



Immanuel Lutheran

507-345-3027 www.ImmanuelMankato.org

Pastor Joe Naumann 920-266-5386

Pastor Neal Radichel 920-268-8002

Lent *Third Sunday*

March 14 - 15, 2020

Vol. 83, No. 15

Welcome!

We are excited to share the Good News with you!
Guests, please sign our guestbook in the entry. Please join us again.

Serving Us This Week

PASTOR Joe Naumann ♦ DEACON Brent Schreyer

ORGANIST (Sat) Lane Fischer (Sun) Bonnie Cornish ♦ SOUND E Matzke

VIDEO V Frank ♦ SCREEN (Sat) C Kuehne (Sun) R Schmitt ♦ FLOWERS M Stelter

GREETERS (Sat) _____ (Sun) Busch ♦ HEAD USHER Fred Friedrichs

ASSISTANT John Heinze ♦ USHERS Niko Becker; Joshua Clobes; David Clobes;
Austin Hanel; Hunter Hanel; Jay Hanel; Ty Hanel; Dennis Heinze; Brett Kruse;
David Lueck; Andy Olmanson; Luke Olmanson; Peter Olmanson; Mick Rykhus;
Russ Schmitt; Alex Schmitt; Ron Wolle; Steve Wolle

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

PASTOR N Radichel ♦ SOUND/USHERS same as above ♦ FLOWERS K Friedrichs

1 PM: DEACON S Wolle ♦ ORGANIST K Olmanson ♦ SCREEN C Kuehne

6 PM: DEACON B Schreyer ♦ ORGANIST G Schreyer ♦ SCREEN R Schmitt

He who has an ear,
let him hear what the Spirit
says to the churches.

Revelation 2:7

Pre-Service Meditation

Psalm 25 (p. 128 TLH, Red Hymnal)

Prayer *Lord Jesus, remind me daily of Your boundless grace. So easily this glorious and wonderful knowledge slips from my sinful mind. I need You to guide me and to lead me into the way everlasting. Amen*

Order of Service

Hymn 433 TLH (Red Hymnal)

Jesus, My Truth, My Way

INVOCATION *We invoke ("call upon") the name of our Triune God.*

Pastor (P): In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): ♪ Amen!

All: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. I justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them. I pray that You would of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all

your sins. To all who believe on His name He gives the privilege of being children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: ♪ Amen.

P: ♪ The Lord be with you

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

♪ Glory be to God on high And on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,
We glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
Who takes away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us.
You who takes away the sin of the world, Receive our prayer.
You who sits at the right hand of God the Father,
Have mercy upon us.
For You only are holy; You only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
Are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

P: Let us pray...

C: ♪ Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 SAMUEL 22:1-7

Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. **2** And he said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; **3** The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. **4** I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. **5** When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid. **6** The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. **7** In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry entered His ears.

Congregational Praise: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Congregational Welcome: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord!

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. **43** "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. **44** "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. **45** "But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. **46** "Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? **47** "He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God." **48** Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" **49** Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. **50** "And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges. **51** "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

Congregational Response: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Amanda Hagen, Andrew Mersman, Ally Mersman, Asher Hagen

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTOLIC CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON REVELATION 2:1-7

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, `These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: **2** "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; **3** "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. **4** "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. **5** "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent. **6** "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **7** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

HOW TO REKINDLE YOUR FIRST LOVE

1. Not by Working Hard Against False Teaching
2. Not by Hating Sin and Wickedness
3. But by Hearing of the Love that Christ has for You

Sermon Notes:

OFFERTORY TLH (RED HYMNAL) PG 12

In this prayer we offer God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

- ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

Hymn 373 (v. 1-4) TLH (Red Hymnal)
By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and Boundless

OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION *A Good Word or Blessing.*

Congregational Response: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn 53 TLH (Red Hymnal)
Abide, O Dearest Jesus

