

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

FEBRUARY, 2010

On Sunday mornings we are slowly chewing through the Life of Christ as recorded in the book of Luke. Sticking primarily to one Gospel, and sticking primarily to one theme, has been healthy for me. I don't know about you! It's not easy staying focused on one thing for too long. Daily we receive literally hundreds of messages, stimulating our senses, many of which are intended to also stimulate our wallets. The typical 30 minute TV program is composed of three seven minutes segments separated by advertisements, which means that 9 minutes of your time is spent in 30 to 60 second appeals for your money, surrounded by short promo sound bites of other shows the network wants you to watch along with the show you are trying to watch in between commercials. And during the actual program time of the show you are never asked to focus your attention more than seven minutes in a stretch. Obviously the above sentences were written by someone, like many of you, who has some serious attention deficit issues!

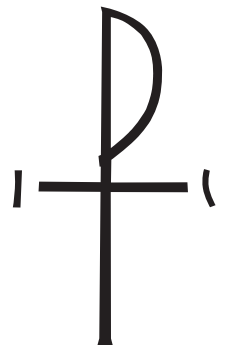
Starting February 17th, Ash Wednesday, we are going to slow things down here at church even more. Not only are we sticking to Luke and the Life of Christ, we are going to spend the seven Midweek services during the season of Lent on just one chapter of Luke – chapter 15 – the Parable of the Prodigal Son. My inspiration for this series is Timothy Keller's little book: The Prodigal God. Here are the weekly topics:

February 17 th , Ash Wednesday	Two Kinds of People
February 24 th , Lenten Midweek II	The Two Lost Sons
March 3, Lenten Midweek III	Redefining Sin
March 10, Lenten Midweek IV	Redefining Lostness
March 17, Lenten Midweek V	The True Elder Brother
March 24, Lenten Midweek VI	Redefining Hope
April 1 st , Maundy Thursday	The Feast of the Father

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is a favorite for many people. You probably know the story, and you are probably right to a point. But as Keller points out: "Nevertheless, one of the signs that you may not grasp the unique, radical nature of the gospel is that you are certain that you do." (The Prodigal God, introduction).

Lent is a time we set aside for renewal and reflection. To aid in this renewal, Lenten suppers will be held before the Wednesday night services starting on the 17th. Join us for supper service starting at 6:00, followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.

In Christ's Loving Service,
Pastor Steve



TANZANIA UPDATE

For the last three years Immanuel has been listening, trying to understand and attempting to work with our friends in Kidugala to increase their agricultural production. Agricultural production affects all very directly in Kidugala, with over 95% of the adults involved in farming. Agriculture is the base of the economy in the region. We realize that this is a huge project and will require a lot of patience. Lifelong producers of ag products don't often change their production systems on a dime. Better methods once identified will need to be demonstrated and continuing education will be required for improvement to occur. The foods that our TZ friends produce are mostly used for their annual food supply and therefore loss of production for any reason will directly impact their families. We still are very careful about what we suggest in ag production changes.

We must realize however that our TZ friends have some serious agronomic problems. Their soils continue to be severely eroded and greatly diminished after years of tillage and inadequate fertilization. They also have serious problems obtaining financing to secure better cropping genetics, therefore they primarily use saved seed. They have farmers that are quite productive, but because of little communication and very little continuing education, improvement is slow. The use of legumes and crop rotation could greatly increase their productivity, but they are reluctant to replace maize with another crop.

Improved animal production is obtained through managing the animal's environment, water and correct nutrient intake. Also it involves controlling parasites, managing disease and improving genetics. Several small steps could be taken to vastly improve greatly needed animal protein production.

On this year's trip to Kidugala we took soil samples for the second year, which we pass on to the soil advisors we work with. We harvested the maize demonstration plot which was intended to look at saved seed verses purchased seed, different fertilizer combinations and rates, and higher plant populations than normally planted. This was done primarily to gain a better understanding of what might work better and to what degree of yield improvement these bring. A meeting was arranged with top Pioneer Hybrid personal in Dar Es Salem to also discuss better maize production practices in the region. Composting was encouraged to slow the common practice of burning all organic matter and an Mpagolo tree project is underway. These trees are leguminous and are beneficial to the maize crop by adding nitrogen to the soil and their leaves add organic matter when tilled in. Sixteen hundred of these trees are being grown in a nursery for next season's planting. A completed irrigation project was viewed and future projects were discussed. Planning for the 2009-2010 demo plot under Pastor Wallace's direction began.

