

The Heavenly Messenger

Summer 2011 Edition

Playing in Worship?

This article, by Joan Chittister, highlights the value of play. So often, we think play is silly, but it is absolutely important! Worship is sometimes thought of by people who think about worship a lot as play—like children play house and learn from that play, we play in worship and learn in that play what it means to be part of the kingdom of God. More important than that, we take time to do “nothing important” and in doing that, we give space for recreation! This summer, as we gather to do silly things like draw on the sidewalk in chalk or paint or play with play-doh, or whatever else we do, take the time to participate! Laugh at yourself and others and find in that laughter, God's healing, freeing, moving Spirit recreating in you. - Pr. Lena

On Your Mark, Get Set, Play

The British painter Charles Hunt knew something about life that he apparently also knew was worth passing on in vivid, soft and whimsical imagery, in images that stick to the soul. In his famous work *The House of Cards*, Hunt teases us with it. At first, the painting seems to be nothing more than a kind of domestic snapshot. Until we look again.

There, behind the placid rendition of children playing, Hunt's oil painting gives us a variation of what has become one of life's givens: "the family that prays together, stays together," we say. True enough. But Hunt puts a parallel point on the essence of what it means to have a happy life. He paints for the world to see: "the family, the group, the couple, the persons that play together, stay together."

In a highly-productive consumer society, it is a lesson dearly to be learned.



Here we see again what far too many of us forgot far too long ago: there is something about taking the time to do nothing important that is important. Play washes ambition out of the soul. Instead, it is about doing something simply for the pure joy of doing it. For one brief moment in the midst of striving to stay alive, there is no product to be produced, no personal gain to be sought, nothing to prove. That may be why childhood is so largely devoted to play, to the exhilaration of aimlessness. It is the one period in life when we are allowed to wallow in the understanding that just being alive is enough for us. No money or medals needed. No evaluations expected. No better or worse implied.

Play releases the mind to think outside the boundaries of both the self and the society that shapes us. It teaches us the joy of freedom and gives us the right to break all the rules: we can dirty our shoes, laugh out loud, slide in the grass and blow bubbles to nowhere and no one will care. It enables us to stop taking ourselves too seriously, an insight of eternal importance if we are to live well with others and be able to bear our own failures later when being able to fail becomes our greatest success in life.

We learn, too, that, in the end, life is itself a "house of cards" built to collapse—however much the strain or tension, skill or concentration we give it as we go. Play exposes us to the fact that there is nothing we ever do in life, however high we go in the process, that is permanent. Only that simple lesson itself is permanent. And, in the end, that may well be enough to carry us calmly and expectantly from one of life's games to the next

Salem Community Child Care Center

June Recap: The preschoolers have celebrated their graduation/moving up day by performing their rendition of the **Three Little Pigs**. The children had a blast putting on their show for all the families to enjoy. Congratulations Ethan, Ethan C., Jaelyn, Kaiden and Zahra you are now big Kindergarteners!! We have attached some photos below of the children's performance ENJOY!

July News: The school year has officially ended and the children are excited to begin the Summer Fun program. We have many cool and exciting activities/ field trips and excursions planned for the older, younger and preschool groups. Some of the places we will be going to this summer are, The Roger Williams Zoo, the Essex Steam Train, The New Britain Art Museum and KidCity to name a few.



Pastor Lena's Installation



A special thanks to all who participated in the installation! I can't possibly list everyone who helped out, because there were many. There were those who organized and brought the food, who brought down the altar and all the other bits and pieces from each church, those who helped arrange chairs and make sure the tent was set up, and there were those who participated in the worship service itself—and then there was the band and the choir! (I have colleagues who have told me that they were amazed at the music and that they'd like to steal the band...) Special thanks to all of you in the choir and the band for your work—I know that you all spent lots of time and energy preparing the anthem and the rest of the congregational song! Finally, I would like to extend a special thanks to Peter Meleschnig, Andy San Angelo, Budge Gabrielson, Allan Wood, Nancy Goudreau, and Katie Gabrielson who dedicated a whole lot of time and were all incredibly integral in the organization and supervision of everything. It was a beautiful, Spirit filled service and I am so very, very honored and glad to be your pastor. Peace and all good, Pr. Lena

This Fall: Small Groups!

Beginning in September, we would like to start a series of small group studies!

The first study is a book called *Dangerous Wonder: The Adventure of Childlike Faith* by Michael Yaconnelli. The small group(s) that study this book would meet together over a series of ten weeks, meeting each week to talk about one chapter (they're short chapters!). Small groups are generally informal and can meet at people's homes, in coffee shops (Tina's is quite open to hosting one), or at the church, or really anywhere people feel comfortable!

To entice you a bit, the chapter titles of this book are:

“Introduction: The Place All Children Know About”;

“1: Dangerous Wonder”;

“2: Risky Curiosity”;

“3: Wild Abandon”;

“4: Daring Playfulness”;

“5: Wide-eyed Listening”;

“6: Irresponsible Passion”;

“7: Happy Terror”;

“8: Naïve Grace”;

And “9: Childlike Faith.”



