

EMMANUEL NEWS

Sunday School: 9:00 (Sept-May)

Divine Service: Sundays at 9:00 am (Memorial Day through Labor Day)



From the Pastor's Study

Dennis Prager is a Jewish conservative political commentator who presents well thought out videos on topics from the American Founding Fathers to the evils of Hamas to Jewish teachings. While I don't want to get into a drawn-out discourse on the differences between Judaism and Biblical Christianity, something he said in a recent video highlighted one of the most significant differences between the two.

In his video *The Pope Hopes No One Is in Hell. We Should.* Prager correctly observes that there is a heaven and a hell, and that God will punish some and reward others. He rightly says that because God is just evil will be punished. But then he goes off the rails when he says, "I fervently hope that some people are in hell, just as I hope some people are in heaven." He elaborated on this comment by stating some people deserve to be punished and if the wicked aren't punished he would be an atheist.

What he says isn't shocking because it's what we often think, isn't it? Don't we want certain people like Hitler, Stalin, and murderers to burn in hell? And don't we want certain people, like Mother Teresa, sweet little grandmas and grandpas, and other good people to go to heaven? Of course! The question though isn't what we think, it's what God thinks, and His thinking is considerably different than ours. He says, **"Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?"** (Ez. 18:23) or **"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."** (2 Peter 3:9)

Our human side certainly wants the wicked punished, but our Christian side doesn't because then we would be punished. We're all sinful from conception, we all fail to live up to God's commanded holiness, we all sin every day. God in His righteous judgment should send us all to hell!

God is just so all sin must be punished. Because God is compassionate, gracious, and merciful He sent His Son to be punished on our behalf. His Son suffered hell and damnation for all people so that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved!

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Christians are not to wish hell on anyone – we too want everyone to repent and come to faith. Of course, those who die in unbelief are condemned to eternal damnation. However, regardless of an individual's sin and wickedness prior to conversion, upon their coming to a repentant faith they are forgiven. We are forgiven for our sin and wickedness! Yes, some people are wicked beyond all comprehension, and I think we can rightly assume that Hitler, Stalin, and the Hamas terrorists who've been killed since October 7th did not repent and are being punished. God alone knows the hearts of mankind; he knows the sincere and the fake. So instead of hoping some people go to hell (which is a natural reaction), let us pray that God will turn the hearts of the wicked and unbelievers so they will know eternal life. May we be God's instruments in bringing the promise of forgiveness to those who desperately need to hear it. In other words, all those who don't believe. Let us reflect God's love for us as love for others whom we don't want to eternally perish.

In Christ,
Pastor

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

June 12, 2024

Present: Wes D, Jon R, Randy D, Lyle T, Dave W, John F, JoDee, Sheryl H, Pastor Peterson, Deanna C

Meeting opened with prayer. Secretary's Report read and approved.

Financial/Treasurer's Report read: no new issues. Balance of \$11,117.00 Report approved.

Elder's Report: no new business

Evangelism Committee: \$187 and \$15 from church offering was raised for Backpack Program. It was motioned by Randy D and second by John F and approved by Council Members to donate \$300 to the Backpack Program.

Trustee's Report: New carpet samples were reviewed by Council members and voted on. Possible installation timeline discussed. Dave W started discussion about the need for new vanities in both bathrooms costing approximately \$1000 each.

Pastor's Report: VBS went well even with decrease in attendance from previous years. Elizabeth Schramm transferred in from Peace in Wall Lake. Adam Haukap transferred to Zion Lutheran in Humboldt, Ia. Amber Jenkins via reaffirmation of faith and Caylee will enter confirmation class. Pastor will be on vacation from June 17 thru the 23.

Old Business: none

New Business: Gary and Marlin will be organizing a Float for Summer Water Carnival next month. Marlin is also working on ordering for next month's Chicken Dinner. Sunday School space needs re-organizing to decrease clutter.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer Minutes taken and submitted by Deanna C, Council Secretary

Mary & Martha Meeting Minutes

Mary & Martha met at Judy Karger's for June 13th breakfast with 10 members and 3 guests in attendance. Karen Wetzstein gave the devotionals. Judy read thanks yous, and minutes and financial reports were given and approved. Judy passed around thank you notes and birthday cards for everyone to sign.

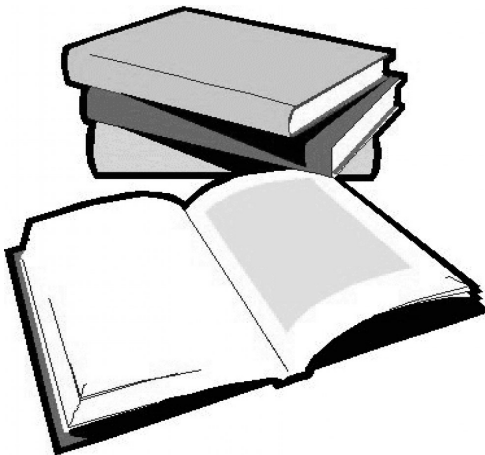
Group voted to donate \$200 to the "Backpack Project. Quilters will tie quilts at a later date. Discussed ideas for graduates.

Orphan Grain Train clothes will be collected from June 23rd to July 7. A group will go to help in Ida Grove on July 9th.

