
IMMANUELITE

February, 2012

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FROM THE PASTOR

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 1Peter 2:17

This may have come and gone without your noticing it. A member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was before the supreme court recently. Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School were sued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The Hosanna-Tabor School had dismissed one of their teachers. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission brought suit on her behalf because they felt that she had been fired in an unfair manner. The Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran School indicated that under freedom of religion which the Constitution guarantees the school had the right to fire her for violating Missouri Synod practice.

I do not remember the details of what took place between this teacher and this school. I certainly do not wish to print misinformation in the Immanuelite. What I would like to do is highlight the importance of the case.

If the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission had won the case the government would have had the right to enforce on churches a governmental standard of equal employment opportunity, something that I understand the Obama administration would like to see happen. The result of that would be the government insisting that congregations call workers equally based upon race, religion, sex, and

sexual orientation. It could have forced groups like the Missouri Synod and the Roman Catholic Church to ordain women, homosexuals and anyone else that the government felt that the Church was discriminating against.

Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School won the case on a 9-0 vote from the Supreme Court justices. Chief Justice Roberts wrote for the majority. I'll leave it to you to look up what he wrote, but he indicated among other things that religious institutions have the right under the Constitution to choose who it is that advances their mission.

This is a ruling from our heavenly Father. Immanuel and her confession of faith has been left undisturbed by the State. Our confession of faith will continue to guide to whom it is that we extend calls without governmental interference. In this ruling at least the United States shows herself yet to be a godly nation and to have a government that at least on this issue has her vocation correct.

There are still issues left undecided. For example does the Lutheran School janitor advance the mission of the Lutheran School? If so, the school is protected from the government regarding his or her hiring and firing. If not, then he is protected from arbitrary hiring and firing based upon his or her beliefs. That is an interesting problem that I hope we never have to deal with.

Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran School has closed. I am not privy to the circumstances of their closure. I pray that it is not because of the expenses associated with this lawsuit. If it is then they, like their Lord, has paid an awful price to advance the Kingdom of God in this country and

around the world.

Because of Jesus,
Pastor



FIRST MONDAY SEWING

We met on our regular day and worked on quilts to go to Lutheran World Relief next fall. We still have some work to do before they are finished. Also on the agenda were lap robes we are planning to take to the VA Hospital in Danville.

As an added bonus it was decided to meet at the home of Harriett on January 10 and work on the strip quilts for Project Linus. There were five sewing machines working and one person busy cutting and ironing. We finished about 6 blocks for the quilt already started and assembled it. Then we completed 24 blocks which are enough for another quilt. These still need to be assembled.

Everyone had a good time and hope to be able to work an extra day on the Project Linus again soon.

Our next regular sewing day will be February 6 at 9:00. See you then.



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!



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

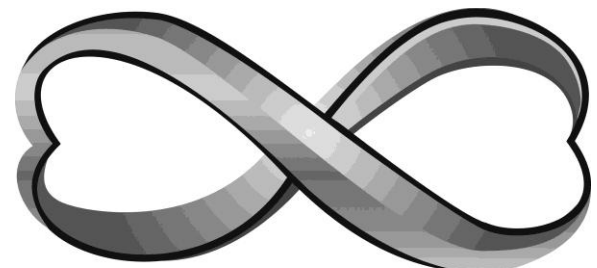
attend. This helps the schools purchase items that help the students. The collection box is at the guest registration podium in the entrance hallway.



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!



G.R.O.W., a Christian ecumenical men's group in the Newman/Broadlands area, will meet Sunday, February 5th 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.



Love Never Ends



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
Hyle Beck
- 19- Jordan Rahe
- 21- Doris Freeman
Morgan Finn
Anthony Roberts
- 22- Rita Hendershot
Tammy Grafton
Mary Ann Rohl
Abigail Teague
- 23- Irma Clem
Robert Rothermel
- 24- Nancy Aden
Danielle Ireland
Paula Mohr
- 25- P. Jean Bergmeier
- 27- Sally Goetting



CHURCH
DIRECTORY

Here are the directory changes to date. Thank you! The new directory is in but as always we have changes already. Here are a few changes that may not be in the new directory.

