



Immanuel United Methodist Church

401 W Fond du Lac Street
Ripon, WI 54971

open hearts... open minds... open doors...

the people of the United Methodist Church

Rev. Paul Nulton, Pastor

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

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Website address: www.riponumc.org

Rev. Nulton's cell phone number (920) 202-4420

The mission of Immanuel United Methodist Church is making and being disciples for Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship Service at 8:00 am

Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 am

More Contemporary Worship Service at 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Soup and Sandwich Supper 5:00 p.m.

Praise 1 Service 5:30 pm

Praise 2 Bible Study 6:30 pm

December newsletter

This newsletter is for the family and friends of the IUM Church of Ripon, WI. Everyone is welcome to worship and/or join this church. If this is your first time here, we hope that you enjoyed your time worshipping with us and will come back again soon.



The deadline for the
January newsletter is
December 16

Up Front

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

God is with us, so we take time off to celebrate Christmas. Wouldn't it be great if funerals, bills, war, illness, and other nasty things took time off for Christmas? But they don't.

One man had to feel the pain of a sudden death in the family right at Christmas. People mentioned the sudden shadow that had come over his Christmas. But the most helpful comfort came from a friend who wrote "Do not think of the shadow which this sorrow casts over your Christmas. Think rather of the light which Christmas sheds on this sorrow."

Christians decided to celebrate Christmas at the darkest time of the year. It is because we wanted to show the world that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

We plug in the lights this month. The electricity fights off the gloom. We plug our hearts into Jesus. Holy Spirit power flows to shut down the darkness of trouble with the light of Christ.

Hallelujah!

Rev. Nulton

KEEP A PLACE IN YOUR HEART

by Kay Hoffman

Keep a place in your heart for the Christ Child
Though busy and rushed is your day;
In the midst of Yule preparations
It's easy to get carried away.

With no room in our hearts for the Christ Child
Our Christmas then truly would be
No more than a gay celebration
As empty as the discarded tree.

Light a candle in your heart for the Christ Child,
Keep it brightly glowing each day.
Reflect on the true Christmas meaning
As told on that first Christmas day.

The season of Yuletide so merry
Has warmth and good cheer to impart,
But Christmas can only be Christmas
When it lives each day in your heart.

Merry Christmas from the Immanuel UMC staff.

Senior Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Equipping Ministries Director
Senior High Youth Director
Middle School Youth Director
College Ministry Coordinator
Organist
Choir Director
Custodian

Rev. Paul Nulton
Carol Schwark
Roger Kindschi
Shannon Rogers
Krista Sperger
Ryan Gustafson
Gen Stellmacher
Shelley Nulton
Stan Brink

Worship in December

Sunday, December 2	Regular Sunday morning schedule, plus Communion offered in the sanctuary at 9:15 am
Sunday, December 9	8:00 am Special Dramatic Presentation 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Chancel Choir Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 16	8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program in the sanctuary, followed by a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall
Sunday, December 23	Regular Sunday Schedule including Sunday School
Monday, December 24	4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with special music and candle lighting 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with choir and candle lighting
Sunday, December 30	Regular Sunday schedule including Sunday School

A Special Dramatic Presentation

Sunday, December 9

8:00 am Service

One of Ripon High School's one act plays won top honors at the State Forensics Drama Tournament this past month. The five actors and the crew brought home the Critics Choice award, the Outstanding Ensemble award and the Outstanding Director award. The play is a powerful telling of what happens when a teacher is falsely accused of sexual abuse, and students' reactions by telling their own experiences.

Have You Heard? by Krista Boehnert

Everybody knows a secret. Some keep them quiet. Some let them loose. Some make them larger than life. Secrets, lies and rumors are the subject of Have You Heard?

This monologue-based play follows what happens in a school when rumors and secrets spin out of control. What makes a secret more powerful: When it's the truth? Or when it's a lie?

