

January 2012

It happened so suddenly!

The warning signs had been posted for what seemed like forever but few people took them seriously. "Pay attention," the messages said; "Take it seriously," they warned; "Get ready," they pleaded. But by and large most people ignored them. "It's too generic," they reasoned; "It doesn't apply to me," they concluded...and so when it happened, with a few exceptions, it was unexpected.

The day it happened seemed like every other day, with the routines of work and family carrying people along in a perpetual motion of activity. So ordinary was the day that everyone thought their day would end as ordinarily as it had begun. But it was not to be. In the midst of the typical and routine and ordinary...

God suddenly was born.

The warning signs had anticipated it – "A virgin will conceive and bear a son." "Prepare a path for him," they pleaded; "He will save his people from their sins," they promised; "For he is Immanuel," they assured. Ready or not – God stood in the middle of people and time.

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The day it happened seemed like every other day, with the routines of work and family carrying people along in a perpetual motion of activity. So ordinary was the day that everyone thought their day would end as ordinarily as it had begun. But it was not to be. In the midst of the typical and routine and ordinary...

Vicar Scott Lohman suddenly was struck down.

The doctors called it an aortic dissection and with that sudden occurrence, his life and death struggle of the past weeks began. The warning signs had anticipated it, "We are all like the grass that fades and the flower that falls," they reminded; "We will all return to dust," they preached; "We are only jars of clay," they warned. But no one thought that could apply to themselves or to someone they knew, someone young and strong and valuable.

But it did happen and that is why that first sudden occurrence 2,000 years ago means the world to Scott Lohman and to every one of us frail, time-bound people. If it were not for the unexpected entrance of God into the world, we would all be left to wonder not if but when our life would falter and fall. If not for the sudden presence of Immanuel in the baby of Bethlehem, we could make no sense of the nonsense of life. But because a Savior has been born to us and because God is with us, Scott and Gina and their family and each of us can have a peace that passes all understanding even in the midst of the storm.

It is certain that Scott was as surprised as we were by the sudden events of that ordinary day, but Scott had taken the warning signs of his mortality seriously. He knew his need for Immanuel. He trusted that his Immanuel had arrived. Scott was prepared. He was prepared for the events of an ordinary day that would suddenly change – surprised, certainly but as prepared as a person of faith can be.

As we enter this new year, may we as people of faith embrace our Immanuel and prepare with confidence for that which comes suddenly.

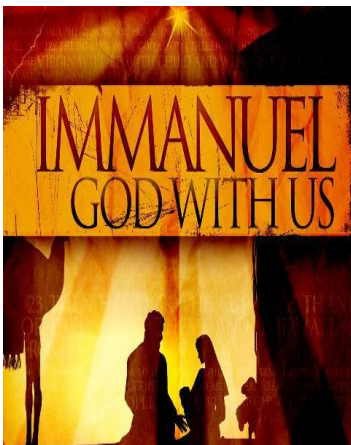
– Pastor Prohl

Special Interest Articles:

- [IYC Chili Sale](#)
- [Updates on Vicar Lohman](#)
- [Peanut Butter Sunday](#)
- [Greater Love](#)

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Boards & Ministries

LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid will meet Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 10:00am to do their various projects. Business meeting begins at 1:00pm. Bring a lunch. Delicious desserts will be served. Come and join us!

GOLDEN GEMS


Thursday, January 12, 2012
Registration - 11:30am
Devotion - 11:45am


Lunch will be provided at noon
A movie will be shown at 1:00pm


Make new friends or bring your own friends for a fun afternoon of lunch and a movie!

WOMEN'S SERVICE GUILD

On Monday, January 23, 2012 at 7:30pm, the Women's Service Guild will gather for their monthly meeting. All ladies are cordially invited to attend. If you have a servant heart but also like to have an enjoyable time, start your new year off by joining the Women's Service Guild!

Save The Dates.....
 Sunday, February 5th -
Valentine Card Making

 Friday, March 16th -
Shamrock Candy Bar BINGO!

