

THE VOICE

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Waukee, Iowa



From Pastor "C"

In one short month, Immanuel will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our congregation. Immanuel was started by a group of people who were committed first to Jesus Christ and second to traditional Lutheran theology. Every pastor that has served this congregation was a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and Lutheran theology. As we look forward to a new pastor to serve Immanuel, we want to ensure that the next pastor is a disciple of Jesus Christ and has a strong traditional Lutheran belief. As the congregation prepares to choose a pastor, we must ensure that we find such a pastor that will continue to "Proclaim, Live & Share God's Word" and the congregation does not settle for anything less. For the next five months we are going to look at the five fundamental beliefs of the Lutheran Church which should help guide the decision on calling the next pastor.



SOLA SCRIPTURA - 2 Timothy 2: 16-17 "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."

"REFORMATION 2.0"

THE CALL TO FAITH - On October 31, 1517, a young pastor and theological professor, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses on the Wittenberg Church door. Luther posted these Theses because he saw the leaders of the church abandoning the teachings of Scripture for the words and traditions of priests, bishops, and popes. It was never Luther's intention to leave the Roman Catholic Church. It was his intention to reform the leadership of the church and bring them back to following the Word of God instead of following the words of men.

PIE IN THE SKY - Here we are, five hundred and seven years later, and once again we are faced with leaders and teachings in too many churches, yes, even Lutheran churches, that have abandoned the Word of God for the words and traditions of men. These churches grow by leaps and bounds because we have a population that has little to no knowledge of what the Word of God really says. When a slick grifter comes along promising them the "pie in the sky," like lemmings, they walk right off the cliff into the abyss. It is time for Reformation 2.0 with another leader armed with Scripture, like Luther did, to bring the church back to the true faith.

SOLA - Out of the Reformation came the Five Solas. The word "sola" is a Latin word that means, the one and only. The first Sola, is Sola Scriptura. The only true authority, the final authority on all matters of faith and life. This means that the words and traditions of pastors and theologians are fine as long as they meet the standards as set down by the Word of God.

A NEW KIND OF CHURCH - Years ago there was a comedian named Flip Wilson and one of his routines was about the "Church of What's Happening Now." It was a comedy routine, but unfortunately today many of our churches have become the "Church of What's Happening Now." In the "Church of What's Happening Now," the Word of God has been diminished. The "Church of What's Happening Now" tells us that the Bible is irrelevant, for it was written for a different people at a different time. Pastors and their followers dismiss the Word of God, saying, "It was written by men, and men make mistakes." "It is ok to disagree with the Word of God because it wasn't meant for us." "The Word of God does not fit in with today's lifestyle." "What is important is what you believe and not what the Bible tells you." The "Church of What's Happening Now" says the Bible contains the Word of God, and it is up to us to determine what is the Word of God and what is the word of men. The "Church of What's Happening Now" tells us to accept and believe those passages in the Bible that make us feel good. If passages of the Bible don't make you feel good, then those words are the words of men and not the Words of God. Therefore the Word of God can be dismissed and not followed.

(Continued on page 2)

THE FINAL AUTHORITY - The Lutheran Confessions declare that the Word of God is the final authority on ALL matters of faith and life. The "Church of What's Happening Now" says, "If you don't like the words, ignore them." In Matthew 4 Jesus said, "Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." In Luke 11: 28 Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." In John 17: 17 Jesus said, "Bless them with the truth. God's word is the truth." In Matthew 24 Jesus said, "The world will pass away, but my word will not pass away." And finally, in John 8 Jesus said, "Know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." The only truth that exists is the Word of God. The reason the "Church of What's Happening Now" wants to dismiss the truth, the Word of God, is so that you can feel good. To dismiss the Word of God is to dismiss Jesus Christ.

JESUS IS THE WORD - In John 1: 1 we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In Psalms we read, "God's Word is a lamp unto my feet." In John, Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World," and "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." To dismiss the Word of God means you have dismissed Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God, the Light of the World and the only way into God's Kingdom.

YOUR CHOICE - Without the Word of God, there is no way, no hope. Only the abyss remains. With the Word of God, there is light and life. Make your choice, but choose wisely.

I hope and pray that you will read and remember this newsletter and the ones to follow when choosing who will be called to be the next pastor of Immanuel.

Veritas - Curt



A gathering of our community!

Weekly Worship Services

Sunday Services

Summer Worship at 9:00am
communion served each week

(rotation of traditional and contemporary services)

Worship on Wednesday

Wednesday Service at 6:30pm
communion served each week
(also available via Live Stream)

Live Stream Schedule

August - 9:00am

No Live Stream August 31st due to Outdoor Service



August 3, 2025: 8th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: EXODUS 18: 13-24

PSALM 136: 1-9

2nd Reading: ROMANS 12: 1-12

Gospel: LUKE 7: 1-10

August 10, 2025: 9th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: EXODUS 20: 1-11

PSALM 136: 10-18

2nd Reading: ROMANS 12: 14-21

Gospel: LUKE 7: 11-17

August 17, 2025: 10th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: EXODUS 20: 12-17

PSALM 136: 23-26

2nd Reading: ROMANS 13: 1-7

Gospel: LUKE 7: 18-30

August 24, 2025: 11th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: EXODUS 31: 12-17

PSALM 1

2nd Reading: JAMES 2: 14-18

Gospel: JOHN 1: 29-34

August 31, 2025: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: EXODUS 32: 1-6

PSALM 134

2nd Reading: ROMANS 13: 8-14

Gospel: LUKE 7: 36-50