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Serving Us Next Week

PASTOR Joe Naumann ♦ DEACON Mark Stelter ♦ ORGANIST Colleen Matzke
SOUND G Strand ♦ VIDEO M Schweim ♦ SCREEN (Sat) C Kuehne (Sun) R Hanel
FLOWERS Mark Stelter ♦ GREETERS (Sat) ____ (Sun) ____
HEAD USHER Joe Friedrichs ♦ ASSISTANT Michael Wheaton
USHERS Ben Busse; Jacob Busse; Peter Busse; Sherman Carstensen; Jason Dick;
Mark Geiger; Sam Geschwind; Sam Hagen; Kevin Moeri; Karl Mueller;
Bernt Olmanson; Charles Olmanson; Chuck Schmid; Nick Schmid; Noah Schmid;
Ben Stelter; Wayne Timm

This Week

- Sat Mar 14 6:00p WORSHIP followed by 3rd Sunday Communion
 7:00p Bible Study in the church basement
 7:00p Saturday School in the Kindergarten room
- Sun Mar 15 9:00a Bible Study in the church basement
 9:00a Sunday School in designated classrooms
 9:15a Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
 10:00a WORSHIP followed by 3rd Sunday Communion
 11:00a Church Choir Practice in the sanctuary
- Mon Mar 16 7:00p Voters' Meeting in the church basement
 7:30p Rescheduled Council Meeting in the church basement
- Tues Mar 17 9:00a Bible Study, New Perspective Senior Living, 100 Dublin Road
 9:00a Bible Study, Realife, 50 Teton Lane
 3-5p Pastors' Office Hours
 6:00p ILS High School Basketball Awards in the _____
 6:30p Women's Study Guild in the church basement
- Wed Mar 18 12:45p Televised WORSHIP Service, Charter #181; Consolidated Comm #7
 1:00p WORSHIP: Lenten Service
 5:00p Public School Catechism in the pastors' offices
 6:00p WORSHIP: Lenten Service
- Thu Mar 19 9:00a Bible Study, Walnut Towers, 105 E. Walnut Street
 10:00a Bible Study, Water's Edge, 800 Agency Trail
 5:30p ILS PTO Business Meeting in the church basement
 5:45p Televised WORSHIP Service, Charter #181; Consolidated Comm #7
- Fri Mar 20 CLC Women's Retreat (Amery, WI)
 6:30a Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in the church basement
 8-9:30a Pastors' Office Hours
 9:30a ILS K-12 Chapel in the church sanctuary
 10:15a WORSHIP, Pathstone, 708 Mound Avenue
 11:00a WORSHIP, Autumn Grace, 118 Raven Court
- Sat Mar 21 CLC Women's Retreat (Amery, WI)
 9:00a Worship Music Practice in the church sanctuary
 6:00p WORSHIP
 POSTPONED: NO ILC Tour Choir Concert - date TBD
- Sun Mar 22 9:00a Bible Study in the church basement
 9:00a Sunday School in designated classrooms
 9:15a Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM
 10:00a WORSHIP Note: ILS High School Choir sings
 11:00a Church Choir Practice in the sanctuary
 11:30a ILS Alumni Day

Last Week

Gatherings

March 7 - 8

Saturday Worship: 99
Sunday Worship: 184
Weekend Total: 283
Saturday Bible Class: 28
Saturday School: 7
Sunday Bible Class: 37
Sunday School: 11
Ambassadors: N/R

Bible Studies

Jail (Men): 19
Men's Breakfast: 20
Primrose: 8
New Perspective: 9
Realife: 8
Walnut Towers: 9
Water's Edge: 3

March 11

1 pm Worship: 44
6 pm Worship: 92
Midweek Total: 136

Worship

New Perspective: 8

Fruits of Faith

Immanuel

Current Expenses **\$10,666**
Weekly Need \$14,350.45

Benevolent **\$40**
ILS Foundation **\$15**
ILS Interactive Display Fund **\$30**
ILS Preschool Fund **\$25**
ILS Student Aid **\$221**
ILS Tuition Aid **\$40**
Land Purchase **\$65**
Lent **\$1,137.25**
MPF Bleacher Fund **\$1** and
\$11 from aluminum cans

CLC

Missions (Coop. Budgeted Plan CBP) **\$717**
Weekly Need \$1,182.81

ILC Building **\$20**
KINSHIP **\$25**
Mission Development Fund (MDF) **\$175**
Mission Helper (Mankato) **\$50**

Immanuel Announcements

VOTERS' MEETING was recessed pending the outcome of our teacher call. Because that call has been returned, the meeting is set to resume on Monday, **March 16**, at 7pm. Agenda: teacher call & membership matters.

