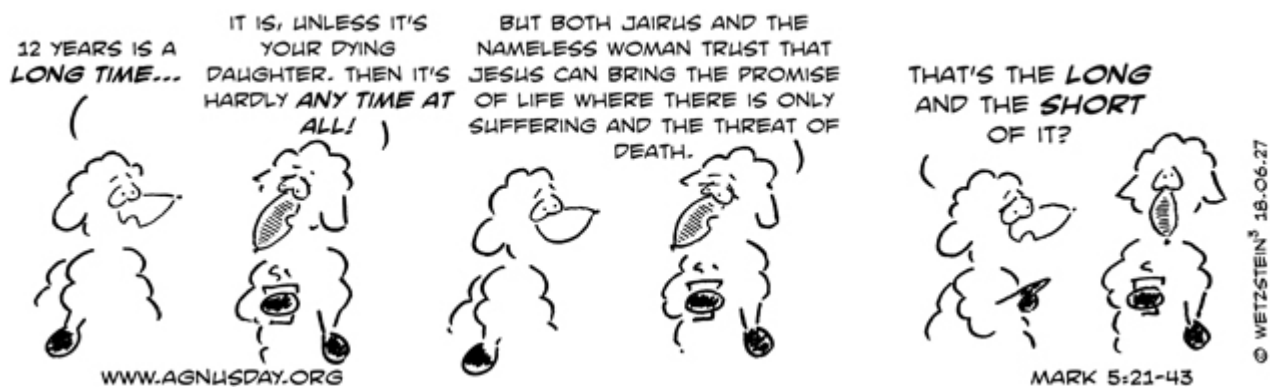


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The nature of a comic strip is almost always humor. But nothing is funny about suffering and death. Pastor Wetzstein's sheep, Ted and Rick (the one with the dark nose), might make us chuckle, usually at Ted's cluelessness. Here they are discussing today's Gospel, in which nothing is funny, but life is bursting from the hands of the Lord of Life, Jesus. Jesus raised a dead daughter. Jesus healed a suffering woman. Actually. Miraculously. This demonstrates His divine essence. I'm certain this is true.

I am also certain that the same girl and the same woman later died -- perhaps peacefully in old age, and maybe not. They went the way we all are going. Unless Jesus returns before I die, I'm going to die. Some of you will be there when I'm buried. I'll be there when some of you are buried.

Buried with hope. Sure and certain hope. That the death and resurrection of The Miracle Man is the promise of resurrection for all who are going His way. His way of repentance, faith, and confidence. The way that leads to healing of soul and body. In His time.

The Lord bless and keep you this week, dear friends in Christ, and enable you to share the hope that is in you.

While Reading the News

O God Almighty, I thank You
for this net that sweeps all waters
and brings me news of all the daily
life of all my neighbors
everywhere in the world.
Make me compassionate, O God of all mercies,
with all my neighbors' sufferings.
Teach me to know and
feel that distant anguish is
as aching as my own.
Teach me to pray, "Thy kingdom come!"
as widely as Your Son has willed it and meant it.
Teach me to do what I can and must do for all men.
Teach me long-reaching charity.
Give me faith to know,
when news is black as ink,
that Your hand is guiding all,
obscurely and unfathomably
but surely, surely toward Your goal;
that when the world shakes
and Satan triumphs with short certainty,
Your Son, Jesus Christ, is Lord of all,
that He, the Lamb slain for our sins,
is opening the seals of Your book
and is working
out Your good and holy will.
Remember in Your mercy
the gatherers and disseminators of the news.
Protect them from all harm.
Keep them from cynical and cheap success,
from a single taste for disaster,
from unconsidered or deliberate distortion
of the sad and wondrous face of man.

Franzmann, Pray For Joy

Pastor Mike Engdick

The next Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) meeting will be held at 7 PM Tuesday, July 3rd at Michelle Wendt's house, 1513 S. Madison, Macomb. Bible study will be led by Sandy Watters.

Please donate your outdated Portals of Prayer for shipment to the Menard Correctional Center. Many Thanks! Receptacle in the Narthex.

"No man, great or small, is a self-made individual. And no nation can make itself great. Nations and individuals depend on both the grace of God and His mysterious purposes in history. If any nation wishes to become great, it must bend to protect the least of its irreplaceable citizens, starting in the womb." *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: 7:30am Sundays on WGNX 96.7 FM
... sponsored by Immanuel!

