

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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



Newsletter

Greetings in the name of Christ, dear members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. I pray that your summer was fruitful for you and your family. It is hard to believe that three months have now passed since I was assigned to you to serve you as your Intentional Interim Pastor. Conversely that means there are fifteen months left for our working together to be accomplished. No pressure! What a blessed three months these have been. I cherish the time that I have spent with you in cottage meetings and meeting in your homes. What a beautiful and diverse tapestry the Lord has woven together over the 110 plus years since He first called Immanuel Lutheran Church into being. But its time to move forward!

Over the course of the next couple of months we are going to be working together on physically putting together that tapestry for everyone to see. Each week throughout the Fall we are going to ask you to put some of your story onto a timeline which spans the entire history of the congregation. I am excited to see what it will look like when it is completed and I hope that you will catch hold of the excitement as well! At the end of it all we are planning a great time of feasting and celebrating our heritage so think about and plan a heritage potluck food item to contribute to this event. Of course I can only paint this in broad strokes here, the details will follow. If you are not getting the information you need in a way that you can access it please let our office know.

This event is part of the much broader and deeper Intentional Interim Process. Over the course of the next months you will be asked frequently to join a conversation, a group or a study to help all of us work together to form a new vision, mission and direction for the congregation. Working together, learning together, talking together the goal is help us understand the uniqueness of our congregation, its context for doing ministry and to assess what resources are available to engage in that shared mission and what resources we will need to obtain. Chief among that of course is to determine what gifting and talents we will want to look for in calling the next settled Pastor within the next 15 months!

God has gifted this congregation with a number of folks who are committed to learning and to leading and implementing the various aspects of Intentional Interim

Process and to ultimately prepare the congregation to call their settled Pastor. Please pray for these folks, for the process to identify and to secure these folks to lead the congregation to do its work.

There are no magic bullets, no secret formula, no Roomba robot that will do the work of the members of congregation. It will require a commitment by the membership of the congregation to do the hard work of ministry together. The same kind of hard work that was required of you when you built the church building and which unified you then as a congregation. The Lord blessed that work and I confident that He will bless this work. I am confident because it is His work we want to be committing ourselves to. And because it is His work it will have great impact in our community. To this end I pray that God would bring us together, and form us together in servant ministry to accomplish His will among us and for the sake and saving of our community. In Christ, Pastor Rob (IIP)

HOPE GROUPS

Due to the overwhelming success of our cottage meet and greet meetings over the summer and the positive feedback indicating that people valued and wanted these meetings to continue Immanuel is pleased to announce the creation of Hope Groups.

Similar in nature to our cottage meetings, small groups of members will come together for discussion, fellowship, learning and support. If you are interested in being part of a hope group or are interested in hosting a hope group session please talk to Katherine Canfield or Pastor Rob.

HERITAGE DAYS

During the month of September the members of the congregation will be involved in creating a visual time line which when complete will depict the heritage of the congregation. Each Sunday in September and the beginning of October the membership will be asked to share another part of their and the congregation's story. Don't worry if you are unable to participate on a Sunday you can add your story on the Sunday you are at the church or you can stop by during the week. We desire all members to participate in this event. We will

also welcome your pictures of the congregation's history.

A time line is being created in the Fellowship Hall. Below is the schedule of events:

September 11th Each member is invited to put the initials of their name on a tag and attach it to the time line at the point when they became a member of the congregation. Facilitators Rita Boltezar and Shirley Masnyk will be available to help you.

September 25th Using various symbols members are invited to mark special times of celebration in their lives on the timeline. For example marriages, birth/baptism of children, confirmations, anniversaries, first job, new home, etc. You can put on as many symbols as you want. We will even have blank symbol sheets for you to create your own symbol for your special occasions! We also want members to mark dates when they remember the congregation experiencing common losses. For example a death in the congregation that was felt by most of the congregation. Place a black cross on that appropriate date.

Your facilitators for this day are Bob and Marj Hedrich. They will be available to assist you.

October 2nd Last week we remembered our personal celebrations and our common losses. This week we invite congregational members to mark with crosses the times of personal loss. (Not all losses are by death nor are they held in common. Losses could include pets, relationships, marriage breakdown, alienation, etc.) You can put crosses in as many places as you choose. The cross was chosen as the symbol because it was the means of our salvation. But our salvation was not complete until Jesus' resurrection. Members of the congregation are invited to place a symbol where your personal loss began to spring forth with new life in Christ, and a renewed sense of hope.

Your facilitator for this day is Karen Barby. She will be available to assist you.

October 9th Life is a series of ups and downs (fair weather and foul). Congregations go through this also. Today members are asked to place a cloud symbol where the congregation experienced adverse times and a sunshine during the times when the congregation experienced good times. Not only has the congregation experienced fair and foul weather in its history, members also have experienced that in their own lives. Members are invited to place a cloud when they experienced down times and a sunshine where they experienced favorable times. You can place as many symbols as you would like to represent your experience of life.

