

Dear Friends,

Immanuel is a “happening” place! I’m discovering you folks are always looking for new ways to share the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. February is especially busy, beginning with SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY on February 5. At both the 8:15 and 10:30 services you will be treated to a “play-by-play” analysis of all the passing, catching, giving and sharing that happens on a regular Sunday. Then, ILC youth will be serving yogurt and fruit after the 8:15 and sandwiches after the 10:30. What a deal! Proceeds go to Hunger ministries. (If you’ve ever wondered why Lutheran services almost everywhere are pretty much the same, you’ll know a lot more about it when you leave this worship time.)

We are blessed to celebrate the baptism of Devin Michael Scacco at the 10:30 service on February 12. It’s always a joy to remember our own baptism and the gifts God gives through this Sacrament. And, are you ready for some CUPCAKES?! Sunday, February 19, bring in home-decorated cupcakes for our Cupcake Contest (the second annual, I believe). YOU will determine which cupcake deserves the top prize. You’ll each get 3 voting tickets; one for 5 points, one for 3 and one for 1. Drop the ticket into the bowl near your favorite cupcake, the next favorite and so on, and when voting is done the results will be counted and announced. Then we get to EAT cupcakes. What great fun for the whole family – yes, kids are especially invited to decorate and bring cupcakes that day.

Had enough to eat yet? Sunday, February 26, our Christian Education team (covering Sunday School, First Communion, Confirmation and Adult Bible Study), will tempt us with lots of baked goods to purchase. You know you need something for those lunch boxes or plates. Proceeds from this Bake Sale will be sent to ILC’s Compassion Child, Julio, for his support and education.

Did you notice 3 out of 4 Sundays above include good things to eat? Well, don’t forget there’s always some goodie or two to snack on after each service along with a good, tasty cup of coffee (juice for the kids). So, come together at Immanuel the month of February. There’s so much going on, you’ll have lots to tell your friends and neighbors about. And next time, bring them with you! (That’s how the good news gets around.)

Thanks for all your help as I’m getting to know you and the way Immanuel ministers within and outside these walls. I think we’re working well together.

~~~Pastor Kraft

## **SouperBowl** **Sunday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Goodies after Services**

Sponsored by our Youth Group.

Yogurt and fruit at 8:15  
Soup and Sandwich after 10:30  
*Proceeds to benefit Spooner House*

## **2ND ANNUAL** **CUPCAKE** **CHALLENGE**

**Sunday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 11:45**

- Please bring 13 cupcakes
- 1 for the judging table and 12 to share

Everyone at coffee hour will be able to vote for their top 3 favorite cupcakes based on appearance and design. Top 3 will win a prize.

A free will offering will be accepted.  
All proceeds and extra cupcakes will be donated to Spooner House.

*Please come join in the fun.*

## **Bake Sale**

**Sunday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>**

Sponsored by our  
Christian Education Team  
For our Compassion Child Julio

## Immanuel's Blessings!

The Sunday School children exceeded their Advent collection goal. They collected a total of \$212.00 during the Christmas season. The money raised is going toward the ELCA Disaster Relief- \$200 will provide basic necessities (food, clothing, blankets, and toiletries) for a family following a natural disaster.

