

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Saints at Immanuel,

My Summer Goal --- Take Off the Black Robe

At a counseling course, taught at the Hollywood Presbyterian Church many years ago, Joseph Venema taught this:

"People don't change by being put down or evaluated. People change by being accepted. People change when they have the freedom to explore and discover who they are. When we are accepted, we don't have to pretend to be righteous. We can then look at all the things we need to be forgiven for. When we are unforgiven, we can't face this. We become too self-defensive. We need to be accepted in spite of our sins.

Judgement does not change people. Take off the black robe and get out of the role of judge. Deal with what is..... rather than what ought to be. Work towards acceptance rather than approval. Be *beside* the other person rather than on top of them. Acceptance is a suspension of judgement."

God certainly doesn't change us by judging and condemning us. God certainly doesn't change us by turning God's back on us. God changes us by loving and accepting us. Once we feel the freedom and safety of God's love, once we feel unconditional acceptance that comes from being valued for who we *are* rather than what we do, the catalyst for change has been instilled in our hearts and minds and spirits. God doesn't need to judge us because we will judge *ourselves*. We will feel the conviction of our sin and the motivation to try turning our lives around. We will reach out to God for God's help in doing it. But if it was God who first backed us into a corner and lashed out at us, we would probably be so self-destructive we would never change.

One last note of encouragement.... You are loved unconditionally. You are loved with a power that can take a broken and sinful life and turn it into a glorious and radiant adventure with Jesus Christ. You are accepted for who you are, not what you do. If you can accept yourself, you can grow.

My hope for you this summer is that you will become the person God created you to be, that you will feel the joy that comes from being a daughter or son of the King. The Good News of God's love is for you! All you have to do is believe it and accept it.

I hope you'll make every effort to be in worship with us this summer as we strive to learn together how to take off that black robe and more fully be the persons God created you to be!

See you in Church at either 8:30am or 10:00am this summer!

Pastor Jack

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Youth/Family

Two summers ago, as I was putting our Vacation Bible School program together, we grew concerned that we weren't getting enough participants or volunteers to keep the program going and we weren't sure we would offer the program again in 2017.

Well, God took that doubt and turned it upside down last summer. Last year's Summer Fun in the Son Week was one of our most successful ministries ever! And once again, God has done even greater things this year. Immanuel has received an anonymous donation in the sum of \$750.00 for our **Summer Fun in the Son Week!** Because of this generous donation, we will NOT have to charge a registration fee to our participants. Thanks Be to God!

This year's theme is Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus and will be held August 6th through August 9th. Travel with us this summer as we spend time with Martha, who worries and complains; with the woman who loses the only coin she has; with the shepherd and his lost sheep and a father who welcomes back the prodigal son. As always there will be singing and dancing, games, crafts and snacks. This year we are adding a station we call "Mission Central". Each day the children will work on a mission project for the community. We bring back our Wacky Wednesdays and our Water Fun Days as well. Summer Fun Week is opened to all children ages 4 to 5th grade. Simply go to our website, "churchofthebells.org" and click on Summer Fun Week registration. Remember, there is no registration fee necessary!

Looking ahead: This year's **Sunday Morning JAM Session** theme is "TEAM JESUS". We kick things off on Sunday, September 9th with a Pep Rally complete with cheerleaders, a pep band and a mascot! We will host a brunch after worship and introduce this season's team. Be sure to mark your calendars and get in the Spirit!

Once again, I want to thank all of you for your love and support throughout the year. We took a leap of faith together when we completely overhauled our Sunday School program. God has shown up through all of it and I couldn't be more excited. No matter what you hear or read, Christian education matters as we introduce these precious children to Jesus.

Shalom,
~Carol

Carol A. Doucette
Christian Education Coordinator

THIS AND THAT FROM PASTOR JACK.....

1. This summer we will continue our 8:30am and 10:00am schedule for worship! Our 8:30am worship will be a "Lawn Chair Worship". Put a couple of lawn chairs in the trunk of your car and, whenever the weather is looking good, we will worship on the back patio. We will continue to offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion each week at 8:30am as well! We might even try a 10:00am service or two in this beautiful setting. No matter which worship you choose each week know that you'll find a loving time of Christian fellowship waiting for you!
2. Summer Sermon Series..... Throughout the month of July I'll be speaking about the Healing Hands of Jesus. Our Gospel readings will have us looking at stories on the healing power of Jesus. There is a strong trend that focusses on the work Jesus was doing himself and how he extended the power to others to do the same caring work. In August I'll be preaching through the 6th chapter of John and I'll be looking at how what we eat (both physically and spiritually) determines who we really are. The series is called "You Are What You Eat" and each week's Gospel lesson shows us how our lives are determined by our willingness to indulge in the "goodies" of life. I'm hoping we'll all learn a lot as we move through this chapter of John's Gospel.
3. Our church office will be closed on Mondays during July and August.
4. I've really been practicing my putting skills as I prepare for our mini-golf tournament on August 11th. It's nice to know that even if my skills don't rapidly improve I can at least buy a few "mulligans" to help my score! It'll be another fun day as together we support the mission work of our congregation!
5. Mark your calendars for our "Summer Fun in the Son Week"! Please see Carol to offer to help with this exciting program.
6. You'll also want to mark your calendars for 2 important dates in September... Our Kick Off Sunday is Sunday, September 9th! Our weekly JAM sessions will be re-starting as our young people learn about being on Team Jesus! And the Voices of Faith will be in concert in our Sanctuary on Sunday September 16th at 3:00pm. The choir has a wonderful program planned and we hope you'll be here to join us and support these talented musicians from throughout our community!

