



## From Pastor's Desk Pastoring By Blessing

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

St. Paul knew that he was a bearer of blessing, the full blessing of Christ. So when he wrote his letter to announce his impending visit to Rome, he made this claim: "I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ" (Rom 15:29). St. Paul came to Rome with the fullness of Christ's blessing to deliver it fully to the Christians there. And not just to them! For at the beginning and end of each of letter he wrote, he blesses its recipients in the name of Jesus.

Like St. Paul, all called-and-ordained ministers of Christ come to people with the full measure of Christ's blessing. Already now in this present age,

pastors hand on heavenly blessings to God's people on earth, the blessings of the age to come (the preaching of the Gospel, the administration of the Sacraments, etc.).

Yet that is not how pastors are usually perceived and received. When a pastor comes to visit them, most people expect him to make demands on them, or, if they're lucky, to relieve them of the demands that burden them. But they do not regard them as bearer's of Christ's blessing! And sadly, even pastors do not see themselves in that role.

Continued on Page 2

Since pastors do not value blessing, they all too often do not bless people who long to be blessed. And when they do bless people by using the given orders of worship and pastoral care, they do so in a perfunctory way, without really understanding or giving much thought to what they are actually doing.

A blessing, or benediction, does not, as is often supposed, give God's acceptance of someone or His approval of some thing. By the performance of a blessing, God, through His Word, enlivens and empowers His creatures. He provides good gifts for them and empowers them to work with Him.

Like the Aaronic priests in the Old Testament, pastors are authorized to bless people in the Divine Service and in pastoral care. This blessing, these benedictions, belong to the ministry of the gospel, the stewardship of God's grace (Eph 3:2). Like the performance of an absolution, the performance of benediction is part of their office in which they do the word of God the Father together with Jesus here on earth (Matt 16:19). As agents of Christ, pastors pass on heavenly blessings from God the Father with the Holy Spirit to the saints on earth (Eph 1:3). They don't just deliver His blessing by preaching, baptizing, and celebrating the Lord's Supper but also by speaking benedictions.

The performance of blessing is primarily a verbal act. Thus God blesses by speaking his creative Word either as command (Gen 1:22, 28) or a declaration (Gen 12:2-3; Mal 2:19). People likewise bless others by speaking blessing to them. When humans bless, they wish others well; they wish what God wishes for them. Yet blessing is much more than mere wish. It is a speech act, a performative utterance that does what it says. Benedictions enact blessing; they make blessing happen; they communicate God's blessing.

This type of blessing depends on the right use of God's holy Word. God's Word, the holy gospel, is the source of its power. A pastoral blessing enacts the gospel. Blessing gives a person or a group of people what God has promised to give to them. It fulfills God's promises.

So a pastor may turn any of God's promises into a benediction. Thus, for example, in Matthew 28:20,

the risen Lord Jesus declared that He would be with His disciples always to the close of the age. A pastor may enact that promise by saying: "The Lord be with you" or "The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you." Take another case. Jesus not only promised that He would give His peace to His disciples when He took leave of them on the night before His crucifixion (John 14:27); on Easter Sunday, for the first time in His ministry, He greeted them with the words: "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36; John 20:21, 26). In the Lord's Supper, a pastor enacts that promise together with the risen Lord Jesus by saying: "The peace of the Lord be with you always." Pastoral blessing, then, speaks God's Word as gospel for another person. It enacts the gospel. This type of blessing is performed throughout the Divine Service.

But the enactment of blessing is also vital to the pastoral care of people. It is a basic form of pastoral care. Whether it be for someone sick in the hospital, or for one who is at death's door, or in counsel for those perplexed by the evil and sin that confronts them, a pastor aims to bless them. Every other aspect of pastoral care—instruction, absolution, advice—is built around that. The default in every situation is the delivery of blessing with an appropriate benediction, even if that can only be done by making the sign of the cross upon them.

