

Pastor's Pondering's Reverend Sue Strickler



Dear Friends,

I've been PONDERING ... what an **exciting** time this is in the life of Immanuel. With the strong affirmative vote on February 14 to "yoke" (share a full time pastor) with St. Matthew, there has been much excitement and renewed sense of the movement Holy Spirit in our midst! God is bringing great things to us and "putting them right in our lap"! You will be hearing more about this in the near future. Immanuel's leadership is indeed tuned into the leadings of the Holy Spirit. What a blessing for this church!

I see Immanuel's journey reflected in this church season. First the time of Lent – a time of introspection – a time of focus on our life with God - drawing ever nearer to God – a time of letting go of the things that keep us from God – of not being afraid of the "death" of old ways – a time that looks forward to the new life of Easter. I feel a resurrection in the making at Immanuel!

As these 40 days of Lent continue may you be blessed by deepening knowledge of God's love for you and may your faith in the love and power of the Lord be renewed.

With faith, hope, and love,

Pastor Sue



Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY: March 28

MAUNDY THURSDAY:

April 1, 6:30 – Pastor Kathy Wicks and Pastor Sue Strickler will lead a modified **Seder service** at St. Matthew Lutheran

I encourage you to attend the Holy Week services. "To me, attending the Easter service without attending the Holy Week services is like watching the happy ending of the movie without seeing the middle—you only rob yourself of joy."

“What is a Seder Service?”

Seder is the traditional Passover Week Dinner celebrated by the Hebrews since the Exodus. It is the Hebrew Thanksgiving, giving thanks to God for deliverance and redemption.

Seder is that famous Dinner called The Last Supper, hosted by Jesus for His disciples. It is probable, based on The Gospels, to assume that Jesus celebrated every Seder of His life in Jerusalem. Seder, as the setting for Jesus' Last Supper, was the event Jesus chose to announce The New Covenant. And it was at this Seder that Jesus asked all of us to *do this in remembrance of Him*.

The Seder dinner is as Christian as it is Jewish. It is the focal point where we bring together our common heritage. We, as Christians, are heirs of Abraham through Faith and children of God through Christ.

Seder was the basis of the early Church's Lord's Day worship service. Eucharist is a transliteration of the Greek word which means to give thanks to God.

GOOD FRIDAY:

April 2, 7:00 – Pastors Sue and Kathy and Karen Candee will lead a Good Friday **Tenebrae Service** at Immanuel UCC

“What is a Tenebrae Service?”

The word ‘tenebrae’ is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story - to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day. So this is not supposed to be a happy service, because the occasion is not happy. If your expectation of Christian worship is that it should always be happy and exhilarating, you won't appreciate this service until the second time you attend it.

EASTER!!

April 4: 7:00 a.m. Easter sunrise service with communion

8:15-9:30 a.m. Easter breakfast prepared by the Church Council

10:00 a.m. Easter service with communion

From the Moderator

Cindy Robles

This has been a very exciting month for Immanuel. We have taken a vote to consider yoking with St. Matthew and sharing a Pastor with them. I think this vote means much more than that. It means that over the past 8 months as the Visioning Committee did their work, the people in the Congregation were able to listen to God's Call and act upon that. It has literally brought energy to our Church by pulling together and working as a team to discern what the Lord is asking us to do. It is very simple. If we work together we can be a strong congregation.

I know that God called me to this time and this place for a reason. I have seen the Holy Spirit at work. Over the past few weeks as we have been looking at our future, I have seen many doors open. I have seen people in our Church really listening to God and acting on that, sharing it with one another. Think about the possibilities now that we have come together and took the first step to reaching out to another Church to become even

stronger. I know that we are talking about sharing a Pastor with St. Matthew, but there are so many other areas we can share with them to become better neighbors, using our resources more wisely by sharing. Even if St. Matthew says No, we can still be good neighbors. The next few months will be challenging, I can assure you. We will need to work hard at continuing to listen to the Holy Spirit and begin acting on it.

My hope is that we become better stewards and stronger Christians by taking Action. The train is moving, I hope you are on board. Jesus is the conductor, let's keep the train moving. Jesus said "Follow me", many times in Bible, so let's get on board and get to work for Him. Lent is a perfect time to do this. I will end with this, keep on praying, listen to what God is trying to tell us and take action. I think we will see that God has a special plan for us. Are you on Board???

God's Bless.

Easter Lily Memorials

The tradition of decorating the sanctuary with memorial lilies is being held again this year. For \$9.00 and Easter lily will be ordered for you and delivered to the church. A member of the Memorial Committee will take your order before and following worship services, or you can call the church office (582-5168) and let the secretary know the name of the donor and the person(s) to be remembered.

