
IMMANUELITE

February 2011

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FROM THE PASTOR

Some of you may have watched the memorial service at the University of Arizona in Tucson or at least parts of it. At many of these memorial services there is obviously some politics going on because politicians are doing the talking. Therefore it was surprising when some of the members of the President's cabinet spoke.

Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, got up to the podium. She made a few remarks about the violence in Tucson. Then she went on to say these words: "Comfort, comfort, my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

"A voice says, 'Cry!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

"Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of

Judah, 'Behold your God!' Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him. He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young....

"Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when He blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

"To whom then will you compare Me, that I should be like him?' says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see; who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of His might, and because He is strong in power not one is missing.

"Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:1-11, 21-31)

Then she said, "This is the Word of the Lord." I did not hear anyone wise enough to reply, "Thanks be to God." Perhaps there were some there who did, but I could not hear them over the broadcast that I was watching.

Then Attorney General Eric Holder went up to the podium. He made no introductory remarks except to tell us that "Saint Paul writes...." Then he proceeded with his reading. "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying around in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

"Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke,' we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." (2Corinthians 4:8-18)

Then he said, "This is the Lord's Word." Again I could not hear anyone respond in the broadcast that I was listening to. After that the President spoke.

I am not certain if I have the exact verses that each secretary spoke. I do know that Secretary Napolitano was doing Isaiah 40, but whether or not she read every last word of it I do not remember, but it seems unlikely. And whether or not I got the exact right verse where Attorney General Holder began his reading and ended on the verse

he ended is uncertain also, but I do know that it was 2Corinthians 4 and that he read the part about Jesus being raised and us being raised with Him. I also used the ESV to quote them. Whether or not they used the ESV also, I don't recall.

It surprised me to hear members of the President's cabinet simply reading the Scripture without comment. I am often loathe at politicians saying anything spiritual or religious. First of all, a lot of what gets said is inaccurate. Secondly, even if they say something spiritually correct it is not their vocation to say them. Their vocation is to administer affairs of state, not teach religion.

But then they were at a memorial service. People died in that shooting. Many more were injured. In the face of death politicians have nothing to say. They have no comfort in their vocation to bring. In the face of death the only comfort that can be brought is the comfort of the Scriptures, the Word of the Lord. Death left even them with no alternative but to appeal to the Lord's Word.

Because of Jesus,
Pastor



FIRST MONDAY SEWING

The ladies battled the winter weather in January and got back to sewing. A new project is on the drawing board and we will try to make a decision on how to make it work.

If you are looking for something new to tackle in the New Year we have just the thing for you. We can always use a new face and extra hands. New ideas are always a plus.

**Don't forget February 7th
at 9:00 and remember we
are usually done around
3:00.**



The donut sign up sheet for February- April is on the bulletin board. Thanks to all who volunteered. Please pick a Sunday that you are able to pick them up. The donuts are available at the Homer Country Market. Thanks for helping with this and join us for fellowship!



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

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

- 1- Loretta Schultz
- 4- Fred Keehner
Jennifer Keehner
Paula Keehner
- 7- Wesley Luth
Rosie Orwick
- 10- Ginna Stierwalt
- 11- Caroline Dohme
Dylan Dohme
Jacob Dohme
- 14- Elyse Wolf
Kyle Beck
- 19- Jordan Rahe
- 21- Doris Freeman
Morgan Finn
Anthony Roberts
- 22- Rita Hendershot
Tammy Grafton
Mary Ann Rohl
Abigail Teague
- 23- Irma Clem
- 24- Nancy Aden
Danielle Ireland
Paula Mohr
- 25- Jean Bergmeier
- 27- Sally Goetting



CHURCH
DIRECTORY Here are the directory changes to date. Thank you!

Bryce & Kayley Compton
2401 Hampshire Dr. Apt. 13
Champaign, IL 61820
217-840-1655

Lance Kingston
906 W. Clark St. Apt. 2
Urbana, IL. 61801

Tammy Grafton
210 Vine St.
Villa Grove, IL 61956
217-637-1261

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Russo
103 Wilshire Dr.
Tuscola, IL 61953-7834

I do not have correct address for the following. If you know how to reach them, please let the office know.

