



Emanuel Lutheran Church
 501 E. Danafer St
 Ludington MI 49431
 231-843-3686
 fax: 231-843-3688
 office@emanuel-lutheran.com
 www.emanuel-lutheran.com

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Ludington MI 49431
 Permit No. 154

PARISH STAFF

Rev. James L. Friesner, Jr.--Pastor
 pastor@emanuel-lutheran.com

Craig Avery, Music Director
 craigaverypianist@gmail.com

Hjordis Rivet--Children & Youth Program Director
 hjordis@charter.net

Sally Teague, Sexton
 office@emanuel-lutheran.com

Cathy Iteen, Interim Treasurer
 cathy@hardmanconstruction.com

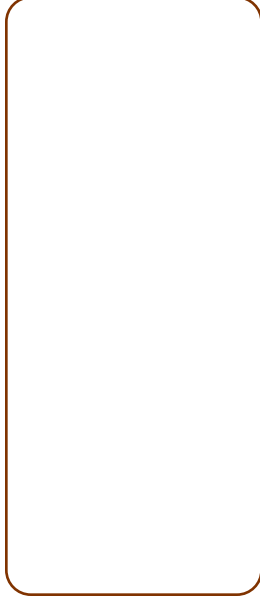
Kathy Keson, Financial Secretary
 kkeson@charter.net

Lou McCarthy, Administrative Assistant
 office@emanuel-lutheran.com

Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00 A.M.— 4:00 P.M.
 Lunch: 12:30 —1:00 p.m.

The Office is closed on Fridays.

***Parish Staff meetings: Mondays at 9:30 a.m.**



A special thank you to the members of our Herald mailing team who so graciously help to ready this publication for mailing each month. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



The Herald

OCTOBER 2011 VOL. 76 • ISSUE 9

Emanuel Lutheran Church

An Evangelical Lutheran Community, ELCA

501 E. Danafer St., Ludington, MI

Phone: 231-843-3686 Fax: 231-843-3688

e-mail: office@emanuel-lutheran.com

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Word & Sacrament celebrated on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

**“God is Love”
 We are not abandoned!**



A couple of weeks ago, I sang a hymn tune that was as familiar to me as the back of my hand, but the text that had been paired with the tune was completely new to me. After a little research on my part, I learned the text was written by one Timothy Rees, a Welshman by birth, and a Bishop by the call of God.

In any case, as I stood and sang the first verse of this fine old hymn, the printed words seemed to almost leap from the page, and they have haunted my spirit ever since.

*“God is Love, let heaven adore him;
 God is Love, let earth rejoice;
 Let creation sing before him
 And exalt him with one voice.
 God who laid the earth’s foundation,
 God who spread the heavens above,
 God who breathes through all creation
 God is love eternal Love.”*

We find another hymn that speaks of God’s love in St. Paul’s letter to the church of Philippi (*Philippians 2:1-13*). The story it tells is of how great God’s love is for His whole creation. It is a love without reservation. It is a love that knows no limit. It describes how Jesus denied all that he was, even his equality with God our Father, to prove the Father’s awesome love.

So, here goes. I have two thoughts on this day regarding God’s great love:

First, if we are truly convinced that God gave the Son to prove His love for us...and that, with this great love, Jesus has redeemed the Father’s whole creation...then we must also believe that this single act of selflessness, saturated in God’s great love, has forever changed our destiny. We are redeemed. We belong to God, as St. Paul is quick to tell us in his letter to the Romans (*Romans 8:38-39*):

*“For I am sure that neither death nor life,
 nor angels nor rulers,
 nor things present nor things to come,
 nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
 nor anything else in all creation,
 will be able to separate us from the love of God
 in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The deal is done!

Secondly, saturated in this great love of God the Father, *we need not be afraid.*

It has been perhaps two, if not three generations, since we have known such turbulence in our lives. The world is changing at such a fast pace, it has become almost impossible to keep up. And, in some cases, it is impossible! Absolutes that were before us only yesterday seem to be washed away in the light of each new day. The questions of life flood over us as though the dam of certainty was never built. Yet, in our moments of desperation, we need to remember that we are not abandoned. God is with us, and in us, and loves through us.

I believe that Bishop Rees was convinced of this, as well, when he penned the second verse of his hymn.

*“God is Love; and love enfolds us,
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp God holds us,
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow’s iron rod.
Then we find that self-same aching
deep within the heart of God.”*

We are redeemed.

We are loved with an everlasting love, from an everlasting God.

We are not abandoned.

God never leaves us, we are never forsaken.