Orders must be placed no later than Monday, March 22 to allow the florist time to respond to your request.

Check should be made payable to the Church and can be mailed to the church office (P.O. Box 1002) or placed in the collection plate marked – **"EASTER MEMORIAL"**

Your lily can be picked up after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday, April 4. Unclaimed lilies will be distributed to our shut-ins.



Diaconate Board

February Attendance

Date	Time	Attendance
February 7, 2010	10:00 a.m.	49 Adults/17 Children
February 14, 2010	10:00 a.m.	59 Adults/15 Children
February 17, 2010	7:00 p.m.	16 Adults/3 Children
February 21, 2010	10:00 a.m.	34 Adults/11 Children
February 28, 2010	10:00 a.m.	37 Adults/7 Children

Ushers and Greeters

If you are a greeter or usher, please be at the church 20-30 minutes before worship. Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have any questions regarding this list. If you are unable to be here when you are scheduled, please let a Diaconate member know **at least two (2) weeks in advance** so we can get your replacement.

Sunday, March 14

Greeters: Bob & Donnabelle Kramer
 Ushers: Jerry & Marilyn Frederick
 Lay Reader: John Strickler

Sunday, March 21

Greeter: Ruth Kruse
 Ushers: Art & Sally Miller
 Lay Reader: John Strickler

Sunday, March 28

Greeters: Eldon & Ruth Frederick
 Ushers: Bob Kraye & Kim Brandt
 Lay Reader: Carol Coates

Mission Board

One Great Hour of Sharing Annual Appeal

Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

Youth Bake Sale – Sunday, March 7

Dedication – Sunday, March 14

Since 1949 congregations through One Great Hour of Sharing have been offering hope and well-being by sharing their resources with people around the world. Together, our gifts support programs that -

- rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters,
- develop methods for sustainable sources of food and water,
- construct wells and sanitation systems,
- teach trades and job skills to people,
- resettlement of refugees and displaced persons,
- provide education and health care.....and so much more.

One Great Hour of Sharing gives each of us an opportunity to be the Good Samaritan to our neighbors living in disastrous

circumstances. Through our gifts, we show the kindness, compassion and mercy to which Jesus calls us. Jesus set a standard that wasn't easy to meet. By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, we show and share God's love....offering a hand to that stranger in need, and changing their lives.

Every year at this time, the members and friends of this congregation open their hearts to help people around the world with our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Its remarkable how together sharing our resources will change lives! Please respond to this One Great Hour of Sharing by generously supporting our Youth Bake Sale on Sunday, March 7 and the Dedication on Sunday, March 14.

Mission Board

Lenten Sharing - Hygiene Kits for Earthquake victims in Haiti

Supplying Hygiene Kits to the struggling families in Haiti is Immanuel's special Lenten sharing project. A kit will include

- One hand towel measuring approx. 16 x 28 (no fingertip or bath towels)
 - One washcloth
 - One wide-tooth comb
 - One nail clipper
 - One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
 - Six standard size Band-Aids
 - One tooth brush (in original packaging) – No toothpaste.

(Note: Cartons of toothpaste with an extended expiration date will be added to the kits just prior to shipment).

A box is located in the church entryway to drop off your donated items. Our church school youth will collect and separate the items each Sunday during Lent.

If you prefer donating cash, it will be most welcomed to cover the cost of shipping the kits. Merely mark your cash donation for Hygiene Kits. Church World Service will distribute the kits in Haiti.

Mission Board

2010 “Souper Bowl” - Another Great Success

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7 approximately 50+ people remained following the worship service to join in this year’s “Souper Bowl” Pre-Game Party in the gym. You generously donated 203 cans of soup (158 New Orleans Saints, 45 Indianapolis Colts) and cash donations of \$252. In addition, there were 34 cans of vegetables and fruit as well as several other food items. ***A fantastic response!***

The Mission Board extends a ***“special thanks”*** to everyone for their support in making this a ***“Special Day”*** for the hungry in the community. The Board also extends a ***“special thanks”*** to Karen Candee for donating and preparing the soup for the meal as well as to all who donated food and other items to make this event a great success.

What a wonderful way to enjoy a day – attending worship service, the “pre-game party” in the gym, and watching the game later in the evening while sharing your donations of soup and dollars to feed the hungry in the community. Again “thanks” – you made the Food Pantry the big winner!

Finance Board

Officers were elected—Bob Smith, Chairperson; John Brimeyer, Co-chairperson and Dorothy Krayer, Secretary. Other members of the board are Rob Goedert and Don Lenstra. We find we need at least \$1500 a month to meet our budget for 2010. We did quite well in January. We had an energy audit done and find we are not wasting a lot of energy. We are checking to find out what replacement costs would be for our furnaces. This was requested by the Visioning Committee for future reference.

