

## TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 5, 2015



[www.ImmanuelMacomb.com](http://www.ImmanuelMacomb.com)

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Christmas in July! Saturday evening, **July 25** at Immanuel CHURCH, 906 E Grant St. Invite neighbors to come to the Church for a fun hour of neighborhood friendship -- and Christmas! Snow cones! Crafts! Music!

*From Our Pastor*

### **For the Consecration of Sex**

*O good Creator, You made us man and woman;  
You blessed us in our being  
for each other;  
You planted Your creative potency in us  
and bound us to each other  
with seeking coquetry  
and the gallantry of proud pursuit,  
with living tendrils of delight,  
with new life, radiant, of our bodies sprung.  
Forgive us, Lord.  
We have forgotten Eden  
and have run from You  
down darkling paths of selfishness.  
We have defiled Your gift  
and held cheap Your blessing.  
We have made a mania of Your gift of conjugal sanity.  
  
Bless us again we pray,  
through Jesus Christ,  
who smiled on us  
at Cana once.*



(Martin Franzmann in *Pray For Joy*. Copyright 1970. CPH)

We're listening and talking about sex this week as Immanuel. Listening to God -- the Author of sex. Listening to one another. Talking to one another. This isn't easy. It's difficult because sex is an intense and personal issue. A garden of godly delights, but where sin lurks, with the potential for ruining lives and shipwrecking God's grace and truth.

I have struggled to prepare for this dialogue with God and you. Struggled because I want to say so much about how wonderful sex is. And struggled because I don't want to say too much -- don't want to make people mad, don't want you to be uncomfortable, don't want to dwell on my sins or yours, and don't want to make a mistake. But if we only listened to those fears, we'd never open our ears to hear God and never open our mouths to tell of His glorious gifts. So here goes.

Sex is a gift from God. As the prayer above confesses, we have made a maniacal mess with it. Repent. Turn from misuse and rebellion, secrecy and compromise. You likely know already what God wants and needs to clean out. Repent and believe the Good News. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, has shed His blood for notorious sinners. For you. Whether you're single or married, divorced or widowed, content or questioning. In the freedom of His forgiveness, walk in His way. You are free to follow Him in the way of sacrifice, self-control, complementarity, and wholeness that is a gift from Him, not a feeling gained.

Grandparents and parents: make it more comfortable for the younger people in your life to talk with you about sex. Go slow. Don't give up when they want to shut down. They need you to lead them in the way of God's beautiful dance. Look at the way the girl admires the husband and wife above. She wants what they have. You can believe and live in such a way that younger people want what God wants for them: for those who are single, continence; for those who are married, faithfulness.

I pray that we will approach these dialogues with God and one another with joy. This is not about God's "no," but His "yes" -- His resounding and omnipotent "yes" to creation's future, your health and peace, and the beauty of sex by His design. It was His gift in the beginning.

*Pastor Mike Engdick*



Our Central Illinois District Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, July 5-7. Pastor Burdick and Clinton Pedigo will serve as our delegates from Immanuel. All are welcome as guests, especially at the Opening Service tonight at 7pm at Trinity Lutheran in downtown Springfield!

"Chastity is a positive and proactive choice rather than a negative and reactive choice. Chastity is a positive way champions choose to live life both inside and outside of marriage. Chastity is not just a positive choice of champions who are single. It is the positive choice of champions who are married as well, as they choose to be faithful to their spouses."  
-Rev. Dr. James I Lamb, Executive Director, Lutherans For Life

**On management of life and all its blessings...** "So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh." *Romans 8:12* We owe the flesh, the world, and the devil nothing at all. We are not debtors to these enemies: we are freed by the blood of Christ. We are joyful servants in Christ's kingdom – servants that He calls friends. We share our Lord's plans and purposes – and this gives direction and purpose to our lives.