Your facilitator for this day is Karen Barby. She will be available to assist you.

October 16th Our time line is complete and its time to celebrate! After our morning worship the congregational members are invited to participate in a cultural potluck featuring some of the best meal items represented by the various cultures in our congregation. Members will have time to share stories of their life with one another, view the completed time line, and get their fun photo shop picture taken. We also invite members to bring their recipe for their cultural dish. We will collate the recipes and give each member a copy of the recipes submitted.

CHILDREN AGE 3 -12 YEARS YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited to welcome children back to Sunday School! Please join us for an exciting fun learning time. Together we will learn Bible stories and Bible points to remember for our life. Mentored by the teachers in learning we pray the children will build a relationship with their Savior and peers.

Sunday School begins on Sept 11th at about 11:15 a.m. after the children's object lesson in the church Service and will conclude at 12:15 p.m. Parents may pick up children up from the Sunday School classroom area at that time.

Sunday School This Year - Christian parents and families want to nurture their children in their faith but often struggle with time commitment and knowing where to begin. This year in Sunday school your child will bring home a "Family Page" each week. These pages will give families information on the lesson content, enabling them to engage their children in honest conversation about God. Each Family Page offers interactive ideas for time at home. For example the Table Talk questions can be adapted for each age level and used to explore the Bible Story at the dinner table, in the car, at bedtime or at other times when the family is together.

The Living the Faith activity ---a game, art project or other activity ---engages the entire family around the Bible story. The Extra Mile activity can be used to extend the week's Bible story even further.

Parents and care givers are encouraged to use these activities as much as they can. These pages are tools that encourage families to grow together in faith, even if for only a few minutes each week. Please join us and your children in the adventure of learning about our God and Savior! We will be using the Beginner's Bible this year in Sunday School. Are you interested in reviewing this Bible and/or interested in purchasing one for your family to use at home? Please speak with Katherine Canfield as we may be able to do a group

order to keep cost down. Estimated price with shipping would be about \$17.00-19.00.

Please remember to fill out a registration form for each of your children for Sunday School as soon as possible.

LITTLE LAMBS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL



Little Lambs Christian Preschool is happy to announce that we start our 2016-2017 school year on Tuesday, September 6. We have a few spots still available. If you are interested in registering your preschooler please contact Carmen Little at 403-892-6627.

PIE AUCTION FOR PUERTO PENASCO



Puerto Penasco Mission Fundraiser: Our annual pie/cake auction will be held on Sunday, September 18th following the 11 a.m. service. All proceeds will

be directed toward the mission work being done in Puerto Penasco, Mexico. Donations of pies and/or cakes are greatly appreciated. Once again, John Arnold will be our auctioneer - active bidders needed! FaithLife Financial will supply a matching grant for funds over \$500.00. Last year's auction was a resounding success; I hope we can repeat it again this year. So, dig out your favorite recipes and let's have a great auction. Thanks for your support.



MOMS TIME

This is a group of Women/ Mothers of all ages who meet the first and Second Thursday of each month; Sept. 8th & 22, 2016. This group is an opportunity to build community by providing an open, caring and accepting atmosphere where women can come together to share important season of life. 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 woman /mother.

Child care is provided here at Immanuel Lutheran Church as available. The program is free and everyone is welcome. If you need more information please call Katherine Canfield, Parish Coordinator 403-327-4336 or 587-220-1672.

This Month's Topics:

Parenting & Guidance strategies for Preschooler
Each Child is different / What is Temperament?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND MUCH APPRECIATED



If you could provide some much needed assistance and support to our Mom's group for 1 ½ – 2 hours one or two Thursday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 am. per month. Please call Katherine Canfield 587-220-1672. Aunts, Uncles , Grandparents, anyone

who is loving, nurturing and sees the value of supporting parents in our community is encourage to assist. The more helpers we have with rotation, you may need to only do this once every couple of months.

EMPTY SPOOLS (Quilting Group)

The Empty Spools will be meeting again on Wednesdays from 1 to 3:30 beginning on Sep 7th. All interested persons are welcome.



BRIDGE GROUP

Our Bridge Group meets every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. for cards and fellowship. Everyone Welcome!

THE CHURCH AS GOD'S CREW BUILDING A STRONG BIBLICAL FOUNDATION & COMMUNITY FOR YOU & YOUR FAMILY; THE LEARNING NEVER STOPS!

This past year has given me many opportunities to reflect on 1Peter 3:15: "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect," Knowing what I believe and why I believe it, is something I have always strived for. It is especially important to me to live out those beliefs and share them with my family and community because I want my life to reflect my beliefs.