So then, what if I were to say that the really good news on this day is that it is never too late to recognize that love...and to walk therein? To me, that is the point of Matthew’s Gospel (Matthew 21:28-32):

A man had two sons who were invited into the vineyard.

One said “no” but later changed his mind.

The other said “yes” but did not go.

I believe Jesus uses this story to help us understand that this God, who is from everlasting to everlasting, whose love is faithful from generation to generation, is also a God of second chances. The first son saw his second chance and took it. May we do the same.

See you in church on Sunday!

Pr. Jim



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Parish Committees & Chairs

Altar Guild		Finance	
Jenny Grey	343-3222	Joyce Usiak	852-0066
Norma Friesner	468-9233	Property	
Christian Outreach		Jerry Welton	843-4743
Anna Anderson	845-5684	Scholarship	
Christian Education		Sonja Siewert	794-8106
Bill Anderson	845-5684	Stewardship	
Congregational Care		Jim Grey	843-0990
Jeani Groendal	843-3975	Jeanne Kagey	843-9945
Sandy Nelson	845-5295	Worship & Music	
		Jenny Grey	343-3222

Officers and Council Members

Executive Board

*Rev. James L. Friesner, Jr., 231-468-9155, Parish Pastor
Jerry Welton, 843-4743, President
James Grey, 843-0990, Vice-President
Steve Mertz, 845-1185, Secretary
Tony Hamm, 843-9540, At-Large*

Through 2011

<i>James Grey</i>	843-0990	Position C
<i>Larry Rees</i>	843-8235	Position D
<i>Jerry Welton</i>	843-4743	Position E
<i>Sandy Nelson</i>	845-5295	Position F

Through 2012

<i>Tamara Brand</i>	843-0089	Position I
<i>Tony Hamm</i>	843-9540	Position J
<i>Joyce Usiak</i>	852-0066	Position K
<i>Ann Bird</i>	845-5523	Position L

Through 2013

<i>Seree’ Jo Schmidt</i>	898-6193	Position A
<i>Cindy Jarvie</i>	843-2613	Position B
<i>Steve Mertz</i>	845-1185	Position G
<i>Donald Verduin</i>	425-3549	Position H

Ministry Support Team

<i>Lou McCarthy</i>	757-9629	Administrative Assistant
<i>Hjordis Rivet</i>	425-3633	Children’s Family Ministry
<i>Craig Avery</i>	233-1680	Music Director
<i>Sally Teague</i>	845-6706	Sexton
<i>Kathy Keson</i>	845-9150	Financial Secretary
<i>Yvonne Bannon</i>	90-2495	Nursery Caregiver
<i>Eric Dixon</i>	843-9253	Grounds
<i>Dick Falk</i>	843-4976	Gardens



W.S.P.C.C. Legacy of Life Campaign

West Shore Pregnancy Care Center is currently running a "Legacy of Life" campaign – "An opportunity for you to leave a legacy of life for your family and for the families of our

clients." After 18 years and thousands of client contacts, God has provided an opportunity for West Shore Pregnancy Care Center to purchase 603 E. Tinkham Ave., Dr. Hill's former office.

Why Would We Move? Being pregnant out of wedlock does not carry the stigma it once did. This location will allow for greater community awareness of the ministry and the services we offer. It allows for easier access for clients without transportation and is close to health and other aid services. It is near our junior high and high school for easy access to our services. (A free pregnancy test is often our first contact with a young woman.) Other services we offer include: helping women & men choose life for their unborn child; providing needed support for women, children, & families; providing positive, proactive programs; helping to lower the teenage pregnancy rate in our community; teaching mothers how to properly care for themselves and children; and helping clients to know Christ. Your gift will leave a "Legacy of Life" for your family by establishing that life is worth supporting.

Sponsorship Levels: "Friends"—up to \$249.00; "Bronze"—\$250.00 up to \$499.00; "Silver"—\$500.00 up to \$999.00; "Gold"—\$1000.00 up to \$4999.00; Platinum—\$5000.00 up to \$9999.00 (payable over 3 years); "Diamond"—\$10,000.00 and above (payable over 3 years); OR \$100,000.00 and *name the building!!* If you wish to know more about this campaign and how you can help out, please contact Tracey Chapman, executive director of West Shore Pregnancy Care Center, 843 -7094, 5565 First St., Ludington, MI 49431, www.wspcc.org.

Come out to donate this month and you could win FREE GROCERIES for the next month from Meijer! (up to \$250 value)



Ludington Knights of Columbus

301 N Jebavy Drive

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

11:30 am—5:15 pm

To schedule an appointment, log onto redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: KofC Ludington.

