



Newsletter



REMEMBER ...

- Our services are broadcast on Hudson cable Channel 15 on Wednesday night at 9:00PM and again on Thursday morning at 9:00AM.
- Check out our church web site at: <www.emmanuelhudson.org>
- Watch "Time of Grace" on TV Sunday mornings at 6:30 a.m. on FOX 9.
- "Message from the Master" airs on 1220 AM radio Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m.

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Pastor's Pen...

Hey PaPaPa!

The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great. Nehemiah 8:17.

The bible verse above came to mind the last time I went to the airport.

Recently I had the assignment of being the designated "airport driver". My daughter, her husband, and her son were returning from a vacation in Florida and their flight was due to arrive midmorning in the middle of the week. Having left their car at my house they needed to get from the airport to their car to finish their return trip home. Since our family considers "taxi cabs" too expensive, one or another of us tries to be curbside to pick up passengers and luggage. Such was the case for me this day. Because we very much look forward to our loved ones returning home after being away for some time, it is our custom to gather as many family members as possible to meet and greet those who are returning home. We like to be at their flight arrival gate to greet them when they deplane. When I watch other families I see similar gatherings. Sometimes there are balloons, a small bouquet of flowers perhaps, and always many hands eager to carry luggage, arms to reach out with embracing hugs, and kisses all around. And in many cases tears of joy are seen accompanied by happy giggles together with lots of animated talk at a joyous reunion.

Sometimes, however, only one person is there.

In any event, it is almost certain that after the hugs and kisses and the shaking of hands in greeting are done, there is a flurry of activity that includes much animated talk as individuals get down to the business of catching up on things that have happened since the last time they were together.

The Israelites spoken of by Nehemiah had spent the last 70 years of their history as Babylonian exiles. They had been forcibly uprooted from the land God had given their forefathers. Enslaved, deported, and exposed to a pagan religion, they were taken to Babylonia. While there they had been forbidden the practice of their religion and been made to communicate in a different language. In the process they had virtually lost their identity as the nation of God's chosen people. What is more, they had virtually forgotten all that God had said to them in the book of the Law, their Bible. Their lives were in a shambles, they struggled to retain their faith and their identity, and it appeared that God had forsaken them as his chosen people.

When things looked the worst for them, when their lives were the most miserable, God's compassion and mercy moved him to rescue them by sending a single man to become a leader above all others and to bring them back to their homeland. That individual was Nehemiah.

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New logo is ready



The new logo is done and we are ready to use it. The new logo was designed by Caroline Greene. She also developed the new logos for Immanuel in Woodville and Salem in Stillwater. Many thanks to Caroline.

The new logo has been added to the website and new color letterhead and other printed materials are in production. The logo will also be used to develop new identity and promotional materials.

Graphic standards are also in development for a consistent look with all Emmanuel materials. If you have any questions, contact Kevin Rust.

Joyful Noise Notes

- Ann Winkler

Spring has arrived! Everything around school says it is spring, from the decorations to the warmer weather. Letters V, W, and X will be our focus this month. During Bible Time, the children will be learning about the events that took place from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday evening. Parent-Teacher Conferences are being held March 30-April 2 during the evenings. The children will have a vacation day April 23 and 24 so Mrs. Reckner and I can attend an Early Childhood Conference at UW-Stout in Menomonie. We look forward to the beginning of May with wearing yellow on Yellow Day (May 1).

Youth Group Updates

Spring Aluminum Can Drive – The time has finally come to clean out your garage of those aluminum cans you have been collecting all winter long. The Youth Group will be collecting aluminum cans now through the end of May. Please leave your bag(s) of cans by the shed. If possible, please rinse out the cans before bringing them in. Doing this will avoid attracting insects and sticky leaky bags. Crushing the cans saves valuable space in the shed. The ratio is about 4 crushed cans to 1 uncrushed which makes a significant difference when space is limited. Also please remember to bring the cans in plastic bags, not paper, and make sure they are tied shut.

If the price of aluminum stays low, all of these measures will allow us to store the cans during the summer months without the cans being in the way for those who use the shed during that time. Maynard has offered to take the cans to the Cities for us at the end of the can drive or when the price is at least 50 cents a pound.

The money raised from the cans will go towards the 2009 WELS International Youth Rally held at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in July. Ask your neighbors, friends, and relatives if you can take their cans off of their hands for them this fall. You'll be supporting a great cause and cleaning up the clutter, and all you have to do is bring them to church and leave them by the shed.

And while you're at it, pull and save the tabs off the alu-

minum cans before recycling them. The tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Each tab is worth 50 cents! There is a labeled container on the narthex table to put them in. The tabs may be brought in at anytime, not just when we are collecting cans.

Youth Rally Update – Of the 5 eligible youth group members, Kayla Ring and Amber Simolke have decided to attend the 2009 WELS International Youth Rally in Ames, Iowa this July. Rachel Krueger and Mark Carlson will be the attending leaders/chaperones for the group.