Some parents may feel the subject is inappropriate for small children, who should come another time. But for the rest of us the subject of truth in relationships is wholly appropriate. The events are not portrayed by acting out, but referred to in the monologues. It will take about 35 minutes of the 8:00 service time. English teacher Barb Ames is the director.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

We have shown our intention to be partners in ministry with Christ in 2008 by turning in our estimates of giving. 78 cards showed a total of \$123,470 expected to be given toward our ministry next year. 11 cards showed a commitment to the church without a dollar amount stated.

This compares with 74 cards given last year totaling \$107,822. Thank you for your dedication to Immanuel Church and the good things it will do with God in 2008.

The **annual meeting of the Immanuel United Methodist Foundation** will be held on December 3, 2007 at 6:30 pm. We will meet at church in the lounge. All members and friends are welcome.

Annual Charge Conference...Our church will have its annual Charge Conference on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the church in the lounge.

Red Bird Mission, a United Methodist Mission, located in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains in Beverly, Kentucky is experiencing financial difficulty that could lead to the closing of their school. The school serves 265 students in grades K-12, and is the only Christian school in the area. The mission also includes a clinic, does community outreach and has a work camp. They have had a financial shortfall the past 3 years, due to donations being diverted to hurricane relief in the Gulf Coast and tsunami relief.

Red Bird Mission currently has a \$500,000 shortfall. Unless donations rise, the school will have to be closed. The director said the school is the best thing they are doing as far as changing the future – changing the way people in this community live.

Ramona Retzlaff, the wife of a former pastor of ours, worked at this mission for many years. This church has been a supporting partner in past years.

Are you led to give? If so, please donate to Advance Special #773726.

Visitation Ministry

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of 35 home-bound members and friends of our church through the Lay Visitation Ministry that was established in November.

Eight members of our church have committed to monthly (at times weekly) visits of our Home-Bound friends, who will also get together for quarterly for a time of reflection and encouragement.

This is an incredible opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our older members where you can visit with them for about 30 minutes, listen to what is on their hearts, share about what is happening at Immanuel, represent Jesus Christ and Immanuel, pray with them and share a devotional if one feels comfortable doing so.

If anyone else is interested in participating in this ministry please call the church office or call me at my toll free number (1-800-725-5276

Praise 2 Bible Study **Wednesday nights 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

Over the summer months we began studying the book of Acts and will continue to explore the depth of each chapter through the middle of December. Even though we are studying the Book of Acts, each time we are together will be a time of discovering truths in each of the chapters we are studying and exploring.

We will continue to study Paul's ministry as found in Acts 13 – 28. We will be meeting Wednesday nights for about an hour in the Church Lounge. This study will conclude on December 19th. We will not meet on December 26. We will begin a new study in January. If you have any questions please contact the church office or call me at my toll free telephone number: 1-800-725-5276.

Ministering together,
Roger Kindschi, Director of Equipping Ministries

SUNDAY SCHOOL..... MISSION PROJECTS

UNICEF

We collected a total of \$25 for UNICEF. Thank you to each of the children who took the UNICEF box with them Trick or Treating! Each of you have helped a child in need of basic necessities to live.

Operation Christmas Child-Shoebox Ministry

A total of 80 boxes were packed and taken to the Operation Christmas Child drop off site. Thanks to all UM Women, Sunday School students, teachers and church members for again making this a very successful mission project! Thanks to Don & Joyce Jorgenson for dropping off the boxes.

Filled mugs

In December the younger Sunday School classes, Nursery through Fourth grade will collect mugs and fill them with coffee, hot chocolate or tea and crackers, granola bars or cookies. They will be wrapped in festive paper and taken to shelters in the area. Last year we delivered 100 mugs to shelters and church members who are not able to get out of their homes. We hope to meet or exceed that number this year!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 16th during the 10:30 church service. Those organizing the program are Pastor Paul, Julie Bock and myself. We will be having practices on 12/8 & 12/15 from 9:30 to 11:30. The practice on the 8th will be held in the Fellowship Hall and is for children in grades 3 – 8. The practice on the 15th will be held in the sanctuary and is for all participants. We are asking that all children with speaking or singing parts memorize their respective parts. Speaking assignments will be made by the teachers. Letters will be sent to parents explaining how their child will be involved and what should be memorized. We will be rehearsing songs during our opening time. An all church potluck will be held after the program to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Treat bags will be handed out to the Sunday School children.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Sunday School classes will be held as normal during the month of December.