Must have photo ID or donor card to donate.

Donating blood is safe, simple and makes a difference.

To become a blood donor, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health.



Congratulations and Happy Birthday to:

Betsy Levandoski	10-3
Lorraine Quinn	10-8
Carol Omohundro	10-21
Polly Barrington	10-30



For a complete list of October birthdays, please visit our website at: www.emanuel-lutheran.com

Please keep our Confirmation Students in prayer:

Madisyn Brockelbank, Zachery Buskirk, Kaitlyn Dixon, Kyle Dixon, Rune Kirby, Jacob Lesinski, Julia Maltbie, Maggie Nagle, Tambrea Sumner, Laci Sroka and Cady Thomas

Leah Cutler, Emily Millspaugh, and Morgan Mitchell

BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

Nora Clair Wellman

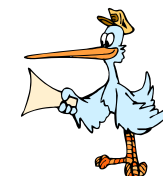
Daughter Joshua & Emily Wellman
Granddaughter of Pastor Jim & Norma
September 4, 2011



Congratulations to
Jody French & Shawn Sroka
who were united in marriage
on Saturday, September 24, 2011
at Emanuel Lutheran Church

Congratulations and Welcome!

The Emanuel parish family is proud to announce the birth of **Elijah Frederic Verduin**, son of Tim & Talia Verduin of New York City, and little brother of Zoe, who was born on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. Elijah is the grandson of Don & Shari Verduin.
Welcome Elijah!





“Stewardship: A Disciple’s Attitude of Gratitude”

Stewardship is about more than money. But it *is* about money. Our use of money, and our other possessions, is an important part of our discipleship as followers of Jesus. It reflects our relationship with God, the creator, and our understanding that all that we are and all that we have comes from God. It is our responsibility to take care of and use

wisely the blessings we have been given. They include our time, attention, health, energy, talents, relationships...and money. Part of being a good steward is our call to share our financial resources to support our church and its ministries.

Stewardship ministry has a long history in the life of the church. It has often been the place in the life of a congregation where financial needs and realities are addressed. In many congregations today, however, a broad-based concept of stewardship has been replaced by a much more narrow focus on the congregation’s budget. There is often anxiety about not having enough to pay the bills. This leads to conversations centered primarily around “meeting the budget”. Thus limited, these conversations use only fund-raising language and can lead us away from a healthy understanding of what stewardship ministry can be for us as disciples of Jesus.

When our use of language about stewardship is centered on the need to meet the budget, we can lose sight of what it means to be good stewards. We can help reverse this trend by separating “fund-raising” language from “stewardship” conversations. If we concentrate on how stewardship colors *all* of life’s decision-making, how an “attitude of gratitude” might prosper in our Emanuel family, and how congregation members can inspire each other with generosity, then we can come closer to the true meaning of stewardship.

Gordon Dahl challenges our American attitudes. He writes, “We worship our work, we work at our play, and we play at our worship.” What he critiques here is how society has come to misplace its priorities and focus. When we put in 60-80 hours a week in the office and come home on Friday with a briefcase full of work for our weekend, maybe work has become a form of worship. If we force ourselves to exercise, what has happened to our sense of play? And when we describe our worship experience only in terms of not getting anything out of it, what is our focus on the purpose of worship?

As disciples of Jesus, we can find a broader meaning of stewardship in our daily lives. We are called to be the body of Christ in the world—to do God’s work, share God’s blessings, and do God’s will. That understanding of stewardship is both corporate and individual. How do we take care of all that God has blessed us with? How do we use those blessings to accomplish God’s will for the world? It might mean tending more carefully to our health, our relationships, our finances, and our life of faith.

Stewardship can be a difficult topic for discussion in the current culture of hyper-consumerism. Daily, we experience pressures to over-extend and find ourselves overscheduled, over-worked, over-spent, and over-committed. Our stewardship emphasis at Emanuel this year is an effort to re-focus our attention on activities that give fulfillment and meaning to our lives, to re-focus our attention on our relationship with Jesus, the Savior. Then, out of gratitude for God’s faithfulness and generosity to us, we can give freely, and without fear, to support our church and its ministries.

Although stewardship is a life-long effort, our specific emphasis on stewardship for 2011-2012 will end on Sunday, October 23rd with a turkey dinner (brunch) after our 9:30 worship service. We fervently hope to see you there to help us celebrate our belief that Emanuel is blessed far beyond our understanding!

In Christ,
Your Stewardship Team

The poster features a central white box with a yellow border containing text about parish ministries. The background is green with various autumn-themed illustrations: leaves, pumpkins, a scarecrow, and a cross. The text is arranged in several sections, including a title, a food collection announcement, an emergency meals announcement, and a prayer group invitation.


