

IMMANUEL MONTHLY

February 1, 2014



From Pastor's Desk Everything We Do Teaches Something

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

I know that I don't always choose the hymns that everyone likes. I know that I don't always choose the hymns that everyone knows. What I do know is that I choose hymns that always bear witness to who Christ is, what He came to do, and who we are in Him.

I do this because everything that we do, and I mean everything, teaches something. The ceremonies that we perform, the images on bulletin covers, the vestments that we wear, and the hymns that we sing: They all teach.

And this is why I include the following article written by my sister-in-law, Adriane Heins, the editor of *The Lutheran Witness*. She points out the fact that it's not just everything that the pastor does or says that teaches, but everything that you who are in the pew also teaches. Everything we do or not do teaches something. The question is: What are we teaching and is it what we *should* be teaching? As

Thucydides wrote: "History is philosophy teaching by example."

I write this not as a guilt trip, but rather as an encouragement for you to consider how what you do or not do teaches those around you, especially our children, and what you can do, even just in the pew, to pass on the faith to them.

To the Basses and Baritones

By Adriane Heins

God gave men a special kind of gift. I discovered it as a little girl, leaning my knobby elbow on my dad's knee during church. I know it now too, when my I put my arm through my husband's when we sit together in the pew.

It's that low, deep rumble that is a man's voice when he sings.

Men are good at singing. And the Church is particularly good at providing them with song.

But fewer and fewer men are singing in church. Maybe it's because they're embarrassed. Maybe it's because we've had an influx of songs that are just awkward for men to sing. ("You are my desire And no one else will 'Cause nothing else can take Your place To feel the warmth of Your embrace." Well, that's uncomfortable.) Maybe they think that no one's watching, that no one cares.

But we are watching. And we do care. And we really, really want you to sing.

So, you grade schoolers and fathers and college students and uncles and tenors and sons, please let us hear that rumble.

Even if your voice cracks.

Even if it wobbles.

Even if you can't tell a C from an E.

Just sing.

By singing, you will teach us something.

You will remind us that everything we do in worship space matters, that it conveys something, that it tells us something about what we believe and confess.

You will cause us to think on the way in which we move and act and dress in church.

You will show us that church is different from the movies, that it's not like going to the mall, and that what happens within those walls is far more than our slacker, sinful self wants to realize.

And then know too that when you choose not to sing, that teaches something.

When you refuse to crack a hymnal, that teaches something.

When you sigh in exasperation and start reading the bulletin instead, that teaches something.

You can still teach. But teach us that the Church's song matters.

Teach us that God has given us His Word and that we have the joy of singing it back to Him in the liturgy.

Teach us that our Lutheran hymnody is rich and bold and hearty. ("And take they our life, Goods, fame, child and wife, Let these all be gone, They yet have nothing won; The Kingdom ours remaineth." I mean, that's like a Lutheran version of Braveheart right there!)

Teach us that when our pastor says, "With angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying," and we let loose with, "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory," we really are singing with all the company of heaven: Adam and Eve, Vernon, St. Paul, Margaret, Baby, Martin Luther. And then sing with us!

Teach us that it's more than just okay for us to sing.

That's it actually good for us to sing.

That Christ has given us words to sing that aren't uncomfortable and awkward, but that are perfect for soothing our consciences, pointing us to Him, filling us with joy.

Teach us that.

Let us hear you sing.

We need you to.

We know you will.

reprinted by permission from Adriane Heins

To read more from Adriane, check out her Blog at

<http://letitstet.wordpress.com>

From the President The Joy of Forgiveness

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

“I didn’t come to kill you.” He was an imposing figure. He had an even more imposing reputation. But what he had been known for, well-earned to be sure, was not why I remember him. He had become an ever more devout Missouri Synod Lutheran and regularly shared the good news of Jesus with, and invited to church, people who wouldn’t have given him the time of day had he not been who he had been. This former purveyor of intimidation had become an ambassador of reconciliation. This fact was all the more significant because it was not readily apparent. He was so unassuming, even with his rather imposing stature, that no one who hadn’t come to know him would be aware of his past. Same man, same haunts, same circle of people—but for an ever-deepening, transformative joy of being justified in Christ.

