

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

20 Rocky Mountain Blvd. West  
Lethbridge, Alberta  
403-327-4336

## Newsletter

## JANUARY 2016

**Fellowship Committee Needs you!** Men and Women wanted! Please consider joining the fellowship committee... The Fellowship Committee in conjunction with the board of nurture are the primary people who help organize potlucks, fellowship activities, funeral luncheons, coffee fellowship as well keep the kitchen stocked etc. Currently there are only three people functioning as leaders in this group and we need more: Amy Rollag has been primary and steadfast in organizing with funeral luncheon, keeping kitchen stocked with supplies etc, Linda Egli as the calling person for coffee fellowship and volunteers for assisting with funeral luncheon etc. and Parish coordinator who attempts to fill in any gaps or shortfalls and step in those roles when Amy and Linda are unable to be there.

**Our Wish/Desire:** Ideally we would like to invite you to join us and have a group of people who would like to meet about once a month for fellowship, a short Bible study and to plan and organize church fellowship activities and to share the responsibility of this work but this format is not set in stone. Please speak to Katherine Canfield

**Mom's Time group** will meet this month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30 a.m. We will continue our discussions on the Family Project. We are learning and discussing about the image of God ...Mothers, Fathers, and children as image bearers, the fall, marriage and our imperfect families. All women are encouraged and welcome to join our Moms group.

This group is an opportunity to build community by providing an open, caring and accepting atmosphere where women can come together to share and learn. A place for mentoring where mature women listen, encourage and offer information and perspectives gained through experience. A place for practical instruction, teaching focuses on areas of common interest, offering inspiration and information that is relevant to the life of a mother. The program is free and everyone is welcome. If you need more information or wish to attend, drop in or call Katherine Canfield Parish Coordinator 587-220-1672.

### **Dear Sunday School Parents and Immanuel Lutheran Church Family**

Thank You for your Participation in our Sunday School Giving Tree. Many hats, mittens, scarf were collected.

Our tree was full! Thank You Thank you. The Sunday school classes will be taking the items off the tree in January and prepare to give them to the Woman Shelter/Harbour house and Streets Alive. On January 17<sup>th</sup> the Sunday School students will hear a short, approximately 10 minute presentation from Kelly of the Woman shelter and Marie from Street Alive about the work and mission of their respective groups and receive the giving tree donations from the Sunday School children. Parents are welcome to join us for the presentations if they desire or if you have any concerns please speak to Katherine Canfield.

Sunday School resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately there was a mix up and the incorrect educational item was sent to us for Sunday School so will be starting our year with group learning. It is a new year so the children will help create a bulletin board for Sunday school entitled "A Good Year to Begin New Habits" look for the bulletin board coming soon down the Sunday school hallway! The children may also be making a "Round Tuit". Often in the New Year you have heard people say they will do something when they get "a round to it". Each Sunday School family is encourage to help their child fill in the blank on their simple "Round Tuit craft" of one thing they can do as a family to show the love and mercy of Christ to others (helping others with...) or to increase Biblical knowledge (reading the Bible daily, weekly or learning a Bible verse) or Christian practise (praying before meal or bed times or first thing in the morning to start your day). Remember our good deeds come forth because of our love for Jesus and our Salvation not for our salvation. This is just a simply way to remind us of the love Christ had for us and to remind us to share and grow in that love and knowledge. Please proudly display your child's/family's round tuit in your home til at least march and see if your family is able to create a new habit.

**Special Request:** If you drink milk from 2 litre paper cartons would you please rinse them out well and drop them off in the kitchen for Sunday School the next couple of weeks.

We have enjoyed having your children in Sunday school and look forward to continuing to learn about our Lord and Savior together. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to teach them. *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* Matthew 19:4  
One last note, children 3 years old and up are welcome to join us for Sunday School. If your child has

run out of Sunday School offering envelopes please speak to Katherine Canfield for some more envelopes. Yearly donation totalling \$20.00 or more are issued a tax receipt and numbered envelopes are how we keep track.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me Katherine Canfield 587-220-1672.

God Bless,  
Katherine Canfield  
Sunday School Coordinator

**2 Volunteers needed to teach the grade 4,5,6 Sunday School Class.** If you can help out please speak Katherine Canfield

## FELIZ ANO NUEVO!

Happy New Year from Puerto Penasco, Mexico! We had an exciting Christmas season with the highlight being our Santa Run on the morning of Dec 24th. Several of our friends joined us as we packed up the vehicles and headed out to the barrio with hundreds of small gifts and candy bags. It was great to have so much help with all the wrapping during the week prior and generous friends who donated items for the children. Groceries were purchased to allow for a food hamper for each of our 14 scheduled stops. The kids were delighted to hear their name called for a wrapped item especially tagged for them. Besides our families and their neighbors, we had plenty of gifts and candy to share on-route to those who approached our vehicles, recognizing we were a Santa convoy.

At the Coronel home, which was our project in November of 2015, we delivered some much-needed beds that morning - a queen ensemble for the parents, Maria and Jose Luis and a bunk bed for the boys, Erit and Antonio. Erit was quick to claim the top bunk and spread out his quilt which he unwrapped a few minutes prior. Each of the family members received a quilt that was lovingly created by Immanuel's Empty Spool Ladies. They were very grateful.

