

The VISITOR

Emanuel Lutheran Church
& Christian Preschool
701 S. First Street
Milbank, SD 57252

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No. 11



Pastor Timothy Koch

Office: 605-432-9555

Cell: 605-216-6849

Pastor Koch: Revtimkoch@gmail.com

Church office: elc@itcmilbank.com

Preschool: elcpreschool@itcmilbank.com

Emanuel Website: www.elcmilbank.org

www.facebook.com/emanuelmilbank

Worship Schedule

8:00 am Service

10:30 am Service

Pastor's Post

Sermons are Food: Nutrition

Last month I shared with you some insights regarding the importance of the “delivery” or “presentation” of a sermon. In that reflection on the craft of sermon-writing and sermon delivery, I promised that this month, I would talk about the “nutrition” or “content” of the sermon.

Because we live in a culture that is infatuated with “entertainment” and “amusement,” many of our parishioners are conditioned, through no intentionality of their own, to approach the sermon as though it is just another performance in a life filled with performances. They may act as if the pastor’s primary job is to keep them awake and engaged and amused on a Sunday morning.

Now, last month I spent my entire article admitting that the pastor *does* have the responsibility of delivering a sermon in such a manner so that people can actually hear it (which means they need to be engaging enough so people don’t fall asleep). But the truth of the matter is that a sermon *is not primarily a performance*. The goal of the sermon should never be, “To keep the hearers awake” or “To keep the hearers amused.” or “To keep the hearers engaged.” or “To get the hearers to chuckle.”

The goal of a sermon is to *feed* the hearers with God’s Word. This means that the *content* of the sermon is actually more important than the delivery. Once again I find the “sermons are food” analogy helpful. The nutritional value of a sermon is more important than how pretty it looks on a plate.

You can dress up poison to look as beautiful as anything you’ve ever seen on a plate, but at the end of the day, it’s still poison and it will kill you. Sermons are the same way. You may have a powerful orator who is engaging and enrapturing and amusing, but if his sermon’s content isn’t faithful to God’s Word, then you, the hearer, are nothing more than a dog that will eagerly lap up antifreeze until it dies.

So what should the “nutritional” value of a sermon be? The nutritional value of any sermon should be “Jesus.” A sermon needs to be about Jesus. And it needs to say the right things about Jesus; namely, that he died for your sins, and that even though you are a rotten sinner, Jesus loves you anyway. The sermon should also discuss that Jesus is Lord, and will conquer death and raise the dead. A sermon should have Jesus on the cross. A sermon should have Jesus raised from the dead.

Tele-evangelists treat Jesus like a genie from a lamp who wants to give you stuff like great finances, better sex, longer health, and a ‘fulfilled heart.’ That’s not the Jesus of the Bible. The Jesus of the Bible does want to give you stuff, but the stuff Jesus wants to give you is the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and victory over sin, death, and the devil. These gifts were purchased by Jesus at a significant cost to himself (i.e., torture and death) and to follow Jesus is to experience similar suffering (he says, after all, “deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me” Mt. 16:24).

The Jesus of the Bible freely forgives you when you fail. Consequently, sermons need to be about Jesus for sinners. If you find yourself in a church that preaches about “how to manage your finances” or “this is the secret to contentment or happiness” or “How to start a revival among your community” then you should probably run away. If you need help with your finances, listen to Dave Ramsey. If you want happiness and contentment, buy a schmaltzy self-help book from Wal-Mart. If you want to start a revival, read Karl Marx. There is a place for that kind of stuff, but the pulpit is NOT that place. When something other than “Jesus for sinners” come from a pulpit, the message is dangerous and probably doesn’t even qualify as ‘Christianity.’

Sermons will often times point you to Jesus where Jesus has promised to be found. Namely: baptism, confession and absolution, and the Lord’s Supper (i.e., Word and Sacrament). This is good, right, and faithful.

But if a sermon fails to address your sinful condition and your need for Jesus. It not only lacks nutrition, but it is poison.

And if a sermon directs you to become a participant and contribute to your own salvation. It not only lacks nutrition, but it is poison.

And if a sermon fails to give you Jesus Christ with no strings attached. It not only lacks nutrition, but it is poison.

Thus, I repeat, a sermon’s nutritional value needs to be Jesus Christ, for sinners.

Sermon’s need to be nutritious. They HAVE TO BE. If the goal of my sermon was to make sure that everyone who visited left the church happy, I could do that, and honestly it’d be really really easy to do. It’d make my job so incredibly less complicated.

Think of preparing a meal for children. If the goal of feeding your children is for them to leave the table happy, then just feed them grilled-cheese sandwiches every day with a side of cupcakes. My kids would eat that for every meal, every single day. And every single day they would leave the table happy as clams. They might even leave the table and say, “That was a good meal today Dad. Thank you.”

