

February 2012



The Hand of God

On Monday, November 28, 2011, at 3:30pm, Vicar Scott Lohman suffered an aortic dissection. And into the middle of this horrific tragedy, the Hand of God reached down to intervene.

Scott should have been alone in the garage by himself that afternoon, but Gina's harmless car accident called him to I-55 – **that was the Hand of God.**

When he arrived at the scene, an ambulance had already been called and was waiting to take him to the hospital when he passed out – **that was the Hand of God.**

The closest hospital was St. Joseph's in Joliet; which is nationally recognized for both their stroke and heart care – **that was the Hand of God.**

As Scott lay in the ER, where the plan was to wait until morning to follow up on any tests, Gina's cousin Andy, a doctor at the very same hospital, who wasn't supposed to even be working, came and said, "He's had a stroke; he needs help" – **that was the Hand of God.**

Surrounded by a dozen nurses, half a dozen doctors, and results from dozens of tests, an ICU nurse named Nikita, noticed the one crucial detail that everyone else had missed: he had two different pulses in his wrists, this was a heart problem – **that was the Hand of God.**

The heart surgeon told us that Scott suffered an aortic dissection on the side of the highway at 3:30 on Monday, and that the dissection caused a stroke. The dissection travelled down both arms, up to his brain, and down both legs. He most likely would not survive the surgery. Five and a half hours later he emerged; he lived – **that was the Hand of God.**

The surgeon warned that he could only repair the valve to his heart; and yet during the surgery he was able to repair his ascending aorta to restore blood back to his brain – **that was the Hand of God.**

The surgeon warned that the vascular damage to his left arm was irreversible, and that he would lose it. And yet, the next day, Scott had a pulse in his left wrist – **that was the Hand of God.**

They never said Scott would wake up from his coma, and if he did, whether he would recognize anyone or ever move again. He did, he does, and oh how he moves! – **that was the Hand of God.**

Scott's kidneys were wrecked, and he required daily dialysis; his only hope was a kidney transplant. And then, they were healed – **that was the Hand of God.**

Scott could not breathe without the ventilator and no one knew if he would ever breathe on his own again; but now the vent is gone and he's back to his old chatty self! – **that was the Hand of God.**

Gina said goodbye to her husband that dark November night, and **by the Hand of God** she and the kids have received him back home, where they're all looking forward to a new chapter.

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:1-5

Pastor James

Special Interest Articles:

- **IYC Chili Sale**
- **Valentine Card Making**
- **FUNDRAISER FOR NOAH'S HOPE**
- **"Souper" Bowl Sunday**
- **LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES AND EVENING DINNERS TO BEGIN**
- **2012 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

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2012 Sunday Morning Fellowship Sponsors! Dates available in February and March

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 is \$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 memo line.



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

News & Events



News & Events at Immanuel

Boards & Ministries

LADIES AID MEETING

On Thursday, February 2, the Ladies Aid will meet beginning at 10:00 am to work on projects. Bring your own brown bag lunch and then enjoy dessert to be provided by Gloria Friedrich and Theresa Bodenstab. The business meeting will follow at 1:00pm.

GOLDEN GEMS – SENIOR NEWS

On Thursday, February 9th, the Golden Gems will meet beginning at 11:30am, with a devotion by one of the Pastors at 11:45am, lunch at noon and a program beginning at 1:00pm. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! And bring a friend or two if you'd like!

WOMEN'S SERVICE GUILD

All ladies are invited to come to the Women's Service Guild meeting on Monday, February 27th at 7:30pm. Delicious desserts will be served after the business meeting. Please come and enjoy the evening fellowship! Questions may be directed to Judy Van Horn at 630-435-0247.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES AND EVENING DINNERS TO BEGIN

Ash Wednesday – February 22nd – will be the first of six midweek Lenten Services held at 10:00am and 7:00pm. Each evening service will be preceded by a dinner (from 5:45 to 6:45pm) supplied by one of Immanuel's boards or organizations so you are not expected to bring any food or beverage. We encourage you to come to dinner prior to each Lenten evening worship service. Free-will offerings are collected each week and are donated to various organizations. If you are unable to make it for dinner, please plan on attending the Lenten Service at either 10:00am or 7:00pm on Wednesdays, February 22 and 29 and March 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Using special Lenten hymns, we will all have an opportunity to grow closer to our Lord in worship. Come and enjoy the fellowship and gladly hear and learn of your servant Lord on His way to the cross.