Another man in a nearby community had sinned egregiously against my friend and his family. The former “intimidator” went directly to the man in question, to his very doorstep in fact. The guilty party opened the door and began frantically to plead (with good reason), “Don’t kill me! Don’t kill me!” My friend responded, “I didn’t come to kill you. I came to forgive you.” He wasn’t on a mission of retribution. He was on a mission of reconciliation. “If your neighbor sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone” (Matthew 18:15). He hadn’t come to exact justice. He had come as one justified sinner seeking the repentance of and reconciliation with another sinner. The flesh relishes the thought of retribution. The spirit rejoices in reconciliation.

The righteousness of Christ credited by faith is transformative. It reckons us what we are not and cannot be in and of ourselves—perfectly righteous with the righteousness of Jesus. We are reckoned “just.” Then, like a good tree planted, it produces more and more fruit (Matthew 7:17), especially joy, and makes us evermore what we have been freely declared to be—righteous in Christ. Declared forgiven, we cannot but be forgiving. But let’s back up.

St. Paul says that this righteousness was obtained fully by Christ’s cross—“we have now been justified by his blood.” What has been achieved, obtained, and perfected by Christ outside of us, before us, and without us (two thousand years ago on a cross and via a resurrection), is delivered to us and reckoned to us in the word of the Gospel. Because it’s already accomplished, it can’t be achieved by doing anything. The deed is done. That’s why Jesus’ last words were, “It is finished” (John 19:30). The benefits of Christ’s death and resurrection are received, laid hold of, by faith. Faith simply lays hold of the gift, and even the faith, which receives the gift, is itself all gift. So St. Paul wrote, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:89). . . . When we confront God, he says to us, “I didn’t come to kill you. I



came to forgive you.” “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order the world might be saved through him” (John 3:17). Equipped with such joy . . . we find ourselves freed to act as God himself with our neighbor. “I didn’t come to kill you. I came to forgive you.” Joy! “We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation” (Romans 5:11).

reprinted with permission from The Lutheran Witness



The Book of the Month **5 Things You Can Do** **to Witness Christ**

For all the baptized, witnessing Christ is supposed to be part of our way of life. We are given to share our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, with anyone God allows us to meet. Yes, it can be intimidating. Surprisingly, it gets easier as you do it more often.

This volume will equip you to:

- Witness Christ where He speaks and works
- Witness Christ using Law and Gospel

- Witness Christ’s justification in Word and Sacraments
- Witness Christ in words and deeds
- Witness Christ on the front lines

Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

Greeters List

2 Feb Ruth Sims (West)
 Tim & Teri Pollock (East)
 9 Feb Donna Campbell (West)
 Harold & Irene Wattjes (East)
 16 Feb Jim Dyer (West)
 Joan Vukelich (East)
 23 Feb Laverl Byers (West)
 Ruth Sims – East
 2 Mar Tim & Teri Pollock (West)
 Donna Campbell (East)
 9 Mar Harold & Irene Wattjes (West)
 Jim Dyer (East)
 16 Mar Joan Vukelich (West)
 Laverl Byers (East)
 23 Mar Ruth Sims (West)
 Tim & Teri Pollock (East)
 30 Mar Donna Campbell (West)
 Harold & Irene Wattjes (East)

16 Feb Lauren Braaten
 23 Feb Lauren Braaten
 2 Mar Lauren Braaten
 5 Mar Donna Campbell
 9 Mar Donna Campbell
 16 Mar Donna Campbell
 23 Mar Donna Campbell
 30 Mar Theresa Fields

Elder On Duty – Communion

2 Feb Josh Whitson
 9 Feb Mark Whitson
 16 Feb Mark Whitson
 23 Feb Ron Legg
 2 Mar Ron Legg
 5 Mar Josh Whitson
 9 Mar Josh Whitson
 16 Mar Steve Hilgendorf
 23 Mar Mark Whitson
 30 Mar Steve Hilgendorf