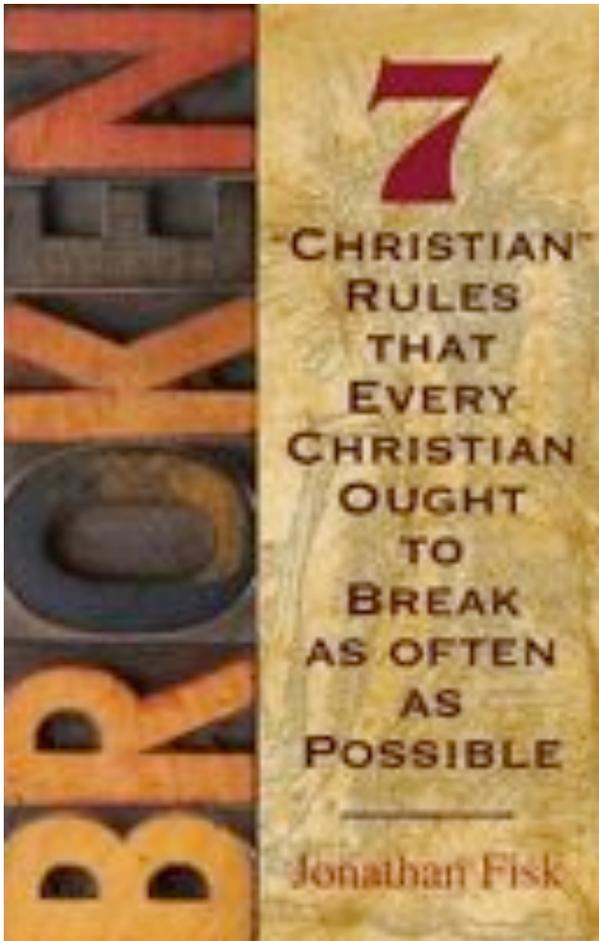
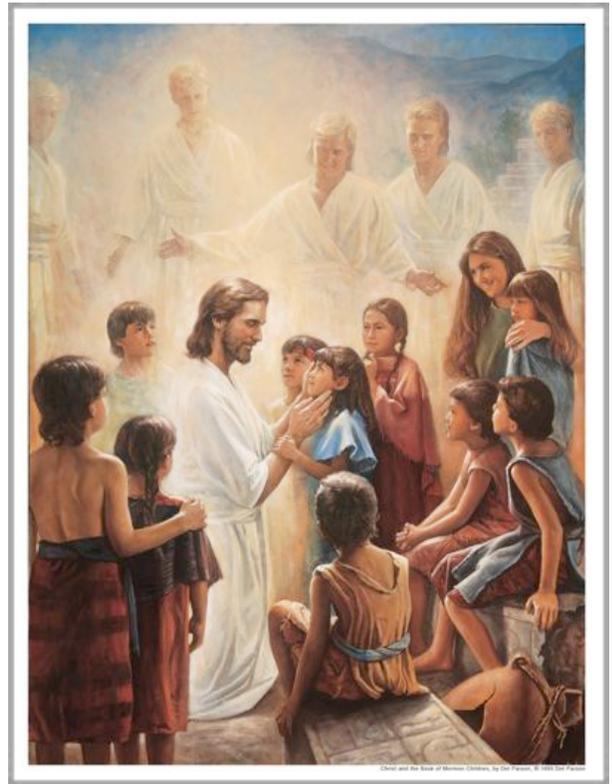
The delivery of blessing relies on the grace of our Lord Jesus, who though He was rich, yet He became poor for us, so that through His poverty we might become rich with the Holy Spirit and all other spiritual blessings. It therefore operates under the cross. In 2 Corinthians 6:10, St. Paul describes the stance of a person who blesses as "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, poor, yet making many rich; having nothing and yet possessing everything." Such faithful people are rich in blessing (Prov 28:20) because they pass on the riches of God's grace.

With this in mind, I would like to begin visiting you, the people of God at Immanuel, in your homes. These visits aren't to check up on you. They're not to place demands upon you. These visits are an opportunity to bring the full measure of the blessing of Christ into your homes and, thus, into your lives. And so, beginning in October, I will be setting aside time on Saturdays and Sundays to make these visits

(from 2:00–3:00 PM and 3:00–4:00 PM on each day). I am asking Sue Danielson, the church secretary, to call ahead for an appointment on one of those two days, going through the membership roster alphabetically, beginning with the As and ending with the Zs.