IYC Super Bowl Chili Sale-

The IYC is cooking Super Chili for Super Bowl Sunday again this year! They are currently taking orders until January 29th- the chili will be ready for pick-up in the morning on the Sunday of the Super Bowl, February 5th. A very limited supply of extra quarts will be available to purchase on Super Bowl Sunday, too. Your participation will help fund the youth trip to the China Grove Workcamp this summer. Call Tom with any questions at 968-3112.

KNIT NITE

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. February's meeting, however, has been changed to the second Monday, February 13th due to Valentine's Day! 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 – jjulyred@gmail.com or 630-515-9346.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up for any open dates to sponsor weekend flowers on the altar, the 2012 flower calendar is posted on the wall by the front entrance near the wooden double doors off of Grove Street. Simply write in your name and phone number and a member of the Altar Guild will phone you before your chosen date(s) to remind you that you have the flowers for that weekend and to supply other information. And while you are signing up for altar flowers...the Sunday morning fellowship sponsor chart is there waiting to be filled in too!

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES

The new 2012 offering envelopes are on the tables in the hallway in alphabetical order. Please stop by and take yours home to save us from having to mail them to you. If you do not find a box with your name on it, please let Barb in the church office know.

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY COUNSELING

Did you know that a counselor previously 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 her cell phone directly at 847-977-2844 for more information.

FUNDRAISER FOR NOAH'S HOPE

There will be a fundraiser held to support research and raise funds to fight Batten disease, which afflicts Immanuel members Noah & Laine Van Houtan.

What: Charity Sporting Clay Tournament

Where: Seneca Hunt Club, Seneca, IL

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2012

Time: 9:00am until 1:00pm

Cost: \$50 per person

We'll shoot clay targets at Seneca Hunt Club in Seneca, IL (about 1 hour southwest of Downers Grove). The cost of \$50 will include 50 rounds of sporting clays, ear protection, food and drink (no alcoholic beverages until all shooting is completed). Shooters are responsible for their own gun and shells. If you don't have a gun, see if you can share one with someone – this really is a lot of fun even if you don't hit a single target! Call (630-605-2112) or email (rtbarnett@comcast.net) Bob Barnett with questions or for more information. All checks should be made payable to Robert Barnett and sent to him at 730 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

40 Days with the Word!

Have you resolved to spend more time in the Word in 2012? Then this study is for you!

God gave us His Word not just to inform us, but to transform us! Spend 40 Days with the Word, and you will see God doing new things in your life! Our goal is to grow in our love for the Word, to learn more each time we read the Word, and to live the Word as faith-filled people of God, to be the living Bible.

This study involves a weekly group session and daily individual time with God in His Word. Weekly group sessions are available both on Wednesday mornings beginning January 25th from 9:00am - 11:00 am and on Thursday evenings beginning January 26th from 7:00pm - 9:00 pm at Trinity Lisle, 1101 Kimberly Way in Lisle. You will have a workbook (cost \$10) for making notes during the weekly session and journaling during your daily time with Scripture. Contact marg.franzen@tlc4u.org to order your workbook. 40 Days... It's a Biblical number... What do you think would happen if you spent 40 Days listening to God?

**Immanuel Lutheran continues its 9th year in partnership with P.A.D.S. (Public Action To Deliver Shelter) Warming Center
On Saturday, February 25th
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 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, February 25th.** 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.



**February's First Sunday of the Month
Food Pantry Collection
is our annual**



"Souper" Bowl



Sunday, February 5th, 2012

Bring in a can of soup or chili on Sunday, February 5th and place it in the basket of the team that you will think will win the Super Bowl on that day. Special collection baskets will be located in the narthex.

We'll let you know on Sunday, February 11th who "won" and how much food was collected. Thank you for supporting Immanuel's Food Pantry ministry!



Valentine Card Making

**Saturday, February 4th, 2012
11:00 a.m.**



Join us for an hour of creating one of a kind, handmade Valentines, fellowship and a sweet treat. We provide most everything you will need except for your ideas! Everyone is welcome and this project is designed for all ages (3 years old to 100 years old!). Come alone, as a family or just bring a friend! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please bring a cooking baking sheet or other flat tray to carry home your cards just in case they need some extra drying time. Also, please bring a pair of scissors!

