

# IMMANUELITE

July 2018

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**Pastor John Sharp**

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For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. –Romans 3:28

There seems to be a recurring misunderstanding of the Reformation among Lutherans. We have a pretty good grasp that Lutherans were trying to get away from Roman Catholicism. After that understandings among laypeople diverge as to what the Reformation was all about. Such diverging misunderstandings of the Reformation usually come out when we are talking about something else besides the Reformation. For example in discussing worship some Lutheran laypeople object to chanting. When they voice their objection to chanting they indicate that Lutherans have always tried to get away from Roman Catholics. Such statements assume that chanting is Roman Catholic. This probably arises from a person's experience. In other words Lutherans in the United States are accustomed to Roman Catholics chanting and not Lutherans.

The problem with the objection is that chanting is a cosmetic. In other words it is a matter of executing the Divine Service in a certain way. According to the Word of God it is not substantive (except if one considers Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 in which case chanting gives us a means of fulfilling the Scripture command to sing the Psalms). If this was all the Reformation was about then it was not about much. And one would be hard pressed to convince me that the people of Europe were so obtuse that the 30 Years War and the 100 Years War which had Reformation issues as part of their motivation were primarily about chanting.

Then some lay people get a little closer to the truth when they talk about saints or purgatory. They will say things that imply that the big difference between Lutherans and Catholics is that Catholics pray to saints and we do not and Catholics believe in purgatory and we do not. This is slightly better because these issues have bearing on the issues that were at play during the Reformation, but these are not the heart and soul of what the Reformation was about. These are only two issues that were changed because of the main issues that the Reformation was about.

So let me just tell you, the main issue in the Reformation was this: is a person justified before God by grace through faith without the works of the law or with the works of the law. Roman Catholics and Lutherans agree that we are saved by grace through faith. The point of difference is whether or not good works are required from the sinner by God in order to be justified in His sight. The Roman Catholics say yes. The Lutherans say no.

And that is no small dispute. A lot of church practices hinge on this. Do you have to do something to make up for your sins before God? Roman Catholics say yes. Lutherans say no. Is worship a way of making up for your sins before God. Roman Catholics say yes. Lutherans say no. Is it possible to atone for your sins? Roman Catholics say yes. Lutherans say no. These are only a few examples of how church practice changes from one confession to the other.

Behind the main dispute over good works is a secondary one: by what authority do you decide who is right? Does the Bible decide it? Or does the pope decide it? Is the pope a legitimate authority in the Church? Is the Bible alone sufficient for Church authority? These were and are real questions that must be answered. When it comes to something as important as justification in the

eyes of God, one must know what one is talking about. One cannot afford to be wrong. Therefore the authority with which one speaks must be iron clad.

The fact that the main issue in the Reformation is justification with or without works of the law means that it is easy to move from Lutheranism to Roman Catholicism. Lutherans do it all the time. Any time a Lutheran says something that indicates that he thinks he has to make up for his sins to God is a move from Lutheranism to Roman Catholicism. Any time a Lutheran seems to say that prayer is a means for propitiating God's wrath or that prayer is the reason why God forgives sin, the Lutheran is moving away from Lutheranism (and the Bible) and into Roman Catholicism.

The classic example is the old teaching that suicide is unforgivable because the person who committed suicide did not have a chance to repent. This old "Lutheran" teaching is based upon the notion that repentance is something that a sinner does for God and since he cannot do it when he is dead and suicide is the last act of any person who commits it and suicide is a sin, therefore suicide must damn. But the Bible nowhere speaks of suicide in this fashion. To understand repentance in this way as a good work that you must do in order to obtain forgiveness is the same thing as saying you do a good work, in this case repentance, in order to make up for your sins. That is Roman Catholicism, plain and simple.

Purgatory as a belief that you get to make up for your sins by enduring punishment after you are dead fits with the notion of justifying yourself before God by your good works. Praying to the saints and asking them for help with their leftover good works is a by product of the same notion. But chanting has nothing to do with any of this. And if you think that chanting means that we are saved by our good works, I must ask, how do you make that association? Is it simply because Roman Catholics chant? And if that is the case why do we focus on a cosmetic association with Roman Catholicism and say we cannot do that lest we appear to embrace justification by good works, when we have embraced justification by good works for years with our false teaching regarding suicide?

The trick with any confession of faith is to keep the main thing the main thing and not get lost in the side issues. The main thing is justification before

God. Everything from our everlasting salvation to our sanctification in this life hinges on it.

Because of Jesus,  
Pastor



G.R.O.W., a Christian ecumenical men's group in the Newman/Broadlands area, will meet Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at Newman Christian Church. All interested Christian men in the area are invited to attend the meeting, which begins with breakfast at 7:00am and includes a devotion and a spiritually uplifting topic or speaker each month. There is no charge for the meeting, although opportunity is given for a free-will offering, which is used in various ways to serve others in the community and beyond.