You can expect these visits to be no longer than forty-five minutes, unless you want it to go longer. We will chat for a little about how everything is going, but then we'll get down to business. We will read a Psalm, a portion of the Bible, have a prayer or two, and then I will deliver a benediction upon each of those in your household.

I look forward to visiting each of you. But more importantly, I am eager to bring Christ's blessing to you and speak it upon you. The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you always. Amen.



**The Book of the Month**  
**Broken: 7 Christian Rules That Every Christian Ought to Break as Often as Possible**

There are only two kinds of spirituality in the world. One is false, and one is true. One is the manifestation of the old evil foe who has sent many false spiritualities out into the world, and the other is the holy spirituality found only in faith in the one true God. One is a lie, and one is real. But which is which?

There is a cultural perfect storm shredding the spiritual landscape of the United States. It travels on the wind of a growing ignorance of both history and the Bible. Christians are losing faith because the kind of Christianity they are trying to believe is

This book examines seven of the most common spiritual traditions and how they use speculation, mysticism, and moralism to break Christianity. Author Jonathan Fisk calls them the seven “counterfeit

Christian rules that every Christian ought to break as often as possible,” because they are seven myths that have infiltrated the churches in our age, seven teachings taught as if they were doctrine, but which are nothing more than the traditions of men.

The dark secret of Christianity in America is that we are losing. We hide it with light shows, Christian dance and music, and video games, but it's true. And it's not new.

The house has grown too dirty. Fisk is going to sweep it clean. All of it: the dusty corners where spores of speculation lay, the air filled with the mustiness of mysticism, the grout where the mold of moralism has grown thick over our clean confidence in Christ. Once the grime has been scrubbed away, Fisk shows how, under the cross of Jesus, you will find that your mind, heart, and hands, your reason, emotions, and sense of mercy, are the very things that our Lord has redeemed. In the resurrection of Jesus, in His fulfillment of the Law, in the essence of His Gospel, in the pure Word of God, you will find the truth.

## From the President Concerning Visitation

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

“A home going pastor makes a church going people.” Those words of Dr. Robert Preus at the Fort Wayne seminary stuck with me. Before I began serving in my first parish, I had also stumbled across the section in Dr. Walther’s Pastoral Theology, where he instructs pastors about the importance of and how to visit the homes of parishioners. Combined with good effort at preaching, there is simply nothing so significant in the pastor-people relationship and the well-being of the congregation as visitation.

Visitation is a much more profound reality for the Church than we realize. Just follow Jesus’ movement through the Gospel of Mark. “Let’s go!” he told his disciples (Mark 1:38). Jesus is the quintessential peripatetic. The “Great Commission” gives every pastor and the whole church its mission. It’s no mistake that Matt. 28:19 is the first verse in the ordination rite. “Go, therefore!” After the Jerusalem Council sorted things out regarding the Gentile/circumcision question, Paul turned to Barnabas and said, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are” (Acts 15:36). What is not evident in an English Bible is that the Greek word in the original for visit is the verb form of the word Paul uses for overseer—that is, episcopus or bishop. “Therefore an overseer [episcopus] must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2).

Someone once quipped, “The problem with you Lutherans is not that you don’t have any bishops. The problem is you have too many!” They were referring to the teaching of the New Testament and of our Lutheran Confessions that every local pastor is an overseer or bishop. What’s his authority? Only



the Word of God. And the chief word Paul uses to describe the pastor’s office is the very word for visit!

A pastor is a visitor. He admonishes, rebukes on occasion, consoles, encourages and comforts God’s people—all with the Word of God—and he does it while wearing out his shoes, speaking the Gospel to those along the way who have not heard it.