There is no charge for this Valentine event, but reservations are required so we can plan properly. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, February 2nd. See you there!

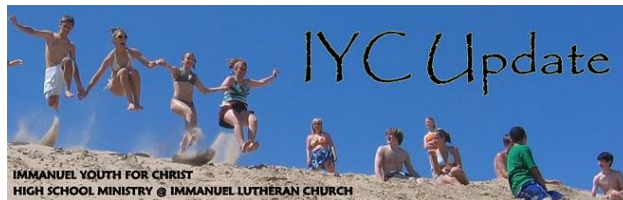
I/We will attend the Valentine Card Making Party on Saturday, February 4th at 11:00 am.

Name: _____

Phone or E-mail: _____

of Adults: _____ # of Children: _____

Youth Ministry and Confirmation



Confirmation President's Day Lock-in-

Immanuel's 7th and 8th grade Confirmands will be enjoying a Friday night lock-in on February 17th. They will be led by an energetic CYM team from Concordia University, who will provide plenty of activity and discussion to go along with food, faith building and a bit of sleep as well! Friends are also invited to this event, which begins at 7pm Friday and wraps up at 8am Saturday morning.

"Diving Deep" in the Word-

Our Bible reading plan continues into its second year. About 8 minutes a day 5 days a week will keep you progressing through God's Word, and help keep you connected with him between Sundays. Pull a reading plan from slot outside of Tom's office or find it online at the IYC Update blog.

More Immanuel Youth for Christ in February-

This month high school teens will be meeting for IYC Night from 6pm to about 9pm on February 12, 19 and 26. IYC Nights blend together faith building, friends, fun and food- a great mix- and friends are always welcome! Also, sign up continues for the China Grove Workcamp, with all teens currently in 8th grade and up eligible to join Immanuel's crew. Information is at the IYC blog and on the bulletin board in the youth room and outside of Tom's office.

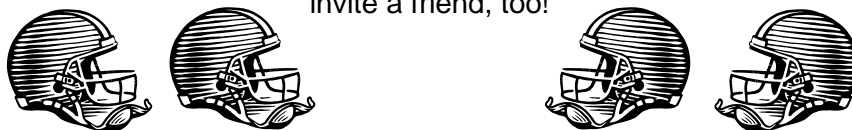
IYC Info 24/7!

If you want to keep up on what's happening in high school ministry at Immanuel, jump to iycupdate.blogspot.com on your computer, the current homepage of the IYC. This blog is in living color and has all the info you need, including links to the event calendar, Workcamp information and forms, as well as a variety of IYC photo galleries. In addition, if you would like to receive the weekly IYC Update Email, send a note to Tom at tlithio@ilcdg.org and he'll add you to the list.



IYC Super Bowl Bash-

The IYC will be having a Big Bash for the Big Game on Sunday, February 5th starting at 4:30pm. The Bash will be at church this year, with a big screen HD setup to watch the game. If you don't like football, there will still be plenty to love at this event, whether it's the board games, commercials, the food or the interesting company! In addition, there will be some pre-game video featuring NFL players talking about football and their faith. Please bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share, and invite a friend, too!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

The thought provoking season of Lent will begin this month. It is a time that has lost some of its importance in many of our lives. Fasting, examination of our past lives, thoughts of repentance and changes in our behavior, slowing down our lives to meditate on Christ and what he wants for us, and just being humble in the presence of God are there in our hearts but, maybe not on the busy "to do" list of our days. And still our lives go on with all the good, bad, and indifferent experiences we encounter each day.

Is it time that we made this season important in our lives again?

Much is offered at Immanuel to help us make this season more important. We are not alone. **Could this be a season of change?** Could this be a time when we see the need to have someone who can be our companion as we make this season more important? To join us as we journey through a dark time or even a bright time?

Could this companion be a Stephen Minister?

Contact Pastor Prohl or Pastor James and they will help you answer that question.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5211 Carpenter, Downers Grove presents its 2012



Spring
Craft Fair

Saturday, March 31st
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

25 Crafters! Bake Sale!
"Mini" White Elephant Sale!
Food & Door Prizes!



Free Admission!