But as a dad, I know better. It wasn’t a good meal. The nutritional content was terrible.

Consequently, (and please don’t take this the wrong way), sometimes when you compliment the pastor for a sermon as you leave church, it might not actually make him feel better. If the pastor knows that his sermon had the nutritional content of grilled cheese

sandwiches with a side of cupcakes before he ever stepped into the pulpit and then as you left you complimented him for a “great sermon” . . . well, you can see how that might not be the most encouraging thing for the pastor to hear.

Sometimes the most nutritional food isn’t the most flavorful. Sometimes you just got to force people (usually children) to eat their vegetables. My kids need to eat cabbage and carrots and grapefruit and squash. It’s important. They need to do that. They won’t always like it. They might even pout about it, and they certainly aren’t going to compliment me when they leave the table, but as a parent I’m confident that I provided the best nutrition for them.

Thankfully . . . if you grow up on a steady diet of fresh fruits and garden-grown veggies and balanced meals, the idea of going back to eating grilled-cheese sandwiches with a side of cupcakes every day is repulsive.

That’s why it’s important to attend church frequently; and to do so at a church that gives you good nutritional content in sermons. Over months and years, you’ll develop a taste for nutritious food, and the thought of going back to fluff sermons or self-help diatribes is repulsive.

I hope this conversation about the nutrition of sermons has been helpful in getting you to think about sermons and how you hear them and evaluate them. Next month, we’ll look at “sermons as food” again with an eye toward those who prepare the “food,” namely, preachers.

Until then. God’s blessings.

Pastor Koch

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism

Affirmation

Funerals

Leonard Haliburton

Weddings

NURSING HOME BULLETIN DELIVERY

Nov: Mailing

Dec: Steve Bogenrief

Jan: Joan Smith

Feb: Vonnie Forman

March : Evy Hilbrands

April: Debbie Trapp

Voter’s Assembly will be Nov. 7th. There will be a Potluck at 11:30 AM. Voter’s Assembly at 1:00 PM

LOE

Ladies of Emanuel will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 2nd at 1 PM. The lesson will be given by Karin Mueller from the Summer Quarterly, "When I am Weak, He is Strong" on pg. 22. After a short business meeting, lunch will be served by Sharon Wieber and JoEllen Heffron. Our focus for the month of November will be sending cards to the shut-ins. Linnea S., Judy S. and Edna A. will serve coffee on Nov. 7 with donations going to our general fund. We will be polishing brass on Nov. 11. All women in the congregation are invited to attend our meetings and join us for Bible Study.

Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing will meet on November 4th at 8:30 AM. We have quilts & baby quilts for sale all the time.

Tabitha Ladies Aid – will meet at 1:30 PM on November 11th.

Positions and Board members needed!

We are looking for people to serve as President & Vice – President of the Congregation. Rita Grabow would like to step away from being secretary as she has new job responsibilities. We are also looking for people to serve on the Board of Elders, Stewardship, Education, Evangelism, and Endowment. Please prayerfully consider serving our congregation by volunteering for one of these positions or serving on a board. Thank You!

SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPE

For November, the Special Mission envelope contributions will go towards:
Emanuel Lutheran Preschool

Orphan Grain Train

Come and join Orphan Grain Train volunteers on the 1st Wednesday of every month to pack Mercy Meals! These fortified rice packets are urgently needed throughout the world (including USA). Each package will make 6 servings. We place 36 bags in a box and soon the boxes turn into a pallet full. Please consider volunteering 1 to 1½ hours any 1st Wednesday of the month. We start at 9:30 AM. Please come join us on November 3rd!

READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

Date	Festival	1 st Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Nov. 7	All Saints' Day	Rev. 7: (2-8) 9-17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matt. 5:1-12
Nov. 14	Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Dan. 12:1-3	Psalm 16	Heb. 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-13
Nov. 21	Last Sunday of the Church Year	Is. 51:4-6 or Dan. 7:9-10, 13-14	Psalm 93	Jude 20-25 or Rev. 1:4b-8	Mark 13:24-37 or John 18:33-37
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Eve	Deut. 8:1-10	Psalm 67	Phil. 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-4	Luke 17:11-19
Nov. 28	First Sunday in Advent	Jer. 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thess. 3:9-13	Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:25-36

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Emanuel Education Facebook Site-

<https://www.facebook.com/EmanuelMilbankEducation/>

Nov. 13th – JD2D at Our Savior's in Elbow Lake, MN

Nov. 23 – 5:00 PM – Thanksgiving Pie baking – Bring your own beverage. Supper will be provided.

Nov. 26th or 27th - Parade of Lights – Will need help putting a float together and youth to walk with the float and pass out hot chocolate packets with a Christmas message.