TEACHERS MEETING

A teachers meeting was held on Thursday, November 8, with 8 teachers and helpers present. Our next teacher's meeting will be held on March 13th at 7 PM in the church lounge.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season with your family & friends!

Deb Kaiser

Sunday School Superintendent

YOUTH NEWS

The Senior High and Middle School Youth are excited about the upcoming fundraisers that will help them fund their youth activities, which includes the summer mission trip and winter retreat. On Saturday, Dec 8, the youth will host a cookie walk along with the UMW from 9-11 am in the church lounge. You pick out as much or as little of the goodies as you want, and pay by the pound! A huge variety of cookies and candy will be available. Then, on Saturday, January 5, we will once again be making our yummy pizzas! The order forms are out, and will be available through Dec 30. So, mark your calendars now and come and join us in the fun! Thank you for your support!

December is filled with great opportunities for our youth to serve, as well as have fun. They will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army, collecting food for the Ripon Food Pantry, taking part in the Christmas programs, and having their own Christmas celebrations.

God has blessed our lives with the amazing youth of our church!

Krista Sperger and Shannon Rogers

Middle School and Sr. High Youth Coordinators

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Immanuel United Methodist Men will meet on Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 am in the fellowship hall for breakfast. Rik Ridders will present a program on his personal faith journey. He will also lead a Bible Study. Music will be provided. All men are invited. Come and join us as we conclude our 2007 year.

Tom Worrall, U.M.M. chairman

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Led by Rik Ridders on Wednesdays, will meet weekly from noon to 1:00 pm. We are currently doing a study on 1 Corinthians. For more information on this study and for December and January locations, contact Rik at 748-6111(work) or 748-3185 (home).

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONGS

The **Christmas Sing-along** will be held on Tuesday, December 4th at 4 Ripon care centers:

- 1:30 pm at Michalene's
- 2:15 pm at Maplecrest
- 3:00 pm at Fountainview Care Center
- 3:45 pm at Sheltered Village

Bring bells, hats and any props that are appropriate for Christmas.

Looking ahead: The January Sing-along will be held on Wednesday, January 2nd due to the New Year holiday.

December Sunday Worship Volunteers

USHERS-Coordinator, Mike Wuest

8:00 am

Dec. 2 Vance & Mary Henning
Gerald & Jon Schulz

10:30 am

Bob & Pat Henning
Barb Steele

Dec. 9 David Fox Dave Long Barb Steele
Jerry Stellmacher Tim Lubinsky Bob & Kathro Taylor

Dec. 16 Louie & Shelby Bock Tim & Sandy Page
Alice Uecker Mary Ellen Grahn Pat & Tami Conlon

Dec. 23 Dave & Kathy Daye The Pugh Family
Chet & Ardyss Fenner Jason, Beth, Shannon & Adam

December 24 4:00 PM

The Page Brothers
Dennis, Gary, Jay & Peter

7:00 PM

The Kahn Family
Jeff & Julie, Alyssa & Andrew

Dec. 30 The Jeff Kahn Family Sr. High Youth

COFFEE HOUR-Coordinator, Kathy Hilscher

Dec. 2 Dave & Kathy Daye
Dec. 9 Kathy Hilscher
Dec. 16 Joyce Jorgensen
Dec. 23 Kathy Hilscher
Dec. 30 OPEN

The Worship Committee is grateful for your help.