ILC TOUR CHOIR IN MANKATO: POSTPONED Due to concerns about COVID-19, the governor of Wisconsin has mandated closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Wisconsin until April 6. This includes extracurricular activities. The Regents and ILC administration have had lengthy discussions about this matter. We will be complying with the governor's mandate for our high school (college and seminary yet to be determined), the students directed to return home for spring break with their books in case online classes become an alternative. Besides the obvious concern for exposure to the virus, part of the problem in retaining the original Tour Choir schedule is that students would get done with tour and then have down time away from

home until classes might questionably resume. It has been decided to discontinue the Texas portion of this year's Tour Choir schedule and delay the concerts for Austin, Sioux Falls, Sleepy Eye, Mankato, Fridley, and Red Wing with some other potential adjustments. The primary plan is to possibly have the tour during the Easter break (April 9-12), or after graduation as a secondary plan. The situation will be closely monitored so that a well-informed decision can be made for the well-being and best interests of all involved. Please pray for our school and for our choir.

MEMORIAL PLANTS FOR THE ALTAR ON EASTER

Women's Study Guild is offering 2 types of 6-inch potted plants to adorn the altar on Easter. If interested in purchasing plants, please sign up in the entry way. Lilies are available for \$8 each and tulips are available for \$13 each. The deadline to order is Tuesday, **March 31**. Questions? Call Katie Dick at 612-616-4600 or Email StudyGuild@ImmanuelMankato.org.

SAVE THE DATE: *Summer VBS* Due to the large number of students last summer, the Immanuel Board of Education has decided to host two separate and different sessions of Vacation Bible School this summer. The first will be held **June 8-12**. The second will be held **July 27-31**. We hope that you will be able to join us for one or both sessions!

ERC MARCH UPDATE This past year the Expansion Relocation Committee (ERC) has been investigating three different approaches to expanding and/or relocating: 1) purchasing bare land and building new, 2) buying an existing facility and remodeling, and 3) starting a preschool. The ERC divided into groups to fabricate basic plans for how expansion/relocation phases would look for each approach. A big goal in the coming year(s) is to create unity within the congregation as to how, when, and where we will expand and/or relocate. The ERC hopes to have a variety of different presentations to the voters and congregation in the coming months. Stay tuned!

NEEDED: *Funeral Volunteers* Volunteers help setup, serve and clean up for meals at funerals. We are in need of adding additional names to the volunteer pool. If you would be willing to be contacted as needs arise, please connect with Marilyn Timm 507-387-7862 or Kristen Friedrichs 507-382-5257 to have your name added to the list.

NEEDED: *Worship Service Volunteers* We continue to need volunteers to (1) show slides for the worship services (contact: Cliff Kuehne 507-385-0696) and (2) video-record the worship services - particularly the midweek services (contact: Alan Olmanson 507-344-0328). Neither of these tasks are very complicated to do, but we would like to have a few more people to help if possible! Please contact the respective individuals above for more info.

NEEDED: School Janitor The Property Board is looking to hire a janitor for the school. This position will start at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Our longtime janitor, John Paulson, will be leaving the position at that time. Interested applicants are asked to leave a resume in the Property Board mailbox in the church office. Resumes will be taken through Friday, **March 27**. - For more information, please connect with Kyle Hulke at 507-382-7335.

Immanuel Highlight **WOMEN'S SERVICE ORGANIZATION (WSO)**

What is WSO? WSO serves through the following functions:

- clean the church kitchen.
- coordinate and serve fellowship meals.
- decorate and clean up from the Christmas season
- encourage members.

Who is WSO? Women who are communicant members at Immanuel are included in one of six WSO divisions. Division lists are posted on bulletin boards in entryways or provided upon request. Updated division lists were also distributed to mailboxes recently.

