

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

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Mission Statement

Our Mission is to Honor God, by sharing His love, living in Christ, and serving our community.



If you can't be content with what you have received, be thankful for what you have escaped.

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Blessed, Broken, Given

Each week I get an e-mail from *Grace Place Wellness*, a group that helps pastors maintain wellness in their ministries. This month's entry discussed a book by Glenn Packiam called Blessed, Broken, Given. I have not read this book but it sounds interesting.

According to the author of the e-mail, Packiam compares our Christian Vocation to the way Jesus often shared a blessing before a meal. He would take bread, bless it, break it, and give it to those around him. The author of the article points out that pastors, who in their Christian Vocation, are Blessed beyond measure, Broken, in human frailty and Given into a life of service, tend to remain healthy and strong in their vocation.

While pastors have an obvious "Christian Vocation" having received a 'call' from God and a congregation, you may not appreciate that all Christians have a "Christian Vocation." It includes Christian's position in life, their chosen career as well as their relationship with God and with others. In our Christian Vocation we are all redeemed children of God, sons, daughters, fathers, husbands, wives, etc.

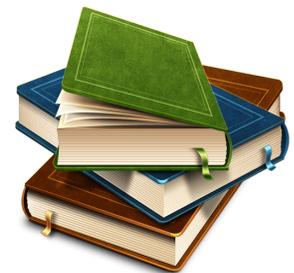
In reality then, the three points in the title of the book mentioned above, Blessed, Broken, and Given, applies to us all. We are blessed by God first in that we received the Holy Spirit in our baptism and in those waters, faith was planted and nurtured in us. We continue to be blessed daily by God's mercy, grace and forgiveness and the promise of eternal life to say nothing of the earthly blessings we receive each day.

But we are also broken. Our human nature means we sin daily and are in need of being blessed by God's grace and mercy. We're made of dust and to dust we shall return. Paul calls us jars of clay which are made from dust. If treasure is hidden in inconspicuous, ordinary and unexpected places, we certainly are. You'd never know to look at us from the outside that we're heirs of an eternal kingdom.

Finally, we are given to this world, given to a life of service to God, to each other and to our fellow human beings.

We are as ordinary as one of those clay pots of which Paul speaks. In our Christian vocations we are definitely useful. But at the same time, we are consumable and ultimately expendable. Like the generations who preceded us, our time of service will end, but the kingdom of God will continue.

The beauty of the dynamic interplay among these three words, "Blessed," "Broken," "Given" is striking and applies to all Christians in their Christian Vocation. We're always Blessed, always Broken, always Given. Thanks be to God.



Pastor Larry Oliver

Scripture Readings For November

Season	Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
ALL SAINTS' DAY	Nov. 6 <i>(observed)</i>	All Saints' Day (Nov. 1)	Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17	Psalms 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matt. 5:1-12
	Nov. 13 (Prop. 28)	Twenty-third S. a. Pentecost	Mal. 4:1-6	Psalms 98	2 Thess. 3:(1-5) 6-13	Luke 21:5-28 (29-36)
	Nov. 20 (Prop. 29)	Last S. of the Church Year	Mal. 3:13-18	Psalms 46	Col. 1:13-20	Luke 23:27-43
THANKSGIVING EVE	Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1-10	Psalms 67	Phil. 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-4	Luke 17:11-19
ADVENT 2022	Nov. 27, 2022	First S. in Advent	Is. 2:1-5	Psalms 122	Rom. 13:(8-10) 11-14	Matt. 21:1-11 or Matt. 24:36-44

November - 2022 Serving Schedule

Dates	Elder	Greeter	Reader	Server	Altar Guild	Counting Team
Nov 6		Karen Bischoepink	Priscilla Stratton			Ann Oliver
Nov 13		Gary & Sharon Yon	Jim Marshall			
Nov 20		Jim & Nita Marshall	Debbie Graham			
Nov 27		Ralph & Debbie Graham	Ann Oliver			

Thank you for serving your church
If you cannot serve, please find someone to take your place.
Please leave a note for the secretary.



November Birthdays

Keith Moore 11/6
 Kimberly Neville 11/10 (2 years)
 Waunita Marshall 11/19
 Leia Waldron 11/28 (5 years)
 Lorene Gotta 11/30

November Anniversaries

Jim & Waunita Marshall 11/5 (61 years)



Merry all most here Christmas. Your homeless outreach is about to get into full swing. We are going to forgo the party for another year but sincerely hope that we can resume next year. WE WILL BEGIN PUTTING THE CHRISTMAS BAGS TOGETHER, (approximately 200), the end of November. They contain Bibles, devotionals, hats, socks, inspirational messages, and candy. We appreciate all your donations more than we can express. THANKYOU



The Homeless Outreach Team



A Soldier's Gift to All

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lied all alone,
In a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
And to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.



No stocking by mantle, just
boots filled with sand,
And on the wall pictures of far
distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards
of all kinds,
a sobering thought came to my
mind.
For this house was different, so
dark and so dreary,
The home of a soldier, now I
could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
curled up on the floor in this one-bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas eve in a
land far from home.

The very thought brought a
tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and
started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I
heard a rough voice.
"Santa don't cry, this life is my
choice;



I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...



- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float a while.
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting..

*I've
So much to be*
THANKFUL
for



Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to? **Be thankful** when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons. **Be thankful** when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks. Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings.

Author unknown

A Timely Message

Once upon a time! When **Window** was a square hole in a room and **Application** was something written on paper. When **Keyboard** was a piano and **Mouse** was just an animal. When **File** was an important office material and **Hard Drive** just an uncomfortable road trip. When **Cut** was done with a knife and **Paste** with glue. When **Web** was a spider's home and **Virus** was flu. When **Apple** and **Black-berry** were just fruits—that's when we had a lot of time for friends & family.



Immanuel Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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Musician: Ann Capps

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We're on the web!

Immanuelalbany.org