Out of freedom, the Early Church followed the example of Jesus, Paul and the apostles in ordering the church. At the time of the Reformation, when most of the Catholic bishops did not become Lutheran, Luther and company began ordering the church for its benefit too. (See Luther’s Works, vol. 40, pg. 269). From the beginning, the Lutherans called most of their bishops “superintendents,” and



and has general ecclesiastical supervision to see that the doctrine and practice of the Synod is adhered to and that convention decisions are carried out. “Doctrine and life!” (Luther). District presidents are to visit the congregations and pastors. To get this done, they are to use their vice-presidents and especially circuit counselors. We should return to calling these men “circuit visitors.” One sees a “counselor” when there is a problem, but visitation is to be a regular form of pastoral encouragement toward fidelity and mission, accountability, admonition, comfort and care. Just check out Paul’s letters to figure out

the LCMS calls its leaders “presidents” (e.g., district president, Synod president).

The constitution and bylaws of the LCMS are heavily weighted toward visitation, a function of ecclesiastical oversight or supervision. That is a fundamental task of the Office of the Ministry. Our presidents are in the office, and they carry out the functions of the office as a ministry of service, which extends no further than the Word of God. In this, the district presidents are defined as an extension of the Synod president’s office. The president of Synod is to visit the districts, the universities and the seminaries

what it’s all about. He went. He sent letters. He sent co-workers. As he visited established churches, he constantly preached and planted new ones.

Absent visitation, we paralyze the “legs of the Gospel” as it were--whether it be parish pastor, circuit counselor, district president or Synod president. Visit!

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# Education Corner

## Pastor, Who Do I Vote For?

By Rev. Kurt Onken

“Pastor, who should I vote for?” When election time rolls around, I sometimes get this question. It’s not been my habit to preach much about politics, although much of what the Bible says on social and moral issues certainly has a bearing on which candidates will receive your vote.

What is a pastor’s responsibility when it comes to helping people make informed decisions during an election? First and foremost (and this, I suppose, should be obvious), we are to direct our congregations to what the Bible says about the issues that are facing our nation, our state, and our community. Everyone is concerned about the economy, and there may be several equally valid solutions to renewing our nation’s economic vitality. Yet the Bible gives us no clear answers here. It is not a textbook on economics. The Bible does, however, have a clear word on matters of the sanctity of life, the definition of marriage, and the limits of human government in the area of religious freedom.

The Bible upholds the sanctity of life from the womb to the tomb. Abortion is clearly against the Fifth Commandment. Likewise, the Bible defines

marriage as the lifelong union of a man and a woman. Homosexual unions are not marriages in the sight of God. The Bible also teaches each of us that we are to be good citizens, obeying the laws that our government has put in place, as long as those laws do not conflict with God’s revealed Word. If we find that this is the case with certain laws, then we are called to “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). This has become an issue

recently in our country with the government’s mandate that church related insurers provide coverage for contraception for their employees even if the church’s teaching (i.e. the Roman Catholic Church) is against contraception. Our synod does not have a position on contraception, but we are opposed to contraceptives that in essence are abortion-inducing drugs. This issue not only impinges on the

religious freedom of our Roman Catholic neighbors. It is an unprecedented assault on the conscience of people of faith. That’s why President Harrison, our synodical president, has been in the forefront criticizing the aforementioned governmental mandate.

A pastor should take care not to endorse a candidate from the pulpit and a congregation



should not be seen as endorsing specific candidates. This could endanger a congregation's non-profit status. A 1954 law prohibits religious organizations that receive tax-deductible donations from endorsing specific candidates. Therefore, you will not hear me endorsing a candidate in my office as pastor. That being said, I am also a private citizen and in that capacity I am able to offer my opinions on who I believe is the best candidate. Feel free to ask...just don't expect me to do it while vested in the chancel.



What about your responsibility as a Christian citizen? First and foremost, a Christian citizen should pray that God will lead you and guide you as you seek to make an informed decision. Pray for your current leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-2). Pray for the men and women running for office. Pray even for the one who's not "your guy" or "your gal." Pray that God would "grant them wisdom and understanding that under their peaceable governance [God's] people may be guarded and directed in righteousness, quietness, and unity" (Collect #226 in Lutheran Service Book).