 Saturday, March 31st -
Spring Craft Fair

News & Events



News & Events at Immanuel

IYC Super Bowl Chili Sale-

The IYC is cooking Super Chili for Super Bowl Sunday again this year! They are currently taking orders and offering it to you for pick-up on the Sunday of the Super Bowl, February 5th. The order/information form is included in this newsletter. Your order will help fund the high school summer mission trip, a Workcamp in China Grove, NC, and provide a quick and tasty "homemade" dinner for your family. This chili also freezes very well!

"Diving Deep" Bible Reading Plan Celebrates First Birthday-Those reading through the Bible on the Diving Deep reading plan have been at it for a year this month. The plan has taken them into and through 22 books so far, and the journey continues! Turns out that opening up your Bible daily has a powerful impact on our "connection" to God and our hunger for his Word! Interested readers young and old can hop on board anytime- the reading plan and quick start guide are available outside of Tom's office and online at the IYC blog sidebar.

LUTHERAN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES COUNSELING--Did you know that a counselor with LCFS meets with clients every Wednesday here at Immanuel? If you would like to make an appointment with Counselor Kathleen Ligon as an individual or as a family, please call the central intake office of Lutheran Child & Family Services at 1-800-363-5237 for more information.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES--The new offering envelopes - both the regular church envelopes as well as Greater Love envelopes - are on the table in the hallway in alphabetical order. Please take yours home today to save us from having to mail them to you. If you don't find a box with your name on it, please let Barb in the church office know.

2012 ALTAR FLOWERS CALENDAR--The new 2012 altar flower chart has been posted in the hallway by the Grove Street entrance. Please write your name and phone number next to the date(s) on which you would like to sponsor the altar flowers. The price remains at \$50. A member of our Altar Guild, Louise Manak, will contact you prior to the date(s) you have chosen.

KNIT NITE--Hi everyone - we are excited to make 2012 another fun year of knitting and crocheting! We meet downstairs in the Youth Room from 6:30 - 8:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Please join the fun and experience the wonderful warm feeling of helping others by clicking our needles and hooks together. We have happy and willing teachers if you would like to learn how to knit/crochet. If you have not yet been looming, come and learn this fun, fast and easy form of knitting without needles. If you prefer to knit/crochet at home and drop off your donations of scarves, hats, blankets, mittens and dishcloths, we would be thrilled to add your hand-made treasures to our collection. Each November we distribute our donations to PADS, Immanuel's Food Pantry, Immanuel's Giving Tree, as well as other local community shelters. Please contact Judy with any questions you may have - julyred@gmail.com or 630-515-9346.

COMMUNITY ADULT DAY CARE--Community Adult Day Care (CADC), 4501 Main Street, Downers Grove is a not-for-profit organization that is supported by client fees, grants, and by a coalition of local churches including Immanuel. It provides a place of security, comfort and engaging activities for people with mental confusion, early onset dementia, and Alzheimer's disease while providing respite for their caregivers. Participants enjoy the opportunity to socialize with others in a variety of recreational activities including arts and crafts, music and exercise, along with spiritual and intellectual programs. Caregivers are given much needed time for themselves, confident that their loved ones have professional, licensed care in a "home-away-from-home" atmosphere. If you know of someone who could benefit from this service or have questions about it, please contact Immanuel member and CADC board member Claire McElroy at 630-969-1437 or CADC program director Karen Swanson at 630-968-1060.

PLEASE KEEP SAVING CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION--Immanuel has collected almost 31,000 Campbell's labels since this program began here! Please keep bringing them in and deposit into the bucket on the table in the hallway by the coat rack closest to the main Grove Street entrance. Immanuel's Preschool receives various items for the classrooms depending on the number of labels submitted. We have also sent some labels to Grace Lutheran School in Chicago to assist them in obtaining items for their classrooms. This is a Ladies Aid project and they thank you for your help in collecting labels for education!

