



Immanuel Lighthouse

June 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

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

The temptation with a June newsletter article is to talk about one of a few things. Common themes are the beginning of summer, Father's Day, road trips, or maybe family gatherings. Indeed, in looking back through articles I have written, I fit that mold pretty well. Now, approaching another June I've searching for a different theme.

Yet I keep falling back on Father's Day. It's probably because it's the only holiday, other than Flag Day, that happens in June. It's easier to write themed messages about holidays. Rather than our own Father's Day celebration, I'd like to focus on the German celebration of Father's Day. Germany holds their Father's Day celebration on Ascension Day. While we celebrate Ascension on a Sunday, traditionally it actually comes on a Thursday.

Whatever traditions the Germans have come up with for their holiday, I like where they start. All of our understanding of what it means to be a parent and even a child begin with our relationship with our heavenly Father.

The first and fourth commandments are linked. We only really understand either of them by understanding both of them together. We have one God, and we have one set of earthly parents. We are bound to love, serve, and obey both God and human parents. Our own experiences and feelings influence those relationships. If one relationship is dysfunctional, you can bet the other will have problems. This is why pastors sometimes don't like preaching on the fourth commandment. Earthly parents often fail and this creates problems for a lot of people.

While I can't offer advice on how to fix fourth commandment problems in particular, I will stress that we always start with the first commandment. Making sure your relationship with God is right is the start of relating to all other people, not just Fathers. Most of us don't have problems fearing and loving God the Father, it's usually the trusting God the Father that becomes the issue. The solution for this lack of trust is not quite what we'd expect. It doesn't start with us placing trust in God, that's just more law. It starts with us repenting and asking God to fix and renew our relationship. God, the giver of every good gift as St. James says, gives forgiveness, grace and peace to us. He also revives our spirit by the work of His Holy Spirit.

I received the following devotion in my E-Mail box just before "The Rapture" was supposed to occur. I thought it made great sense to share with you.....Rick Rambo

"Riskier And Riskier"

May 17, 2011

(Jesus said) "Therefore stay awake -- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at Midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning -- lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake." Mark 13:35-37

The other day I saw a man juggle three very small chainsaws whose blades were running. I immediately put "juggling chainsaws" on my list of things to avoid.

That list, thanks to a Dutch study, is growing longer.

According to that study, drinking coffee or soda, getting angry, jumping when you are surprised or even blowing your nose can significantly increase your chances of having a deadly subarachnoid hemorrhage.

That's the kind of stroke that kills 10 to 15 percent of folks before they get to a hospital, which takes out 50 percent of the sufferers within a month. Those are just some of the findings put forth by the experts at the University Medical Centre in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Which, as near as I can tell, leaves me with three choices. I can

stop reading news articles;

never do any of the things which cause such a stroke;

trust in the Lord to take care of me for the unknown hour when I'm going to leave this world.

Since my chances of accomplishing 1 or 2 in that list are pretty much impossible, I've opted for number 3 as the best alternative.

I hope you join me in that.

The truth is none of us knows what or when we are going to breathe our last. We certainly aren't smart enough to identify or avoid all the things that can do us in.

This is why it makes sense for us to embrace and hold fast to the one thing, the One Person who can help us when that day comes.

Only Jesus -- the Savior who gave His life so we might have life, who died so those who follow Him might live forever -- only Jesus can provide us hope for our day of death and joy for each day we live.

Believing on Jesus ... that's one thing to make sure stays on my list of things *to do*.

I liked this devotion, not only because of the great truth it was intended to present, but there is also a great application to the situation that we as a congregation have found ourselves. We have three actions to choose from as well:

We can submit to the conventional way of doing things, "When in trouble or in doubt - run in circles, scream and shout."

We can "see the handwriting on the wall" and run off to find a "more responsible" congregation to invest our time and talents with.

Trust that we are following the LORD's will in our witness and outreach here at Immanuel and know that this is not "our" church, but it is Jesus' and we do not know the plans he has in store for us -- what we will do or how it will come about, but we have to apply Luther's meaning for the first *commandment* "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." While this does not mean we should just sit around waiting to see what will happen, it does mean that while we diligently work to find a solution to our problems we should not wring our hands and cry out "woe is we", but trust God to lead and guide us.

This devotion can be found here: <http://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions.asp?date=20110517>

The main page for Lutheran Hour devotions is: <http://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions.asp>

E-100!

Immanuel is starting 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. This serves to whet our appetites for God’s Word. Over the course of 20 weeks we at Immanuel will read these stories. Five stories a week over 20 weeks will give us 100 stories. Sunday sermons and Bible classes will focus on these readings as well.

What can you do? I’m glad you asked! First, you can read with us! One story a day, five times a week will get you through the program. I’d like to ask you to 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. Finally, I’d like to ask you to 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.

I’m excited about this program as it gets us back into God’s Word in a systematic and all encompassing way. Join me and your fellow members at Immanuel as we take this trip through scripture!

Birthdays

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Connie Kramer | 4 | David Zemke | 19 |
| Ally Zimmerman | 5 | Emi Whalen | 20 |
| Larry Ruecker | 5 | Paul Lambert | 22 |
| Laurie Davis | 6 | Marty Arnoldy | 23 |
| Charles Holm | 6 | Chris Wilson | 24 |
| Alina (Maunu) Eglund | 9 | Laura Herschberger | 25 |
| Shirlee Sevdy | 10 | Adrienne Daniels | 27 |
| Charles Boyle | 10 | Ken Trinklein | 27 |
| Amber Mucken | 15 | Helen Strain | 30 |
| Susan Bladow | 16 | Scott Zadow | 30 |
| Emily Folkestad | 19 | | |



Don & Lynne Cox Jr. -June 30, 1979
Neil & Bobbi Maunu -June 3, 2000
David & Louise Packard -June 29, 1947
David & Stasia Zemke -June 28, 2003

E-100 Schedule

Week 1

June 13: Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:25)
June 14: The Fall (Genesis 3:1-3:24)
June 14: The Flood (Genesis 6:5-7:24)
June 15: God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 8:1-9:17)
June 16: The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-11:9)

Week 2

June 20: The Call of Abram (Genesis 12:1-12:20)
June 21: God's Covenant with Abram (Genesis 15:1-15:21)
June 22: Isaac's Birth and 'Sacrifice' (Genesis 21:1-22:19)
June 23: Jacob and Esau Compete (Genesis 27:1-28:22)
June 24: Jacob and Esau Reconcile (Genesis 32:1-33:20)

Week 3

June 27: Sold into Slavery (Genesis 37:1-37:36)
June 28: Prison and Promotion (Genesis 39:1-41:57)
June 29: Ten Brothers Go to Egypt (Genesis 42:1-42:38)
June 30: The Brothers Return (Genesis 43:1-44:34)
July 1: Joseph reveals his identity (Genesis 45:1-46:7)



Week 4

July 4: Birth of Moses (Exodus 1:1-2:25)
July 5: The Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-4:17)
July 6: The Ten Plagues (Exodus 6:28-11:10)
July 7: Passover and Exodus (Exodus 12:1-12:47)
July 8: Crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17-14:31)

Week 5

July 11: The Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:1-20:21)
July 12: The Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1-34:35)
July 13: Joshua Succeeds Moses (Joshua 1:1-1:18)
July 14: Crossing the Jordan (Joshua 3:1-4:24)
July 15: The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 5:13-6:27)

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



Immanuel
Lutheran Church
and Preschool
7810 SE 15th Ave.
Portland, OR 97202