For additional information, Call (630) 968-3112



ChristCare Small Groups and Bible Studies

ChristCare Small Groups and Bible Studies

"Rest is when you really feel. Hurry makes you numb." A friend emailed this quote a week before Christmas. She wasn't sure where it originated from but felt led to share it. Her timing was right on!

Soon afterward, we got together for coffee and proceeded to explore it further. Beyond this, the Holy Spirit led her to encourage reflection upon Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." "Which of these titles", she asked, "resonates with you most? Are there any that don't resonate with you?" I was surprised to find that I was completely overlooking one, just skipping over it entirely. I thought I was long past this challenge! This shocking realization immediately penetrated the hurry-induced numbness I had been daily living for months. Tears came. Most interesting about this revelation is what immediately followed - His peace! That's right - His wonderful, unsurpassed peace! An important realization shared with a trusted friend, a deeper sense of His Presence, and a nudge to further explore and remove an unnecessary barrier. A barrier separating me from an even deeper, closer relationship with Him!

Leaving the coffee shop armed with His peace and a renewed sense of hope, I set out for work just when real life interrupted attempting to steal away the calm. My car engine suddenly blew! "Phew", I thought. "Thank You, Lord. Thank You, my Everlasting Father, for watching over me and protecting me from harm this day! I'm so grateful this happened before I got on the highway!" Further evidence that I was experiencing true rest at this point! If I had still been in hurry-mode, I would have been frustrated, anxious, and angry that this happened at all. Thanks to the Prince of Peace, I made a call, found another way to work, and all without disruption to my rest with Him! Sure, I was concerned about the long-term impact, but I sensed I was being asked to rely upon my Heavenly Father for the details. Oh, the difference it makes, when we are resting with Him! I don't mean to imply that resting with Him is akin to reclining while eating grapes; He has plenty for us to do. But when we move in His strength, we don't have to feel stressed and overwhelmed! As we walk in His peace, we rid ourselves of so much unnecessary angst!

Do you long for more of His peace and subsequent rest? Consider joining a small group where you will learn to walk at His pace while experiencing the rest that accompanies living in His Word! You might even meet others who, after prayerfully ask God what you most need to think/pray about, will share His Spirit-led guidance with you! May this year find us hurrying less and resting with Him more!

In His Love,
Annamarie Kamman

Join the Thursday Afternoon Women's Group in studying:

"A Heart Like His: Reflections on the Life of David" by Beth Moore

Explore how David's life proves that God never gives up on us!

Meeting Thursday afternoons, 12:30 - 2:15pm in the church library
Childcare available!
For details, contact Marla Pullen (630) 515 - 8061

Is God calling you to become a Small Group Leader?
Prayerfully consider attending our Leader Refresher on February 1st!
For more info, contact Annamarie Kamman: (630) 968 - 6133 or email: akamman@sbcglobal.net

Men of Integrity

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

Upcoming Meetings:

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:
2/09/12	"Courageous" video and study	Mike Hackbarth
2/23/12	"Courageous" video and study	Mike Hackbarth

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

Ladies:

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 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 2/27!

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

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 at the home of the Spilkys in Downers Grove!

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

2012 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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.....VACANT		
Elder District #6.....Ronald Piecz Dean KalmarDavid Stallter
Sanctuary ElderPatrick Dailey (<i>New</i>)		

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Names in **bold** are chairpersons of their board.

GREATER LOVE

“Greater Love” is the name of Immanuel’s special 3-year long pledge fund drive begun in November of 2011 to make repairs to our building here and to begin a brand new church in Minooka served by Vicar Scott Lohman. These pledges and gifts are over and above our regular weekly offerings. So far our pledges have reached \$750,000 or 75% of our goal. If you would like to support this effort to more widely and thoroughly share Jesus’ story, there are specially marked envelopes in the pews and pledge cards in the narthex. If you have questions about “Greater Love” and your possible participation, please speak with Pastor Prohl or Pastor James.

+ + +

The Board of Trustees have already been hard at work drawing up plans for new bathrooms under the Greater Love fund drive. Within the next two months, the plans will be submitted to the Village of Downers Grove for approval.