We begin a new calendar year. What might the coming months hold for each of us and all those we celebrate as being "in our lives"? I am sure there will be a blending of life experiences that all of us will encounter. Ecclesiastes Chapter 3:1-8 says this much better than I could:

- 1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

In all these times we have the best friend with us. Jesus is there today and will be there tomorrow. But there will be good times and not so good times when we need someone to walk with us, someone who will help us to laugh or cry, to hear our voice and enable us to speak out loud about who we are, where we are and why we are there. Someone we can rely on the listen with patience and love and understanding without judging. Could that someone be a Stephen Minister? If you feel that the answer may be yes, find out more.

Contact Pastor Prohl or Pastor James.

Immanuel Lutheran continues its 9th year in partnership with

**P.A.D.S.
(Public Action To Deliver Shelter)
Warming Center
on Saturday, January 21st, 2012
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Be a part of this important ministry to the homeless of the area. Immanuel is committed to staffing and providing food for approximately 60 homeless people who visit the P.A.D.S. Warming Center located at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Downers Grove on one Saturday each month, October through April. St. Luke is located near Good Samaritan Hospital at the corner of 39th and Main Street across from the fire station.

How can **YOU** help this month?

Sign up on the special roster located on the table on the table in the hallway outside the church office to bring food to help feed the homeless at the warming center, volunteer a few hours of your time at the center welcoming guests or helping with the meal in the kitchen. **Please note that many of the items needed for the meal can be brought to Immanuel's kitchen prior to Saturday, January 21st.** We will contact you by mail or e-mail with the items that are needed and all the details of where and when to bring them.



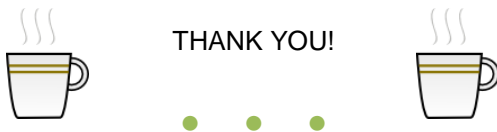
2012 Sunday Morning Fellowship Sponsors Needed!

Immanuel is looking for families, individuals or groups to sign up to sponsor Sunday Morning Fellowship in the library. The cost of providing baked goods, juice and coffee to the people of the congregation runs approximately \$40.00 per week.

It's easy to be a fellowship sponsor.....

1. Sign up on the special fellowship sponsor calendar located near the front church doors on Grove Street. You may choose any week that is available.
2. At your earliest convenience, please drop off a check in the church office for \$40.00 made payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Please indicate "Sunday Fellowship" on your check's memo line.

That's all you need to do! Questions? Contact the church office!



THANK YOU!



**Sunday, January 1st Is
"Peanut Butter
Sunday!"**

Our first Sunday of the month food pantry collection item continues on Sunday, January 1st with peanut butter. Please bring in a jar or two for Immanuel's pantry. Donations can be placed in the baskets on the special display table in the narthex. Thank you for supporting this ministry!



Youth Ministry and Confirmation



Confirmation Ministry

Weekday School and Confirmation in January-

Confirmation class and Weekday school will resume on January 4th at 4:15. Continuing thanks to our loyal staff: Teachers Sharon Hackbarth (5/6th grade) and Jeri Lau (3/4th grade), our Confirmation Registrar Karyn Reeve and 7th and 8th grade small group facilitators Lori Wrzesinski, Michelle Scheffel, Nicole Fearrin and Margy Blashill. In addition to that...

- 7th and 8th grade Confirmands will enjoy a "Meal and a Movie" night following class on January 11th, growing in faith and fellowship together until 7:30pm.
- 8th grade Confirmands will experience their first "Youth Quake" during the weekend of January 29th. This one-time bonding experience will have a real impact on them as they approach their Confirmation later in the year.

Immanuel Youth for Christ Sunday Nights-

High schoolers and their friends are invited to spend their Sunday evenings at church growing in faith, fun and fellowship. This month, IYC Nights will be held on January 15th and 22nd. There will be no meeting on Sunday, January 8th, finals weekend for DG students. More details will be coming in the weekly IYC emails- to get on that mailing list, contact Tom at tlithio@ilcdg.org.