Parish Ministries

FIFTH SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION: As you know, Emanuel has a partnership with Harbor Light Fellowship Emergency Food Pantry. We collect food for the pantry during months that contain a fifth Sunday. **Sunday, October 30th** is the fifth Sunday of the month. We are asking for donations of canned goods and other non-perishable food items. Donated items may be placed in the Narthex. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

EMERGENCY MEALS: As an outreach ministry of Emanuel Lutheran Church, meals are delivered to those recovering from an illness, accident or another *emergency* situation. If you know of someone who is in need of emergency meals, please call the parish office at 843-3686.

An informal men's small-group ministry called **"Coffee and Conversation"**, consists, very simply, of a weekly opportunity to get together. For information, see Steve Mertz after church, or join us this Wednesday at 9 AM at Brenda's Harbor Cafe, 316 S. James St.

Join us each Wednesday at 11:00 am as we pray for the special Intentions of our parish.

 **Wednesday Morning Prayer Group**



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 OCTOBER! FEAST!

It's fall! It's food! It's fun! It's an Octoberfest-theme dinner, and we're inviting the whole community! Put this date on your calendar and invite your friends: **Tuesday, October 18**. The menu includes: bratwurst, sauerkraut, German potato salad, fried apples and vegetables.

Currently, we need folks who can help us get the word out and organize a ticket-distribution effort. We need folks who can solicit donations to underwrite the event, including things that are locally available (apples, potatoes, apple juice, ice cream). We will also need people to set up and decorate, donate homemade pies, and we'll need a big crew of cooks, dining room helpers, and folks to assist with assorted "event" tasks.

So start thinking about all the people you can invite, and sign up at the volunteer table out in Luther Hall after church on Sunday mornings or you can call Steve Mertz (845-1185).

Planning Ahead: **Silent Auction**



Emanuel Lutheran Church will be holding a Silent Auction in December. We are looking for gift certificates from local businesses, craft items, tickets for movies, sporting events, or concerts, and other such items to auction. If you have anything of value that you would be willing to donate to be auctioned, please contact the Parish Office, 231-843-3686, or bring your item into the office on or before November 27th. *Please note, this is not a White Elephant sale. Only new, unused items of value, please.*

SILENT AUCTION HELP NEEDED: Do you have experience working at a silent auction? Are you willing to help our committee coordinate the Emanuel Silent Auction on December 18? We are looking for creative, talented people to make our auction successful. Please call the parish office, 843-3686, to volunteer your time.

The Annual Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner will be held at Emanuel Lutheran Church on Thursday, November 24, 2011 from noon until 2:00 p.m.

Vicki Dorrell has graciously agreed to chair the event once again. Thank you, Vicki!

As is our custom, we will be collecting cans of fruit pie filling for the LHS Home Economics Dept. to make pies for the meal. Please bring your donations to the church from now until October 16th.

We are also in need of Kitchen Help! Please call Vicki to volunteer: 843-8873.



A FAITHFUL STEWARD'S RESPONSE TO OCTOBER'S GOSPELS:

- ♥ **October 2: Matthew 6:13-35** Today's Gospel points us to the meaning of simplicity as a lifestyle and faith choice. Following Jesus' call to focus on God's abundance, we can shift our attention from our own worrying and fears to the needs of others. God's call, "Look here," shows us God's kingdom and invites us to learn and change.
- ♥ **October 9: Mark 4:37-41** Faced with the improbable "opportunity" of their life-threatening disease, cancer patients can face an involuntary simplicity that requires careful, principled sorting out of priorities and relationships. The sermon writer sees in this example the voice of God's invitation to any of us who experience any tribulation to face God's truth, beautiful and ugly at the same time: In Christ, God rescues us and calls us out of ourselves toward lifework that accomplishes God's purposes.
- ♥ **October 16: John 13:34-35** The theme, "Acting Together," takes on poignancy as a real-life story that invites learning from a seemingly unlikely source, an elderly Japanese American couple who reflect on the experience of their internment during World War II. Hearers are transported back—via a written letter—to a time when "loving one another" could have been as difficult as survival itself. The unusual context for this sermon compels hearers to connect text, theme, and present-day experiences into a formidable force that frees the world through Jesus' command, "Love one another."
- ♥ **October 23: Luke 5:1-7** The theme, "Sharing Enough," presents itself in this sermon that describes "lines" that set limits, lead in directions, and direct and focus our thoughts on a truthful definition of "abundance." The sermon proceeds from the writer's thankfulness for the birth of a child, and follows a straight line to the concepts of sufficiency, abundance, and generosity. The sermon presents a challenge to the thinking that may have trapped us inside a circle of fear and selfishness.
- ♥ **October 30: John 8:31-36** Jesus says his truth will set us free. The truth he teaches is that we are sons and daughters of God. As children, we have been given all good gifts by the God who loves us. How do we respond to that gracious love?