When my children were younger, they would sometimes ask me tough questions. I would explain what the Bible had to say and I did my best to give them a foundation of understanding so they could make good, reasoned choices. Now that my kids have grown older, they have that foundation to draw from, but the learning is far from over. Often, when we get together we may discuss events happening in our culture and where our faith stands in the midst of it. I'm sometimes challenged by others perspectives and that helps me confirm my own understanding. I, too, am still learning!

In my experience, building faith and learning to live it out is most effective when in fellowship with others. We are created to be in relationship with one another; first with God,

then with family, church and then with the world around us. When as we live out our faith and have dialogue with one another, we hone our understanding of what we believe and why.

Here at Immanuel Lutheran Church we are a Holy Bible learning and teaching church. There are many opportunity for us to learn, grow, teach, share, support and be supported by fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As you peruse through this newsletter take the time to reflect where you can join God's crew in Learning, Growing, Sharing and Supporting and make yourself available to serve.

There is no small service and great are the opportunities; we need Sunday School coordinators, teachers, helpers, Bible study leaders/hosts, child care provider, friendly visitors, greeters, power point helpers, ushers, telephone callers, youth leaders and the list goes on. Please speak to Katherine Canfield our Parish Coordinator and share your interest and she will find you a way to serve or be served as needed. 587-220-1672

Please avail yourself of the many opportunities to learn and grow in your faith. While you are in service to others there will be opportunities for you to share your faith and hope with others; "Always be prepare to give an answer for the hope that is in you!" You are never too young or old; there is no retirement from serving and learning about our mighty and powerful God and Savior!

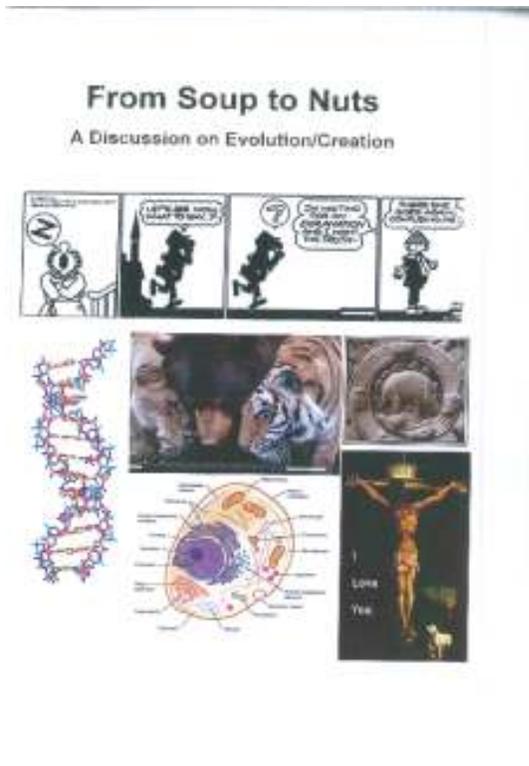
A servant with you in Christ,
Katherine Canfield

**COME AND JOIN US ON THURSDAYS
FROM SEPTEMBER 22 – NOV. 24 2016
FROM 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

Science is built on the back of asking questions. When Evolution is treated as the last word in science, does this really promote an honest evaluation of the world around us or is there ample cause to question this perspective's assumptions? Creationism need not be anti-science – Johannes Kepler said, "Science is thinking God's thoughts after Him." In fact, Creation presents a perspective which can account for more data than Evolution can. This opportunity may be the time for you to consider what really forms the difference and ramifications behind these two world views. The following topics will be covered:

1. The Myth of Pure Science
2. Hope vs Despair: The Clash of Two Systems
3. And There Was Life
4. Death and the Value of Life
5. Fossils
6. Dating
7. Cosmic Evolution
8. First Cell
9. DNA
10. Humans – Evolutionary Prejudice

Immanuel Lutheran Church Presents "From Soup to Nuts" by Jim Lindemann



**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Financial Statement
AUGUST 31, 2016**

Year to Date	Budgeted	Income	Disbursements
Aug. 31/16	225,514.00	209,242.49	215,139.72
Month of Aug. 2016	28,189.25	21,934.88	37,987.29

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND UPDATE

We have received partial payment from Lutheran Church Canada - ABC District for term deposits held there for dedicated accounts.

Immanuel Congregation's Term Deposit was for \$37,754.61. We have received a \$5,000.00 convenience payment as well as an initial cash distribution of \$3,989.78 leaving an outstanding balance owing to us of \$28,764.83 which is to be converted into shares by the end of the year.

Little Lambs Christian Preschool's Term Deposit was valued at \$11,329.52. After their convenience payment of \$5,000.00 plus their initial cash distribution of \$771.00, a balance of \$5,558.52 is outstanding and is also to be converted to shares.