IYC Leaders-in-Training Team Announced-

This year's IYC LIT team has launched, staffed by a talented group of teens who have applied, interviewed, and will now be growing and living out their faith as members of this team. Serving as "leaders-in-training" through this year will be Courtney Lohman, Gillian Miller, Nick Schumacher, Paige Miller, Ruth Reeve and new additions Erin Rongaus, Ben McCrimmon, Becca Kane and Dan Greg. May God bless them in their willingness to serve and grow!

Coffie Filters-

Teen girls from 7th through 12th grade are invited to join the lively conversation happening every Wednesday evening from 6-7pm. Janet Justus, Kim Miller and Shandra Bowlin partner to guide the discussion, which takes place at Caribou Coffee in downtown Downers Grove.

Workcamp Team Meeting I-

Our China Grove Workcamp crew and parents will be meeting on Sunday, January 29th, kicking off trip preparations and team building from 6pm to about 8pm. Teens are invited to register before or at the meeting, or to come to explore joining the crew. Contact Tom if you have questions at 968-3112 ext 106.

Workcamp Sign-up Continues...

High school teens, college students and adults from Immanuel will be traveling to the China Grove Workcamp in North Carolina for the week beginning June 23rd. It's a "hands on" expression of God's love to the residents of that community and a tremendous faith building experience for the Workcampers themselves. Immanuel has reserved spots for a crew of over 60, and registration continues in January- our crew is growing by the week! Check out the information/registration sheet available on the IYC Update blog, the bulletin boards outside of Tom's office and in the youth room.

IYC News and Events at Your Fingertips!

Anytime you want to know what's happening in high school ministry at Immanuel you can visit the IYC Update blog. You will get the past, present and future in living color with current event posts and links to upcoming events, photo galleries and the master IYC calendar. Type iycupdate.blogspot.com into your web browser and hit enter!

The IYC Super Bowl Chili Sale

Pre-Orders Only!

Pick-Up on February 5th from 8:45am- 10:30am and 11:00am- 12:45pm in the Church Kitchen

On Super Bowl Sunday, let us do the cooking for you! We will be cooking up our very own favorite recipe, seasoned just right, and packaging it for pick-up on Sunday morning. The money raised will help fund our mission trip this summer to the China Grove, NC Workcamp. All chili will be packaged in one quart containers.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Pricing: 1 Quart: \$7.00 ~ 2 Quarts: \$13.00 ~ 3 Quarts: \$17.50 ~ 4 Quarts: \$21.00~ Additional Quarts \$5.00 each

Total Number of Quarts Ordered _____ Total Amount \$ _____

Please put your order in the "mailbox" outside of the church office- make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church

Order Deadline is January 29th. Thank you for your support!

ILC MUSIC NOTES



**Sing to the Lord a NEW Song!
Sing to the Lord All the Earth! Psalm 96:1**



Happy New Year-



How about a New Year's Resolution to Sing a new Song to the Lord!?

Music is an awesome way to keep the mind in shape, AND you get to praise God while you do it!

All the choirs, bands and musical groups welcome new members at any time, and more voices and instrumentalists are needed to make our music shine even more! Join us there is a spot waiting for you!

For more info contact Dean Mehl (chancel choir, handbells, instrumentalists) or Ellen Prohl (10 praise choir and band, children's choir, Sanctuary1010 bands)

GREATER LOVE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Thus far our Greater Love Capital Campaign has received pledges nearing \$750,000 or 75% of our goal. As we begin a new church in Minooka and make building improvements here at Immanuel, these "over and above budget" dollars will allow us the opportunity to extend and improve ministry.

Not everyone is able to give to an effort such as this, but be assured that every gift counts, from the smallest to the largest. If you can help in our Greater Love effort, the commitment card below can be used or you can simply contribute to Greater Love. Please remember that ours is not a dollar goal but instead is a goal to better proclaim the name of Jesus. The dollars are simply a means to that end.

God's blessings as we receive and then share the Greater Love of Jesus (*John 15:9-17*).