We still need to raise \$400.00 to cover the remaining registration fee and travel expense for those attending. We plan on raising this money through the spring aluminum can drive, a car wash in May or June, and we are currently selling God's Creation notepads for \$2 each. Look for the display in the fellowship hall. During the Easter breakfast, you will have the opportunity to support the youth group as well. There will be a freewill offering basket out with the proceeds going toward the youth group's rally expenses. If you would like to just make a monetary donation, please talk to Rachel.

It is through the congregation's continued support that the youth group will be able to attend the 2009 WELS International Youth Rally. We appreciate all you have done and continue to do to show your support of our youth group.

Pastor's Pen Continued...

Through the efforts of Nehemiah, the children of Israel were allowed by the Babylonian King, Artaxerxes, to return to their home land, to rebuild the holy city of Jerusalem, the temple, and the city wall. They were allowed to restore their worship practices as God had instructed them so many years before. It was when they returned home and rediscovered the meaning and directions of God, that they celebrated as never before. They were overjoyed because not only had they returned home, but once again they were free from the oppression and rules of others and they came to know very clearly how the Lord God was with them and loved them. They were so happy they were moved to tears of joy.

As I stopped curbside at the international airport there were people rushing back and forth, pulling their luggage, greeting family members with warm and tender greetings. There was happiness seen in the faces of many, the area was bustling with activity, most were focused on their tasks of reunion. I had been able to jockey into position and get curbside right in front of the main exit doors. In the rush of excitement that fills a person at such times, I got out of our family van, I opened the back in preparation to stow their luggage when I heard the voice of my grandson. "Hey... PaPaPa!", and again even louder "Hey... PaPaPa!" His voice is distinct and powerful. As a special child with Down syndrome he has none of the inhibitions of most people. He has trouble speaking and forming words, but, as a twelve year old his voice has begun to change, it's distinct, powerful, and its unique sound penetrates even the noisiest of places. On that day he could be heard above all the sounds of that rushing airport pick up spot.

Once again I heard him call out, and as I caught sight of him I saw him bolt from his mother's grasp he began running toward me. His mother called his name, but he didn't hear her, he was so focused on getting to me that he rushed ahead, "PaPaPa." When he runs, he struggles a little to keep his balance, and since he was carrying a little plastic bag, his uneven gait was even more obvious than usual. When he got to me he reached out his arms, grabbed me with such joyous excitement that the both of us almost ended up on the ground. With his baseball cap askew on his head, and his pre-teen voice filled with laughter he declared: "you're..you're..you're so cute!"

Imagine the scene, I'm a portly senior citizen, grey haired and dressed in my casual sweater and tie, and I've

got this glee filled pre-teen special boy, tanned from the Florida sun hanging on to me for dear life, telling the world that his Papapa is so cute. For a moment in time things froze. The many people moving by stopped, and paused, and their faces were transformed from self absorbed, focused concentration to smiles of acknowledgment as they shared our moment of pure joy. My eyes were filled with tears, then my daughter reached out, gave me a hug and a kiss and said, "Hey, Papapa"...and with a twinkle in her eye, she added "you're so cute!"

Try to imagine the joy I felt that day. Hold that thought, and then take yourself back in time to when the Children of God were gathered in the Holy City, and even though they were standing in the rubble of burned gates and a once grand wall, now in total disrepair, they were filled with joy and hope. They were free once again, and by the grace and mercy of God they were able to hear His words as they were being proclaimed and explained to them. The joy, the excitement, the complete happiness...it must have been awesome. They celebrated as they had never done before. Hearing the words of their Heavenly Father, knowing that he was there with them, hearing once again His promises to send them a Savior, and all this in their native language, they could not contain themselves. They had to celebrate, and so they did. So should we!

Every time we hear the Gospel we are reunited with our Lord. Every time we hear of the love of God, about his complete forgiveness, and the salvation he has given us through His Son, we are filled with inexpressible joy. May we celebrate as we have never done before, knowing the love and presence of God through Christ Jesus. May it be said by all of us: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." What a blessed and joyful occasion it is for us as we go to church, oh, what a happy reunion awaits us!

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*"Believe in the Lord Jesus and
you will be saved ..."*

*... home of Joyful Noise
Preschool*



Frederick A. Kogler, pastor
Ann E. Winkler, preschool teacher
Don Benisch, congregational president

Why we're here ...

Emmanuel Lutheran exists to prepare people for eternal life. The Bible presents two possible destinations when we die: one is hell; the other is heaven. While people follow all sorts of ideas and philosophies to gain heaven (self-denial, being a good person, etc.), the Bible gives us the only pathway to heaven: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Emmanuel Lutheran proclaims the truths of Holy Scripture, pointing always to Jesus Christ as our only Savior from sin -- our only path to heaven.