On the animal side, a product for temporarily controlling internal and external parasites in swine and beef arrived with the 2009 team. Six swine herds (ranging from 2 pigs to 20 pigs) were given this product including Philipo and Neama's. While administering this product four individuals were trained on dosage calculations and administrative technique. The syringes and extra products were left with Pastor Wallace and is enough to do repeat treatments and treat additional herds. That was a great success due to the parasite level that their swine have and the quick visual improvement witnessed. Improving their swine nutrition and enhancing their genetics would do wonders for their herds. These will continue to be addressed.

There is much opportunity for improvement in ag production in the Kidugala region. We must be good listeners before we speak and try to understand their ways before we encourage change. But our friends realize that their production is slipping and change is necessary. They are sincerely hungry to improve. As we move forward many of these same projects will be evaluated and continued if beneficial. Irrigation projects will continue to be a high priority in this region. A micro loan fund for the purchase of seed has been discussed.

. The TZ ag sub-committee wishes to thank ILC for all the verbal and financial support of ag projects in Kidugala. We also wish to request your prayers for guidance and wisdom in determining the avenues to pursue enhanced food production with our friends in Kidugala, TZ.



Remember our Servicemen:

Kelly Kelly, Jonathan Tilk, Scott Larsen



I. L. C. W.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Women

February 22—7:00 pm Country Friends Quilters

February 3,10,17,24—1:00 pm Hand Quilters

February 10, 24 —1:30 pm Mission Quilts

Deborah's Circle, 1:30 pm, February 2nd

Ruth Circle, 9:30 am, February 3rd, Pattison Home

Rachel Circles, 1:30 pm, February 3rd

ILCW Meeting 7:00 p.m., February 18th



FORMER PASTOR DIES

Pastor Clifford H. Nelson, who was a pastor at Immanuel in the 70's passed away on January 12th. Wife's address is: Elnor Nelson, 620 N Ottawa Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021-1699

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Workshop to make 300 Christmas Stockings for West Central will begin at 5:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. We can use cutters, sewers, pressers and lots and lots of fabric. Many hands will make this a fun and fast project. Bring you sewing machine, thread and supplies, cutting boards, rotary cutters, scissors, etc.

5:00 P M, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

DEAR IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH FAMILY:

Randy and I just wanted to take a few moments to **THANK YOU** for all the cards, well-wishes and especially the prayers lifted up during Randy's recent knee replacement surgery and recovery. He is well on his way to a full recovery and he hopes to be back in our pew very soon. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful extended family in our lives! Keep those prayers for healing coming! May the grace and peace of God bless each and everyone.
Randy & Sharon Kroger Family

MOMS & DADS

Would you use the church nursery if it were staffed during the Sunday Service?

Please contact the office if you are interested. 755-5207

Thank you,
Education Committee

6:00 P.M. SUPPER

7:00 P.M. SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, February 17th—Confirmation

Wednesday, February 24th—Choirs

Wednesday, March 3rd—Tanzania

Wednesday, March 10th—Council

Wednesday, March 17th—L Y O

Wednesday, March 24th—I C L W

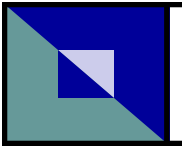
Palm Sunday, March 28th — 9:00 a.m. Service

Maundy Thursday, April 1st — 7:00 p.m. Service

Good Friday, April 2nd — 7:00 p.m. Service

Easter Sunday, April 4th — 7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Services
Brunch at 8:00 am.





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LCMC
1700 19th Street
Harlan IA 51537**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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CURRENT RESIDENT

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E-mail: ilc@fmctc.com
www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:
Pastor Steve Chellew
Youth Director: Chris Trailer
Music Director: Lisa Meyer
Office Manager: Mary Secress
Custodian: Tom Henrich

FEBRUARY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Every Saturday—Worship at 5:00 p.m.
Communion on Feb 6 & 20

Every Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Communion on Feb 7 & 21
10:00 a.m. Fellowship/Coffee/Rolls
10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:15 Children's Sunday School

A fellowship of believers
Committed to be and become:
Christ-Centered
Bible-Based
Family-Focused
Mission-Minded
In all that we do for the glory of God!
Matthew 28:18-20