How does WSO function? Division chairs serve as "point people" for the six groups. Division members are notified about opportunities for service and fellowship through bulletin announcements, **emails, phone calls and/or texts***. Division members have the opportunity to participate as their schedules and circumstances allow.

Questions? Email Kristen at WSO@ImmanuelMankato.org or contact one of the division chairs:

Division 1: Jane Geiger geig204@hotmail.com

Division 2: **(open position)***

Division 3: Vickie Schreyer vschreyer21@aol.com & Joan Hartman
jlhartmann_99@yahoo.com

Division 4: Brandi Miller brandi.miller@hotmail.com & Kristen Friedrichs
klfriedrichs@gmail.com

Division 5: Robin Edwards robin.edwards@blueearthcountymn.gov

Division 6: Karen Purrington karen.purrington@mnsu.edu

Funerals: Marilyn Timm 507-387-7862

*** Current Needs:**

- (1) Division chairs would appreciate your assistance: please contact your division chair with your preferred and current contact info.
- (2) We are in need of volunteers to help chair or co-chair Divisions. Please contact Kristen Friedrichs if interested in more information. 507-382-5257
WSO@ImmanuelMankato.org

Have a suggestion for other topics to highlight? Send your ideas to bulletin@immanuelmankato.org or connect with one of the pastors.

CLC Announcements

CLC CALL NEWS Teacher Joshua Ohlmann has returned the call extended to him by Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY, to be their Principal & Teacher. <> Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL, has been called by Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Teacher and principal, Kirsten Gullerud, St. Stephen Lutheran School, Mountain View, CA, has asked for a peaceful release from her call as teacher and principal to pursue a different path in Wisconsin. St. Stephen has now called Claire Abbas, Gethsemane, Spokane Valley, WA, to be their teacher.

THIRD FULL-TIME MISSIONARY CALL Over the past two years the Board of Missions has fielded a number of questions about the calling of the third full-time missionary following the 2018 Convention. According to the resolution passed at that Convention the Board of Missions was "authorized to call a third full-time missionary" and a mechanism was offered to fund the costs of this missionary. The calling did not begin right away because our second missionary was refused entry back into India and the Board had to decide where to send him before structuring the call of the third missionary. In the time since Missionary Evensen was resettled in Togo, the Board of Missions has issued several calls, but a number of factors have played a roll in the Board's decision to suspend calling for the time being, one of which was the financial situation our synod was facing at the end of the year. Another factor is the mechanism by which the third missionary was to be funded and concerns the Board of Missions has regarding that. It is hoped that these issues can be addressed at the upcoming 2020 Convention so that we can resume calling.

RETIREMENT GIFT Professor Paul Sullivan has announced his retirement effective the end of the current academic year. His faithful service to our church and our school will be acknowledged during the ILC Class Day & Graduation festivities on May 22-23, 2020. Our custom is to present a monetary gift to Prof. Sullivan as a token of our appreciation. CLC members are invited to contribute to a monetary gift which will be presented to him at Graduation (May 23). Please make your checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran College and indicate: "Prof. Sullivan Retirement." Send your gift to: Immanuel Lutheran College, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

NOMINATIONS FOR ILC PRESIDENT The Board of Regents announces the following nominations for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Professors Paul Naumann, Daniel Schierenbeck, and John Ude. The term of this call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2022. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by **April 11** (postmarked by April 1), to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

INVITATION: *Evangelism Workshop* You are invited to an Evangelism Workshop at Messiah, Eau Claire, WI, on Sunday, **April 26**. The theme is "Introducing the REAL Jesus." Almost everyone in our society has at least heard of Jesus, but many people have a misinformed idea of who He really is. At this workshop, we will learn about some of these misconceptions, and



discuss ways to introduce the real Jesus to people we care about. The presentations and group discussions go from 3 to 5:30 pm with a chili supper to follow. Plan now to attend!

CLC CONVENTION The 34th CLC Convention will be **June 25-28**, in Eau Claire, WI. A new video entitled "How Does Convention Work?" has been produced to explain the basics of Convention. If interested, please find this 14 minute video on the homepage of our synod's website clclutheran.org.