Gayle Mohr
glymhr45@gmail.com

Rob & Jessica Dahlenburg
1 Village Court
Westville, IL 61883

Ethan Luth
5313 Cosmos Court
Raleigh, NC 27613

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

- Juanita Kresin- phone number
- Tammy Grafton
- Kathy Richter
- Mr. & Mrs. Dave Kelly
- Rebecca Rahe
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Laws
- Mr. & Mrs. Brian O'Donnell
- Ryan Rahe
- Brad Wakefield



This year we have been very busy knitting and crocheting. We have distributed many Afghans to the needy. Crisis Nursery has received 5 blankets, 23 were delivered to the Empty Tomb and 6 were presented to infants at their baptism. Our next meeting will be February 20, 2012 at 7:00 in the library. We would like for you to come and join us.



FROM OUR DCO INTERN-

KATIE MARTIN

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." -Ephesians 2:8-10

2011 was a big year for me, of everything that has happened most notably: I began the year celebrating my first anniversary with Andy, with the help of my friends I stayed on the deans list for the third and fourth semester in a row, went to Belize with a group of strangers, started my internship in a place I would have never expected to go, got engaged to my best friend, and just last month I bought a car. Out of all of these accomplishments I am not most proud of my grades, my job, or even my fiancé. I am the most proud of my car. This probably sounds materialistic and aren't I supposed to be in this world and not of it? Well, this pride has a lot more to do with my parents than the actual car.

I have never really had a car of my own. In High School I drove my sister's car (a '93 Dodge Spirit that was horrible but I miss dearly) and in college I switched on and off between my dad's Tahoe and my mom's Durango. When I went away to school I insisted that I needed a car, which often I did. So my parents, being the wonderful people they are, let me drive their cars. Unfortunately, this left one parent without a car and with tons of kids to shepherd around. My insurance was one more thing they had to pay for, along with interest on one of my loans, and, for a while in college, my braces.

The amazing part is, I never once heard them complain or grumble. The only things I heard on the topic of their support were concerns for me. "Make sure you drive safe." or "We'll pay this so you can afford to grocery shop." are just a couple of the things I heard over and over again. My parent's have this love for me that I honestly do not understand. For the longest time I have felt like I have been sucking them dry with nothing good in return. The crazy thing is, they never asked for anything even when giving me the world and opportunities meant sacrificing in a big way on their part. They have supported me and cared for me out of this amazing,

seemingly selfless love.

Is it any wonder the accomplishment of 2011 that I am most proud of is getting my car? I have finally done something to give back to my parents. I pay my own insurance now, and my dad finally has his car back (admittedly a bit more banged up than when I got it). In a very small way I made life a little easier for them and gave them one less thing to worry about. They never asked for anything in return because they wanted to make sure I would have a good foundation to grow up on. My parents love me so much they have given more than they should have to give me a good life. How could I not want to give them everything back and more?

This desire I have to give to my parents is but a shadow of what I feel for God. My parents selfless love is but a shadow of God's love for me. The Father so loved the world he gave his ONLY begotten Son to save it. The Son so loved his disciples that he got down on his hands and knees and took on the role of a servant for them. The son so loved us that he dragged the cross up to Calvary only to suffer a horrific death with the weight of MY sin on his shoulders. The Holy Spirit chooses to dwell among us, on this earth and in our hearts even though both are broken beyond recognition. That is MY God. My God sacrifices more than I could ever dream of giving back. My God does this for his children who don't understand how badly they need it. My God does all of this because he loves us more than we could ever know. My God, does not inspire lukewarm religion, he inspires life, faith, love and sacrifice. I give as much back to him as I can, not because he asks for it, not to give myself glory, but because I cannot imagine living any day that does not give back to the one who gave me everything and more.