Thank you to Rob Goedert who will be cutting the spare pews that were found under the stage to the desired lengths for the people who bought them. The sale of these raised \$292 for the general budget. If you feel that it is too cold in the sanctuary during worship, please let a member of the board know and we will see what we can do to adjust the temperature.

The Finance Board and the Diaconate will be sponsoring the Prime Rib Dinner on Friday, May 7. The menu will consist of Prime Rib, Baked Potato, Vegetable, Tossed Salad and Dessert. Chicken breast will be available on request when the ticket is purchased. Tickets will go on sale the middle of March for \$15 each. You must have a ticket and there will be seating for 135.

Lenten folders are available in the rear of the sanctuary for those who wish to use them. You can also just place a check or money in the offering stated as Lenten Offering.

The Finance Board is responsible for the Building, Grounds and Financial matters of Immanuel. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the board. We wish you God’s Blessings for a great month!

Treasurer’s Tidbits

General Fund Envelope Offerings	Giving Budget	Actual Received	Over/Under Budget
January	\$5,492	\$6,013	\$521
General Fund-Revenue / Expenses	Revenue Received	Actual YTD Expense Paid	Over/Under Budget
January	\$7,250	\$6,259	-\$596



**Boris Miller Helps
the Pastor with her
Message in the
Wilderness.**



Christian Education Board

One Great Hour of Sharing Bake Sale March 7th and dedication on March 14th.

Sunday School Picnic is scheduled for June 6th at Eagle Point Park.

The Board is seeking a new Christian Education Director and Youth Director to begin in August. Ben will help with the search. Karen Candee will assist the Board in the interim.

Karen will Graduate on May 8th, there will be reception for her following worship on May 16th.

The Christian Education Board and the Mission board will be meeting in March to discuss Outreach to the neighbors and our own youth. More to follow...

Dates to Remember: March and April

- March 8: C.A.R.E. Committee 6:30 p.m.
- March 22: Church Council Meeting
- March 28: Palm Sunday

• April 1st: Maundy Thursday Service @ St. Matthew 6:30 p.m.

• April 2nd: Good Friday Service @ Immanuel 7:00 p.m.

• April 4th: Easter Sunday Services 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and Breakfast in between services

Sunday Services and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

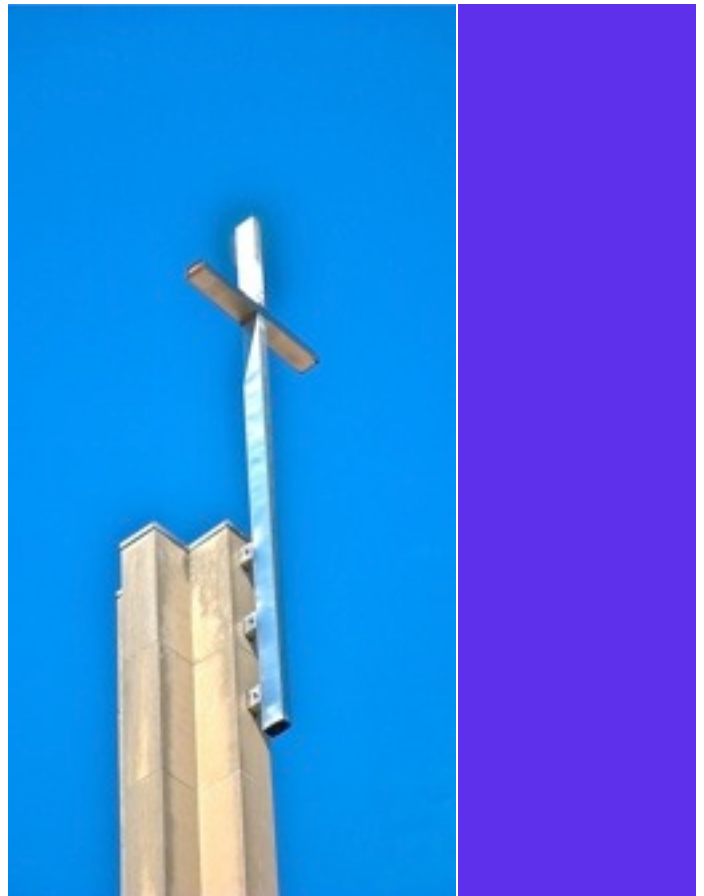
Website: www.immanueluccdbq.org

Phone: 563-582-5168

Pastor Sue Strickler

Office Hours: Every Tuesday, first two Thursday's of the month, last two Friday's of the month.

Home Phone: 608-348-6026 or 888-20-8585



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