



News from the Cross



Pastor's Pen...

Guidance for Daily Living

Recently I received an invitation to attend the 50th wedding anniversary of some dear friends whom I had served as pastor in the very beginning years of my public ministry.

The party was to be a surprise and part of the planning was to gather together at the church as though it was someone else's celebration and to simply "just drop in" on the open house as it was billed. Once there, the family organizers would reveal that the gala event was for the couple themselves.

Risky business this kind of planning, for all kinds of reasons, but it came off as planned, and, a wonderful time was had by all. Because of the great distance and the day of the week, I'm sorry that I was not able to attend.

When I get these kinds of invitations I try real hard to make them a part of my life. The reason is that for me to help celebrate the marriage of one man and one woman for such a long period of time is awesome! I want to congratulate all those who have been married and remained faithful to their wedding vows.

In my experience it is no coincidence that couples are able to enjoy such celebrations. It takes love, forgiveness, great health, happy bonding, and above all living in the grace of God as one flesh. In other words being able to celebrate such wedding anniversaries in no accident, and it is really a big deal!

While preparing to write this article something happened that I want to take special note of before I proceed further.

I received an email from one of the young men in our congregation whom I have come to respect very highly. In his note he sent me a link to an article written as a part of an eight pamphlet series authorized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The 2011-2012 Respect Life Program features eight pamphlets in a series called Life Matters. Each presents convincing support for the teachings of the Catholic Church on major pro-life issues, with facts and reasoning drawn from science, history, law, sociology, and other secular sources.

I read the pamphlet through several times and it occurred to me that the subject of "Love and Marriage" deserves some attention to say the least. So, praying for guidance and strength from our Lord, I undertake the task of writing down for your consideration what the Lord has revealed in The Bible about this most sacred and timely topic. Understand full well that I do this with a lot of fear and trepidation because the topic is so far ranging and the cultural and societal background against which these words will be written is in chaotic disarray on so many of the issues that relate to the matters of Love and Marriage.

Let me say that I had parents who were life long in their love and

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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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Ladies Guild News

- Sarah Dahlke

The January meeting was held Saturday, January 14th with 7 ladies attending. The officers for the new year are: Sarah Dahlke-President, Eileen Spreeman-Vice President, Bev Nuessmeier-Treasurer, and Thelma Senechal-Secretary.

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, therefore Lenten suppers were planned. A potluck is planned for February 22nd. Serving Group 1 (Kathy Heth) will serve February 29th. Serving Group 2 (Sarah Dahlke) will serve March 7th. Serving Group 3 (Lynnette Simolke) will serve March 14th. March 21st will be potluck, and Youth Group will serve March 29th. The suppers are at 6:00 pm and worship service at 7:00 pm. Watch for sign up sheets in the fellowship room.

A few other items of new business were discussed. The procedure for serving for funerals is being reviewed and updated. Michelle Rust shared the Christian Life Ministry newsletter with the group. She also explained the Adopt-A-Crib program for a future service project. Upcoming dates are Confirmation, April 1st, and Easter, April 8th.

The next Ladies Guild meeting is February 11th, Saturday, at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

FAMILY GAME

The families of Emmanuel Lutheran Church are invited to a Family Game Day on Sunday, February 12. We will start with pizza at noon and board games to follow. If there is enough snow, we will have sledding before the board games. Bring your favorite games to share and enjoy the afternoon

Joyful Noise Notes

- Ann Winkler

The children in preschool are putting their whole hearts into learning this month. We will be studying the miracles of Jesus during Bible Story Time.

We are over half way done with our study of the alphabet. This month we are concentrating on letters Q, R, and S.

Valentine's Day will be celebrated on February 13 and 14 with a party. It will be fun exchanging valentines, making special gifts, and playing party games.

Our month will include two special days. We will wear our pajamas on February 2 & 3 and red clothing on Red Day (February 16 & 17).

There will be no preschool on Friday, February 24th.

Our class list is beginning to fill for next fall as we open our preschool classes to the public.

Sunday School News

- Ann Winkler

- The Sunday School children have chosen the WELS Health and Wellness Committee as their second semester mission project. During the first semester, the Sunday School children gave offerings of \$97.46 for the Ukraine mission. Please keep these special projects in your prayers.
- The Sunday School and Preschool will be singing "I am Jesus Little Lamb" on March 11. If you are unable to make it, please contact Ann Winkler.

Pastor's Pen continued

faithfulness. I, on the other hand have had two wives. My first wife (to whom I was married for 14 years) died of brain cancer, and my present wife to whom I am happily married, and God willing with whom will celebrate our 34th wedding anniversary this summer.

Seekers and Doers.

Whenever I go to such anniversary celebrations, I like to watch the people in attendance and by so doing I've decided that there are basically two groups of people that usually come: "the doers" and "the seekers." Yes, there is also a sprinkling of others, including the kids, cousins, long time friends and relatives and the token clergy who may be called on to MC, tell a few stories, provide an invocation, table prayer and/or otherwise lend some semblance of sanctification to the festivities.

The "doers" are those who are married and have come to be the major cheerleaders. If they are honest with one another they know that to have reached the 50+ milestone has taken a lot of effort and concentrated work. They will be happy to congratulate and embrace the successful couple without any hesitation and know that the celebration is meaningful.

From the very beginning it was God's intent that men and women should find happiness and companionship in each other. The doers know this, and the seekers wonder how it was possible.

When we read the following, Gen. 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and

flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, 'for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.(NIV), it becomes clear that the desire for a partner is one that God instilled and that it is God's intent that men and women find this relationship in one another.

When we study human psychology one of the things we learn is that all humans share a need for love and belonging. This is realized through the relationships of friendship, family, and sexual intimacy.

I like how the Pamphlet Love and Marriage puts it: " The desire to love and be loved happily ever after" by that one special person is woven into our human nature. We long to be known, accepted, and cherished by another on the deepest levels of our being. Marriage is that safe place where love flowers and couples flourish."

In a recent article "Marriage is More than being Together: The Meaning of Marriage for young Adults", a very large percent (93-96%) of young people (21-38) say they want to be married some day. This may seem hard to believe these days because there are so many who live together before marriage and/or raise a family without being married. Add the high divorce rate in America and you can see how so many young people who may have the desire to be married find that the evidence seems to indicate that it is nearly impossible.

What I want to show is that it is possible and that there are many who have had life long unions and have flourished because of it.

Next time we'll consider if our youth are playing the game of Love and Marriage against a stacked deck.

Pastor Kogler



**Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- Hudson, Wisconsin**

712 Grandview Drive
(next to the Hudson YMCA)
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016-1825

Phone: (715) 386-9851
E-mail: pastor@emmanuelhudson.org
web site: www.emmanuelhudson.org



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

... home of Joyful Noise



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.