Karen Wetzstein and Judy Kramer will attend Convention June 13-15. Karen is our voting delegate. Muffins & Mites is Sunday July 7th. Julie, Sheryl and Judy will provide muffins.

Deanna Cole and Judy Miller joined our group. "Welcome to both".

Closed with Lords Prayer and table prayer. Submitted by Pam Wollesen, Secretary



Board of Education

We have an opening on the Board of Education and anyone who has love for children and a desire to help with the Christian Education (children, youth, adult) at Emmanuel is invited to talk to Pastor or Jennifer (830-9015).

Stewardship Thought— Freedom's Celebration

Freedom is a right that comes with the privilege of being an American. We have freedom to work, live, and study wherever we please, to decide how many children we want to have, and to speak out when we are against an issue. We have freedom to worship in whatever manner we please. We don't have to worry about our churches being closed for what they teach or even being arrested for bearing the name of "Christian." Every day we should thank God for our freedom, but, as Christians, we know that no one is completely free until he is free in Christ (John 8:36). God's freedom allows us to find the joy of having our sins forgiven and the ability to grow in faith, and become the persons God wants us to be. Along with this freedom, though, comes responsibility. Our responsibility is to administer our whole lives—personality, time, talent, money, influences, goals, everything, in accordance with the spirit and ideals of Christ. What an exciting way to thank our Lord for the freedom we find in Him!





Annual Church Picnic

July 28th 5:00 pm

Speaker Park Shelter House

Please sign up to bring a side or desert. Meat will be furnished.

Why is Grace Amazing?

The thought that hit me this month was grace. At its core, grace is about God's love for humanity. God cares so deeply for a fallen and broken world that He offers it a solution, a way out. God provides grace for a guilt-ridden world. The message of grace is connected with forgiveness and healing spoken in our churches and through the mouths and lives of those who are followers of Jesus. Our prayer is to allow us, Lord, to live grace-filled lives among those unconnected and those who are beaten down by the effects of sin. Grace is clearly revealed in Paul's letter to a young group of believers in Corinth, "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation" (1 Corinthians 5:19). Grace is revealed also in the waters of Holy Baptism. As Tertullian once shared, "How mighty is the grace of water, in the sight of God and His Christ, for the confirmation of Baptism! Never is Christ without water: He who is Himself in water (Matt. 3:13-17) inaugurates in water the first display of His power when invited to the wedding in Cana (John 2:111); in His preaching, He invites the thirsty to His own eternal water (John 7:37-38; John 4:6ff). And when He is wounded, after His death, water bursts forth from His side that had been pierced with the soldier's lance (John 19:34)!" If you want a daily visible reminder of God's grace, it is found around you everywhere in the form of water. May you be a refreshing drink to the souls of those around you as you live out this year filled with grace.

Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President

keith@iowadistrictwest.org

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 pm Evangelism Comm Meeting	3	4	5 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	6
7 9:00 Worship	8	9	10 7:00 pm Council Meeting	11	12 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	13
14 9:00 Worship	15	16	17	18	19	20
Pastor on Vacation						
21 9:00 Worship	22	23	24	25	26 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	27
28 9:00 Worship	29	30	31			
5:00pm Church Picnic						

Birthdays

Name	Date
Shawndra Kelly	01
Rachel Zehnder	04
Marlin Johnson	07
Christina Caton	07
Julie Drost	07
Jacob Bock	07
Justin Kraft	07
Norma Wallace	10
Pat Smith	11
Bradley Racobs, Jr	11
Drake Swenson	15
Carletta Brown	16
Kim Drost	16
Kathy Carroll	17
Rev Don Peterson	19
Jay Liechti	19
Gert Drost	20
Charlotte Busch	21
Bonnie Peters	22
Brylea Wessels	22
Kyler Snider	25
Sheryl Huisenga	26
Julie Kruse	26
Evelyn Knop	27
Marcia Frank	28
Vernon Van Meveren	31

If your birthday or anniversary is not on our list, please contact the church office so we can add you to our list.

Anniversaries

Jimmy & Jenny Stock	03	20 yrs
Tom & Cindy Wilke	04	38 yrs
Bill & JoAnn Clausen	06	67 yrs
Jake & Melissa Frye	09	8 yrs
Stuart & Jennifer Bohm	21	24 yrs

Serving in God's House

Elders:

July 7: Marlin Johnson (712)210-0879

July 14: Craig Wallace (606) 584-3221

July 21: Dave Woltman (712) 660-3532

July 28: Lyle Tegels (712) 830-7151

Acolytes:

July 7: Emmett Hemer

July 14: Jacob Huegerich, Carter Huegerich

July 21: Braxton Graff, Talon Graff

July 28: Macy Monahan, Katie Ryan

Counters:

July 7: Brigit Frank, Karen Van Meveren, Lucas & Kalyn Johnson

July 14: Christina Caton, Amber Hadden & Julie Reaman

July 21: Judy Miller and Dale & Lynda Wiebers

July 28: Brigit Frank, Karen Van Meveren, Lucas & Kalyn Johnson

Contact Us

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Pastor Don Peterson: 657-3056 (home) or 712-830-5017