July 8 **"Sufficiency"** Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus In a world of pain and violence, people ask, "Why doesn't God do something?" Pastor Ken Klaus answers, "He has." (2 Cor 12:9)

July 15 **"My Feelings, Meet God's Word!"** Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer Emotions often drive our lives. When we think about our feelings in light of the Word of God, we are led to Jesus our Savior, but ignoring God's Word makes life a soap opera mess. (Mark 6:14-29)

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

**"Let us not grow weary of doing good,
for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone,
and especially to those who are of the household of faith."
(Galatians 6:9-10)**

THE LORD WILLING, THIS WEEK THROUGH IMMANUEL ... IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Sunday, July 1

Lutheran Hour (96.7 FM) 7:30 AM
Worship Service (SC) 8:30 AM
Bible Class (SC) 9:45 AM

Tuesday, July 3

LWML (1513 S Madison) 7:00 PM

Sunday, July 8

Lutheran Hour (96.7 FM) 7:30 AM
Worship Service (SC) 8:30 AM
Bible Class (SC) 9:45 AM
CID District Convention (Springfield)
SC=Student Center (303 N Clay) C=Church (906 E Grant)

*Those serving on July 8: Greeters – Clinton & Carrie Pedigo; Ushers: Bob Coats & Savannah Dowell;
Counters – Lynn & Mary Wolfmeyer; Altar Guild – Linda Standard & Mary Wolfmeyer;
Altar Flowers – Curt & Mary Strode*

Our congregation will prayerfully nominate and elect lay leaders for Immanuel's ministry on July 22 at (9:45am at the Student Center). Terms of service begin September 1st. Speak with our Nominating Committee (Bill Oliver, Tom Burtch, Pastor B) if you're interested in a position of servant-leadership. Our nominations thus far include:

- *President: Bill Oliver*
- *Vice-President*
- *Recording Secretary*
- *Treasurer: Hans Moll*
- *Financial Secretary: Kathy Coats*
- *Council of Elders*
- *Board of Education*
- *Board of Outreach & Fellowship*
- *Board of Trustees : Mike Powell*
- *Preschool: Michelle Wenndt*
- *Council Member at Large:*

Galatians 4:4-7 - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

"Bruno Rafael Paiva is a teacher substituting for another instructor who is on maternity leave. Now in most counties that might not be a problem. Apparently, in Brazil, it can be a major difficulty. You see, in Brazil there is layer upon layer of bureaucracy. That bureaucracy makes it difficult to get anything done. In Paiva's case it means

1. he has to get a license and then register that license;
2. he has to submit his own documents and those of the person for whom he is substituting;
3. the system has to generate a contract which he has to sign;
4. the contract has to be attached to his file and then his name is submitted for the payroll.

What all that means is this: Paiva hasn't received a paycheck in two months and, because he has no money, he has been sleeping at school. When his students discovered his situation, they pooled their resources and surprised their teacher with a gift of 400 Brazilian reals, or about \$107. When he opened his gift, an overwhelmed Paiva replied, "This cannot be. How can you do this?" And then he cried.

Afterward, on Facebook, Paiva wrote, "I have many rooms that I have loved in my heart to be a teacher, but no room has ever shown such love, help, and affection for my teacher's work as building number one did today."

Having seen a video of the class as they gave their gift, I would have to agree. Lives do get changed when the right gift is given at the right time with the right motivation. That is exactly what Paul wrote to the church in Galatia.

- The right gift is God's Son born of a woman, born under the Law.
- The right time is when the fullness of time had come, when God's preparations were complete for the spreading of the Gospel message.
- The right motivation is to redeem those who were under the Law, so we might be forgiven and adopted as the Lord's children.

Now, because of what the Lord has done through His perfect gift, by the Holy Spirit's power lives are being changed. Souls once encumbered by sin are forgiven and restored; people once destined for hell are now headed for heaven. Those who once were alone now have a permanent Friend, and those who once were in darkness have been moved into the light.

All this takes place because of Jesus who is the Father's right gift, given at the right time, and with the right motivation.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, we could not ask for -- nor did we deserve -- Your Son, our Redeemer, the perfect Gift. Still, we ask that You will accept our thanks and praise for Him who came at the right time to save our souls. In Jesus, we ask it. Amen."

-- Lutheran Hour Ministries LHM.org

Upcoming meetings:

- Tuesday, July 3, LWML at 7:00pm at Michelle Wenndt's
- Monday, July 16, Church Council at the STUDENT CTR at 7:00pm
- Wednesday, July 18 at 7:00pm, Elders at the Student Ctr.
- Sunday, July 22 at 9:45am, Immanuel's quarterly Voters Meeting will be held at the Student Ctr.