## The Food Bank Corner

**Canned Meats**  
**Rice-a Roni, Pasta-roni**

## Happy Anniversaries

10 *Stephanie & Hector Vargas*  
18 *Ruth and Jay Simpson*

## Happy Birthdays

|    |                         |    |                           |
|----|-------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1  | <i>Dorothy Stockman</i> | 14 | <i>Gregory Dorosh</i>     |
| 3  | <i>Amanda Betts</i>     |    | <i>Crystal Bransfield</i> |
|    | <i>Charles Rippel</i>   | 16 | <i>Mallory Rioux</i>      |
| 4  | <i>Hunter Cripps</i>    |    | <i>Henry Rotzal</i>       |
| 6  | <i>Sharon Trede</i>     | 17 | <i>Katelyn Mullen</i>     |
|    | <i>Virginia Wilde</i>   |    | <i>Milana Campion</i>     |
|    | <i>Warren Austin</i>    | 21 | <i>Norma Miles</i>        |
| 8  | <i>Stephanie Alves</i>  | 24 | <i>Jenna Dorosh</i>       |
| 11 | <i>Karen Errickson</i>  | 26 | <i>Billy Ahearn</i>       |
|    | <i>Andrew Alves</i>     | 29 | <i>Jeanette Scinto</i>    |
|    | <i>Erica Marcinczyk</i> |    |                           |

**Spooner House Meal**  
**Tuesday, February 28th**

**Thank you, MaryAnn & Ken Robinson**  
**for this month's meal.**  
**If you would like to prepare a meal for**  
**Spooner House, please contact Ellen**  
**Fritz 203.888.5756**  
**All months filled except June & August**

**New baby?** Let Karin Schidat know so a rose  
can be placed on the font in their honor.  
203.888.5946

## Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218) Donna Figoras (203.734.0249)

|                                |                                   |                                     |                         |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Aaron &amp; Jessica</i>     | <i>Kathy Corrigan</i>             | <i>Wilma Luft</i>                   | <i>Debby Simko</i>      |
| <i>Joe Abate</i>               | <i>Mary Ann Croves</i>            | <i>Art Moran</i>                    | <i>Krista Snyder</i>    |
| <i>Ann Marie Lisa</i>          | <i>Russ Dilley</i>                | <i>Ava Nebbia</i>                   | <i>Margo Steckert</i>   |
| <i>Helen Ahearn</i>            | <i>Heather &amp; Kasen Demers</i> | <i>Tacia Neumann</i>                | <i>Dorothy Stockman</i> |
| <i>Bob Ancefsy</i>             | <i>Elizabeth Dicapua</i>          | <i>George Officer</i>               | <i>Ed Stockman</i>      |
| <i>Elaine Ault</i>             | <i>Ruth Edgren</i>                | <i>Tyler Otis</i>                   | <i>Arlene Sullivan</i>  |
| <i>Barbara</i>                 | <i>Millie Grele</i>               | <i>Olivia</i>                       | <i>Alexa Terrell</i>    |
| <i>Shirley Bernardo</i>        | <i>Sebastian Estrada</i>          | <i>Florence Pawlak</i>              | <i>The Tichy Family</i> |
| <i>Patrick Burton</i>          | <i>Illiana</i>                    | <i>Gary Petitti</i>                 | <i>Kim Tupper</i>       |
| <i>Lauren Burton</i>           | <i>Linda Kunecki</i>              | <i>Dorothy Prillip</i>              | <i>Ron Thompson</i>     |
| <i>Cheryl</i>                  | <i>Sarah Leventhol</i>            | <i>Joanna Rooney &amp; children</i> | <i>Dee Voccola</i>      |
| <i>Jean Coddington</i>         | <i>Norbert Lorenzen</i>           | <i>Rose</i>                         | <i>Debbie Wasko</i>     |
| <i>Friends &amp; family of</i> | <i>Richard LoRicco Sr.</i>        | <i>Lynne Ross</i>                   | <i>Chelsea Wheeler</i>  |
| <i>Grace Cormack</i>           | <i>Betty Lower</i>                | <i>Joyce Sauer</i>                  |                         |

## January 2017 Council Meeting Highlights

Most of the meeting focused on getting ready for the Annual Congregational Meeting, including finalizing a 2017 budget proposal, but here are some of the other items of interest:

1. **Thank You Notes** from Council were sent to the videographer from Voices who put together a segment from the Family Fun Fest. (you can see the video on our website.) – See Jeanmarie Mullen for more information.
2. The Congregation received several **Thank You Notes** for your generosity as follows:
  - from the Spooner House thanking us for our support and wishing us a happy holiday and for gifts of \$200 and \$700.
  - from the Valley Diaper Need Awareness Network, thanking us for our contribution of diapers.
  - from BHCare, for our donation to the Under the Tree Holiday Giving Program.