Kathy Richter
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Kelly
Rebecca Rahe
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Laws
Mr. & Mrs. Brian O'Donnell
Karl Dach-Gruschow
Joselyn Howell
Ryan Rahe



G.R.O.W., a Christian ecumenical men's group in the Newman/Broadlands area, will meet Sunday, February 6th 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 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.



We have a collection box to help the schools by collecting Betty Crocker Boxtops. 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 at the guest registration podium in the entrance hallway.



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!

Special Dates

- *African-American History month
- *Boy Scout Sunday, February 13, 2011
- *Valentine's Day, February 14, 2011
- *Presidents' Day, February 21, 2011



The knitwits chose not to venture out in the winter weather for January. Next month we will be back to our knitting. We will meet on Monday, February 21st at 7:00 pm. Join us if you would like to help.



Thanks to *Bill Taylor, Don Clem, Willard Rothermel and Diane & Caleb Bundy* for picking up the donuts for January.



Keep the 34th Biennial LWML Convention in your prayers. Pray that the Lord will bless all the preparations for the convention. May His will be done in everything we do. Those who have sent in the Call for Workers Forms will be getting their assignments in March or April. The assignments will be coming by mail or e-mail. The special coupons for a discounted registration fee will come later in the Spring for those "Workers" who have submitted proper forms to work 2-four hour shifts during the convention. Send in your registration after you get your coupon. Pass the word, invite friends, neighbors and family to come to the Peoria Civic Center, June 23-26, and be a part of this uplifting event. Come to Peoria and spend time "Being with Jesus-Living on the Edge."



Immanuelite articles will be due in the office on, Friday, February 18th. 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!!





The 2011 flower calendar is up. Please select the dates you would like for flowers on the altar for your special occasion. We will order the flowers from Blossom Basket and they will bill you direct. We will put an announcement in the bulletin with your special occasion.



Bodie Katahdin Dahlenburg was baptized during the service, January 9, 2011. Bodie was born September 25, 2010 at 8:11 am at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, IL. He is the son of Robert & Jessica Hull Dahlenburg. Sponsors for Bodie were Corissa Miller and Jon Myers.



Dear Friends and Family:

Fitness walking is easy, safe and inexpensive. It's aerobic, it burns calories and it's an ideal fat-burning activity. Walking is an injury-free exercise that is good for all ages and can be easily used as a family time activity that promotes a healthy body, mind and spirit. More than 40 scientific studies have now shown that moderate physical activity like brisk walking develops cardiovascular health and protects against heart disease. Exercising moderately can reduce your chances of having a heart attack by 50%!

Maybe you have gotten the message about

exercising and are taking it seriously. You are up at the crack of dawn, doing your exercises. You are not going to let your heart get weak. You have trimmed the fat from your diet. You get regular cholesterol checks. But you have let your spiritual heart turn to mush. Preoccupied with the temporary, you have neglected the eternal. You seldom read the Bible anymore. Your prayers are lists of request to God to make your life more comfortable and pain-free. By the time you reach the church door after the sermon, you can't recall what the pastor said because you were thinking of something else. If this describes you, it is time to get into a spiritual heart care program.

Taking care of your body makes sense. Make sure you have a balance of caring for the heart both temporary and eternal. To keep physically fit, take a walk. To keep spiritually fit, keep walking with the Lord.

Tip of the month/ Action steps

- Make a daily commitment to read the Bible to strengthen your spiritual heart. Start with the heart verses listed below. Look up other "heart" verses. Commit a "heart" verse to memory.
- Visit the walking.org website and read about motivation, stress reduction, or creating a plan.
- Take a walk/ look for God
- Join or create a walking group with others to keep you motivated

Psalm 139 Acknowledge that God knows all about your heart

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God

Psalm 19:14 Let...the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord

Proverbs 4:23 Keep Your heart with all diligence

Your Parish Nurse,
Tiffany Paul

Blood pressure screenings will be available Feb. 13 and 27 before and after church. Please bring all expired and unused medications to be recycled environmentally safe.



