



Immanuel's Story

January 2024
Gather & Grow & Go

Volume 38

Issue 1



On a cold winter morning, Holy Spirit,
enfold me in the warmth of your love.



Pastor's Perspective

Out of the mouths of babes...

A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. Here is what was written:

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one,' but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden... Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat. Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh yeah, I just thought of one more: Honor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Jericho and the fence fell over on the town. After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.



After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor

league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them. After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead. Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

Blessings to you in the New Year as we continue to tell and proclaim the story of God!

Read the Word and keep smiling! Pastor Paul



Have you ever wanted to text God? What an intriguing thought! Push a button on the phone, get his attention, quickly jot something down, send the message and wait. Wow! How slick! But wait a minute – is that really the way having God in our life works? In fact, is that really the way we want it to work?

Think about it. Our God doesn't wait for a push of a button to get involved in our lives. Rather he permeates our lives constantly – whether we like it or not! His relationship to us is so unique and so special, and he *wants* to communicate with us. We don't need a phone, or even the internet, to contact him. All we need is faith in our Lord and Savior and the willingness to enter into the special relationship we have with God through prayer.

Yes, the key to this relationship is *faith*. We don't need a gadget! All we need to take is what some philosophers and theologians have referred to as the leap of faith: our acceptance and belief in the miracle of Jesus' birth, the sacrifice He made on our behalf, and the beautiful mystery of the Triune God. Let's never forget the value of the relationship this "leap" establishes: He is always with us, no matter what our life circumstances are. Furthermore, He's waiting to hear from us! Let's always find time to have a conversation with this great and understanding God.

Jim Bloedel

A Few Thoughts About Prayer

I still remember the prayer I would say every night many years ago before falling asleep as a child, “Now I lay me down to sleep...” I trusted that God heard my prayers. As an adult, I view prayer as a mystery and approach it as I do my belief in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit — through faith and trusting that my prayers will be heard. For much of my life, I’ve thought of prayer as a one-way petition to God of my or others’ wants or needs and then waited to see if and how my requests would come to fruition. However, as I’ve matured in my faith walk I have come to believe that prayer can be a two-way conversation.

It occurred to me that my prayers were mostly phrased as commands telling God what to do. I thought about the words, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” found in the Lord’s prayer and began to rephrase my requests from sounding like I was telling God what to do to asking Him for or to do something.

I began to emphasize thanking God for Jesus and the Holy Spirit and for His love, saving grace, and all He creates. A major shift came when I realized I needed some skin in the process and began to invite God to use me if there was something I could do to help facilitate that which I’ve asked Him to help me with or for those whom I had prayed. I became intentional about saying yes to God. If I want God to do something for me, I should be willing to do something for Him.

I pray in a quiet place. I learned that if I am open to hearing what the Spirit of God has to say to me, I may find a reply in a thought that comes into my quiet presence or via a poem, song, story, sign, movie, book, magazine, or through an opportunity to serve others in some way. If I *take the time* to listen, I may receive guidance by a still quiet voice that can connect with my consciousness as if the Spirit is communicating with me.

Dave Peterson



A Winter marriage group study will begin in January. “The Gospel and Your Marriage”. During six sessions, couples will explore biblical principals and how they relate to a healthy marital relationship. Couples will meet for one hour, following the 10:30 service, beginning on Sunday, January 14th. Sessions will be held in the fireside room. Childcare will be provided. Our last session will be on Sunday, February 18th. Contact Jill DeCent to sign up, jilld@immanuelcrosby.org.



- 1 Rock Gunter, Lisa Miller, Jean Sachs, Jim Ysseldyke
- 2 Dolores Peterson
- 3 Carl Kurtz
- 4 Dextor Abear, Anita Burns, Nate Horner, Paul Rinde, Candy Turner
- 5 Linnea Laffin, Anna Larson
- 6 Dave Peterson, Dennis Peterson,
- 7 Sharon Kleinschmidt, Kyja Lindahl
- 9 Mark Bjornstad, Jake Bourgeois, Gabriel Gibson, Barb Moe
- 10 Tim Bongs, Kole Nixon
- 11 Brad Hanes, Ken Landborg
- 12 Ella Barry, Brad Holmvig, Darlene Peterson
- 13 Don Nyvold
- 14 Cory Kovatovich, Valerie Perpich
- 15 Christina Nelson, Karen Rosecrans
- 18 Kevin Martini, John Rosecrans
- 19 Gracesen Klein
- 20 Kayla Christenson, Svea Johnson, Ade Olson, Mitch Reagan, Diane Van Krevelen
- 22 Jeff Klein, Aribell Radinovich
- 24 Peter Nordell
- 25 Lynn Harker, Sean Larson, Lois Laughton
- 27 Hannah Bliss, John Klopfleisch
- 28 Kim Kayfes
- 29 Ken Chamberlin, Jon Ustipak
- 30 Lee Bohlin, Ellyott Hoyt, Heather Nixon
- 31 Lochlann Booth, Jake Frahm

Anniversaries

- 2 Nate & Nancy Horner (2010)
- 21 Kevin & Angie Reinhart (2006)
- 23 Rick & Alison Koop (2021)
- 27 Steve & Marian Freese (1973)

Baptism

Dylan Elaine Perpich

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 3	9:00 a.m.	117
	10:30 a.m.	<u>63</u>
		180
December 10	9:00 a.m.	94
		<u>98</u>
		192
December 17	9:00 a.m.	121
	10:30 a.m.	<u>49</u>
		170
December 24	2:00 p.m.	115
	4:00 p.m.	182
	8:00 p.m.	<u>31</u>
		328

Welcome 2024!!