  - from the NE Synod, World Hunger Team, thanking us for our gift of \$500.See Beth Alves, Council Secretary for more information.
3. **Job descriptions** for Sexton, Administrator, and Director of Music were approved. – See Jeanmarie Mullen for more information.
4. The **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee** is having regular meetings. – Contact Julie Cormack if you are interested in helping out with the planning.
5. The Finance Committee is authorized to get a credit card with a limit of \$475 per month for purchasing office supplies and similar items.
6. We reviewed the **Church Storm Cancellation Process**. In the event we need to cancel one or both Services or Sunday School, we will inform the Congregation by email to those that have one, change the phone mail message for people that call the Church phone number, and post with local TV stations. - See Rick Kaeser for more information.
7. The **Church Profile** was accepted and will be distributed to the Congregation after the Annual Meeting. Copies are available in the Narthex and by calling the Church office. Members of the MSP Team will be available after both Services on Sunday, **February 5<sup>th</sup>** to review and discuss the content and receive your feedback on the Profile. – Contact the Church Office for a copy and Rick Kaeser for more information.
8. We were invited to **Safe Church Training** at St. James Lutheran Church in Southbury on **February 11<sup>th</sup>**. There is no cost to us, but St. James would like to know how many of us will be attending. – See Rick Kaeser if you are interested in attending.
9. We will be conducting a **Church Census** by sending out a letter for everyone to complete and return as part of an effort to ensure that we have the most accurate information on Church membership as possible. Your cooperation with a prompt reply will be greatly appreciated. - Contact Pastor Linda Kraft for more information.
10. A list of 2017 Council Priorities was discussed and agreed to by Council. This will be part of the Annual Report and shared with the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. –See Rick Kaeser for more information.

## 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights

1. Copies of the Annual Report are still available in the Narthex, or by calling the Church Office.
2. New Council members are Katelyn Mullen, Tom Solomon, Vicki Napomiceno and Karin Schidat.
3. Call for support:
  - Christian Education Ministry needs more help with Sunday School

- Jeanmarie Mullen noted that with all the newly baptized babies and new members with young families, there is a dire need for help with the preschool Sunday School
  - M&O is asking people to step up and co-chair events.
- Karin Schidat mentioned that the Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 2005 and that over 400 shawls have been made, to date. Additionally, over 100 Prayer Squares have been made.
  - Spooner House is looking for volunteers to make meals for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays in June and August. See Ellen Fritz to let her know you can help out with one of those dates.
  - E-giving has been launched and we now have “*I give electronically*” cards in the pews, which provide worshipers with something to place in the offering plate. These cards have a QR code enabling visitors to make a contribution.
  - Council expects to form a Call Committee of six people at the February Council meeting. Four members have volunteered so far. Let Rick Kaeser or one of the Council members know if you are interested.
  - Resolutions: all 5 Resolutions proposed in the Annual Report were approved. Refer to the Annual Report for more information.
  - Discussion on amending the Constitution:** Council would like to change the date of the Annual Meeting to the *last Sunday* in January instead of the *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday* in January. For the years in which there are 5 Sundays in January, like this year, it is very difficult to prepare for the Annual Meeting in the time allotted. There was a brief discussion and those present expressed their agreement. In order to amend the Constitution, the Congregation must vote to approve it at two separate Congregational meetings. This could take 1 to 2 more years to approve.