Is this your God?

Love is an action word, God lives his love as our father, a servant, a counselor, and a friend. The question then becomes: Are you living your love? Not because you have to but because you have felt the love of the almighty and cannot imagine any day that does not give back to the one who gave you everything and more! We read Ephesians 2: 8-10 a lot in church and a lot of good things have been said about it. But when I read those words I think of wonderful love.



Immanuelite articles will be due in the office on, Tuesday, February 21st. 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!!



For those doing the two year bible reading, the website for the schedule is www.nelsonbibles.com/admin/uploads/pdfs/ChronologicalReadingPlan.pdf. If you have any questions, contact Linda Pierce.



Dear Family and Friends,
February is Heart Month. This is the time of the year to review Heart Healthy information. Thanks to the American Heart Association, this article will be providing you valuable information for you to use. Also, please pay attention to the church bulletins this month for further information regarding the Simple 7. The Simple 7 helps you stand on the road to good health through seven steps all of us need to follow in order to live a healthy life. The seven steps are Get Active, Eat Better, Lose Weight, Control Cholesterol, Manage Blood Pressure, Reduce Blood Sugar, and Stop Smoking. These sheets will also be displayed the Parish Nurse office.

1. Everybody has and needs blood pressure. However, high blood pressure, or hypertension, is a disease. Even though it typically has no symptoms, HBP can have deadly health consequences if not treated. 76.4 million U.S. adults have been diagnosed with high blood pressure.
2. High cholesterol is one of the major risk factors leading to heart disease, heart

attack and stroke.

3. "Diabetes mellitus," more commonly referred to as "diabetes," is a condition that causes blood sugar to rise to dangerous levels: a fasting blood glucose of 126 milligrams per deciliter (mg/dL) or more. Prediabetes is a condition in which fasting blood glucose (blood sugar) levels are higher than normal but have not quite reached the 126 milligrams/deciliter (mg/dL) threshold considered to be full-blown diabetes. The American Heart Association estimates that 59.7 million Americans 20 years and older have prediabetes.

4. A healthy diet and lifestyle are your best weapons in the fight against heart disease.

5. Studies show that for every hour of walking, life expectancy may increase by two hours. Walking for as few as 30 minutes a day provides heart health benefits. Walking is the single most effective form of exercise to achieve heart health.

Please also look at all the information that the American Heart Association has available, located at www.heart.org.

Your Parish Nurse,

Tiffany Paul

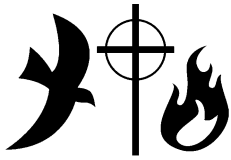
Blood pressure screenings available before and after church February 5 and February 19.



Flower Calendar

The 2012 flower calendar is up. Please select special dates you would like for flowers on the altar for your special occasion. We will order the flowers from Blossom Basket and they will deliver to the church and bill you direct. We will put an announcement in the bulletin with your special occasion.





WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Board of Worship

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Christmas Eve Service. It truly gave God the Glory!

Board of Worship has added ribbons to new hymnals and placed them in use. New ribbons will be added to existing hymnals where needed. Thank you to everyone who joyfully served as a Greeter on Sunday morning. A new Greeter sign up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board for future Sundays. Please sign up for this opportunity to serve our Lord and Immanuel.

The Board is contacting Copyright Holders to acquire permission to use Lift Up Your Hearts songs on our AV screen. Without permission, we cannot use them in this manner. We are looking into suggestions to further utilize our AV system in new ways.

SPECIAL DATES

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 5, 2012
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 19, 2012
- Presidents Day, February 20, 2012
- Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012
- First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2012



Special thanks to *Caleb & Diane Bundy, Don Clem, Inez Brewer, Paul Messman and Bill Taylor* for picking up donuts for January.