In each chapter, Mike Yaconnelli takes aspects of the best parts of childlikeness and reminds us of how really fun it was sometimes. Then, once recapturing the joy of those moments, he applies them to our relationship with God, filling out what it means to be “children of the heavenly Father.” As the back of the book says, “You'll be encouraged to ask difficult questions about faith and take Jesus at His word when He says, 'Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'”

Though, what you might find in Jesus' statement after reading this book is that Jesus' words are so much more a promise of joy and freedom rather than some sort of impossible demand to be obeyed!

Please consider joining the study. If you would like to participate, contact Pr. Lena (pastorjlana@gmail.com or 203-632-9393) by the 14th of August (so she can order the books). We will work out the meeting schedule of the groups based on the schedules of those interested!

Bible-a-Month Club

Thank you to
the following for sponsoring
a donation to
the American Bible Society

June – Mary Lou Sharon
July – Terri Meleschnig
August – Pastor Lena



Morning Prayer

Thursdays at 9am, Pastor Lena will be praying morning prayer for the community of Naugatuck, for Salem and Immanuel, and for other needs that are lifted up. All are invited to join her, either by coming to Morning prayer or by praying where you are during that time. Please join us as we pray!

*Thank you to our chefs,
Andy and Budge,
for the pancakes on
Faster Morning!*



Facebook

Immanuel and Salem now have a joint facebook page! If you are on facebook, go like "The Naugatuck Lutherans"! Also, I have a FB page and if you would like to friend me, you are more than welcome (<http://facebook.com/pastor.lena.warren>), but I understand that some people might not want to be friends with the pastor, so I have started making it a habit of not making friend requests myself. - Pastor Lena



Pastor's Blog

<http://jabbokdawn.wordpress.com>. Pastor Lena now has a blog! On the blog, you will find archived "Something to think about"s from the elle mail, newsletter articles, and sermons. There will also be occasional extra reflections that you are most welcome to read! Please feel free to check it out! If you have a blog, forward on the address to the office and Pastor can add you to her blogroll!

Food Bank Needs Help!!

The Food Bank is in need of a truck to pick up food on Tues. morning (or a large van).
Need to be at the Ct. Food Bank in Waterbury at 8:30, shop 8:30 until 9, load and come to the Food Bank. Please contact Kate/Budge Gabrielson or Gerhard Roland for more info.



Naugatuck - Beacon Falls ECUMENICAL FOOD BANK



School is out and that means no school lunches.

Current needs: soup, 100% juice, jello, toilet tissue, instant potatoes, strawberry jelly, canned pears, pineapple, mandarin oranges (not mixed fruit)

(Please bring your donations to church)

NEON Summer Lunch 4 Kids



The Naugatuck Ecumenical Outreach Network will once again be offering a FREE summer lunch program on the Naugatuck Green.

Bag lunches will be given out Monday through Friday from 12-1 pm, starting Monday July 4 (yes, July 4th!) and ending on Friday August 26th.

Lunch will include a sandwich, yogurt, fruit, beverage and dessert.

If it is a challenge to keep your children fed throughout the summer, please call NOW to reserve a space for your child. 203-464-9614



Mobile Food Pantry Delivery

CT Food Bank will be delivering a variety of fresh products for a free distribution to limited income households.

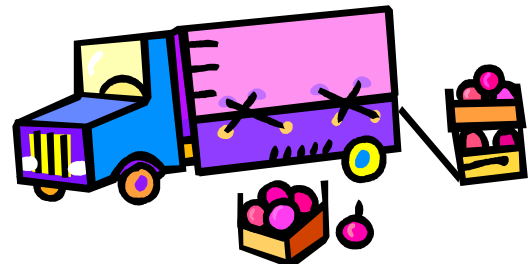
First Thursday of every month at 10:30am

PAL parking lot, 64 division street, Waterbury

For more information call:

LT. Cizauskas/Officer Robinson (203)346-3921

Please bring bags to carry your items



Summer Fun at Vacation Bible School

Sponsored by

The Gardener of Naugatuck:

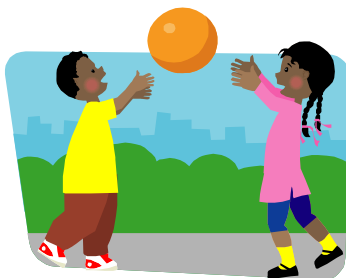
A Cooperative of

Salem & Immanuel Lutheran Churches

Monday-Friday

July 18-22, 2011

Expertly trained staff from Calumet Lutheran Camp will be at Salem and Immanuel Lutheran Churches to provide the best Vacation Bible School experience your child can have!



Please share this message with friends, family or neighbors, you do not have to be a member of either congregation to participate.