2020 MANUP! MEN'S RETREAT The 2020 ManUp! Men's Retreat will be held **September 24-27**, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI, about an hour south of La Crosse. ManUp! offers strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities. The cost is \$75, including lodging and meals. You can register at: www.tinyurl.com/manup-2020. For more information, pictures of previous retreats and reviews from those who have attended in the past, visit our website www.manup.clclutheran.org. Questions? Contact Phil Strike at plstrike7@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you in September!

2021 ISRAEL TRIP A group trip to Israel is being planned for **January 13-22, 2021**, with a possible 3-day extension to Jordan for those who are interested. We currently have 10 members of CLC congregations registered for the trip and many more who have expressed an interest. Join this group of like-minded believers as we see the places where God stepped into History to fulfill His plan of salvation for sinners! The trip will include visits to Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, and En Gedi and more. It will include visits to the traditional sites of many of the events in the ministry of Jesus as well as those of the prophets and apostles. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Nathanael Mayhew at 404-729-4602 or at ndmayhew@att.net.

If you have an announcement or event for next weekend's bulletin, please send it to Bulletin@ImmanuelMankato.org or contact one of the pastors by Thursday at 12 pm. Thank you!

2020 CLC Events

Updated 2/14/2020

YOUTH EVENTS

	DATES	FOR AGES
CLC Grade School BB Tourney (ILC) www.clclutheran.net/tourney	March 13-15	Grades 5-8
Girls' Basketball Camp (ILC) Ross.Rdoehl@ilc.edu	June 11-13	Grades 5-12
CLC Youth Camp (Pillager, MN) www.facebook.com/clcyouthcamp	June 14-20	Grades 6-12
Black Hills Family Camp (South Dakota) AaronUde@gmail.com	July 10-14	All ages
Girls' Volleyball Camp (ILC) Joe.Lau@ilc.edu	July 19-22	Grades 5-12
Messiah Family Camp (Wisconsin) BruceNaumann@gmail.com	July 24-26	All ages
Lower Michigan Youth Camp Pastor316@RedeemerCLC.info	July 27-30	Grades 6-12
Pacific Northwest Youth / Family Camp DaveReim77@gmail.com	August 3-7	Grades 6 & up
Porcupine Mountains Camp Outing gnaoster@gmail.com	August 8-12	Grades 8-12
Christ's Explorer Camp (Gaston, SC) ChristsExplorersCamp.com	August 13-15	Grades 3-9
Worship in the Woods (Markesan, WI) pastor@markesanlutheran.com	August 14-16	All ages

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

CLC Women's Retreat (Amery, WI) www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com	March 20-22	All women
Arise and Shine Retreat (Pillager, MN) www.ariseandshineretreat.com	June 11-14	20's & 30's
CLC Convention at ILC	June 25-28	Delegates & Visitors
CLC Women's Retreat (Chadron, NE) www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com	Sept 18-20	All women
CLC Men's Retreat (Wyalusing, WI) www.manup.clclutheran.org	Sept 24-27	All men
CLC Women's Retreat (Myrtle Beach, SC) www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com	November 1-3	All women



The Third Article

It happened one evening in early Spring. I was on my way home from a Lenten service exchange and I was only a few blocks from my house. In a matter of seconds, I could tell something was wrong with my vehicle as I struggled to steer it over the side of the road. The problem? A flat tire. Somewhere along the prior curve, the front passenger side tire on my vehicle was impacted by a sharp object.

Many of you have probably encountered a similar situation and the ensuing frustration. For a moment I took stock of my options. Was there anyway I could get my vehicle home and work on it tomorrow? After all, I could almost see my driveway, it was late at night, and I was wearing a suit and tie. Could I call someone for help? Probably not at this hour. I knew all along that my only viable option was to unpack the spare tire and the jack and get my own hands dirty. It didn't matter how well the rest of the car worked. The engine, battery, ignition, alternator, and everything else was all in fine working condition. One tiny rip in one tire stalled my vehicle.

