
IMMANUELITE

October 2011

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FROM THE PASTOR

But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1Corinthians 2:7-8

On September 11 before worship I quoted part of this passage before the service. I said that in light of the 9/11 air attacks I am grateful that the Lord of glory was crucified because I do not think that I could bear an almighty God who was not also crucified.

September 11 raises all kinds of spiritual questions. Some of the media addressed these questions. Others reported on the events of that day ten years ago. There were also political analyses.

One of the great spiritual questions that the day raises is the question of theodicy. To put it more plainly: Where was God when the September 11 air attacks took place?

Most people are reticent to say that God made the attacks happen. The first reason that we don't like to say that is because there were actual terrorists in those airplanes who orchestrated the attacks. It is not like God flew the planes personally. However, even when the disaster is a natural disaster, like a flood or a drought,

we are still reluctant to say that God is the cause.

I wonder if the reason why we are so reluctant is because we feel that if we blame God, He will damn us. Therefore out of fear of Him or perhaps simply out of respect for Him, we say that He did not make the September 11 attacks happen.

But if we are going to say that, we must deal with the fact that they did happen. Many people say that God *allowed* the air attacks to happen. They feel like this gets God off of the hook. He is not directly responsible. He is only indirectly responsible. He did not make the attacks happen. He only allowed them to happen.

In terms of whether or not God is responsible for an action I do not see the difference between God making something happen and God allowing it to happen. If God made the September 11 attacks happen, why did He do it? If God allowed the air attacks to happen, why did He do it? Either way I am asking Him why He did it. He is almighty after all and could have done something. And there are a lot of other people who are asking the same and similar questions.

Lots of people died that day ten years ago. How could God have let that happen? But then from God's perspective He allows all of us to die. In fact because of sin He is the one who has us all die. After all He was the one who set up the condition of death in the Garden of Eden, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16). Since the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) it is our fault that anyone dies including the ones who died on September 11.

The fact that all of us die does not do much for me. All it tells me is that I am going to

die. It doesn't do anything to save me. I am sinner. How can I change that? Am I simply doomed to some looming personal disaster?

To return to the issue at hand God does not seem to be afraid to take responsibility for the disasters in our lives. Naomi says, "Why call me, Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity on me?" (Ruth 1:21) God does not strike Naomi dead for saying such a thing regarding the fact that her husband had died and then her two sons died before she did. In fact the Lord Himself says, "I form the light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things." (Isaiah 45:7).

If the Lord creates such disasters, how can we stand Him? The only way that I know of is that the Lord of glory is crucified. Over and over again the Scriptures testify that Jesus is God (John 1:1-14; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9). Jesus is God. We learned it in Sunday School. The Scriptures also testify that Jesus is crucified. Over and over again Jesus is crucified. That means that God was crucified. God was jeered and mocked. God was spat upon. God died.

God has endured all that we have endured though He in no way deserved it. He was wounded smitten and stricken (Isaiah 53). God was all of these things. From the ashes of fallen buildings with body parts being recovered in pieces, the only God that I can bear to look to is the crucified God. Only He is worthy of looking to. Only He is worthy of our praise.

Not only does the crucified God relieve us of our sins (1John 1:7), but also provides us with a God who shares in our pain and suffering (Hebrews 4:14-15).

I knew a man once who had lost four children in childbirth. He and his wife had conceived two sets of twins. His wife was unable to carry either set to term. They were either still born or died shortly after birth. In both births they had endured long hospital stays in the effort to save the children. I asked him once, "In your relationship with God does it help to know that He lost His Son?" I was surprised and pleased by his answer because other than

faith there is really no reason why he should give it. He said, "Yes, yes it does."

Because of Jesus,
Pastor



FIRST MONDAY SEWING

The next meeting of the sewing group will be on October 3. We still have many projects in the making and need more hands to complete them. We will start at 9:00 and usually call it a day around 3:00. You do not have to be able to use a sewing machine in order to help (although that is needed also). We will find a job for you.