Attention Parents:

At this time, we do not have nursery service during either service. Please feel free to use one of the quiet bags available in the foyer. Or You may also sit in the lounge with your child and listen to the service, as there are toys in the southeast corner of the lounge. ☺

December Sponsors

ALTAR FLOWERS - \$12

Dec. 2 Keith Bock family
Dec. 9 Randy & Gwen Steffen
Dec. 16 Mike & Janice Dickerson
Dec. 23 Aldon & Anita Keplin
Dec. 30 Mark & Sue Thompson

BULLETINS - \$10

OPEN
Betty Eichstedt
OPEN
Aldon & Anita Keplin
Don & Joyce Jorgensen

RADIO BROADCAST - \$50

Dec. 2 IUMC Foundation
Dec. 9 Betty Eichstedt
Dec. 16 Taken
Dec. 23 Aldon & Anita Keplin
Dec. 30 Gary & Lori Hahn

2008 sign up sheets to sponsor all items above will be posted on the bulletin board between the coatroom and restroom on the main floor by mid-December.

Radio Broadcast

Our Sunday 8:00 am service broadcast is on WRPN Radio, 1600 AM, at 9:30 am every Sunday.

ACOLYTES-Coordinator, Carol Schwark

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
Dec. 2	Melissa Smit Alicia Abraham	Amanda Page Marlie Page
Dec. 9	Krystal Tetzlaff Tim Hoffman	Amy Lauber Michael Lauber
Dec. 16	Trevor Bender Amanda Coehoorn	Brad Arnold Kimi Kernen
Dec. 23	Ashley Zahnow Hunter Gellings	Allie Hughes Colby Schultz
Dec. 30	Kyle Erdmann Tom Amend	Megan Sperger Michelle Zimdars

We extend our sympathy to...

- the family and friends of Zackary Muskavitch who passed away on November 1, 2007. He is the son of Michael and Sherry Muskavitch and brother of Seth Muskavitch. He is the nephew of Debbie (Andy) Zeratsky; Gary (Jane) Page; Dennis Page; and Jay (Kay) Page. He is the grandson of Marilyn Page (Ervin) Schmidt and is the great-nephew of Vernice Brink.
- the family and friends of Betty Carrico who passed away on November 2, 2007. She is the mother of Becky Carrico.
- the family and friends of Esther Krueger who passed away on November 8.
- The family and friends of LaVerne Stellmacher who passed away on November 21, 2007. She is the mother of Gerald (Georgia) Stellmacher, grandmother of Gary (Tricia) Stellmacher, and great-grandmother of Madyson and Max Stellmacher.
- the family and friends of Oliver Happe who passed away on November 26. He is the father-in-law of Jan Happe.
- The family and friends of Claire Mathias who passed away on November 27.

A Big Thank You to those who worked on our fall clean-up.
Howard Goeden, Trustee Chairman

A huge **Thank You** to everybody that helped decorate our church for Christmas. Also, thank you to everybody who brought food and/or helped with the potluck on Tuesday night. The food was delicious, and our church looks beautiful! Everybody had a wonderful time!
Ann Mijatovich, Nurture Chairpers

BAPTISMS

Lily Ann Stahl, daughter of David and Kirstin (Arnetveit) Stahl was baptized on October 28. Lily's Godparents are Sarah Stahl and Erik Arnetveit. Her grandparents are Stan and Kathleen Arnetveit.

Spencer Ronald Conlon, son of Pat and Tami Conlon was baptized on November 4. His Godparents are Richard and Dani Moore, Tammi Keeler, and Jillian Conlon. His great aunt is Vernice Brink.

As an Outreach Project to our community, we continue to donate items to our local Food Pantry. We ask that you bring the following items as these items are in low supply at this time.

In December bring: powdered milk; evaporated milk; laundry detergent; bathroom soap bars; boxed scalloped potato mix; instant mashed potatoes; Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper; canned fruit. Please place your donations in the shopping cart that is located on the main floor in the west (parking lot entrance) stairwell.