In a much greater sense, air is necessary for all living things, not just to the inside of our car tires. The Word of God offers a similar thought when it comes to our soul-care and it centers around the work of the Holy Spirit. The Small Catechism employs the term "Sanctification" in the Third Article of the Creed to describe this work. Broadly speaking, sanctification is the work that the Holy Spirit does to create faith. This is the vital mechanism behind all mission work. Without it, all our efforts would be in vain. In a more narrow sense, the Holy Spirit builds, sustains, and strengthens faith in believers' hearts. Both aspects of sanctification are motivated and empowered by the gospel in Word and Sacrament — what we call the "Means of Grace."

In these ways, the Holy Spirit breathes life into sinners. Without that "air," we would perish in the condemnation of our sins and the bondage of God's righteous law. Just like our vehicles, it doesn't matter what else appears to be working well in our spiritual lives. We might look good in our actions. We might be knowledgeable in our words. We might be lifelong Lutherans. If the Holy Spirit has not breathed life into our hearts we won't move an inch toward God.

Luther's explanation elaborates: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But, the Holy

Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in true faith.”

If we know how important air is in our tires, how much more should we recognize the importance of the Holy Spirit for our souls! The sad reality is that many people, even Christians, are led to trust in other “vehicles” that offer a fast track to God in heaven, but without His Word. These diversions include relying on our own works or efforts, trusting in our feelings, letting our emotions dictate right and wrong, or following beliefs and teachings because they are modern and popular. In the world’s eyes, these philosophies appear to be a sports car or a luxury automobile, but from God’s perspective they have no air in the tires. You might look good where you’re at but you’re certainly not going anywhere fast.

As we provide a gospel-centered witness within our churches, communities, nation, and world abroad, let us remember to display the work of the Holy Spirit in the Means of Grace. This is where the believer’s life comes from and this is how it remains alive and well. God did not offer up His only-begotten Son to die upon the cross, just to let us take control of obtaining that salvation on our own terms and in our ways. As attractive as the many alternatives to sanctification may sound at times, at the end of the day all we need is something that works. God gives us that freely through the gospel, and wherever that gift is proclaimed, the Holy Spirit is there breathing life into sinners.

Read More About this Topic

Ezekiel 36:22-33

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Catechism Evangelism

The Ten Commandments

The First Article

The Second Article

The Third Article

The Lord’s Prayer

Baptism

The Lord’s Supper

The Office of the Keys and Confession



The **Committee of Domestic Fields** is a subcommittee of the CLC Mission Board. “The purpose of the Committee on Domestic Fields (CDF) is to make outreach ideas and material available to CLC congregations and to encourage them in carrying out the Great Commission of our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Immanuel Lutheran Contact Info

CHURCH CONTACT INFO

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Financial Secretary Doug Schaller, 507-625-5700
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Council Chairman Zach Lien, 507-341-4892
Council Secr Bennett Olmanson, 507-317-5667

2020 BOARD OF DEACONS

Chairman Logan Wendt 320-291-0930
Ty Hanel 507-469-9539
Daniel Pfeiffer 507-304-3473
Brent Schreyer 507-469-3268
Mark Stelter 507-381-3308
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2020 BOARD OF PROPERTY

Chairman Kyle Hulke 507-382-7335
Ben Busse 507-469-1415
Fred Friedrichs 507-317-5657
Joe Friedrichs 507-380-7521
Travis Friedrichs 507-381-9819
Charles Olmanson 507-351-0754

2020 BOARD OF FINANCE

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Scott Kruse 507-317-0699
Alan Olmanson 507-344-0328

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PTO President Donnell Olmanson
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IMMANUEL WOMEN'S GROUPS

Ladies Auxiliary
President Marilyn Timm 507-387-7862
Women's Service Organization
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Women's Study Guild
President Kristen Friedrichs
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2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chairman Zach Lien, 507-341-4892
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2020 CEMETERY BOARD

Chairman Tony Harris 507-382-3081
Secretary Scott Kruse 507-317-0699
Treasurer Kari Friedrichs 507-317-6100
John Heinze; Kevin Moeri
Charles Olmanson; Karl Friedrichs

Board Chairs, to support
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