Takes place at

Immanuel * 170 Coen St * Naugatuck

Phone: 203-729-3493

9 am-4 pm VBS

8 am-9 am Drop Off ~ 4 pm-5 pm Pick-up

Ages 6-14: \$30 for full day

Ages 4-5: \$15 for half day

JULY 2011 CALENDAR

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | Cub Scouts 6:30pm (S) | OA 11am-12pm (I) |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9:30am Worship(S) Adult Bible Study | Office Closed | OA 7-8pm (I) Immanuel Church Council Meeting 7pm | OA 12-1pm (I) AA 7:30-9pm (I) Choir 6pm (I) | Morning Prayer 9am (I) Meeting at Pastor's House 7pm – websites AA 8-9:30pm (I) Girl Scouts 7pm (S) | Cub Scouts 6:30pm (S) | OA 11am-12pm (I) 11am – Wedding of Lynne Kalish and Michael Milazza (S) |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 9:30am Worship(S) Coffee Hour by Thrivent Adult Bible Study | ACOA 7:30-9pm (I) Boy Scouts 7:30pm (S) | OA 7-8pm (I) | OA 12-1pm (I) AA 7:30-9pm (I) Choir 6pm (I) | Morning Prayer 9am (I) AA 8-9:30pm (I) Girl Scouts 7pm (S) | Cub Scouts 6:30pm (S) | OA 11am-12pm (I) |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 9:30am Worship(S) Adult Bible Study | ACOA 7:30-9pm (I) Boy Scouts 7:30pm (S) | OA 7-8pm (I) | OA 12-1pm (I) AA 7:30-9pm (I) Salem Church Council Meeting 6:30pm (S) | Morning Prayer 9am (I) AA 8-9:30pm (I) Girl Scouts 7pm (S) | Cub Scouts 6:30pm (S) | OA 11am-12pm (I) Angel Food Pick up 8am -10 am (I) |
| Vacation Bible School at Immanuel | | | | | | |
| 24/31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| July 24 - 9:30am Worship(S) July 31 – 9:30am Ecumenical Service on the Green | ACOA 7:30-9pm (I) Boy Scouts 7:30pm (S) | OA 7-8pm (I) | OA 12-1pm (I) AA 7:30-9pm (I) | Morning Prayer 9am (I) AA 8-9:30pm (I) Girl Scouts 7pm (S) | Cub Scouts 6:30pm (S) | On Calendar: Immanuel (I) Salem (S) |

AUGUST 2011 CALENDAR

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | ACOA 7:30-9pm (I) Boy Scouts 7:30pm (S) | Office Closed OA 7-8pm (I) Immanuel Church Council Meeting 7pm (I) | OA 12-1pm (I) AA 7:30-9pm (I) Choir 6pm (I) | Morning Prayer 9am (I) AA 8-9:30pm (I) Girl Scouts 7pm (S) | Cub Scouts 6:30pm (S) | OA 11am-12pm (I) |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 9:30am Worship(I) | ACOA 7:30-9pm (I) Boy Scouts 7:30pm (S) | OA 7-8pm (I) | OA 12-1pm (I) AA 7:30-9pm (I) Choir 6pm (I) | Morning Prayer 9am (I) AA 8-9:30pm (I) Girl Scouts 7pm (S) | Cub Scouts 6:30pm (S) | OA 11am-12pm (I) Earth Day Cleanup 10am-2pm (I) |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 9:30am Worship(I) | ACOA 7:30-9pm (I) Boy Scouts 7:30pm (S) | OA 7-8pm (I) | OA 12-1pm (I) AA 7:30-9pm (I) | AA 8-9:30pm (I) Girl Scouts 7pm (S) | Cub Scouts 6:30pm (S) | OA 11am-12pm (I) |
| Pastor Lena's Vacation | | | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 9:30am Worship(I) | ACOA 7:30-9pm (I) Boy Scouts 7:30pm (S) | OA 7-8pm (I) Joint Church Council Meeting 7pm (I) | OA 12-1pm (I) AA 7:30-9pm (I) Choir 6pm (I) | Morning Prayer 9am (I) AA 8-9:30pm (I) Girl Scouts 7pm (S) | Cub Scouts 6:30pm (S) | OA 11am-12pm (I) |
| Pastor Lena's Vacation | | | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| 9:30am Worship(I) | ACOA 7:30-9pm (I) Boy Scouts 7:30pm (S) | OA 7-8pm (I) | | | | On Calendar: Immanuel (I) Salem (S) |

Vision

We are a blessed and inspired people of prayer

Salem Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

To Proclaim Christ through Worship, Fellowship,
and Caring for our Neighbor!

Focus

Ministry to Families, Children/Youth, the Elderly,
and the Poor

Vision

Loving, Growing, Healing, Rejoicing in Rebirth

Immanuel Lutheran Church

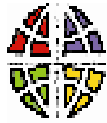
Mission Statement

Faithful and welcoming, called by God and led by
the Holy Spirit we are active in spiritual growth,
fellowship, education, service and outreach.

Focus

We invite and enable youth, members, friends and
community to become active in the faith and works
of Christianity.

praise and promise!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

170 Coen Street
Naugatuck, CT 06770

Salem Lutheran Church

14 Salem Street
Naugatuck, CT 06770

Our Staff

Rev J. Lena Warren, Pastor
Tammee Gardiner, Administrative Assistant
Marti Peterson, Music Director at Immanuel

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