SEE YOU OCTOBER 3 9:00



The donut sign up sheet for October-December 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!

24-Darci Struck
 25-Kristin Block
 26-Jenny Kirschner
 28-Roger Negangard
 30-Stacey Erdman
 31-Joselyn Howell
 Andrea Wolf



G.R.O.W., a Christian ecumenical men's group in the Newman/Broadlands area, will meet Sunday, October 2nd at Immanuel. 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.



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.

Katie Rutledge
 4335 D, Normandy Trace
 St. Louis, MO 63121

Caitlin Allen
 11451 N. 150 East Rd
 Homer, IL 61849-7028

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
 Ryan Rahe
 Brad Wakefield



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

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

- 1- Richard Mohr
- 3- Tari Wright
- 4- Dan Rothermel
- 5- Stephen Schultz
- 9- Arthur Snider
 Paul Freebairn
- 10-Ruth Nelson
- 12-Carter Cromwell
- 14-Frank Beck
 Phylliss Budde
- 17-Caleb Orwick
- 18-Marla Wienke
 Ivan Orwick
 Isabella Orwick
- 19-Emory Luth
- 20-Kristina Finney
 Linda Pierce
 Brad Wakefield
- 21-Diane Bundy
- 22-Hannah Robinson
 Paige Humphrey



The Knit-Wits met Monday, August 19. Harriet Cress, Barb Gerdes, Myrna Madigan, Jean Bergmeier, and Margo Hockett attended the meeting. Katie Martin stopped by to visit. We would like for you to join us. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet. We have members who will be glad to give you a lesson or two or more if you would like. We get together next on October 17 at 7:00 in the library. Hope you can join us.



Immanuelite articles will be due in the office on, Thursday, October 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!!



Dear Family and friends,

Flu season is approaching once again. Flu season is unpredictable in a number of ways. Although epidemics of flu happen every year, the timing, severity, and length of the epidemic depends on many factors, including what influenza viruses are spreading and whether they match the viruses in the vaccine. Flu activity most commonly peaks in the US in January or February. However, seasonal flu activity can begin as early as October and continue to occur as late as May. CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting against this serious disease. Please stop in the Parish Nurse office for further information regarding flu season and what you can do to prevent the disease from making you ill.

Carle is partnering with the National Kidney Foundation in a community event at the Forum. Free screenings for kidney disease and diabetes will be offered to the

community at no cost. Take charge of your health. the following screenings will be available: blood pressure · blood sugar · body mass index (BMI) · waist circumference · urinalysis · blood draw · private consultation with a medical professional. Visit the KidneyMobile® for an educational tour! This event will be held Tuesday, October 4th, from 10:00am to 2:00 pm.

Immanuel is blessed to have a Parish Nurse program. For any Nurse interesting in completing the Parish nurse training and increasing services and programs to Immanuel:

The Fall 2011 Community Parish Nurse Program Basic Preparation Course will be held in Urbana on:

October 21, 22

November 4, 5

November 11, 12, 13

Fridays 5:30 pm—9:30 pm

Saturdays 8:00 am—5:00 pm

Sunday 12:00 pm—4:00 pm

If you are interested in attending this course, call (217) 326- 2583 or email **beverly.talbott@carle.com** for a registration form or visit our

website—www.parishnurse.org/calendar.html to download one. College credit is now available through the UIC College of Nursing. For further information, contact Faith Roberts at (217) 326-2683 or Tiffany Paul.

Your Parish Nurse,
Tiffany Paul

Blood pressure screenings available October 2 and 16 before and after church.



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



CHURCH COUNCIL

It was reported that Rally Day was a huge success with a large turn out. The next big project for the Evangelism board will be Mission festival.

The Board of Trustees stated that the air in the chapel and library was in need of replacement. We are on the replacement list. Also the window project is in progress, it was found that new sills and casings were needed. (At last report Pastor and Christy and cats are enjoying the new windows and fresh air.)

A letter has been received from Empty Tomb requesting our representation for a furniture building project with delivery of the furniture to be in the spring. More details and the need for volunteers will follow.