4th Quarter Mission Project

Our 4th quarter mission project (October – December) is giving to Immanuel United Methodist Church's Helping Hand Fund and the Ripon Food Pantry. Offerings given to this project will help people in our church and in our community, all year long, when they have emergency needs. Money given to this project this quarter so far is: \$1,669.

Starting in January, we will again be giving to the Heifer Project

The **Merry Friends Circle** will meet on December 11 at 1:00 pm at the Red Apple Restaurant. After lunch we will go to church for fellowship and a white elephant gift exchange.

The **Priscilla Circle** Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, Dec. 11 at noon at The Roxy Restaurant in Oshkosh. Please meet at church at 11:00 am to carpool. Please contact Bonnie Bartig or Ardys Fenner if you aren't able to attend.

The **Koinonia Circle** will meet on Monday, December 10 at 6:30 pm at church to go caroling. After caroling we will go to Claudia Thom's home for our Christmas Celebration.

Environmental tips from the UMW Green Team...

- **Reduce Purchases:**
In general, think before you buy any product – do you really need it? How did the production of this product impact the environment and what further impacts will there be with the disposal of the product (and associated packaging materials)? When you are thinking about buying something, try the 30-Day Rule – wait 30 days after the first time you decide you want a product, to really make your decision. This will eliminate impulse buying.
- **Avoid Trash:**
Avoid creating trash wherever possible: when ordering food, avoid receiving any unnecessary plastic utensils, straws, etc. (ask in advance), buy ice cream in a cone instead of a cup, don't accept "free" promotional products, buy products with the least amount of packaging, etc. Every little bit of trash avoided does make a difference!
- **Shopping Bags:**
While shopping, if you only buy a few products, skip the shopping bag. For larger purchases, bring your own bag.
- **Simplify:**
Simplify your life as much as possible. Only keep belongings that you use/enjoy on a regular basis. By

making the effort to reduce what you own, you will naturally purchase less/create less waste in the future.

Olive Tree Ministries Whole Woman Conference Presents:

Authentic Living, January 25-27
at the Green Lake Conference Center

Have you ever wondered, "How am I going to get past...?" Find answers at this conference. Come join us and invest in yourself as we explore how freeing it is to live in God's truth.

The conference runs from 7:00 pm January 25, 2008 until noon on January 27, 2008. There is an option for coming all days and staying, or of commuting. The Overnight and Full Track Commuter packages include Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Sunday brunch, all program fees and applicable taxes. There will also be free activity time with activities such as non-impact aerobics.

Early registration deadline is January 16th. After the 16th, the conference cost goes up \$20. After January 22nd, your program fee cannot be returned.

Fees are as follows:

Commuter package	Per Person Overnight Package
Friday thru Sunday- \$95.37	Single - \$225.37
Saturday only- \$67.68	Double* - \$155.37
	Triple* - \$145.37
	Quad* - \$137.37

*require roommate names also

Some of the women from our church have attended this conference in the past and will be attending again. Come and join them! Brochures are available and are located on the literature table in the lounge.

The Ripon Community Thrift Store is in desperate need of volunteers. The greatest need is on Mondays and Saturdays; though help is needed other days as well. It doesn't matter how old or young you are...YOUR help is needed. You can give back to your community by donating an hour, a morning, an afternoon, or a day of your time. You can simply sit and sort through donated clothes or work in the store helping customers. What a

great ministry for us to be a part of. Please call Amy Pollesch at 229-0921 if you can help in this ministry!

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE FOR YOUR CHURCH

Give to Grow Spiritually - *"Then opening their treasure chests they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (Matt. 2:11)*

"The point is to emerge from Christmas relaxed, contented, happy to have kept this season. To emerge closer to your family than you were when Advent began. To emerge with some real sense that Christ has come into your world."

(Hundred Dollar Holiday by Bill McKibben, pg 92)

Lynn and Dave came home from an afternoon of Christmas shopping and started balancing their checkbook. Normally, they tried to put off doing this in December to avoid facing the facts of how much they overspent on gifts. But this year was different.