Nov. 28th - Youth will be hosting Coffee Hour. We will be having Soup after 10:30 am service. There will be Dart ball or family games after lunch.

Treasurer Report

Sept 2021 Income: \$25,879.44
Sept 2021 Expense: \$31,279.35
Difference: -\$5399.91

YTD 2021 Income: \$296,926.90
YTD 2021 Expense: \$274,544.86
Difference: \$22,382.04

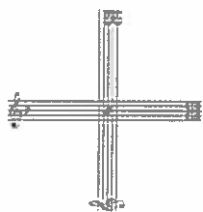
Preschool News

by Karen Tillma

Our year is racing by as always. We had a visit from the fire department a few weeks ago. This week I am holding parent/teacher conferences. I only have a day and a half left and I have had 100% attendance. It is such a joy to visit with parents and hear how excited the children are about preschool! We are just ready to start our yearly fundraiser. Please be sure to talk to a preschool family about purchasing Little Caesar Pizza kits. (We are also selling cookie dough!) If you don't know of a family and you want to help out, feel free to contact me and I will give you some names or you can give your order to me. We will be selling through the end of November. Pizza kits will arrive mid December.

It is crazy but we will be starting to practice for the Christmas program soon. The children will present their programs on Dec. 5th at 3 and 4:00pm. Because of Covid, the program will be for the families of the preschool children.

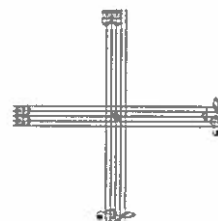
Thank you for your continued prayers for health and safety for the staff and students. We are truly blessed to be able to share God's Word with these precious children!



EMANUEL MUSIC 2020-2021

Music Notes

Dear Emanuel Lutheran,



- 1) **Wed. choir rehearsals** 5:20-6:30 Adult Handbells
6:30-7:30 Joy Choir - Anyone is welcome to join!
- 2) Looking for pianists to help out on occasion. You will not have to be leading anything just be a part of a piece.
- 3) We offer organ lessons!

Communion Service Ushers

Nov. 7th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Nov. 21st	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
	Howard Mueller	Peter Barthel		Larry Underwood	Larry Underwood

Nov. 24th 7:00 PM – Howard Mueller

This month (November): Group 4, Elders: Louis Schwandt, Charles Schamber
Next month (December): Group 5, Elder: Larry Underwood
Next special event: Group 4, Elders: Louis Schwandt, Charles Schamber

BE YE DOERS – TEAM 4, Louis Schwandt, Charles Schamber (November 2021)

GREETERS/USHERS

(SUNDAY 8:00 a.m. Service)

November 7 Wanda Bohn, Jada Schmieg / Donald Bohn, Brandon Schmieg	November 21 Wanda Bohn, Kerry Fish /
November 14 Dee Ann Dragt, Kerry Fish / Wayne Dragt, Charles Schamber	November 28

(SUNDAY 10:30 a.m. Service)

November 7 Breanna Schwandt, Karissa Karels / Louis Schwandt, Jackson Schwandt	November 21 Karissa Karels / Donald Bohn, Charles Schamber
November 14 Tim Krause / Wayne Dragt, Charles Schamber	November 28 Tim Krause

November 24 – Thanksgiving Eve @ 7:00 PM Breanna Schwandt / Jackson Schwandt

FLOWERS:

BANNERS:

COMMUNION WORKERS

November 7 -----	Set up for 8:00 AM service: Joyce Johnson Clean up / set up for 10:30 AM service: Joyce Johnson Clean up after 10:30 service: Joyce Johnson
November 14 -----	Set up for 8:00 AM service: Paula Koch Clean up / set up for 10:30 service: Paula Koch Clean up after 10:30 service: Joyce Johnson
November 24 -----	Set up / Cleanup for 7:00 PM service: Paula Koch

SOUND SYSTEM/RADIO BROADCAST FOR NOVEMBER

November 7	8:00 AM	Ezra Koch	10:30 AM	Roger Schwandt
November 14	8:00 AM	Larry Underwood	10:30 AM	Kylene Bowen
November 21	8:00 AM	Tracy Pinkert	10:30 AM	Dale Rethke
November 24	7:00 PM			
November 28	8:00 AM	Charles Schamber	10:30 AM	Dave Schamber

ACOLYTES FOR NOVEMBER

November 7	8:00 AM	P. Bauer	10:30 AM	K. Schwandt, C. Street
November 14	8:00 AM	A. Robinson, E. Henderson	10:30 AM	Z. Karges, J. Spiering
November 21	8:00 AM	K. Nies, B. Blauert	10:30 AM	J. Fraasch, S. Garcia
November 24	7:00 PM	B. Schwandt,		
November 28	8:00 AM	E. Rethke, B. Hunt	10:30 AM	S. Giossi, A. Morton

OUR MOST PRECIOUS GIFT Luke 12:21

(May Portals of Prayer)

HIS crops, HIS barns, HIS grain, HIS goods, HIS soul - the rich man is entirely focused on what HE has. From a worldly perspective, he seems to be making a wise investment to ensure his long-term security. From a heavenly perspective, he is an utter fool. Though he should find ultimate security in God, the giver of all good gifts, he foolishly trusts in himself and his possessions.