A Christian citizen will also be actively engaged in the political process. Take advantage of the freedoms that we still have in this country, unlike others around the world who live under totalitarian or fascist regimes. Participate, vote, serve, communicate with your friends and neighbors (in spite of the fact that the old adage says that you're not supposed to talk about religion or politics in polite company). Educate yourself, know what is in the party platforms of each candidate, and decide if your Christian confession is consistent with the candidate's views and their party platform. Whichever candidate is closest to your morals and values ... that is the one who should get your vote.

Is it always going to be a matter of "the lesser of two evils"? Not always. But when you consider that

there is no perfect candidate ... they're all sinners like you and me ... then I guess to a certain extent the whole political process is always a matter of choosing "the lesser of two evils."

Above all else, remember who really is in charge. "There is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been appointed by God" (Romans 13:1). God has used good rulers and bad rulers to accomplish his purposes in human history. God used Jewish kings just as much as he used Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman rulers to accomplish his purposes in human history. God used Christian kings and pagan kings to accomplish his purposes in human history. Since this is the case, then he can surely use a Christian or a Mormon president today to accomplish his purposes in the history of our nation.

Whatever happens in our election next month – whether "your guy" wins or loses – remember that the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords will always be ruling and reigning for the good of his Holy Church (Ps. 47:8; 96:10; 1 Cor. 15:25; Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Tim. 6:15).

# Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

## Greeters List

7 Oct Ruth Sims – East  
 Becky Kappes – West  
 14 Oct Tim & Teri Pollock - East  
 Harold & Irene Wattjes – West  
 21 Oct Donna & Gunnar Campbell - East  
 Jim Dyer - West  
 28 Oct Ruth Sims - East  
 Joan Vukelich - West  
 4 Nov Ruth Sims – East  
 Becky Kappes – West  
 11 Nov Tim & Teri Pollock – East  
 Harold & Irene Wattjes – West  
 18 Nov Donna & Gunnar Campbell – East  
 Jim Dyer – West  
 25 Nov Ruth Sims - East  
 Becky Kappes – West

## Coffee Committee

Sep Laverl Byers  
 Oct Pastor & Lauren Braaten  
 Nov Jerry & Joyce Alexander  
 Dec Pastor & Lauren Braaten

## Altar Committee

7 Oct Becky Kappes  
 14 Oct Becky Kappes  
 21 Oct Becky Kappes  
 28 Oct Tonia Timlin  
 4 Nov Tonia Timlin  
 11 Nov Tonia Timlin  
 18 Nov Sue Danielson  
 21 Nov Sue Danielson  
 25 Nov Ann Hilgendorf

## Elder On Duty – Communion

7 Oct Greg Nau  
 14 Oct Greg Nau  
 21 Oct Greg Nau  
 28 Oct Geof Danielson  
 4 Nov Geof Danielson  
 11 Nov Geof Danielson  
 18 Nov Jack Appleby  
 21 Nov Jack Appleby  
 25 Nov Jack Appleby

ATTENDANCE			OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	General	Missions	Building
9/2	16	65	\$2,008.76	\$0.00	\$0.00
9/9	26	75	\$2,475.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
9/16	19	81	\$1,873.83	\$20.00	\$0.00
9/23	19	86	\$2,082.68	\$0.00	\$0.00
9/30	17	80	\$1,404.50	\$0.00	\$180.00
Subtotal	97	387	\$9,844.77	\$45.00	\$180.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>		<b>\$9,844.77</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, Illinois, Contacts' birthdays and events, **Historic Lectionary, US Holidays**