Early in the year their pastor suggested a new method of budgeting called the **80-10-10** plan. She explained it this way, "I know it sounds like a telephone ad, but it's a stewardship model that encourages people to live on 80 percent of their income, give 10 percent and save 10 percent. Remember, John Wesley taught: 'Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can'."

The more Dave and Lynn implemented this plan into their life, the less financial stress they felt. When the car needed some unexpected repairs, they had enough money saved to pay for it. And this was the first time in their 10 years of marriage that they didn't put at least half of their Christmas gifts on credit. In fact as they balanced the checkbook that cold December day, they were excited to discover they still had enough money to make an extra year-end gift to UMCOR for emergency relief.

We invite you to consider the 80-10-10 method of financial planning as you prepare to honor the Christ child this Advent and Christmas season and throughout the year ahead.

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
750 Windsor Street Ste 305, P.O. Box 620
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0620
1-888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org

Breaking Bread Fellowship Meal

at St. Peter's Episcopal Church
227 Houston St., Ripon, WI

Tuesday, December 25, 2007
Noon

There is no charge for this meal, and hospitality will be abundant. Everyone, regardless of circumstance, is welcome. Free will donations will be received with appreciation, and will be used for the continuation of this mission. Reservations aren't required, but are appreciated to help them plan the meal. Please help them by calling 748-2422 by 1:00 pm on December 21 if you plan on attending.

Beginning in January, the “Breaking Bread Meal” will be held the last Friday of each month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

Our church website now has a photo gallery of church events. You can go to our website at www.riponumc.org, click on the photo gallery link and see some of our church events. Check it out; you may be in some of them!

Christmas Concert

PRESENTED BY THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Sunday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m.

The Chancel Choir presents a concert of Advent and Christmas music, interspersed with powerful scripture passages and congregational singing.

Hear favorite carols and anthems such as “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”, “O Holy Night” and a version of Handel’s “Hallelujah” Chorus.

Come and enjoy the way our choir prepares the way of the Lord this season with fine music.

Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday, December 16 at 10:30 am

Join in the singing of Christmas Carols. Hear the Children sing. Sunday School students will act out stories of families who receive presents from God in a busy Christmas season.

Catch the spirit of Christmas presented by the Sunday School.

Join us in the fellowship hall after the program for a potluck lunch to celebrate Jesus’ birthday!

BUILDING PLANS

In moving toward possible construction of an elevator and entry area, our building committee has decided that we will bring a preliminary architectural and finance plan for a congregational vote between services January 6, 2008. A “Church Conference” is the name of the official meeting. There will be a time for discussion of the plan and then a written ballot vote of church members. Non-members can attend, but the vote is by attending members only. Church policy prevents absentee ballots.

If this preliminary plan is approved, the committee will proceed toward choosing a contractor by inviting three contractors to bid. Bill Hoch of Excel Engineering is our architect. We are working with the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation to organize a capital funds drive to raise the money. Don Jorgensen is campaign committee chairperson. If the plan is approved, we will all be given a chance in February to give or pledge to the project. We will develop detailed plans with architect and contractor. If we are on track with fund raising, we will have another Charge Conference for a vote on the final plans. If it is approved by a majority, we’ll build. We vote first on the preliminary plan, Jan. 6, and then again on the final plan.

2007 Finances

Through November, we have received \$214,000. Last year, we had received \$234,000. We have spent \$20,000 less than last year, but we are still behind on bills. In order to do the ministry we have promised in Sunday School, staff, Conference apportionments and mission work, your offerings this month are crucial. Give a birthday present to Jesus by helping pay for his work through Immanuel Church this month.