Coffee Committee

Feb Pastor & Lauren Braaten
 Mar Janet Stumeier

Funeral Committee

Feb Joan Vukelich
 Mar Lauren Braaten

Altar Committee

2 Feb Judy Legg
 9 Feb Judy Legg

Altar Flowers

2 Feb Ronald W. & Judy M. Legg
 9 Feb James Harbaugh
 16 Feb Craig & Carol Munson
 23 Feb Laverl & Dolores Byers
 2 Mar OPEN

NO FLOWERS DURING LENT
 (5 MAR–13 APR)

ATTENDANCE				OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	Special	General	Missions	Building
1/5	21	32	0	\$11,267.54	\$2.00	\$0.00
1/12	24	81	0	\$2,355.50	\$25.00	\$10.00
1/19	19	63	0	\$2,123.00	\$0.00	\$205.00
1/26	20	76	0	\$2,411.35	\$0.00	\$20.00
Subtotal	84	252	0	\$18,157.39	\$27.00	\$235.00
Total	336			\$18,157.39	\$27.00	\$235.00

February 2014 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Catechism Class 8:00 PM Access Class Matt Pangburn</p> <p>Catechism Recitation Day</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Elders Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Caitin Munson Don Conzemius James Bowen Mullie Kowen Stan Wenzel</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Gloria Rubin Trevin Rubin</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Angeline Lugin July M. Lugin</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Doona Campbell</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Catechism Class 6:00 PM Access Class Children's Service Day</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:30 PM Missions & Evangelism Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Consult Pastors' Meeting Roddy Franke</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>David Ford Zachary Conzemius</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Daria & Ryan Gardner Richard Sommer Tim Pollock</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Catechism Class 3:30 PM Working Home Service 4:00 PM Nursery Class Myra & Jay Lugin Catechism Recitation Day</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Board of Education Meeting Craig & Carol Munson Mildred Rubin</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Roberta Dallas</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Larrett & Debra Evers Mary Jane Jones</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Hayden Ely Mark Ashurb</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Jessica & Aime Johnson</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Catechism Class 6:00 PM Access Class Candy Casford 7:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Avaun Stuber Tim Boyd</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM L.W.M.L. Ruth Pender</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM S.M.A. Meeting Gregory Nix</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Sara-lye Wright</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bryce Rublock Bryson Jorgensen Lugh Ann Whelan</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	

March 2014 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>9:00 AM Church Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 4:00 PM Women's Class 7:30 AM Bible Study Class Andy Ryan Ann Hartz Laura Cummings Catechism (Registration Day)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Elders Meeting Linda Heller 7:30 PM Men's Club</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Pam & Arnold Olson</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Divine Service with Communion 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Leah Van Oort</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Daryl Stenger Sharen Hubbers</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Jean Rubin Sandra Kove Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Stanley Jeter</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:00 AM Church Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 4:00 PM Women's Class Children's Service Day</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Missions & Evangelism Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 AM Church Pastor's Meeting Audrey Johnson Wayne & Janice Jeter</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Lenten Midweek Service</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Pam Olson</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Griffin Hopkins</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00 AM Church Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 4:00 PM Women's Class Children's Service Day</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:00 PM Board of Education Meeting Dennis Gersbach</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Michael Trulin Thomas Ryan Pastor at CDO Spring Pastor's Conference</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 PM Lenten Midweek Service</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Fred Matney</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Adam Johnson</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Lenten Midweek Service 11:30 AM WMA Meeting Peggy Brough Tom Boucher</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Ladies Aid David & Fran Snyder</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Matt Eversen</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:00 AM Church Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 4:00 PM Women's Class 7:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Scott Cummings</p>					

In This Issue . . .

From the Pastor1
Facts & Figures 5
Calendars 6



Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.

IMMANUELMONTHLY
600 E Northline Road
Tuscola, IL 61953
www.immanueltuscola.org