A request for more AV operators has been made. If you are interested please notify a member of the Worship board. You do not need to be able to read music to perform this task. We now have a new choir director. We are also in need of greeters. If you have an available Sunday there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Katie Martin our DCO intern has been very busy meeting everyone and working with the various boards. She has helped with VBS and is working on a face book account for the church. If you have not yet met Katie please introduce yourself.

The Evangelism board requested and was granted permission to have a wiener roast, game day etc. to include all members of the community. More information and a date will be announced at a later date.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE
Board of Worship

Choir began in September and sang at the Church Service on September 25th. We would welcome more members, so please come on Wednesday night at 6:30 for

practice and join us as we worship God through music.

We are currently researching how to obtain permission to use copyrighted music from *Lift Up Your Hearts* with the video system. It will require contacting copyright holders to obtain permission to use their hymns.

The Board needs additional AV Operators. If you wish to be trained, please contact the Board, Vicki Luth, Jeri Luth, or Gayle Mohr. Thank you to those who have been faithfully serving in this capacity.

A sign-up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board for greeters for the next three months. Please help us welcome others who come to worship with us. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and welcomed us.



The Junior Disciples Bike-a-thon will be held October 2, 2011, following Sunday School, with a rain date of October 16. There will be a 10-mile and a 4-mile course. Bike helmets are required to participate. Please invite any children you know to take pledges and ride with us—we are raising funds for the Broadlands Food Pantry. Pledge sheets are available on the bulletin board. Adult chaperones are welcome to ride with the children. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall following the event. We ask for your prayers of support for this cause.



FROM OUR DCO INTERN

Recently the question was posed to me, "What are we inviting people to?" Well...can you tell me? Maybe the question is easier to answer with more context. I believe that if one were to survey the congregation with the simple question, "Why is Katie here?" the vast majority of the answers would be some variation of, "She is going to help us bring more people into the church." I just wonder, what does that even mean? Some members have said that this means I will teach you how to share the gospel with your neighbors and family (the end goal here: they get to church). Some members want to figure out how to get your neighbors and family members into the pews so pastor can tell them what they need to know. But, what are we inviting them to? If you would, humor me, take a moment before you read on and answer the question for yourself.

Are we inviting them to worship? Are we inviting them to hear the sermon? Are we inviting them to Sunday School, programs, small groups, VBS, youth group, or Bible Studies? Now ask yourself, Why? Why do we want them to come? What will they get out of it? Do we even know why we come? I do not mean to ask if you have faith as I already have seen faith working in many of you. The question I am asking is: Why do you come to Immanuel and why do you want people to do the same? I could answer the question for you, I could tell you why I personally think you should. I could even back it up with some pretty Bible verses. I am confident that it is within Pastor's abilities to give you a similar answer. But, one of the most beautiful things about this congregation is that he has not and I will not.

The answer to this question is up to you. After all, we all know that I am not a permanent fixture. In fact, it's possible that eventually Pastor could leave you as well. It is not our answer to give. You see, the answer to this question defines what this unique body of believers is. God has given His church a mission, this mission includes Immanuel. Immanuel is so unique it only makes sense that God's mission is understood in this place through that unique lens. So, will you take some time to answer this and then some with me? I would like to lead you through a process centered on scripture, prayer, and discussion. I believe that when Immanuel

finds her unique answer to this question we will be able to move forward confidently.

I think the best time to do this with you would be the Saturdays in January. We will meet a few times either in the morning or afternoon depending on what works best for the most people. There will be food and refreshments. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions please stop me when you see me or call me anytime. I look forward to engaging in this journey with the people here.

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:14-15

Your Intern,

Katie Therese Martin

Why Facebook?

Recently we have been hearing a lot about Immanuel's Facebook page. You may wonder why we need one. In John 17 Jesus prays for his disciples before his crucifixion. In verses 14-18 he prays to his father, "I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth: Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." Jesus prayed for His followers safety in the passage as He prays for ours. He does not take us out of this world because we have been sent into it to be a part of something so much bigger than ourselves. The Almighty Father has chosen us to be a part of his mission.