DEAD AIR IN LIVE WORSHIP

We constantly hear feedback from radio listeners. Many who are not part of our congregation listen to our broadcast. We know how important it is to get a good tape recording of our 8:00 a.m. Sunday Service which is broadcast on AM 1600 at 9:30 a.m. Our sound technicians work to get a good sound through the microphones for every part of the service. Rev. Nulton is aware of the need to prevent dead air between the elements of the worship service. Therefore he has asked speakers and singers to be ready at the front immediately after the previous event. We put microphones as close as necessary to the special music instruments, even though some musicians don't like the anxiety this adds to their presentation. Rev. Nulton has asked choir members to let him out of the back row to get to the microphone quickly before they exit the choir loft. He has asked children's sermonizers to describe what they are showing the children. He reads and sings the congregation's parts of the readings and hymns. All this is for the sake of the radio production.

But there are still times when there is dead air. Since the service is designed for about an hour, and sometimes there are many announcements (unrecorded) at 8:00, the recorded service is shorter than an hour. Sometimes people speak and act away from a microphone. Sometimes there is confusion with the sound or slide projection engineering.

When there is conflict between the needs of the group in the room and the radio audience, our first priority is the needs of those who are present in the room. It is not fair to keep the people who are worshiping in the sanctuary from a good visual experience just because the radio audience can't see it.

So we ask for tolerance from both groups. We need the tolerance of the radio audience when they can't see or hear. We need the tolerance of the worship presenters who must adapt everything to the microphones for the sake of the radio. God's Word is coming to worshippers in both places.

Evergreen Retirement Community in Oshkosh

Are you interested in independent living with the convenience of housekeeping and laundry services? Evergreen Manor Apartments offer access to exercise and aquatics facilities and programs; lounges for entertaining family and friends; Manor Mart resale shop; educational presentations and special events; and the chapel, Beauty shop and gift shop. Call Evergreen Retirement Community 237-2122 or visit www.EvergreenOshkosh.com for more information on one and two-bedroom units.

Ripon Medical Center Needs Volunteers

Ripon Medical Center is looking for people to join their volunteer program. This is a perfect opportunity for people to make new friends, learn new skills while fostering a sense of personal pride in helping other people.

They currently have a shortage of volunteers for their Meals on Wheels program. This program is extremely important to them as they are helping our community. These meals are delivered to people that are usually homebound and many times have no family to help them. This volunteer position is approximately a 5-10 hour commitment per month. Meals are delivered between 11:15a.m -12:30p.m. Volunteers use their own vehicles and can claim the mileage on their taxes.

So if you have room in your heart and space in your car, please consider this worthwhile volunteer position.

They also have openings for gift shop cashiers and delivering juice/water to our patients.

For more information, please call Linda Vantaggi, Volunteer Services Coordinator @ 748-0451

Twas the Night Before Finals Snacks Needed

The holiday season is fast approaching and so are finals for students at Ripon College. The past 4 years the Great Hall has been open for 24 hour group study. The event is called **“Twas the Night Before Finals”**. Area churches have provided snacks for students as they study. This event is being held again this year. **This year our church is signed up to provide bars, fruit, and homemade treats for the students on Monday, December 10.** Your snacks should be taken to the Great Hall at Ripon College on December 10, any time from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Sign up sheets are on a table in the narthex or you may call the church office at 748-6695. Please consider donating a snack to support the students.

On Sunday, December 2, 2007 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, an **All-You-Can-Eat Brunch** will be held in the Pickard Commons Dining Room at Ripon College to raise funds for students who will be spending their spring break on a service trip. Three groups of students will travel to Colorado, Kentucky, and Panama. Enjoy a wonderful meal while also supporting a great cause.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

In the narthex is a list of church family and friends who are not able to be with us this Holiday Season. Please pick up a

list and take time to fill out Christmas cards for these people. You can then bring the cards back to church, and put them in the basket provided, and we will deliver them when we go caroling on the afternoon of December 16. We will mail the cards to people on the list that live out of town, or you can mail them out yourself. A Christmas card is a great way to tell them that they are not forgotten and that we are thinking of them.

