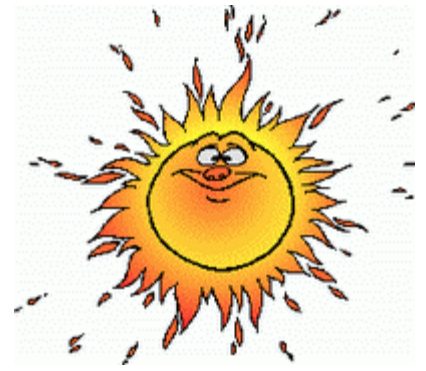




# Immanuel Lighthouse

August 2011



God's word is a lamp to my feet and  
a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

## Sharing Faith, Hope and Love

In the Sellwood  
Neighborhood of Portland  
Since 1907

## Immanuel Lutheran Church & Preschool

Pastor David Zemke  
7810 SE 15th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97202  
503-236-7823

Church e-mail address:  
[office@immanuelutheranpdx.com](mailto:office@immanuelutheranpdx.com)

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am  
Education Hour: 9:00 am  
Communion on  
1st & 3rd Sundays

## Immanuel's Mission Statement

Called to love God  
with all our hearts  
and to love  
our neighbors  
as ourselves,  
We offer ourselves  
to God through:

- + Faithful study of  
God's Word
- + Sincere worship  
and prayer
- + Active fellowship
- + Loving Service



*From the desk of Pastor David Zemke*

"I can't take the heat!" If you're around me enough in the month of August you'll probably hear me say this. I'm not a huge fan of summer because I can't handle warm temperatures. If it's over 80 degrees, I'm probably unhappy and uncomfortable. In the winter and in the cold, you can always put on another sweater. In the summer, once you're down to shorts and a shirt, that's about as cool as you can get. My only two saving graces in Portland are that it isn't humid here and that at night it usually cools off.

Not being able to take the heat can have other meanings as well. Maybe we can remember a line in a movie that closely resembles the above statement. Perhaps the protagonist in the movie was under quite a lot of stress and finally erupted giving us all a clear picture of the amount of stress they could endure. Perhaps you've noticed, but I happen to like words because they can be arranged in clever ways and sometimes can mean several things all at once. I'm sure it's confusing to people who aren't native English speakers, but for those of us who are, a great deal of enjoyment can be taken from words and their sometimes multiple meanings.

August is usually the height of summer, some might even call it the dog days of summer. I know it can get hot in July and in September, but if you're looking for the hot month of the year, August is probably your best bet. Many of those hot days in August you might hear me remark that it surely must be cooler in a certain extremity.

While I won't be so bold as to prognosticate about the weather conditions in perdition, I will be bold to say that we'll never know one way or the other. We'll never know how hot or cold hell will be because we have Jesus. We have been placed, by God, in the hands of our Lord Jesus and nobody can steal us away. We don't have to "take the heat" because Jesus already has. On the cross, Jesus took all our sin upon himself and was separated from God. Jesus literally took hell for us. Now beating the heat has a whole new meaning for us!

Not everybody has this cool gospel shading their eternity. Let us, by speaking the gospel, bring the cup of cool water to our neighbors, friends and families.



## SOON AND VERY SOON—IT'S NOT FAIR

Pastor's sermon topic of July 3, 2011 was very appropriate for me: "It's Not Fair".

Sitting in church on April 10<sup>th</sup>, one of Pastor's hymns for the day was "Soon and Very Soon". As I reflected on the words as we sang the hymn, an uneasy feeling came over me, a feeling that something unexpected might be heading my direction very soon. As it was, I was scheduled for total right knee replacement surgery the following Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. This scheduling was just done the previous week—an opening which had just become available. Until I heard this song and contemplated the words, I thought of this medical procedure as something ordinary and of little consequence. Also, I had recently read an obituary of a man who died from complications following knee replacement surgery. What a surprise since many of my friends and acquaintances have had this procedure and incurred few problems, and recovered soon. Things didn't go so well for me, but thankfully I'm still here to tell about it.

Immediately after my surgery, the bottom of my right foot went numb—no feeling whatsoever and still that way today. The next day, I fell in my hospital room and broke open several stitches on my leg, which were subsequently re-stitched as I lay on my hospital bed. The next day, my right hand went numb—still is. About two weeks later as I recuperated at home, my incision became infected. Back into the hospital for a second surgery on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Following that, I had 1 ½ months of home IV's for antibiotics. Finally, on 23 June, I was declared infection-free and cleared to live a "normal life" once again.

During this recovery time, I had ample time to reflect upon the words of the hymn—"Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King". "No more crying there, we are goin' to see the King". No more dying there, we are goin' to see the King". "Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King". Occasional thoughts ranged from "Why me—"It's not fair" to, perhaps my time on this earth is rapidly coming to an end. I wasn't ready for that yet.