Offering Envelopes that were not picked up will be placed in corresponding mailboxes. If you are not able to pick up your envelopes send me an email at debe@immanuelcrosby.org or call the office. Remember these envelopes can be used however you choose to give - weekly, monthly, annually, etc.

All funds go into the General Account unless otherwise indicated - Milestone Ministry, Quilters, Youth, Sunday School, Major Capital (Building Fund), MWAM, Campership Funds, Malawi, and Good Sam, are just a few of the different funds you may choose to give to.

Your Financial Treasurer, Deb Eatros

General Operating Budget Report

	<u>Nov-23</u>	<u>Nov-22</u>	<u>YTD 2023</u>	<u>YTD 2022</u>
Budget	38,309	35,074	421,399	385,814
General Fund Giving	21,911	32,806	362,167	376,872
General Fund Expense	34,698	33,386.	390,465	342,293
Net Income	-12,787	-580	-28,298	34,579

Major Capital Improvement Fund

11/30/2023

November 1, 2023	Balance:		\$48,888.80
	Deposits:	\$1,266.42	
	Reserve:	\$250.00	\$1,516.42
	Withdrawals:		
November 30, 2023	Ending Balance:		\$50,405.22

Merry Christmas!

We have entered one of the busiest times of the year in Family Ministry! In November, Sunday School children began preparing for their annual Christmas program, by practicing their songs, as well as choosing parts, and playing their colored bells. We had a wonderful program on Sunday, December 10th, with a full cast of characters. Thank you to Linnea and Geraldine for all their help in making this program come together. As we look to next year, discussions have begun about an intergenerational Christmas program! There was also a 5th Wednesday in the month of November, which meant a Family night was had. We played bingo, ate yummy food, and won prizes. The next 5th Wednesday comes in January-watch for updates for plans for the January family night. Please grab the whole family and join us! All ages welcome.

Youth and Confirmation students celebrated the Christmas season with an evening filled with amazing food brought to us by Elizabeth Mattson, games, and the “Left/Right” gift passing game. The annual youth Christmas party was held Wednesday, December 13th, with a full crew on board. We now look forward to our camp weekend in January-“Winter Wipeout” at Camp Shamineau, January 12th-14th. This a wonderful retreat filled with fellowship, chapel worship, and new adventures. All 7th-12th graders are welcome to register!

As a reminder, Sunday school is now on break, and will resume on Sunday, January 7th. Confirmation will be held on Wednesday, December 20th, but then youth will be on break, and resume on Wednesday, January 3rd.

Please take this time to incorporate the “Faith Five” into your family’s routines-

STEP 1: **SHARE** your highs and lows

STEP 2: **READ** a Bible verse or story

STEP 3: **TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

STEP 4: **PRAY** for one another’s highs and lows

STEP 5: **BLESS** one another

May your Christmas be blessed!

Jill DeCent,
Family Ministry Coordinator



January 2024

Worship Service Schedule



Altar Guild for January: Deb Koop & Sue Schubert	
Churchyard Worship Scripture: Psalm 29 & Mark 1:4-11	
Sunday, January 7th - 9:00am	Sunday, January 7th - 10:30am
Greeters: Virgil & Melva Panitzke Ushers: Gary & Sandi Erickson Lector: Sandy Twigg Communion Servers: Kevin Martini Offering Counters: Erinn Hoyt & Darlene McNally Tech: Tim Bongs & Jack Schubert	Greeters: Sally & Bella Oren Ushers: Sally & Bella Oren Lector: David Pundt Communion Servers: Tom Nixon Nursery: TBD
Traditional Worship Scripture: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 & John 1:43-51	
Sunday, January 14th - 9:00am	Sunday, January 14th - 10:30am
Greeters: Lynn & Shelly Harker Ushers: Dale & Vi Klunness Lector: LuAnn Henrichs Communion Servers: Bonnie LaPierre Offering Counters: Jody Bunio & Paula Traylor Tech: Jack Schubert & Terri Wisniak	Greeters: TBD Ushers: TBD Lector: John Klopfleisch Communion Servers: David Pundt Nursery: Hannah Pakarinen
Contemporary Worship with Wing and a Prayer Scripture: Psalm 62:5-12 & Mark 1:14-20	
Sunday, January 21st - 9:00am	Sunday, January 21st - 10:30am
Greeters: Marian Freese & Paula Traylor Ushers: TBD Lector: Jeff Olson Communion Servers: Nancy Heise Offering Counters: Pam Ballard & Marian Freese Tech: Tim Bongs & David Pundt	Greeters: TBD Ushers: TBD Lector: Becky Pakarinen Communion Servers: Jerry DeCent Nursery: Kirsten Nixon



Ushers and Greeters: Please arrive 30 minutes before the worship service.

Communion Servers: Please see Pastor Paul 10 minutes prior to worship service if you have questions.



If you cannot serve on the date you are scheduled, be sure to find a replacement for yourself and let your Captain know of your replacement.



Sally Oren
Members Ministry
Coordinator