Those celebrating the anniversary of their Baptism into God's Holy Family during the month of July include:

- 1- Kerrylynn Humphrey  
Damien Budde
- 2- Matthew Schweineke  
Moses Place  
Elijah Orwick
- 3- Steve Smith
- 4- Deana Wolf
- 5- Julie Beck  
William Hopkins
- 6- Nora Slater
- 7- Sara Taylor
- 9- Phil Wiese
- 10- Jeffrey Wright
- 11- Ann Luth  
Craig Negangard
- 12- Glenna Boyd  
Mark Luedke  
Rick Snider
- 17- Mindy Luth
- 18- Christopher Renfrow
- 20- Shelby Corray  
Cody Reed
- 22- Stuart Wolf  
Zoe Goetting
- 24- Jacob Naese  
Constance Herriott
- 26- Steven Block  
Linda Campbell  
Barbara Geredes  
Allison Smith
- 27- Helen (Eugene) Luth
- 28- Cameron Finn  
Hillary Wienke
- 29- Siv Schwink
- 30- George Gruschow



The Ladies Sewing Group usually meets the first Monday of the month and enjoy sewing and sharing a wonderful meal together at noon. They will meet on Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come join us for a great day of fellowship.



Remember to save those printer cartridges. Turn them in at the office. We will recycle them and use the money to offset office expenses. The recycle company is now accepting old cell phones also. If you want to discard them, you may drop them at the office also. Thanks and happy recycling. Go Green!



The Knitting Group will meet Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm. Please join us and help make blankets.



Ethan Alexander March is baptized on June 10, 2018 in a private service. He was born April 10, 2000. Parents are Hank and Krista McComas March.



**Confirmation**

Henry M. March  
204 Elm Box 93  
Allerton, IL 61810  
217-714-8234  
2/14/71  
Rev. 22:13

Krista Kay McComas March  
204 Elm Box 93  
Allerton, IL 61810  
217-714-8235  
kkmarch89@gmail.com  
5/17/70  
Proverbs 3:27

Ethan Alexander March  
204 Elm Box 93  
Allerton, IL 61810  
217-552-0588  
4/10/00  
Psalm 16:8

**SPECIAL DATES**

- \*Canada Day, July 1, 2018
- \*Independence Day, July 4, 2018



We have a collection box to help the schools by collecting Betty Crocker Boxtops and Campbell Soup labels. We will take our collection at the end of the school year and divide them among the schools that our students attend. This helps the schools purchase items that help the students. The collection box is on the red board in the hallway.



The following address changes are for the regular directory or the picture directory, so please make changes as needed:

Taylor Wienke to Taylor Hughes

Heather March  
854 CR 2100 E  
Sidney, IL 61877

Janice Thompson  
1106 E. Northline Rd Apt 36  
Tuscola, IL 61953  
217-264-1856

We need the address for the following. If you know how to reach them, please let the office know.

- Kent Beck- phone number
- JoAnn Stahl- phone number
- Roy Wakefield- phone number
- Kerry Wienke- phone number
- Ann Wright
- Steve Stone- phone number
- Hillary Wienke- phone number
- Lauren Rardin- phone number
- Tracy Cokley- phone number
- Joselyn Howell
- Todd & Jennifer Buchanon
- Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Budde
- Mr. & Mrs. Dave Kelly
- Steve Messman- phone number
- Mr. & Mrs. Brian O'Donnell
- Austin Payne- phone number
- Mary Payne- phone number
- Beth Peregrine- phone number
- Rebecca Rahe
- Ryan Rahe
- Kathy Richter



Immanuelite articles will be due in the office on, Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like something in the newsletter, drop off or email your articles. It would be much appreciated if the boards would update the office on calendar events and meeting dates for each month. Thanks!!



...Sunday, July 1st, we will hold our second of four "Building Fund" offerings. This money is used to repairs and maintenance of the building. Use the "Building Fund" envelope in the bulletin. Put "Building Fund" in the memo line with your number.



We live in a time where we expect immediate gratification. We are impatient if we are put on hold. Our blood pressure begins to rise if we are in line at the drive up for more than 2 minutes. Our internet connections need to be faster and faster. We eat fast foods, we microwave our meals in minutes. We have a hard time enjoying the moment because we're already anticipating the next.

The constant rushing keeps our body in a "flight or fight" stage. Our body adapts to the high levels of adrenaline coursing through our veins. But over time this constant accelerated state can take its toll on blood vessel walls, on major organs and on our sense of well being. Great athletes know that they must balance their workouts with ample amounts of rest in order to give their best performance. Balance is the key. On the seventh day even God rested! While we are to be about

the work God has for us to do we also need to pause and appreciate the beauty of His World and His people around us. Perhaps if we slowed down for even a moment we might hear God speaking to us: "Be still and know that I am God."

Scriptures for the day:

Matthew 11:28. "Come to me...and I will give you rest. " Psalm 23:3. He restoreth my soul.

Psalm 62:1. My soul finds rest in God alone.

Isaiah 32:18. My people will live...in undisturbed places of rest.