Empty Tomb:

The Board of Lay Ministry and Katie are currently working on a planning committee for the 2012 Empty Tomb Mega-Work-A-Thon. The event will be on March 3rd 2012 at three different locations. Empty Tomb is looking for 1500 volunteers and needs to raise 120,000 dollars. People with many gifts are welcome to join and soon registration will be available for 12 different teams including: Assembly, Delivery, Hospitality, Registration, Clean-up, etc. Please consider helping with this event that serves needs right on our own back yard! Questions? Contact Katie Martin, Keith Rohl, or Murray Franzen



Men's Retreat February 24-26

Cutting trees, fixing buildings, and splitting wood are the main focus of our men's retreat. You do not have to be skilled in using a chainsaw, hammer, or a tractor to come to this event. Here at Camp CILCA we are asking for all able bodied men (18 years and older), who have a desire to serve Christ with their own sweat. The cost for this event is \$25.00 and this will help pay for the materials needed to accomplish our goals. Camp CILCA's men's retreat also serves as a wonderful opportunity to explore God's word as we will have morning and evening devotions/Bible studies and conclude with a Sunday worship service in the morning. To register or ask questions email at camp@cilca.org

Summer is coming quickly!!!

The new summer program is available for Camp CILCA on our website at www.cilca.org. Take advantage of our early bird discounts and our new simple store online. Registration is much easier this year. Hope to see you this summer for another great adventure as we explore "Logos" God's word to all people. Any questions feel free to call Rev. Johnson at 217-416-1833.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

BY JACKIE JOINES

Giving an Opportunity or Obligation

As the Apostle Paul traveled to churches, he collected offerings for the Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing hard economic times. When Paul was speaking to the Corinthians, he used the Macedonian believers as an example of people who, in spite of their own economic troubles, gave joyfully to the people in Jerusalem. The Macedonians' love for Christ and their concern for their fellow believers moved them to give beyond their ability. The Macedonians gave themselves first to the Lord, and then, Paul said, they "urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints" (2 Corinthians 8:4). In Christ, they saw their giving as an opportunity to help other believers in need.

Does someone who views giving as an obligation plead for the opportunity to give? Probably not. When giving is an obligation, we will give, but giving as an obligation

will not give us the joy or the attitude of pleading for the privilege to give that the Macedonians had. As God's people, we have both an obligation

and an opportunity. Scripture is clear that we are called to give. Paul said, "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made" (1 Corinthians 16:2). Giving is an obligation, but, just as God changed the hearts and minds of the Macedonian people, He changes us so our attitude toward giving can change from being an obligation to an opportunity. As renewed and changed people, our attitude toward giving changes from a "got to" to a "get to" attitude. We stop giving grudgingly, and we start giving willingly and cheerfully. We want to give, because giving is an expression of our love and gratitude to God



for Who He is and what He does for us.

The more we give of ourselves and our gifts, the closer our relationship with Christ becomes, and the more we want to give, and the more God blesses us which enables our continued giving. "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11). We thank God that He fills us daily with His love so that we as members of His Church here on earth see giving as a privilege and an opportunity to praise and thank Him.



Schedule

Wednesday, February 22-
Soup/Salad supper- 5:30-6:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Service- 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 29-
Soup/Salad supper- 5:30-6:30 pm
Lenten Service- 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 7-
Soup/Salad supper- 5:30-6:30 pm
Lenten Service- 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 14-
Soup/Salad supper- 5:30-6:30 pm
Lenten Service- 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 21-
Soup/Salad supper- 5:30-6:30 pm
Lenten Service- 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 28-
Soup/Salad supper- 5:30-6:30 pm
Lenten Service- 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 1-
Palm Sunday Service- 9:00 am

Thursday, April 5-
Soup/Salad supper- 5:30-6:30 pm
Maundy Thursday Service- 7:00 pm

Friday, April 6-
Service in Darkness- 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 7-
Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 8-
Easter Morning Service- 7:30 am
Breakfast by Men's Club to follow