

Immanuel's Story

August 2024



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Do not be conformed to this world,
*but be transformed by
the renewal of your mind,*
that by testing you may discern
what is the will of God.

ROMANS 12:2, ESV

Pastor's Perspective

For summer devotional reading and reflection....

“I Choose Love”

It's quiet. It's early. My coffee is hot. The sky is still black. The world is still asleep. The day is coming.

In a few moments the day will arrive. It will roar down the track with the rising of the sun. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. The calm of solitude will be replaced by the pounding pace of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by decisions to be made and deadlines to be met. For the next twelve hours I will be exposed to the day's demands. It is now that I must make a choice.

Because of Calvary, I'm free to choose. And so I choose.

I choose love. No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.

I choose joy. I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical... the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

I choose peace. I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

I choose patience. I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite Him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.

I choose kindness. I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.

I choose goodness. I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I will boast. I will confess before I will accuse. I choose goodness.

I choose faithfulness. Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their father will not come home.

I choose gentleness. Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice, may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.

I choose self-control. I am a spiritual being. After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithful-ness, gentleness, and self-control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek His grace. And then, when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest.

Excerpted from Let the Journey Begin by Max Lucado © Thomas Nelson.

Please Note:

- In the coming days – look for more information about our upcoming congregational study, and for information about the beginning of our healthy year of transition and transformation in the process of my retirement and the calling of a new pastor.

Blessings – Pastor Paul



August Scripture Readings

August 4	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
August 11	1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
August 18	Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
August 25	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69/89*



The extraordinary amid the ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an "ordinary" person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Debbie Lindahl
- 3 Sawyer Holmes, Jace Kayfes
- 4 Lloyd Brix, Mya Ferrari
- 5 Devon Gibson, Reggie Hakes,
Roger Twigg
- 8 Tamorah Eatros, Kim Gibson
- 9 Ken Moe, Kane Nixon, Ally Sabyan,
Sam Stanfield
- 10 Dan Rasmussen
- 12 Scott Dehning, Millie Radinovich
- 13 Maycee DeCent
- 14 Dee Beseman
- 16 Theresa Miller, Hunter Wynn
- 18 Alyse Holmes
- 19 Kensie Chamberlin, Ginny Larson,
Roxie Perkins
- 20 Miriam Kannel, Auhtumn Wynn
- 21 Jane Holmwig, Dan LaPierre,
Sue Reagan
- 23 Sandi Erickson, Hayden McGowan,
Judy Thiesfeld
- 24 Bobbie Kovatovich
- 25 Patty Kahnert
- 29 Cody Reinhart
- 31 Harry Kahnert, Maren Koop,
Craig Lubovich

Anniversaries...

- 6 Dan & Bonnie LaPierre (1981)
- 7 Mark & Nicki Bjornstad (2018)
- 7 Kerry & Marie Futhey (1976)
- 9 Jim & Meredith Bloedel (2016)
- 10 Joe & Lori Ostrowski (1976)

- 11 Lee & Barb Bohlin (1959)
- 13 Ted & Ceara Abear (2012)
- 15 Seth & Becky Pakarinen (2000)
- 17 David & Linda Merta (1971)
- 18 Ricky & Rachel Aulie (2009)
- 18 Jack & Sue Schubert (1970)
- 19 Mike & Karen Midthun (1975)
- 23 Shayne & Tanya Jacobs (1993)
- 27 Ron & Liz Larson (2020)
- 28 John & Connie Rinde (1973)
- 29 Tim & Diane Hummel (1989)
- 30 Anthony & Erin Koop (2011)
- 30 Brian & Therese Norwood (1994)

Baptisms

- Grayson David Solie*
- Archie Reynold Jacobs*

Funerals

- Kendahl Duane "Ken" Sweet*
- Clement Victor "Clem" Gagnon*

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

June 2	9:00	130
	10:30	32
	Total	162
June 9	9:00	123
	10:30	55
	Total	178
June 16	9:00	120
	10:30	74
	Total	194
June 23	9:00	115
	10:30	54
	Total	169

Jill DeCent, Family Ministry Coordinator

Greetings from Family Ministry!

Summer is in full swing. Our Youth spent the month of June helping some members of our congregation sprucing up their yards. We felt blessed with our abilities, and I am always filled with joy when our young people want to lend helping hands. We also volunteered our time at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen on June 26th, again, blessed with a great team of youth and adult helpers. We now look forward to July, where the youth will enjoy their annual “Party at the Parsonage” on July 23rd. This event is open to all 7th-12th graders and their families.

We held our first “Pop-Up VBS” in the Crosby Memorial Park on Wednesday, July 10th, from 12pm-1pm. We are looking forward to the next session, on Wednesday July 24th, then again on Wednesday July 31st. There are games, music, make and take activity, and bible stories. We hope to see you there! All ages welcome. As a team effort with Salem Lutheran Church of Deerwood, “Scuba” VBS was held July 15th-18th, from 9am-12pm, at Salem in Deerwood. We can’t wait to make this an even bigger event next year!

A Meal With a Mission was held on Sunday, July 14th, with proceeds benefitting VBS. THANK YOU to those who donated, as well as an incredible team of Volunteers.

As a reminder, many communications for all family related activities can be found on the Family Ministry FB Page, as well as the Remind App, and church emails.

AS FOR ME
AND MY
family,
WE WILL SERVE
THE
Lord.

JOSHUA 24:15, NLT

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

1) What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry. Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear.
All because we do not carry. Everything to God in prayer!

2) Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful? Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3) Are we weak and heavy laden? Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee. Thou wilt find a solace there.

Joseph M. Scriven was born in Seapatrick, County Down, Ireland in 1819. He was an Irish immigrant to Canada and wrote this text in 1855. Because his life was filled with grief and trials, Scriven often needed the solace of the Lord as described in his famous hymn.

Educated at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, he enrolled in a military college to prepare for an army career. However, poor health forced him to give up that ambition. Soon after came as second blow-his fiancée died in a drowning accident on the eve of their wedding in 1844. Later that year he moved to Ontario, where he taught school.

His plans for marriage were dashed again when his new bride-to-be died after a short illness in 1855. Following this calamity, Scriven seldom had a regular income and he was forced to live in the homes of others. He also experienced mistrust from neighbors who did not appreciate his eccentricities or his work with the underprivileged. He tried to live according to the Sermon of the Mount as literally as possible, giving and sharing all he had and often doing menial tasks for the poor and physically disabled. Because Scriven suffered from depression, no one knew if his death by drowning in Rice Lake was suicide or an accident in 1886.

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Submitted by Paula Traylor
Prayer Team Leader

Manna for Malawi



Our event is just weeks away. If you have silent auction items, please turn them in. Have you checked out the sign-up sheets and raffle tickets by the bookstore table in the Fellowship Hall? A lot of preparation goes into this event but it is almost time to have fun. Ken (MOCPS President) and Penny Ekegren (started Days for Girls) will be here for our 10th event. Give them a warm welcome.

On August 1st, M4M and ILCYG representatives will be at Music in the Park. Stop by our table and say hi!