Oct 2012 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting 9pm - Board of Elders	Spencer Erickson's 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting	7:30am - Matins	Brittany Arthur's Ruth Slaughter's 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting	Pastor's Day Off Shawna Pollock's	Misty Bane's birthday Paula Boney's Ronald Legg's birthday 5:30pm - Divine Service
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Trinity 18	Columbus Day 8pm - Pastor at Continuing Ed 9am - Divine Service w/ 10:30am - Bible Class 11:15am - Council 11:30am - Catechism	Henry Rahn's 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting 11am - Circuit Pastors'	7:30am - Matins	Christopher Shirley Czerwinski's 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting	Pastor's Day Off	Deborah Reitseck's Jauden Parrott's 5:30pm - Divine Service
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Ellis Pangborn's	Pastor's Conference on December 11. James Whitson's Jobba Whitson's 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting 9pm - Board of 7:30pm - Veterans	7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting	Geoffrey Dentelison's Sus Dentelison's 7:30am - Matins	Alice Pea's birthday St. Luke the Evangelist 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting	Erin Partschauer's	5:30pm - Divine Service
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Trinity 20	Mary Elias Barnett's 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting	St. James of Jerusalem, 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting	Daniel Stevens's Tom Pea's birthday 7:30am - Matins 11:30am - TAMU	Alice Johnson's Catherine Rahn's Hansel Britt's birthday 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting 1:30pm - Ladies	Pastor's Day Off	5:30pm - Divine Service
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
St. Simon and St. Jude Steve Pollock's	Chloe Alexander's Merris Coon's birthday 7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting	7:30am - Matins 8am - Staff Meeting	Daria Gardner's Halloween Joan Rahn's Reformation Day Roch Ernst's birthday 7:30am - Matins			

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, Illinois, Contacts' birthdays and events, **Historic Lectionary, US Holidays**

Nov 2012 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				<p>All Saints Day</p> <p>Nov 1st Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Peabody's Day Off</p>	<p>Nov 2nd Anniversary</p> <p>8:30pm - Divine Service w/</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>Catechism Recitation Day</p> <p>Sayings Saying Time Ends</p> <p>Jay Suggs's birthday</p> <p>Friday 21</p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11:15am - Council Meeting</p> <p>11:30am - Catechism Class</p>	<p>Ernest Fuhrman's</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>9pm - Board of Elders</p>	<p>Nov 7th Anniversary</p> <p>Jean Swanson's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>8:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Nov 8th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 9th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 10th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 11th Anniversary</p> <p>8:30pm - Divine Service w/</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>Children's Sacrament Week</p> <p>Third Last Sunday</p> <p>Wetrails Day</p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11:30am - Catechism Class</p> <p>8:30pm - Nursing Home</p>	<p>David Swanson's birthday</p> <p>Susanoma Koster's</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>9pm - Board of Mission &amp;</p>	<p>Nov 14th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Nov 15th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 16th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 17th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 18th Anniversary</p> <p>8:30pm - Divine Service w/</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>Catechism Recitation Day</p> <p>Nov 19th Anniversary</p> <p>Second Last Sunday</p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11:30am - Catechism Class</p>	<p>David Snyder's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>9pm - Board of Ed</p>	<p>Nov 21st Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Nov 22nd Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 23rd Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 24th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 25th Anniversary</p> <p>8:30pm - Divine Service w/</p>
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
<p>Last Sunday</p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p> <p>11:30am - Catechism Class</p> <p>7pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 28th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm - LHMNL @ Immanuel's</p> <p>8:30pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm - Thanksgiving Eve</p>	<p>Nov 29th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>11:50am - TAMA</p> <p>8:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Nov 30th Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30pm - Ladies Available</p>	<p>Nov 31st Anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Nov 1st Anniversary</p> <p>8:30pm - Divine Service w/</p>

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, Illinois, Contacts' birthdays and events, **Historic Lectionary**, US Holidays