By the time you read this The Ride for Roswell will be history and I'll be healing up after the 30 mile journey. Becky and I are so honored and humbled by all your support as our team, Becky's Blessings, seeks to help defeat cancer and improve patient care. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT!

Enjoy your summer and stay close to God!

Pastor Jack

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Ministries

May 3M Collection:

Total Collected	\$3,204.00
Mortgage Payment	\$2,556.86
Mission Allocation	\$323.57
Trustee Allocation	\$323.57

Any questions ask Shelley Dawson Smith @ 315-487-1290



Disaster Recovery Mission Trip Our next trip will be to the West Virginia area the week of August 19-25. We will be taking a team of skilled, semi-skilled and those wishing to become skilled to work on home rebuilding projects. This is an effort to help rebuild the area that was devastated by flooding. Please contact Mike Block at mblock@wwdb.org or 315-491-0497 with questions or to get information to attend. No one will be asked to do anything they do not want to do nor is unsafe.

Meal Ministry We have started a new ministry of taking a meal once a month to our friends who aren't able to attend worship each week. If you know someone who would like to receive a meal or if you would like to participate, please see Pastor Jack or Pam.

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It's time for our 10th Annual Mini Golf Tournament. The event will be held at Fairmount Glen Mini Golf on Saturday, August 11. Please see the enclosed registration form for more details and to register your team for this fun event.

Shoe Ministry Please remember Immanuel's shoe ministry that was started a few years ago. We are collecting shoes and "gently used" sneakers that will be delivered to "Ralph the Shoe Guy" who owns Discount Shoe Repair in downtown Syracuse. Ralph refurbishes the shoes and then he gives the shoes to the Rescue Mission. Ralph donates his time and supplies however he will accept cash to help defray the cost of the supplies. The donation box is in the Narthex. Any questions ask Shelley Dawson Smith 315-487-1290.

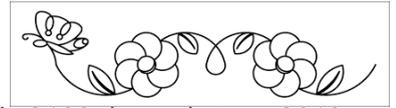


Garage Sale

Thank you!!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Immanuel's Annual Garage Sale and because of all the help (set up & took down tables, picked up items at people's home & delivered it to the church, priced items, packed up unsold items for delivery to the Rescue Mission, was a cashier, donated items and even purchased items) we made \$5,395.00.

~Shelley Dawson Smith



3M Envelopes

The envelopes for July 2108 through June 2019 are in the Narthex for those members who have requested them for the prior year. If you would like envelopes or would like to pledge to 3M or would like to know more about 3M please contact Shelley Dawson Smith @ 315-487-1290.

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Food Pantry Please remember our hungry neighbors. We have a bin to the right of our entrance to collect non-perishable food items that will be delivered to St. Joseph's Food

Pantry in Camillus. Summertime is especially hard on families with kids out of school, so items with kids in mind like cereals, snacks, juice, etc. are especially welcome.

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Worship Each month we worship with residents of Brookdale at Summerfield and Camillus Ridge Terrace. If you would like to worship with us, please see Anita Hall, Pastor Jack or Pam.



On Saturday, June 16, a group of 8 folks from Immanuel went to the Samaritan Center to prepare and serve a meal to those in need. This is an awesome opportunity to enjoy some fellowship and to share God's love with others. We will go again on Saturday, October 13. Please plan to join in. See Ed Owens for more information.



Return Service Requested

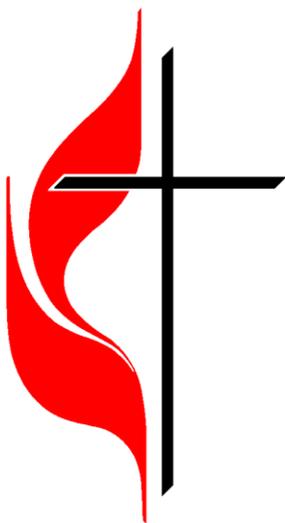
*Our Mission*

*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world."*

as I have  
loved YOU,  
LOVE one  
another  
John 13:34

July/August 2018

We wish to be good stewards of both financial and environmental resources. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email us at [churchofthebells@gmail.com](mailto:churchofthebells@gmail.com) and request removal.



Pastor

Pastor Jack Keating

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[www.churchofthebells.org](http://www.churchofthebells.org)

Worship

8:30 am and 10 am

JAM

During worship, Sept. - June

Office Hours

Tues. – Fri. 9am-12:30

or by appointment

Handicapped accessible

*Please join us!*