MY COMMITMENT

I/we have studied God's Word and prayed about my/our financial commitment in the Greater Love Stewardship Campaign. Moved by faith to sacrifice and desiring God's will be done, I/we intend to give a three-year total of \$_____. I/we intend to fulfill this commitment with an initial gift of \$_____, with the remainder (\$_____) to be given weekly/ monthly/ annually/ other for the next three years.

This is a commitment over and above our regular giving. I/we will continue to pray for God's leadership.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____



ChristCare Small Groups and Bible Studies

I had hoped for a day off in December because as I write, we are well into the first week of the month, and I have yet to make any headway on Christmas preparations. But, now that I know I will instead have a day off come January after all the festivities have come to pass, I'm looking forward to it. I'm fairly sure all the seemingly pressing aspects of Christmas like shopping, wrapping, baking, and writing cards will somehow get done. And if some of it doesn't come to fruition, life will go on. I'm setting aside this day in January for quality time with the Lord. True, we need to have time with God every day, and I do, but not the extended quality time I'm longing for. I need to be intentional about spending several hours of this day with Him as it has been so long since I have experienced the joy of this blessing! I cannot take credit for coming up with this on my own - clarification came from above when I realized that the date of this anticipated day off so happens to be one of special meaning I share with the Lord! You see, He knows exactly how to reach me; He knows the significance certain numbers or words carry for me! In fact, He knows how to reach each and every one of us! When was the last time you truly enjoyed quality time with the Lord? Is He calling you to come closer?

Another way to bask in His loving Presence is to join a small group where the study of His Word will enable you to discern His Voice, discover His unsurpassed Peace, and "fan into flame the gifts of God." (2 Timothy 1: 6). We have groups for men, women, couples, parents - check out our weekly listings within the bulletin announcements if you sense God calling you to join a small group.

Never mind dreading the January doldrums; rather, let us look forward to some down time with Him, where we can discern His Voice, experience His unsurpassed peace and bask in His loving Presence!

In His Love,
Annamarie Kamman

MOI meet 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings - lower youth room at church, 7:00 - 8: 30 pm
Upcoming Meetings:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Presenter:</u>
1/12/12	"Stepping Up"	Mike Hackbarth
1/26/12	"Stepping Up"	Mike Hackbarth

For info, call Mike Hackbarth: (630) 963 - 7081 or Tom Connolly: (630) 663 - 1903

Join us in consulting the wisdom of Proverbs as we strive for success in our work, meaningful relationships with family and friends, and an increasingly stronger connection to God!

Meeting 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursday Evenings from 7:00 - 8: 30 pm in the upper level jr. high room at church
Contact Lori Wrzesinski for more info (630) 915 - 2961

The Thursday Evening Adult Group invites you to a fascinating DVD overview and discussion of the Protestant Reformation

Featuring Luther, Calvin, Wycliffe, and Tyndale.

Meeting 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30pm

*Resume meeting on Thursday, January 15th at the home of the Spilkys in Downers Grove!

For info, call group leaders, Jim and Susan Berdelle: (630) 212 - 1684

The Monday Evening Women of Simplicity Group

invites you to join them in gleaning grains of God's wisdom through an inspiring study of the Book of Ruth!

Meeting every 4th Monday Evening at church, 6:30 - 8:00pm - meet again on 1/30!

For more info, contact: Annamarie Kamman (630) 968 - 6133

AN UPDATE ON VICAR SCOTT LOHMAN

As most but not all of you are aware on Monday, November 28th, Vicar Scott Lohman suddenly collapsed from a dissected aorta. There was no warning and in fact barely two hours before the event, we had agreed on his long-anticipated ordination date. Emergency heart surgery resulted and the first miracle in his recovery occurred. While nearly 70% of people in similar circumstances will die, Scott did not. The days and weeks that have followed have been a roller coaster of medical and emotional peaks and valleys, where virtually every medical discipline and device have been used. Finally after nearly three weeks, Scott was able to be off of the respirator and sedation long enough for him to carry on his first meaningful, verbal conversation with Gina. Miracle number two.