During my career as an Air Force Rescue Helicopter pilot, especially in a combat environment, I knew that my life could suddenly come to an untimely end. I was one of those guys who said that it **could** happen to me, and I was ok with that; however we always tried to minimize the risk factors. In contrast to those thoughts, we had other guys who believed that it might happen to someone else, but not to them.

While I was "ready to meet my maker" during those dangerous times, I had given little thought of it during my "regular life". I know it can happen at any time, and when it does, I will be with my "King" and Savior, Jesus Christ. I cling to God's promise to me and to all of you that we will find eternal joy beyond our ability to comprehend in this life. But, as I reflected on the words of the song, "Soon and Very Soon", I felt that it might be sooner than later for me. I really didn't want that yet. It's not fair. However.....

When I think that the recent negative things in my life are not fair, all I have to do is to walk into the front door of Kaiser-Sunnyside Hospital..... and see those around me who have no legs and/or are confined to a wheel chair. I know that others have many more problems (medical, mental, financial, etc.) than I, and consequently, I try my best to put things in proper perspective and be thankful for the things I have rather than what I don't have.

Lord, help me to be thankful for the life that I have and all the blessings that you bestow on my family and myself. Give me the faith to think of others and to not feel that for me, life isn't fair. In Jesus name I pray, Amen

John Christianson

**E** Immanuel started the E-100 Challenge on June 12? Are you ready to be challenged? The “E” in E-100 stands for **Essential**. Because so many Christians have trouble reading through the entire Bible, a program with the 100 most important Bible accounts was created. How is it going for you? First, you can read with us! There’s still time to catch up. Keep a journal about what you’ve read. It can be anything from a few thoughts on what you’ve read to long prose dedicated to how the Spirit has led you! I’d also like to suggest forming a small group of other Immanuel friends to talk, once a week, about what you’ve read. Our Sunday morning Bible class is a good place to start. We meet at 9am. Finally, devote yourself to prayer as you read. Pray for God’s guidance in your life, pray for God’s work in our Church, and pray for God’s grace to be renewed in our lives.

**Week 14 Psalms and Proverbs**

- Aug 8: The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23:1-23:6)
- Aug 9: Have Mercy On Me (Psalm 51:1-51:19)
- Aug 10: Praise the Lord (Psalm 103:1-103:22)
- Aug 11: Godly Wisdom (Proverbs 1:1-4:27)
- Aug 12: Proverbs of Solomon (Proverbs 16:1-18:24)

**Week 15 The Prophets**

- Aug 15: The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 51:1-53:12)
- Aug 16: Jeremiah’s Call and Message (Jeremiah 1:1-3:5)
- Aug 17: Daniel In the Lion’s Den (Daniel 6:1-6:28)
- Aug 18: The Story of Jonah (Jonah 1:1-4:11)
- Aug 19: The Day of Judgment (Malachi 1:1-4:6)

**Week 16 The Living Word**

- Aug 22: The Word Becomes Flesh (John 1:1-1:18)
- Aug 23: Gabriel’s Message (Luke 1:1-1:80)
- Aug 24: The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-2:40)
- Aug 25: John The Baptist (Luke 3:1-3:20)
- Aug 26: Joseph reveals his identity (Genesis 45:1-46:7)

**Week 17 The Teachings of Jesus**

- Aug 29: The Sermon on the Mount part 1 (Matthew 5:1-6:4)
- Aug 30: The Sermon on the Mount part 2 (Matthew 6:5-7:29)
- Aug 31: The Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 13:1-13:58)
- Sept 1: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-10:37)
- Sept 2: Lost and Found (Luke 15:1-15:32)



- Kyle Maunu ..... 1st
- Juanita Bladow .....3rd
- Peter Kaskinen.....5th
- Helene Possehl.....6th
- Bryan Marlatt .....7th
- Kathy Huwe.....13th
- Bonnie Maple .....13th
- Dean Redwing .....13th
- Suzette Kaskinen .....20th
- Kathy Maas.....20th
- Don Cox Jr.....23rd
- Lorraine Dressler .....26th
- Marge Kinoshita .....27th
- Candace Mucken .....27th
- Amy Richardson.....29th
- Rick Rambo .....30th
- Robert Johnson .....31st

September  
Will bring  
A shower  
For Stasia  
and their  
newest  
blessing  
Date TBA  
Watch the  
Bulletin



- Rev. Sidney & Eileen Johnson  
~~ August 9, 1964
- Larry & Brenda Ruecker  
~~ August 18, 1990
- Kenneth & Marge Trinklein  
~~ August 14, 1954



Coming Next Month

Jayne's Blessing: "We give thanks to you,  
 those who deliver this newsletter,  
 May the Lord bless you!"



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