

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

JANUARY, 2010

My TV night is Monday nights. While my wife slaves away teaching our soon to be commissioned Stephen Ministers, I glue myself to the TV for my one night of the week TV indulgence. (In case you're wondering, the pastor's part of Stephen Ministry is mostly referrals; although I'll probably have to teach a couple of classes along the way. But first Lisa will have to pry me off the couch!)

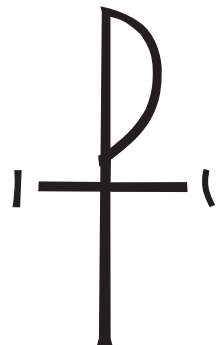
"House", followed by a fairly new program called "Lie to Me", and then "CSI: Miami" is my Monday night lineup. Yes I know there is Monday night football on part of the year, but unless it's the Packers or the Vikings, who really cares! "House" features Dr. Gregory House, a medical diagnostician and genius who solves medical problems no one else can solve. House is also a drug addict, with an antisocial personality disorder, which makes things interesting.

"Lie to Me" is also about a doctor/psychologist who is an expert on determining whether or not people are telling the truth. Dr. Cal Lightman is the world's leading expert on lying. If you lie to Lightman, he'll see it in your face or your posture, or hear it in your voice. You just can't lie to Dr. Lightman.

"CSI: Miami" is your basic crime drama featuring murder, robbery, rape and all the rest of human depravity. While I actually like some of the other characters on the other CSI's better, Horatio Caine, the lead detective in Miami, is fascinating to watch. While merciless to criminals, his compassion toward those who have been wronged almost makes Miami look like a wonderful place to live.

I suppose the connecting thread is people and their problems. While each of these shows show life way over the top, with way more excitement and drama than most professionals deal with in their entire career, each also show how incredibly bizarre life, our bodies, our minds and our personalities really are. In my twenty years of serving as a pastor, I've seen some pretty weird stuff as well; but nothing like House, Cal or Horatio deal with each episode! But people are still people, whether Christian or not, and sooner or later every one of us deals with the reality of sin, sickness, and sadness in our own lives.

Jesus is familiar with our sorrows, he knows our sickness, he understands all our sufferings. But unlike a doctor who diagnosis the disease or a detective who discovers "who did it", Jesus simply takes all of it upon himself. "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53) Monday night TV may not be real life; but unfortunately, the people portrayed often seem all too real. Real enough to remind us that without Jesus there really would be no hope, for "...by his stripes we are healed."



In Christ's Loving Service,
Pastor Steve

THANK YOU IMMANUEL MEMBERS

A big "Thank You" to everyone that contributed to the three families we adopted from West Central. Each family was given "food only" gift certificates and meat certificates in addition to all of the great gifts purchased, as was the family that ILCW adopted. I am sure Immanuel gave four families a much happier holiday.



PUPPETEERS CINNAMON ROLL SALE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24TH



On January 23rd, the Puppet Ministry Team will be working ALL NIGHT to bring you fresh, hot cinnamon rolls with your choice of cream cheese icing, caramel and pecans. Craig Olson will be the gratis (but appreciated) Auctioneer for this fundraiser.

The donations will be towards registration fees for the One Way Street Puppet Festival in Omaha in March. The remainder will start the specified fund for a larger, portable stage.

Gather in the Fellowship Hall by 10:15 am on Sunday, January 24th, to view the wonderful bakery goods and begin bidding. We will finish just before the Annual Congregational Meeting.

IMMANUEL'S ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010

10:30 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

All Committee reports must be in the office by January 10th.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

The goal of the ministry is to develop relationships to carry on through LYO in order to equip students to be passionate followers of Christ. The first middle school ministry event held 6 students and was a fun experience involving marshmallows combined with dodge-ball. The middle school lock in event held 48 students from multiple church backgrounds to no church backgrounds. Students who attended without their own Bible were given a Teen Study Bible to keep as their own. The most recent middle school event held 3 students. The middle school events are scheduled to take place on the second Friday of each month from 7-8:30 pm. Each event has a Bible study programmed to present an aspect of the gospel and the life of Jesus.

This ministry is new and is growing. I would love to take the space here to try and knock down the misconceptions that may exist regarding working with middle school students; however, that is a whole newsletter on its own! I love to see the eyebrows raise when I tell others that it really is a good time!! This being said, I would encourage those of you who are interested in working with middle school youth, on these Friday nights, to please contact me. As always, I appreciate the opportunities given to me to work with the students and parents of Immanuel.

Chris Trailer
712-579-4730

cmtrailer@gmail.com



Remember our Servicemen:

Kelly Kelly, Jonathan Tilk, Scott Larsen



I. L. C. W.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Women

January 6, 13, 20, 27—1:00 pm Hand Quilters

January 13, 27 —1:30 pm Tying Mission Quilts

Deborah's Circle, 1:30 pm, January 5th

Ruth Circle, 9:30 am, January 6th @ Dee Schornhorst's

Rachel Circle, 1:30 pm, January 6th @ Immanuel

So Sew Stitchers 7:00 p.m., January 7th @ Immanuel

SO SEW STITCHERS

The So Sew Stitchers Quilt Guild will be making Christmas Stocking for West Central to use next year for their Adoptive Families. This year there were over 100 families, with an average of three per family, we will need to make a lot of stockings! Any one who wishes to help is welcome to come to our January 7th meeting at 7:00 p.m. and make stockings. Also, any donated fabric will be great.

Bring your sewing machines, necessary sewing items, and your Christmas Fabric. There will be patterns available, or bring your own, with your various fabrics. The stockings will be medium sized.

Come join the fun!

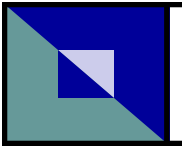
RIVERSIDE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP

Friends of Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp will hold a "Heavenly Night Gala" on February 27, 2010 in the David Hill Family Center. Enjoy a dazzling night under the stars as Riverside's dining hall is transformed into a heavenly delight. The exciting evening will include music, dinner, and an auction. This event will raise money for Riverside's ever-growing ministry.

Riverside has experienced tremendous growth in recent years. Over 1650 students attended summer camp in 2009. Riverside's year-round retreats continue to be highly successful and include three Mother-Daughter Ride with the King weekends. Twenty-five Beloit students took part in RWTK spring and fall programs. The newest additions to the campus include 12 beautiful cabins built by Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines.

Riverside exists to provide a Christ-centered camping experience to children and adults of all ages. This experience is based on salvation by God's grace alone through faith in Christ. Being Christ-centered means making it Riverside's aim to present Christ in every aspect of life at camp—including prayers, sings, fun, crafts, games, free-time, Bible study, eating, campfires, skits, and much more! Riverside acknowledges that all of life can be worship, and it is to this end we strive.

Life at Riverside includes a faith-based horse program called, Ride with the King. Half-day and all-day camps are offered to homeschoolers ages 11-18. Ranch camps are offered as part of Riverside's summer camp program. An indoor horse arena provides riding space even on rainy days. Check out more news and information from Riverside's website at www.riversidelbc.org.



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www.harlanimmanuel.org

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

JANUARY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Every Saturday—Worship at 5:00 p.m.
Communion on January 2 & 16

Every Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Communion on January 3 & 17
10:00 a.m. Fellowship/Coffee/Rolls
10:15 Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:15 HS Bible Study

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