We continue to pray for yet additional miracles. Scott has incredible challenges before him. He is weak beyond description; he is on daily dialysis because his kidneys have stopped working; and he still needs the assistance (though less so) of the respirator. Still the Lord has preserved him to this point; and it is our prayer that God will fully restore her husband to Gina, their father to Courtney, Robert, Jack, and Jon, and our friend and servant to Immanuel and Minooka.

Please continue to pray for Scott and all of the Lohman family. Be bold to pray for yet another miracle. If you want to be involved additionally, the following are suggestions:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE LOHMAN FAMILY

Some people have inquired about financial assistance for the Lohman Family. While most of their financial needs are being met, there are incidental needs outside their budget. If you would like to make a donation, please mark that on the memo line of your check or envelope and drop it into the offering plate or into the box outside the church office.

CAN YOU BRING A MEAL TO CHURCH FOR THE LOHMAN FAMILY?

We have begun a meal program to help support the Lohman Family while Scott remains hospitalized.

You are encouraged to prepare meals that are freezable to allow Gina Lohman the option of heating up a meal for her family when it is needed.

We're pleased to let you know that a freezer has been loaned to us and is located in the church basement next to the door that leads to the courtyard. All meals for the Lohmans will be stored there.

There is a website available to organize meal donations. To access the website, you may **go to www.takethemameal.com, then type in "Lohman" and the password: 4650 to reach their page.**

Because Carol Dunkin has been at the hospital with Gina every day, when you're preparing the meal for the Lohman Family, we are also asking you to prepare a little extra for the Dunkin Family if possible. You'll see information about this on the www.takethemameal.com page.


If you would prefer not to sign up via the website but would like to donate a meal or have any questions about this program, please call Annamarie Kamman at 630-968-6133 or email: akamman@sbcglobal.net.

Using disposable pans works best and remember to label the contents before placing your meal donation into the freezer at church. Thank you for willingness to participate in this meal donation program!

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR SCOTT LOHMAN

Each morning at 6am, members are invited and encouraged to join in community prayer on behalf of our Christian brother and friend, Scott Lohman and the Lohman family. As we continue to lift up our personal and private petitions on behalf of the Lohman family, let us also come together at the beginning of each day as a Body, as an Immanuel family, and pray as one.

A time of community prayer will be held each morning, including Saturdays and Sundays, in the chapel at church from 6:00-6:30am, with the exception of Thursday mornings (due to the Men's Early Risers Bible Study) in which we will meet from 5:30-6:00am. You are invited to gather from 6:00-6:30am, or at any time between 6:00 and 6:30am. No one will be asked, or expected, to pray aloud.

 For up-to-date information on Scott Lohman's progress and/or to leave messages of comfort and hope for his family, please go to <http://www.caringbridge.com/visit/scottlohman>. Simply enter your email address, set up a password, and you'll be able to view all updates on Scott. You can also receive email notices when an update has been posted. (Please note any donations you make using this website will go directly to Caring Bridge and not to the Lohman Family.)

Vital Stats



New Members:

Adrienne Marciante and daughter Arena

Brian Bizup and son Benen

Asleep in Christ:

Jeannette Brown died June 18, 2011
Olga Buettner died October 29, 2011



Transfers:

Karin Woods
Paula Mihalko
Elizabeth Maas



Weddings:

Thomas Smetana and Rachelle Szwed on July 22, 2011
Timothy Matt and Katie Clark on September 3, 2011
Jessica Bailey and Daniel Browne on October 1, 2011
Jonathan Buelow and Jennifer Gao on October 2, 2011



Baptisms:

Ella Grace Murray, 6/26/11
Charles David Arquilla, 9/4/11
Zachary Ethan Taylor, 10/9/11
Brooke Grayson Martin, 11/5/11
Alexandria Marie Biedess, 11/6/11
Audrey Elizabeth Gross, 11/13/11
Nathaniel George Kazda, 11/27/11
Peter Vincent Bizup, 11/27/11
Jayna Jean Huff and Jacob Dylan Huff, 12/11/11
Owen Peter Schwartzers, 12/25/11
Alexa Ruhlitz 12/25/11