## February Ministry

|                     |       | Ushers                                    | Assisting Minister                    | Lector                   | Acolyte                                       | Coffee Hour                                 |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 5                   | 8:15  | <i>Kelly Cormack &amp; Janet Edgren</i>   | <i>Wendy Cegelka</i>                  | <i>Wendy Cegelka</i>     | <i>Tori &amp; Stephanie Alves</i>             | <i>Souper Bowl Youth Group</i>              |
|                     | 10:30 | <i>Jeanmarie &amp; Rob Mullen</i>         | <i>Bonnie Kaeser</i>                  | <i>Teresa Mentgen</i>    | <i>Gabby &amp; Kinley Mentgen</i>             | <i>Souper Bowl Youth Group</i>              |
| 12                  | 8:15  | <i>Jeanmarie Mullen &amp; Dave Ahearn</i> | <i>Hunter Cripps</i>                  | <i>Paula Otis</i>        | <i>Ethan Andes &amp; Jack Mullen</i>          | <i>The Mullen family</i>                    |
|                     | 10:30 | <i>Ellen &amp; Charles O’Neil</i>         | <i>Andrew Napomiceno</i>              | <i>John Miller</i>       | <i>Lauren Burton &amp; Samantha Fletter</i>   | <i>Dorothy &amp; Charlie Rippel</i>         |
| 19                  | 8:15  | <i>Diane &amp; Dale Peters</i>            | <i>Julie Cormack</i>                  | <i>Lynn Nesshoever</i>   | <i>Sean Ruggerio &amp; Vanessa Bogle</i>      | <i>The Solomon family &amp; Marie Kuntz</i> |
|                     | 10:30 | <i>Anne &amp; Rob Dow</i>                 | <i>Ellen Fritz</i>                    | <i>Andrew Napomiceno</i> | <i>Madison Jarvis &amp; Stephanie Alves</i>   | <i>Alicia Belinsky</i>                      |
| 26                  | 8:15  | <i>Betty &amp; Jerry Lower</i>            | <i>Jeananne Urbanowicz</i>            | <i>Lynn Nesshoever</i>   | <i>Tori &amp; Stephanie Alves</i>             | <i>Christian Education</i>                  |
|                     | 10:30 | <i>Deb Maciog &amp; Kim Tupper</i>        | <i>Julie Cormack</i>                  | <i>Bonnie Kaeser</i>     | <i>Samantha Fletter &amp; Josh Napomiceno</i> | <i>Christian Education</i>                  |
| <b>Altar Guild:</b> |       |                                           | <i>Deb Steckert &amp; Jan Cormack</i> |                          |                                               |                                             |

# February 2017

| Sun                                                                                                                                      | Mon                                                 | Tue                                                                  | Wed                                                                                              | Thu                                                     | Fri       | Sat                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                          |                                                     |                                                                      | <i>1</i><br>6:30 Scouts<br>7:00 Choir<br>Rehearsal                                               | <i>2</i><br>7:00p<br>Christian<br>Education<br>Ministry | <i>3</i>  | <i>4</i>                                      |
| <i>5</i><br><b>SouperBowl</b><br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>11:30 Anniversary Mtg.             | <i>6</i><br>6:30p Adult<br>Study<br>7:00p<br>Scouts | <i>7</i><br>6:30<br>Worship &<br>Music<br>Ministry<br>7:00<br>Scouts | <i>8</i><br>6:30 Scouts<br>7:00 Choir<br>Rehearsal                                               | <i>9</i>                                                | <i>10</i> | <i>11</i><br>2-6 Pinewood<br>Derby<br>Pack 65 |
| <i>12</i><br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>with Baptism<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br>6:30 Youth Group                       | <i>13</i>                                           | <i>14</i>                                                            | <i>15</i><br>6:30 Scouts<br>7:00 Choir<br>Rehearsal                                              | <i>16</i>                                               | <i>17</i> | <i>18</i>                                     |
| <i>19</i><br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br><b>11:45 Cupcake<br/>Challenge</b>                     | <i>20</i>                                           | <i>21</i><br><i>8a-5p<br/>Borchert<br/>Hall in<br/>Use</i>           | <i>22</i><br><i>8a-5p<br/>Borchert<br/>Hall in use</i><br>6:30 Scouts<br>7:00 Choir<br>Rehearsal | <i>23</i>                                               | <i>24</i> | <i>25</i><br>2-6 Pinewood<br>Derby<br>Pack 14 |
| <i>26</i><br>8:15 Holy Communion<br>9:20 Sunday School<br>10:30 Holy Communion<br><b>9:45 – 12:30<br/>Bake Sale</b><br>6:30p Youth Group | <i>27</i>                                           | <i>28</i>                                                            |                                                                                                  |                                                         |           |                                               |