A Measure of Our Love



A total of **\$3,545.00** per week is needed to maintain the day-to-day ministry of our parish.

Date Rec'd	Attendance	Envelope Offerings	Year-to-Date
09/04	77	\$1,980	\$(15,456)
09/11	143	\$2,717	\$(16,284)
09/18	128	\$1,750	\$(18,079)
09/25	144	\$2,667	\$(18,957)
Noisy Offering	(\$1,000 pledged)	Rec'd to date:	\$ 776.98
LSSM	(\$1,000 pledged)	Rec'd to date:	\$ 280.00
Missions	(\$1,000 pledged)	Rec'd to date:	\$ 1185.00
World Hunger	(\$1,000 pledged)	Rec'd to date:	\$ 403.00

2011 Building Fund Debt (as of 9/25):

Total cost of projects:	\$174,348
Total amount borrowed:	\$ 92,600 (incl. interest)
Amount received to date (to pay off loans):	\$ 75,354

Christian Ed in the News!

*Confirmation Classes meet
on Sunday afternoons from 5:00-6:30 pm
Dinner will be served each evening.*



**KID'S CLUB MEETS AFTER SCHOOL
ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF EACH MONTH
FROM 3:30-5:00 PM.**

Students in grades 3-5 are invited to come to the church to share a snack, play games, do homework or just "chill" with friends.



**Destination: Savannah GA
June 23-30, 2012**

Emanuel is partnering with the Bryant Rd and Riverton United Methodist Youth Groups for this exciting service-oriented adventure! There will even be free-time to explore the Savannah area!

Open to students in grades 6-12.
(Must have completed 6th grade as of June, 2012.)

Registration forms are available from the Parish Office
or call Hjordis at 233-2472.



To help fund our Mission Trip, the youth will be doing an "ongoing" can/bottle drive. You may either drop off items at the designated area in Luther Hall or sign up there to have once-a-month pick up of your cans/bottles. Please consider supporting our youth in this way.



CONE CLUB WRAP-UP

Tom and Patricia Ezdebski met bi-weekly throughout the summer months with a group of young people ranging in age from 4th-8th grade. Between 10-15 kids attended each session at House of Flavors. They discussed "life issues" that confront them at their ages and were encouraged to turn to God and His commandments for direction, as well as for prayer. The kids enjoyed the "situational examples" and, of course, the ice cream and fun! Tom & Patricia plan to continue the program next summer!

For more information on youth activities, contact Hjordis at 843-3686.



Thank you, Thank you!

Sunday, August 21, 2011 was a beautiful day for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk. Great strides have been made in the last few years in the areas of better treatment, research into slowing the disease and enhanced care-giving training methods.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION TOP CORPORATE TEAM

The only name on this trophy for the past 7 years is **The Lake-Mason-Osceola Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**. We had a total of 18 walkers. At this time our team has raised \$2,550. Thanks to Ruth Anderson who raised \$620 and Linda Ochs who raised \$525.50, we will be receiving this trophy again and make it 8 years in a row!

We sincerely thank each and every one of you on behalf of those with Alzheimer's disease and on behalf of the people who love and care for them.

Forever indebted to God's grace and mercy,
Co-Coordinators: Ruth Anderson,
Jim and Sandy Bloom

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church & Scholarship Committee,
I wanted to take the time to show my gratitude and appreciation and thank you all for your generosity. I am honored and feel very fortunate to have been chosen as a recipient of both the Sahlmark and Emanuel Scholarships this year. This gift will contribute to tuition expenses at Ferris State University's College of Pharmacy, where I will begin my first year of the PharmD program. Again, thank you for your continued support.



Sincerely,
Kaylin Petzak

Lake-Mason-Osceola Chapter #30813

**Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Annual Dinner/Election**

Sunday, October 16, 2011—3:00pm

Trinity Lutheran School

*139 W. Church Ave, Reed City, MI
(on US-10 East of I-133 about 3-miles)*

Entertainment by the "The Sweet Wind"

We need to plan for dinner, so **please RSVP by October 10, 2011**
Ruth Anderson at 231-843-4780 or anderson.35@charter.net
Jane Potter at 231-912-0433 or janealice22@yahoo.com

Bring a friend! See you there.