Thank you so much for the generosity and hard work. Our family truly appreciated the luncheon and the effort it took to come out on such a snowy day! The food was wonderful. Please share this with anyone involved... it really meant a lot to us.

The Cable Family



Each year our Central Illinois District Special Religious Education Committee of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod coordinates a training workshop for professionals, lay members, teachers, people with disabilities, parents, etc. on a topic of religious education for and with people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

This year's workshop:

"Life, Therapy, Prayer with People"

Especially people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and/or Behavioral Disabilities will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 2320 North Kickapoo St., Lincoln, IL 62656 on Saturday, February 26, 2011 from 9am-4pm. The Friday evening pre-session is from 7-8:30pm at the same location, topic and speaker TBA.

There is no registration fee. For additional information contact your church office, go to the Central Illinois District web site (www.cidlcms.org), the District office or Linda Schaefer schaeferdeac@aol.com or 217-648-2824.

Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!



Congratulations to Riley H. and Megan pierce on the birth of their second daughter. Laurilei Jae Pierce was born Friday, January 7, 2011 at 12:35 pm. She weighed 9 lbs 2 oz and was 21 ½ inches long. She is welcome home by her sister Miley Jo. Paternal grandparents are Linda Pierce and Wally Pierce.



"THE PATH OF
THE RIGHTEOUS
IS LIKE THE
LIGHT OF DAWN."

PROVERBS 4:18, NRSV



The men's Club held a meeting December 15, 2010 with 9 present. Herb Aden read opening devotion John 1 verses 35-39. The topic was Come See. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved. Treasurers Report-\$1845.77. Don Luth made a motion to send \$500.00 to Seminary in Fort Wayne. Jay Hageman seconded and motion passed. Prior to meeting clothes were loaded in U-Haul truck to be taken to Fort Wayne by Herb Aden and Myron Luth. Alan Wienke moved & Don Clem seconded to spend \$365.00 for U-Haul truck and send \$300.00 to T.I.M. Motion passed. In new business, Don Clem moved and Wayne Long seconded to have a ladies night January 21st at 7:00 pm at the Possum Trot. Motion passed. Herb Aden was going to invite some guests. Alan Wienke moved to have Easter breakfast and a March meeting. Don Luth seconded. Motion passed. Alan Wienke moved and Wayne Long seconded to close meeting with Lord's prayer. Followed by chili supper and gift opening.

Myron Luth



Special Offering

Sunday, February 6, 2011 we will hold a special offering for the "Lutheran Hour" radio program. This money is to help with the running of the programs. You can find a station near you, or tune in anytime by visiting www.lutheranhour.org. Use the special envelopes provided in the bulletin and include "Lutheran Hour" in the memo box on your check. Also provide your number.



Camp Cilca is sponsoring its annual men's Retreat February 25-27, 2011. The retreat, "In the Woods....In the Word" will begin Friday at 6pm through Sunday around 2 pm. A significant part of the retreat will be the service activity of cutting up fallen trees, splitting and hauling firewood. Pastor Rob Mrosko from St. Paul's in Decatur will lead devotions and worship. Other activities include meals and recreation. The cost is \$30.00 which covers lodging, five meals and all activities. Those with equipment are encouraged to bring your own chainsaw and other woodcutting paraphernalia, but it is not necessary to attend the retreat. You will need to bring your own bedding (sleeping bag/pillow) and towels. A Bible is strongly encouraged. For information or to register send an email to camp@cilca.org. You may also go to the www.cilca.org for more information (or call 217-487-7497).



HANG ON!

When a couple received a rose bush as a gift, they planted and cared for it, eagerly waiting for it to bloom. A few months later a bud finally appeared. Day by day, it began to fill out. The couple's anticipation grew when they could see that the rose would be bright red. One day, they were surprised to notice that the green around the bud had been pulled away and the flower petals were apart. They asked their young daughter if she knew what happened. "I just couldn't wait any longer," she said, "so I blossomed it myself." The psalmist tells us to "Wait for the Lord..." (Psalm 27:14). Instead of trying to help God along, let him bring thins to fulfillment in his perfect time.