It has become more and more apparent that our world has become more and more virtual. This can be a frightening concept, or, to a positive mind, an interesting opportunity. Social media will have its negative sides as long as it exists and it is not going anywhere any time soon. In the face of this reality Immanuel has chosen to be a positive presence in this

virtual world. We believe we can use this media to provide answers to tough questions our "fans" might not find elsewhere. We will provide resources in music, literature, and internet entertainment. In other words, we can use this opportunity to shine Christ's light in another corner of this dark world.

It is the goal of this project to eventually distribute the work of upkeep to various administrators of the site. If you wonder what goes on our page please look us up, like us, and share the page with your friends. Our page name is, "Immanuel Lutheran Broadlands". You can find us by searching the name on your Facebook home or by clicking the "follow us on Facebook" button on the church's website. This button will take you to the page even if you do not have a Facebook account. Thank you to everyone who has filled out a permission form allowing us to use your image in promotion. Please keep filling these out so we can share with the world who Immanuel is. If you have any questions or suggestions feel free to let Katie know.

SPECIAL DATES

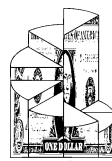
- World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2011
- Columbus Day Observance, October 10, 2011
- Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2011
- Reformation Day, October 31, 2011



Tucker Douglas Stierwalt was baptized during the service on Sunday, September 18, 2011. Tucker was born August 7, 2011 at Provena in Urbana. He weighed 7 lbs 14 ozs and was 20 inches long. He is the son of Doug and Jamie Gerdes Stierwalt. Sponsors for Tucker are Jed Gerdes and Brad Mumm. He is welcomed home by his sisters Raena and Ginna. We welcome Tucker into the Immanuel family.



Special thanks to *Bill Taylor, Sharon Rothermel, Caleb & Diane Bundy, Willard and Elizabeth Rothermel, Don Clem and Marion Wienke* for picking up donuts for August and September.



Budget Requests

A reminder that all boards are asked to turn in the proposed spending guides for 2012 to John Rothermel no later than October 16th.

Congregational Meeting



Our next quarterly voters meeting will be Sunday, October 30th at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. This will be our budget setting meeting for the upcoming year. All voting members are encouraged to attend. If you are not a voting member and would like to become one, see Brian Rutledge or the Pastor before the meeting.



Thank you so much for the cards and special greetings and written messages for our 71st wedding anniversary. We treasure and appreciate your friendship and well wishes.

Ralph and Juanita Schweineke



"Operation Christmas Child" of Samaritan's Purse is underway for 2011. Please bring your boxes to the church this year by November 20th. Linda Pierce will see that they are delivered to the next stage of their travels.

Last year Immanuel provided 123 boxes for children around the world. How many shoe boxes will you plan to fill this year? Remember, you can choose the sex and age group of the child who receives your box. Do you have children who would like to pick out the gifts for you? At a time when many children in our area are thinking about "What am I going to get for Christmas?" this is a terrific teaching opportunity. If you would like to give but are unable to get out, you may give a check for \$20.00 to Linda and she will get the boxes filled for you.

AUDITING REPORT

There is a copy to the Central District Auditing report on the bulleting for the inspection of anyone in the congregation. You can see how the district spend the money we send.



SAVE THIS DATE

Saturday, October 29, 2011

Late Afternoon and Evening
The Church Council is planning a Church Weiner Roast which will include fun activities for all ages. Meat and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to pass.

TEWARDSHIP CORNER

Jesus placed great emphasis on the proper handling of our money. In Luke 16:11 we read, "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" If we are faithful with the money that God has entrusted to us, He will trust us with things of greater value, ultimately those of the spirit, the eternal. The improper use of our money can be an obstacle to our relationship with Jesus. With God's help, we can handle our money faithfully and enjoy the spiritual blessings that come from an intimate relationship with our Lord.