At the home of Maritza, we brought a donated washing machine, microwave, and TV. With the local electric company now supplying power to this neighborhood (our project from 2013), we were able to wire the house just prior to Christmas. Also, Miles poured a concrete slab for the washing machine to sit on. So, Maritza was likely expecting there to be a washing machine but she did not know we had purchased a used but good quality refrigerator. After some clever manoeuvring (making sure our Santa hats were on just right, lol), we finally got the fridge through the door. Can you imagine that this family will finally have a diet that includes fresh produce, fruit, dairy, etc.? Maritza was overwhelmed with emotion plus it was a very touching and rewarding experience for our helpers, as well.

We are so thankful to all our supporters at Immanuel and to those in our circles here in Penasco who embrace our efforts. We give all the glory to God!

In His Service,

Shirley Masnyk

## Making Immanuel Lutheran Church a More Caring Place

We can all help make Immanuel Lutheran a more caring place with a bright smile, a sincere greeting, a warm hug, a word of encouragement. As you greet people this morning, let them know how much you care. And remember, when you meet someone with extra needs, tell him or her about our Stephen Ministry. After you have spoken to them about our Stephen Ministry call Katherine Canfield 587-220-1672 with the name of the person you feel may benefit having a Stephen Minister.

You reached out to me  
When I was in need  
You came by my side  
And held me as I cried  
You held out your hand  
Telling me, "I understand"  
You gave me new hope  
When I felt I couldn't cope  
You cheered up my heart  
When you made me laugh  
You showed me love  
When life got really tough  
At my point of need,  
You became Jesus to me.

© By M.S.Lowndes

## SUCCESS OR/AND SIGNIFICANTS?

**Some Thoughts to Ponder** What is success? Only you can define it in your own life. In my own life, I have attempted to define both Success and Significance.

To me, *Success is secular. Significance is spiritual.* Your own spirituality does matter. Its foundation should be rooted firmly in the inspired word of God; The Bible. Spiritual matters are always finer, deeper, and longer lasting than secular matters.

Success focuses on three Fs:

- **Fans**
- **Fame**
- **Fortune**

Success is focused on tasks, even goals.

Significance also focuses on three Fs:

- **Faith**
- **Family**
- **Friends**

But, *significance* focuses on *purpose*. Why am I here? What do I do with the talents, experiences and skills that I have? How can I make the world a better place? How do I plant seeds of **faith** in the lives of those around me? How do I make an impact in the circles of influence where I find or place myself?

To choose success and significance the secular world leads us to believe you must be a strategic thinker who does the following;

- Has a *clear vision* of what you want to accomplish

What does this mean as a Christian/ as a church? Our vision should come from scripture where God has spoken these words in the Bible; Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." & Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.

- Develops a *solid strategy* that answers three questions:

- *Who or what are we today?*

Are we a community of believers gathered around the Holy scripture to preach and teach the gospel to each other and our hurting world so that all may come to know their Lord and Savior and where our hope lies? I hope so.

- *Who do we want to become?*

Not sure about what you might be thinking but this is my prayer of what I hope we continue to become: A Church where the community of believers are solidly ground in the Bible and God's word. Where the community of believers continue to learn and grow in their Biblical knowledge and faith. Where scripture is preached, taught, learned and written on our heart to encourage, challenge and lift each other up in our journey of faith.

- *How do we get there?*

Well, ask yourself this; when was the last time you participate in a Bible Study, taught Sunday School, lead a youth group? We start by focusing our heart on God. We start in Prayer. We start by learning together again what the Lord has to say to us in Adult Bible Study, in sharing the Bible stories and scriptures with the Sunday school children and small catechism with our youth and others and learning as we do so. Learning my friends never stops whether you 1 or 100, learning continue.

- Employs *practical systems* to achieve your goals

Attend church regularly but do not only attending church do nothing else

Read the scriptures; the Holy Bible daily

Share you readings and thoughts with fellow believers that you may encourage your brothers and sisters and build each other up in the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord.

Participate in a Bible Study or Teach a Study or Sunday School class

These are some practical ways but not an exhausted list.

- Commits to *consistent execution* both in word and spirit because in consistency, success often emerges,

the Lord willing.

When implementing your strategic plan for success, it really comes down to three "Ds":

**Decide** what you want most to achieve according to God's prescription/The Bible and not our own desires.

**Determine** the first step to moving towards the will of God....I think a good place to start is with prayer and scripture reading.

**Do** the first thing that will start you moving toward your goal.

Using these seven keys, you can choose success and significance the secular world says. But keep this in mind: success is not a matter of luck, not an accident of birth, not a reward for virtue. The most successful people I know are the ones who have something to do, somewhere to be, someone to love and know the love of their savior and Lord.

No one Person is responsible for your success or your joy or the joy this church brings to you, others and its surrounding community. You/we as a church must be in a continual state of praying, following scripture and employing a Christian servitude in educating, building up and evangelizing our members & community. In this way if we are truly following Christ, we are successful and more importantly significant.

To merely succeed is not an end in itself. You must use your success to impact other people...to impact the world...to Live Life from the Inside Out as a God fearing examples of what we are through Christ who saves us.

It all starts with the choices you/we make—they show the world what you believe, determine the person you are and what this church could or will become the Lord willing. God's Blessings to you in the New Year!

Respectfully Submitted by  
Katherine Canfield

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Financial Statement**

**CURRENT MONTH - NOVEMBER 2015**

Budgeted .....	31,451.92
Actual Income .....	47,765.01
Actual Disbursements .....	26,860.01

**YEAR TO DATE - NOVEMBER 2015**

Budgeted .....	377,423.00
Actual Income .....	333,108.78
Actual Disbursements .....	332,755.15