

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS

May, 2010

1 Chronicles 21 (NIV) ¹ Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. ² So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count the Israelites from Beer-sheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are." ³ But Joab replied, "May the LORD multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not all my lord's subjects? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?"

During the month of May, U.S. Census workers across the country will be knocking on the doors of everyone who did not send in their survey, or those like us, who never got one. (Apparently you have to live in Shelby County a lot longer than we have to be considered a resident...) The official excuse for the every ten year census is to tweak representation in the House of Representatives. But as we know the numbers being collected end up being used for all kinds of purposes, including the allocations of federal funds, disaster relief and so forth.

Census have also been used in other times and places for the primary purpose of taxation. The census called by Caesar Augustus in Luke 2, resulting in sending Mary and Joseph and pre-natal baby Jesus on the journey to Bethlehem, was most assuredly for this purpose. Caesar wanted to make sure he was getting every pretty penny out of the nations his Roman Empire occupied. But census have also been used for military purposes, as in First Chronicles.

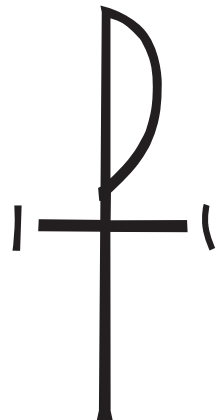
Counting people wasn't a problem as far as God was concerned, indeed, he himself had ordered other census of the Israelite people from time to time. But David had ordered this census, not God. And at the time, David and the Israelites were fighting two wars, wars against the Ammonites and the Philistines. (Not unlike the fact that we too continue to fight two separate wars, Iraq and Afghanistan, with Afghanistan going on over ten years). The purpose of David's wars was to claim the Promised Land for the people of Israel, a war by divine mandate if there ever was one. Still, David began to worry about the numbers. Did he really have enough men to carry on two separate wars at once?

Unfortunately, the punishment for David's disobedience left him worse off than he started, with less men to fight the good fight. 1 Chronicles 21 continues: ¹⁴ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell dead. ¹⁵ And God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. But as the angel was doing so, the LORD saw it and was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand."

I'm pretty certain the nice U.S. Census worker who knocks on our door and wonders why we didn't return our form will not be bearing a sword, or the plague for that matter. Still, I worry about our current fascination with size and numbers. Hopefully we too will not need to learn the lesson King David had to learn the hard way: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV)

In Christ's Loving Service,

Pastor Steve





IMMANUEL'S 2010 GRADUATING SENIORS

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| KIRSTEN APPEGATE | Daughter of George and Jan Applegate |
| CHRISTOPHER BEEMAN | Son of Jody Ahrenholtz |
| JESSIKA CHAPMAN | Daughter of Derek and Renee Chapman |
| BROOKE GRABILL | Daughter of Galen and Donna Grabill |
| DANIELLE HANSEN | Daughter of Joey and Jennifer Hansen |
| CHELSEY HAVICK | Daughter of Shawn and LaDonna Havick |
| JESSICA HEILIG | Daughter of Cindy Heilig |
| ALYSSA HOPP | Daughter of Gary Hopp and Diana Joy |
| JENNY HOSACK | Daughter of William and Carmen Hosack |
| MOLLY JACOBSEN | Daughter of Terry and Karlene Jacobsen |
| JANA LYTLE | Daughter of Gaige and Sherry Lytle |
| HOPE MILLER | Daughter of Shawn and Angela Miller |
| KAITLIN MURRAY | Daughter of Jerry and Cathy Murray |
| DANIEL OHMS | Son of Neil and Melanie Ohms |
| JOSH OLSON | Son of Lisa Chellew and Mark Olson |
| RENEE REISING | Daughter of Dori Tucker |

CROSS AND CROWN SUNDAY

All Sunday School Students will be recognized during the service Sunday, May 9th.

May 9th will be the final class until September. Hope to see you all there!

THRIVENT DAY AT ADVENTURELAND PARK

June 26th is the day, tickets are \$15.00 per person, no lunch provided. There is a new water park also available. To order tickets send a check payable to Thrivent Financial-Adventureland, with the number of tickets and the name of each person to: Diane Stewart, Financial Associate, 617 Durant Street, Harlan. Tickets must be ordered and paid for before June 1st. Diane will receive the tickets the week of June 7. The regular price of a ticket is \$35.00. This is a great opportunity! JOIN THE FUN.

Shelby County Chapter of Thrivent

DISHES IN THE NARTHEX

Do you have a pan or dish missing from your cupboard? Pans and dishes left here at Immanuel are on a table in the narthex. Please pickup yours by May 14th. Any pans left will become the property of the church, or will be discarded. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



Remember our Servicemen:

Kelly Kelly, Jonathan Tilk,
Scott Larsen

I. L. C. W.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Women

May 4, 11, 18, 25—9-3 pm Country Friends Quilters

May 5, 12, 19, 26—1:00 pm Hand Quilters

May 12, 26 —1:30 pm Tying Mission Quilts

Deborah's Circle, 1:30 pm, May 4, Marge Ahrenholtz' Home

Ruth Circle, 9:30 am, April 5

Rachel Circle, 1:30 pm, April 5, Immanuel Lutheran

I L C W Monthly Meeting, Thursday, May 27th @ 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Thursday, May 6th, there will be a stocking workshop in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 until 8:00 p.m. If you have stockings at home you have completed, please bring. If you want more fabric, I do have some new, come and cut out. We want to get a count to see where we are.

THANK YOU !!

A big "Thank You" to all who purchased pans from the ILCW for our fundraiser. We will be selling the items again during the month of October and at our Harvest Bazaar, Oct. 12th.

THANKS for all of the grounds clean up help on Wednesday, April 7th. Our yard is really beautiful! Many hands make quick work of a large job.

IMMANUEL'S SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

SHIPPING to Tanzania costs \$50.00 per month. (Sign up sheet in Narthex)

MARIAM sponsorship is \$10.00 per week. (Sign up sheet in Narthex)

FLOWERS for the altar. (Sign up sheet in Narthex)

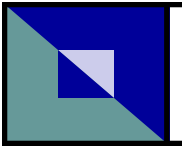
GREETERS, LECTORS, USHERS, ACOLYTES are needed on a weekly basis.

If you are willing to help with any of these, please sign up or contact the office. It takes 20 to 25 helpers every weekend for the services to run smoothly.

JUNE MEALS-ON-WHEELS



Volunteers are needed to deliver Meals-On-Wheels during the month of June. This includes men and women. There are two routes and each route requires two volunteers. A sign-up calendar is located on the ILCW bulletin board in the narthex. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you for supporting Immanuel's mission work in our community.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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

MAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Every Saturday—Worship at 5:00 p.m.
Communion on May 1 & 15

Every Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Communion on May 2, & 16
10:00 a.m. Fellowship/Coffee/Rolls
10:15 Sunday School
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