Dec 2012 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p><b>Ad Te Lucem (Advent 1)</b></p> <p><b>Catechism Recitation Day</b></p> <p>Prayer Sister's birthday</p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:00am - Bible Class @</p>	<p>Cora Jackson's birthday</p> <p>Joseph Palumbo's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>9pm - Board of Elders</p>	<p>Sam Oliver's anniversary</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Wilhelmina Strasser's</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Christina Gustafson's</p> <p>Joseph Reuter's birthday</p> <p>Louise Neely's anniversary</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p><b>EVERY DEMONSTRATOR'S BIRTHDAY</b></p> <p><b>GREEN STRASSER'S BIRTHDAY</b></p> <p><b>STEFANIA GUSTAFSON'S BIRTHDAY</b></p> <p>8:00pm - Divine Service w/</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p><b>Colophon's Sermon Week</b></p> <p>George Crawford's birthday</p> <p><b>Populus Dei (Advent 2)</b></p> <p>Regina Reuter's birthday</p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:00am - Bible Class @</p>	<p>Fredrick Reuter's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>9pm - Board of Elders &amp;</p>	<p>Ernesta Culp's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>11am - Council Pastors'</p>	<p>George Strasser's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>David Strasser's birthday</p> <p>Joseph Strasser's birthday</p> <p>Tucker Reuter's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Christina Gustafson's</p> <p>Joseph Reuter's birthday</p> <p>Louise Neely's anniversary</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>8:00pm - Divine Service w/</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p><b>Catechism Recitation Day</b></p> <p><b>Opus Dei (Advent 3)</b></p> <p>Donald Alpers' s</p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:00am - Bible Class @</p> <p>10:00am - Bible Class @</p> <p>10:00am - Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am - Catechism Class</p> <p>7pm - Sunday School</p>	<p>Arnold Johnson's birthday</p> <p>Bill Brugg's birthday</p> <p>Leigh Ann Johnson's</p> <p>Mark Wilbur's</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>9pm - Board of Ed</p> <p>7:00pm - Voters Meeting</p>	<p>Bob Whitaker's birthday</p> <p>April Neely's birthday</p> <p>Edmary Cochran's birthday</p> <p>Clara Pallua's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Richard Pelt's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Janice Arthur's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Larry Strick's birthday</p> <p>LOIS WYBISTE'S BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p><b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b></p>	<p>8:00pm - Divine Service w/</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p><b>Catechism Recitation Day</b></p> <p><b>Opus Dei (Advent 3)</b></p> <p>Donald Alpers' s</p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:00am - Bible Class @</p> <p>10:00am - Bible Class @</p> <p>10:00am - Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am - Catechism Class</p> <p>7pm - Sunday School</p>	<p>Arnold Johnson's birthday</p> <p>Bill Brugg's birthday</p> <p>Leigh Ann Johnson's</p> <p>Mark Wilbur's</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>9pm - Board of Ed</p> <p>7:00pm - Voters Meeting</p>	<p>Bob Whitaker's birthday</p> <p>April Neely's birthday</p> <p>Edmary Cochran's birthday</p> <p>Clara Pallua's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Richard Pelt's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Janice Arthur's birthday</p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Larry Strick's birthday</p> <p>LOIS WYBISTE'S BIRTHDAY</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p><b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b></p>	<p>8:00pm - Divine Service w/</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p><b>James Tyler's anniversary</b></p> <p><b>Opus Dei (Advent 4)</b></p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:00am - Bible Class @</p> <p>10:00am - Bible Class @</p> <p>10:00am - Sunday School</p>	<p><b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p><b>Evil of the Nativity</b></p> <p>7:00pm - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm - Christmas Eve</p>	<p><b>Christmas</b></p> <p><b>Rebecca Fox's birthday</b></p> <p><b>The Nativity of Our Lord</b></p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>9am - Christmas Eve</p> <p>9am - Christmas Day</p>	<p><b>St. Stephen the Martyr</b></p> <p><b>William Reuter's birthday</b></p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>11:00am - TABA</p> <p>8:00pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Ernesta Culp's anniversary</p> <p><b>St. John, Apostle and</b></p> <p>7:00am - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:00pm - Ladies Aud/Bible</p>	<p><b>JOY HOFFMAN'S BIRTHDAY</b></p> <p><b>Holy Innocence, Martyrs</b></p> <p>Margaret Altmann's</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>8:00pm - Divine Service w/</p>
30	31					
<p><b>HOLY WYBIST'S BIRTHDAY</b></p> <p><b>Sunday After Christmas</b></p> <p>8am - Divine Service w/</p> <p>10:00am - Bible Class</p> <p>10:00am - Sunday School</p> <p>2pm - Netting Home</p>	<p><b>New Year's Eve</b></p> <p>7:00pm - Mattins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm - New Year's Eve</p>					

# In This Issue . . .

<b>From Pastor's Desk</b> . . . . .	<b>1</b>
<b>Book of the Month</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>
<b>From President Harrison</b> . . . . .	<b>4</b>
<b>Education Corner</b> . . . . .	<b>6</b>



Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.