July 12 at 7:30am on WGNX, 96.7FM... Sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church every week! Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

**"In Him!"**

In Christ, we find rescue, forgiveness, and new life. Outside of Christ, all is still broken, dying, or dead.



go to <http://reformation500.csl.edu/> for great resources about God's grace and truth in Jesus, connected to the 500th anniversary of The Reformation (quickly coming up in 2 years!).

**Going the Wrong Way Down a One-Way Street**

"Because most of us do not like to admit that we have sinned, we tend to conceal, deny, or rationalize our wrongs. If we cannot completely cover up what we have done, we try to minimize our wrongdoing by saying that we simply made a "mistake" or an "error in judgment." Another way to avoid responsibility for our sins is to shift the blame to others or to say that they made us act the way we did. When our wrongs are too obvious to ignore, we practice what I call the 40/60 Rule. It goes something like this: "Well, I know I'm not perfect, and I admit I am partially to blame for this problem. I'd say that about 40% of the fault is mine. That means 60% of the fault is hers. Since she is 20% more to blame than I am, she should be the one to ask for forgiveness." I never actually say or think these exact words, but I often catch myself resorting to this tactic in subtle ways. By believing that my sins have been more than canceled by another's sins, I can divert attention from myself and avoid repentance and confession." *Taken from The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 120.*

**& Food for Thought**

"It's two-way street, you know ... I did stuff, but he did stuff, too! Why aren't we talking about HIS stuff?" These words, which were spoken in the midst of an actual conflict, reflect another variation of the 40/60 rule Ken mentions above. We say it's a two-way street, but the problem is that in reality we still treat it like a one-way street. "When the other person is willing to 'drive' to me, only then will I think about confessing my part of the conflict."

But that's not the way Jesus spells things out in Luke 6:41-42. There he gives his famous words on "getting the log out" of your own eye first, before you ever get around to removing the splinter from your brother's or sister's eye. And just a few verses earlier, Jesus tells us to love our enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. (Luke 6:35)

What about the confessions we make? Do we withhold our confession until we have assurance that the other person will confess his or her part? Or are we willing to confess "expecting nothing in return"? It is a two-way street, but the responsibility that God calls each of us to is all one-way.

Our congregation will prayerfully nominate and elect lay leaders for Immanuel's ministry on Sunday, July 19, 2015 at 9:45am at our Student Center. Terms of service begin September 1st. All members of Immanuel are welcome and urged to submit nominations, and you may prayerfully nominate yourself. Nominations may be made to Pastor Burdick, Chris Frankhauser, or Ethel Docherty.

- President
- Vice-President
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Financial Secretary
- Council of Elders
- Board of Education
- Board of Fellowship
- Board of Outreach
- Board of Trustees
- Preschool
- Council Member at Large

**Office Secretary Job Description, Immanuel Lutheran Church & Student Center**

1. Communicate with the members, students, and friends of Immanuel personally in the Student Center office, and via USPS mail, email, and phone.
2. Receive incoming calls, taking clear messages and returning calls, if asked, of the pastor.
3. Type correspondence, articles and manuscripts and maintain up-to-date and well-organized files.
4. Update the Church website and social media.
5. Ensure that congregational records (attendance, membership, resources, etc.) are well-maintained digitally and/or in print.
6. Attend staff meetings for informational purposes.
7. Sort and open mail.
8. Publish the weekly bulletin, announcements, and other communication devices of the ministry.
9. Ensure that office machines are well-maintained.
10. Attend meetings with and for the pastor upon request.
11. Work closely with the pastor in developing new ideas and special projects.
12. Maintain appropriate confidentiality of ministry members, students, and visitors.
13. Work with appropriate committees, officers and leaders to carry out the ministry of the church.
14. Establish regular office hours and make them known to the congregation,
15. Work with the Church Council and pastor by performing other duties when asked to do so.

**Terms: 12 hours per week, negotiable as to when they coincide with office needs and the employee's schedule. Rate: \$10.75/hr. Applications available in the church office. 309-833-5483.**