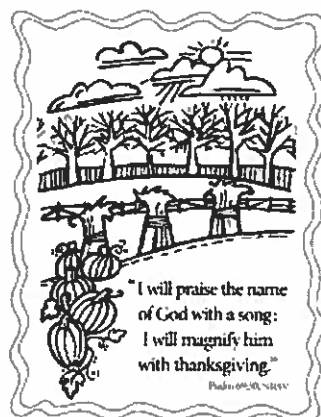
With the parable of the rich fool, Jesus reminds us that all of our blessings are from the one true God. Jesus does not want us to hoard our blessings for ourselves but to be rich toward God by sharing our gifts with others. Some of us can give money to a ministry like Orphan Grain Train. Others can share their time with the shut-ins of their church. Still others can sing in the church choir. Regardless of the specifics, each of us has blessings that can enrich the world.

When we are rich with our blessings, we are rich with Christ's Gospel too. We share the love of our Savior by sharing with our neighbor. With Christ beside us, we proclaim that life is not found in an abundance of possessions, but in Jesus Christ - our most precious gift.

-----Lord Jesus, You give us the riches of eternal life. Help us to richly share the life we have in You with others. Amen

From the office, we wish you God's blessings and a Happy Thanksgiving!

Lisa and Kim



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Pond Alana	1-Nov	Tostenson Paul C.	10-Nov	Nies Krista M.	23-Nov
Pond Riley N.	1-Nov	Street Kris	11-Nov	Rethke Regina A.	23-Nov
Leddy Korbin R.	3-Nov	Gabriel Rachelle L.	13-Nov	Hunt Karen F.	24-Nov
Schamber Ginger	3-Nov	Garcia Noah E.	13-Nov	Reil Trey A.	24-Nov
Spanton Jessica M.	3-Nov	Koch Dalton L.	13-Nov	Hanson Laci	25-Nov
Benting Marian B.	4-Nov	Henderson Tyler C.	14-Nov	Mielitz Tammy	25-Nov
Bloom Nikolas	4-Nov	Pinkert Sharon	14-Nov	Frickson Mark	26-Nov
Linnngren Austin W.	4-Nov	Zubke Eleanor G.	14-Nov	Gabriel Sr. Ray	26-Nov
Pinkert Kimberly	4-Nov	DiNatale Eliza J.	15-Nov	Tietjen Larry L.	27-Nov
Tostenson Kyra J.	4-Nov	Graf Margaret L.	15-Nov	Bloom Lincoln J.	28-Nov
Dietmeier Martin C.	5-Nov	Haigh Luke H.	16-Nov	Pinkert Paul D.	28-Nov
Myers Tom	5-Nov	Hilbrands Evelyn L. (Evy)	16-Nov	Sackreiter Judy	28-Nov
Bolton Walter	6-Nov	Martell Mia M.	17-Nov	Weyh Whitney	29-Nov
Findlay Lydia A.	6-Nov	Mueller Ellen E.	17-Nov	Johnson Joyce	30-Nov
Schell Jennifer K.	6-Nov	Angerhofer Edna	18-Nov	Keller Rhonda L.	30-Nov
Schell Parker B.	6-Nov	Loeschke Tracy L.	18-Nov	Leddy Krecia L.	30-Nov
Ehlebracht Alyssa C.	7-Nov	Mueller Jacob	18-Nov	Schweer Michelle	30-Nov
Hofhenke Joyce	7-Nov	Findlay Christa A.	19-Nov		
Hunt Hudson L.	7-Nov	Priebe Alivia A.	19-Nov		
Bolin Ricky	8-Nov	Barse Corbin M.	20-Nov		
Bohn Wanda	10-Nov	Bauer Braydon A.	22-Nov		
Haliburton Timothy J.	10-Nov	Schumacher William A.	22-Nov		

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSRIES

Dragt Kenneth D. and Kathryn A.	4-Nov
Schwandt Richard R. (Dick) and Julie	8-Nov
Meister Ronald J. (Ron) and Phyllis J.	12-Nov
Christians Arlo F. and Shirley K.	14-Nov
Bogenreif Daniel L. and Sharon J.	20-Nov
Schweer Richard A. and Michelle	20-Nov
Greiner Brian A. and Peggy	23-Nov
Hilbrands Orville L. and Evelyn L. (Evy)	27-Nov