Listen for God's voice this week.

Sincerely in Christ, your Parish Nurses,  
Tiffany Paul and Jody Farmer



## Thank You Notes

To my church family Immanuel,

I am so thankful for all your support and love for my whole life, but especially during my college years and continuing the path God has for me in ministry now. God has blessed me so much because of all of you.

When I graduated last year you donated to my student loan debt. It was enough to cover 5 months of my loans! Which is amazing!

I cannot thank you enough for the relief this brings me!

Because of Christ, Grace

## Congregational Meeting



Sunday, July 29th we will hold our quarterly vote's meeting. It will be immediately after the divine service. We would like all voter's to attend to discuss this about the church. If you are not a voter and would like to be one, see John Naese or Pastor in advance.



Special thanks to Mark Luedke, Robert Benschneider and John Rothermel for changing the drape during the Lenten season.

Altar Guild



**Minutes of 4/26/18 Council Meeting**

John called the meeting to order at 8:01pm

Pastor gave opening devotions.

Minutes from the 3/22 council meeting were read and approved. Chris moved to approve the minutes, Steve seconded the motion and minutes were approved.

Board Reports

Evangelism- none

Stewardship none

Lay Ministry- Chris reported the Board of Lay Ministry received an incoming transfer request from Sharon Lacquet & William and Maria Hopkins from Trinity in Danville. Gary made motion to approve transfer, Steve seconded, motion passed.

Trustee's- Robert reported the Lighted LED cross is not repairable. It won't feed power through it. They need to remove and reinstall the lighting. The column that holds up the cross is crumbling. Received a bid of \$1370/day from a mason, Dave Phillips to do the repair of the column. He also gave a bid of \$825

to do the window and chimney repairs needed on the parsonage. Gary made motion to hire Dave Phillips to do the repair of the church column and parsonage repairs. Steve seconded, motion passed.

The porch on the parsonage is crumbling and needs to be addressed. Trustee's received bids to replace concrete porch with a deck. A patio option has been brought up and will be looked into as well.

Worship- Jay Hageman reported the screens in the church aren't serving the entire congregation well. A few options were discussed and it was council's recommendation to the voters to move forward with the \$25k quote to replace the current screens with new and bigger screens (87x116) as well as replacing the current projectors which have twice the lumens and purchase the camera to display the front of the church on the screens.

Education- None

Treasurer- Gary gave treasurers report. The Dishwasher was purchased for the parsonage on the credit card. There are some more expenses in comparison to last year but only due to timing issues. Thing were paid earlier this year than they were paid last year.

Jay moved to approve board reports and Chris seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor gave his report.

Old Business- None

New Business- None

The meeting was adjourned with Pastor giving a blessing.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sarah Andresen-Secretary



If sum

If summer storms make you or a loved one nervous, the perspective one mom offered her young son might help. Though lightning can be harmful, God created it for good: The powerful electricity converts unusable nitrogen to nitrate, which plants need for growth and human bodies use to produce proteins.

In regards to today's building fund offering, the trustees would like to bring the attention of the congregation to repairs needing to be completed to the limestone column that supports the exterior lighted cross on the church. Several months ago the red lights on the exterior cross of the church stopped working. The trustees brought out a crew to make repairs, but they found the lights could not be fixed. This work crew also found significant structural damage to the column that the cross is mounted to. The cross is bolted to the limestone column, but over the years the wind has caused the cross to sway back and forth. This swaying has caused numerous mortar joints in the column to break and could result in some of the limestone blocks or the cross falling down. The trustees arranged to the lighted cross to be taken down, until the limestone column can be repaired.

The boy was still uncertain, so Mom continued. "Did you know there's lightning in heaven?" (see the description of John's vision in Revelation 4:5.) "And nothing in heaven can hurt," said the boy, catching on.

Mom added, "Plus, lightning reminds me that Jesus is coming. Matthew (24:27, NIV) says, 'As lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.'"

This summer, as lightning brightens the sky, reassure yourself- or a child- of lightning's purpose and wonder.



Ezra Benjamin Orwick was baptized on July 1, 2018. He was born at Covenant Hospital November 13, 2017 the son of Jacob Orwick and Kaylie Coleman Orwick. Sponsors for Ezra are Christian Coleman and Edward and Anna Maher.

The trustees have sought bids to have the limestone column repaired, but this will be quite expensive. The blocks on the limestone column need to be removed down to the mounting points of the cross, the internal structure examined and/or repaired, and the limestone block reinstalled. The bids to complete the masonry repairs will be approximately \$7,500.00 and the bids to replace the red lights on the cross are \$3,200.00. There may also be some unforeseen expenses if there is internal structural damage to the column.

It is the hope of the trustees that once repairs can be made to the column, that the cross can be safely reinstalled with new red lights and additional bracing to eliminate it swaying in the wind. Please consider making monetary donations to the building fund so these much needed repairs can be made. If you have any questions please speak to one of the trustees.

