

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

JULY, 2010

I was appalled to learn that the ACT tests, the standardized testing that high school students take as part of college entrance requirements, contain virtually no questions about history. English, Reading, Writing, Math and Science are all covered topics; but apparently knowledge of history is not important enough to be tested. I believe this is unfortunate, for as we all know history has a way of repeating itself. This appears especially true in regard to the negative parts of history. A knowledge of history informs us when we are headed for the same type of cliff that our forefather's plunged over once before, even if it doesn't always give us answers to avoiding going over. Kind of like kayaking on the Niagara River above the falls; we know others have survived the fall, but a better answer would be to start paddling faster.

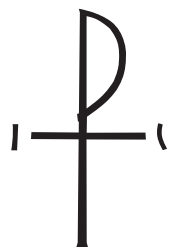
The historical cliff we are on is much like the situation Dr. Martin Luther faced at the beginning of the Reformation. Lay people, as well as many of the clergy, did not know their Bibles. They however, unlike us, did have a valid excuse. The Bible had not been translated into their own language. One of Luther's first tasks of the Reformation was to translate the Bible into German, the language of the people. The German New Testament quickly became one of the most printed books on the fairly newly invented Gutenberg's Printing Press. Now the people had the Bible in their own language. They no longer had a valid excuse; still they still rarely read the Bible for themselves. Instead, they allowed the pastors and teachers of the church to interpret it for them.

We are in the same boat. After almost five hundred years, the Lutheran Church, the church of the great Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone), is a church in which too many members find Bible reading and Bible study being better left to the scholars, the clergy. So what would Luther have to say regarding our present situation? I believe he would say much the same thing he said to the people of his parish in his famous Christmas sermon of 1522. We will let Luther say it in his own words:

O that God should desire that my interpretation and that of all teachers should disappear, and each Christian should come straight to the Scripture alone and to the pure word of God! You see from this babbling of mine the immeasurable difference between the word of God and all human words, and how no man can adequately reach and explain a single word of God with all his words. It is an eternal word and must be understood and contemplated with a quiet mind. No one else can understand except a mind that contemplates in silence. For anyone who could achieve this without commentary or interpretation, my commentaries and those of everyone else could not only be of no use, but merely a hindrance. Go to the Bible itself, dear Christians, and let my expositions and those of all scholars be no more than a tool with which to build aright, so that we can understand, taste, and abide in the simple and pure word of God; for God dwells alone in Zion. (Luther, 1522)

Go to the Bible itself, dear Christians. When you see the water spray, and hear the roar of the falls, and feel the pull of the water faster and harder, you know it's time to start paddling.

In Christ's Loving Service,
Pastor Steve



June 2nd-6th the LYO served and spent time at Pictured Rocks Camp near Monticello, IA. Students going on the trip included: Kirsten Applegate, Jordan Brelje, Chelsey Havick, Jenny Hosack, Nate Mages, Drake Nielson, Josh Olson, Sarah Olson, Skyler Peters, Jessica Ring, and April Taggs. Adult leaders were Robbie & Emily Cundy and Lindsey Vorm.

The project we worked on involved taking apart an old bridge, moving the material from that bridge (including two telephone poles) through a muddy creek bed to a different location, and then using that material to build a new bridge. Much hard work and teamwork was needed to complete this project, and the students did an awesome job working together.

Also on this trip, students had the opportunity to do team-building and ropes course activities, rock bouldering, caving, a faith walk through the woods, and canoeing/tubing down the Maquoketa River. Each evening, the group had a Bible study and worship time around the campfire. We focused our study time on learning the Bridge Illustration, which involves memorizing scripture to support and explain the Gospel (the bridge Christ built for us that brings us from death to life). The LYO is thankful for the opportunity we had to serve, learn, and fellowship on this trip, and we thank you for all your support and prayer.

In Christ,

Robbie & Emily Cundy

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 5TH-9TH

4:00 pm—7:00 pm

Each child needs to bring a plain t-shirt, supper will be provided.

Please contact Emily Cundy (579-6230) or Lindsey Vorm (304-0806) if you have any questions or would like to help. Thank you, see you there!





I. L. C. W.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Women

July 6, 13, 20, 27—9-3 pm Country Friends Quilters

July 7, 14, 21, 28—1:00 pm Hand Quilters

July 14, 28 —1:30 pm Tying Mission Quilts

Remember our Servicemen:

Kelly Kelly, Jonathan Tilk, Scott Larsen

Thursday, July 29, I L C W Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

**WORSHIP AT THE FAIRGROUNDS**

Immanuel Lutheran will conduct the Worship Service at the Fair grounds on Sunday, July 18th @ 9:00 a.m.

Saturday night worship (7/17) will be in our church Sanctuary @ 5:00 p.m.

L Y O ADVENTURELAND, SUNDAY JULY 25TH

We will be meeting at the church at 8:30 am for a "mini" worship service before we leave for the day. If you would like to join us on this trip, you will need to sign up by July 18th with Robbie or Emily. We need at least 15 people to sign up in order to go. Cost will be approximately \$26.00 for a ticket and whatever money you will want for food. Transportation is also needed, so please let Robbie or Emily know ASAP if you can help with that. Adults who are willing to drive and spend the day with us will have their gas & tickets paid for. Grab a friend or your parents and come join us for a fun day enjoying the company of friends at Adventureland.

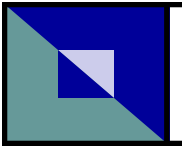
JULY COMMUNION SERVICES

HOLY COMMUNION IN JULY WILL BE ON THE 3RD & 4TH AND ON THE 24TH & 25TH.

**PATRIOTIC WORSHIP SERVICES**

JULY 3RD @ 5:00 P.M., JULY 4TH @ 9:00 A.M.

COME SING THOSE GREAT NATIONAL HYMNS OF FAITH



**Immanuel Lutheran Church
LCMC
1700 19th Street
Harlan IA 51537**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HARLAN, IOWA 51537
PERMIT NO. 97

CURRENT RESIDENT

Church Office: 755-5207
Office Hours: 9-12 & 1-4 (M-F)
Pastor Steve's Home: 712-249-8931
Fax Number: 712-755-7735
E-mail: ilc@fmctc.com
www.harlanimmanuel.org

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

JULY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Every Saturday—Worship at 5:00 p.m.
Communion on July 3 & 24

Every Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Communion on July 4 & 25
10:00 a.m. Fellowship/Coffee/Rolls
10:15 a.m. Adult 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