Immanuel United Methodist Youth Pizza Sale Order Form

Pizzas are available in the following varieties: cheese, sausage, pepperoni, sausage & pepperoni, sausage & mushroom, pepperoni & mushroom, Canadian bacon, sausage & mushroom & onion, veggie, and supreme. The veggie includes mushrooms, onions, green peppers, and black olives. The supreme includes sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, onions, green peppers, and black olives. These pizzas are 12 inch, fresh pizzas. They will be made and can be picked up or delivered on Saturday January 5, 2008. Delivery of pizzas is limited to the Ripon and Green Lake areas.

Pizzas may be purchased as singles (1 or 2 Pizzas), or in groups of 3's for a price break. To make groups of 3's, you may mix varieties within the same price group. Price groups available are: Cheese 3/\$12.75; sausage or pepperoni 3/\$15; Canadian bacon 3/\$15.75; sausage & pepperoni, sausage & mushroom or pepperoni & mushroom 3/\$17.25; veggie or sausage, mushroom, & onion 3/\$18; and supreme 3/\$21.

December 30, 2007 is the last day we are taking orders. If you want to place an order, please fill out the order form and leave it on the secretary's desk in the church office. You can order online by going to www.riponumc.org, click on forms, then click on Pizza Order form.

Make checks payable to Immanuel UMYF. Payment is appreciated when orders are placed, however you may pay for your pizzas when they are delivered.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

VARIETY AND PRICE	# OF PIZZAS	COST
Cheese \$4.50 ea or 3/\$12.75	_____	_____
Sausage \$5.25 ea or 3/\$15.00	_____	_____
Pepperoni \$5.25 ea or 3/\$15.00	_____	_____

Canadian bacon \$5.50 ea or 3/\$15.75 _____
 Saus/Pepp \$6.00 ea or 3/\$17.25 _____
 Saus/Mush \$6.00 ea or 3/\$17.25 _____
 Pepp/Mush \$6.25 ea or 3/\$17.25 _____
 Veggie \$6.25 ea or 3/\$18.00 _____
 Saus/Mush/Onion \$6.25 ea or 3/\$18.00 _____
 Supreme \$7.25 ea or 3/\$21.00 _____

TOTAL COST OF ORDER _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER, AND HAPPY EATING!

Telephone Prayer Chain Ministry

Situations occur in our lives that can be traumatic. Accidents happen, health issues arise, family problems occur, emergencies happen. When these things become an issue, we as a church family would like to quickly be able to support the people being affected by these situations, through prayer.

One way to do this is to be a part of our telephone prayer chain. If you would like to be on one of the groups in our telephone prayer chain, please fill out the form below and put it in the offering plate, or leave it on the secretary's desk in the office.

Our current Telephone Prayer Chain list hasn't been updated since August of 2004, so now is your opportunity to become a part of this ministry.

Here's how the telephone prayer chain works: People who sign up to be on the prayer chain are assigned to a group. When a prayer request, emergency situation, etc. is called into the church office, our church administrative assistant, office assistant, or pastor, will call the first person in each group. The first person will then call the second person, the second person will call the third person, and so on down the line. The last person in each group will call the first person in their group to report that the chain for that group has been completed.

I would like to be a part of the Telephone Prayer Chain Ministry.

Name _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Work Telephone Number _____

Work Days and Hours _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Please call me: anytime mornings afternoons
 evenings

Church Fun Night Caroling Sunday, December 16 4:00 – 7:00 pm

All are welcome to join us as we bring a little holiday cheer to our friends that aren't able to come to church at this time.

We will return to church after caroling for a barbeque supper, Christmas cookies and fellowship.

Mix and Match.
All will be sold at \$5.00 per pound.

Sponsored by the Nurture Committee

Proceeds will go toward the
Middle School winter retreat and
the Sr. High summer mission trip.

Cookie Walk Sale

Saturday, December 8, 2007
9:00 – 11:00 am

Immanuel UMC Lounge

A large variety of Christmas Cookies
and Candies will be available.

Choose as many or as few as you want.