School for noon on Saturday, April 25. The program will be a quilt show.

LWML members are invited to be a table hostess for this event. Being a table hostess is a great way to use your creative instincts and imagination to decorate your table in any theme you wish. It is also a great opportunity to include your friends and family in a wonderful afternoon of Christian fellowship. Tickets will soon be available for you to distribute to your guests.

Speak with Carol Taylor (547-8534) to reserve your table or if you have any questions about being a hostess.

## Biblical Stewardship Principles

- **God's stewards are God's stewards** — God's stewards are stewards by virtue of creation and their re-creation in Holy Baptism; therefore they belong to the Lord.
- **God's stewards are managers, not owners** — God's stewards have been entrusted by God with life and life's resources and given the privilege of responsibility and joyfully managing them for Him.
- **God's stewards are saints and sinners** — God's stewards rejoice in and live out what God has declared them to be through the cross. At the same time, His stewards recognize they are sinners who fight sin and its consequence each day.
- **God's stewards are uniquely singular, yet profoundly plural** — God's stewards recognize that their lives are not solo performances, but are personal responses to God, lived out within the community of faith to benefit the whole world.
- **God's stewards are in the world, not of the world** — God's stewards recognize that the Lord sets them apart from the world and by the transforming power of the Gospel sends them into the world to live out the Gospel.
- **God's stewards are loved and loving** — God's stewards recognize that their stewardship flows out of God's act of love for them in Christ, which empowers them, in turn, to love others in acts of Christ-like love.
- **God's stewards are served and serving** — God's stewards recognize that their stewardship involves a Gospel-powered style of life which is demonstrated in servanthood within all the arenas of life.
- **God's stewards live with an awareness of the present and future, of time and eternity** — God's stewards live intentionally in the light of god's eternal purpose while being firmly committed to His rule in the here and now.

*From the LCMS District and Congregational Service unit of Stewardship Ministry. For more information, go to <http://dcs.lcms.org/stewardship>.*

# Scenes from the Feb. 21 Pancake Breakfast



## **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

Rev. Thomas V. Handrick, *Administrative Pastor*

Rev. Matthew T. Marks, *Associate Pastor*

### **Church Office: (573) 547-8317**

Office hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fax: (573) 547-7254

Email: [ilcperryville@bigrivertel.net](mailto:ilcperryville@bigrivertel.net)

Web: [www.Immanuel-perryville.org](http://www.Immanuel-perryville.org)

### **School Office: (573) 547-6161**

Preschool through Grade 8

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fax: (573) 547-8205

**Divine Worship:** *Saturday*, 5:30 p.m.

*Sunday*, 7:30 and 10 a.m.

### **Holy Communion Schedule**

Weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: 5:30 p.m., 7:30 a.m.

Weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: 10 a.m.

Weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 10 a.m.

Weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: all services

**Bible Class & Sunday school:** 8:50 a.m.



Girl Scout Sunday. March 8, honored seven Immanuel Girl Scouts who earned awards, as well as recognize those who are involved in Girl Scouts. Pictured with Pastor Thomas Handrick are Marissa Cooper, Daisy Scout Troop 4072 and Casie Cooper and MaKayla Neal, Brownie Troop 46, who received the God and Me Award; Rachel Gruenwald, Cadette Troop 74, who received the God and Church Award; and Kristen Gruenwald, Abbey Hadler and Kaitlyn Schloss, Junior Troop 229, who received the God and Family Award. Nicolette Baker, Daisy Scout Troop 4072, also earned the God and Me Award.