

# September The Caller



## “Philemon”

When I looked back recently over my old sermons – and I’ve got many in my files – I realized that I’ve never preached on the book of Philemon in the New Testament.

Philemon is one of those little books in the Bible that’s easy to overlook. In many Bibles, it’s only one page long.

Christians tend to think that because the book of Philemon is small, it must be less important than the larger books. And we tend to think that because it’s less doctrinal than other books, it must be less important.

As I’ve done my sermon research for chapel service on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month (by-the-way, I’m preaching on this book for chapel), and as I had a good look at this little book, my attitude about it has changed.

There are three basic characters in the book of Philemon. The first, of course, is Paul the Apostle, as I mentioned, in prison at that time for sharing his faith in Jesus Christ. The second character in the book is Philemon. He’s a rich and successful Gentile – non-Jew – and he’s now a believer in Jesus. And the third character in this letter, of course, is Onesimus, a runaway slave, soon to be sent back to his master.

As a slave, Onesimus did things through external motivation – he did things not because he wanted to, but because he had no choice. As a Christian – Onesimus acted out of internal motivation. He acted because Christ was in his heart – because the grace of Christ moved him to act.

Now, as a Christian – Onesimus did things because he wanted to, not because he had to.

So, let me ask you then – why do we serve the Lord? Why do we take

part in the life of the church? Why do we offer our services to the Lord and to his people? Is it because we have to, or is it because we want to? Is it external motivation that runs the church? Or is it intrinsic motivation? Are we as Christian people primarily motivated by the Law? Or are we motivated by the Gospel? I would hope and pray that it’s the latter and not the former. When it comes right down to it, all Christian motivation should be internal – from within. We should not be doing things in the church out of compulsion or guilt. We should be doing them out of pure love for the Lord.

In this letter, Paul gave Philemon a chance to put into practice what he said he believed. Paul gave Philemon a chance to show the world his Christian forgiveness. He gave Philemon a chance to show the world what Christian reconciliation is all about. And God does the same for us today. He gives us many opportunities to live out what we say we believe.

He gives us many opportunities to forgive, and to be gracious to others, to show patience and understanding.

We don’t always recognize these opportunities from the Lord. And we don’t always do what we should. When we come to faith in the Lord Jesus – when we trust him with no strings attached – we move from being slaves to sin to children of God. When we come to faith in the Lord Jesus, we enter a whole new relationship with the Lord. Our sins are removed. We see others in a new light. We have mercy on others, just as Christ had mercy on us. We forgive others, just as Christ has forgiven us.

We do our best to treat everyone fairly and graciously. We try to do the right thing in every circumstance of life. With God’s help, we set our personal prejudices aside, and do what Christ would want us to do.

When we come to faith in the Lord Jesus – our true potential starts to show through. We are no longer runaway slaves like Onesimus. We have been freed from our bondage. Christ has paid the debt that we owed. Barriers between us and God – as well as barriers between us and other people – have been removed in Christ.

Christian tradition tells us that Onesimus – the former runaway slave – became the Bishop of the church at Ephesus. If that tradition is correct, then this man came to his full potential in Christ. He became a great blessing to many.

May God help us to remember who we are. More than that, may he help us remember whose we are.

May the story of Onesimus and Philemon encourage us in our own Christian life. Amen.

We bless the Lord+  
Pastor Reed

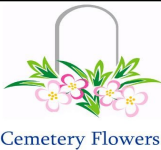




**The Lutheran Hour Radio Broadcasts**  
 Sponsors are needed for throughout 2019. The cost for each broadcast is \$94.00. Contact, Rich Streufert, 864.6884 or email: [richstreufert@embarqmail.com](mailto:richstreufert@embarqmail.com) to sponsor a broadcast.  
 Broadcast may be heard at 12:30 p.m. Radio station KDUZ 1260 AM.

**Sundays**

- September 1<sup>st</sup> “Begin Again” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Genesis 1:1 - 2:30)**
- September 8<sup>th</sup> “Play Your Art” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Genesis 2)**
- September 15<sup>th</sup> “The Dream Is Alive” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Genesis 3)**
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> “Intervention” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Genesis Series)**
- September 29<sup>th</sup> “The Story We Needed” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Genesis Series (Genesis 5-9)**



**Request from our Cemetery Board—Please remove flower pots from Immanuel’s cemetery as soon as possible after Labor Day. Thanks.**

**Gardening members of Immanuel, remember the Thrivent and Food Shelf Garden Project.**

***Still happening:* A table will be set up in the Narthex to share garden produce with Immanuel members. Members can make a monetary donation for the produce. All money collected will be donated to the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. Any leftover produce each Sunday will be donated to Shade Tree or the Food Shelf.**

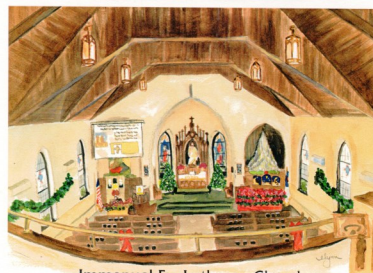
**Also, in our East entrance from our parking lot to the Education Building, a collection tub is placed for any other Food Shelf donations. You may leave donations at any time because the first entrance doors are unlocked. Ron Kelm will be delivering donated items to the Food Shelf for us. If anyone would like to volunteer to help, please call Ron at 320.510.1211. Thanks!**

**T-Shirts and Sweatshirts**

**The first order is in and will be available for pickup September 8, 15, 22 & 29 after worship services. We will also be taking orders and these should be here by the first part of November. Adult sweatshirts \$25; t-shirts-\$15; Kids sweatshirts-\$15.00; t-shirts-\$8.00.**



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church  
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**Pat Schmidt of the Anniversary Committee will also be selling greeting cards, \$1.00 each with envelope**

### Giftng of Christian Education Materials

Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Our Board of Education will present a Luther's Small Catechism to the 1<sup>st</sup> graders- August Buckentin; Evelyn Buckentin; Lillyanna Draeger; Liam Fahey; Mallory Jaskowiak; Jameson Mackenthun;

LWML Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>,

Concordia Ladies Aid will present a FAITH Alive Bible ESV Student Edition to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders- Jackson Buckentin; Josie Lindeman; Dalilah Mackenthun; Avery Neubarth; Layla Nordby; Peyton Zellmann

If there are any errors in these names, please let the church office know [328.5522]. Thanks.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION**

**September 8th "Rally Sunday" - 1st day of Sunday School classes, 9 a.m. Worship Service with Introduction of the Confirmation Class: 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Plan to attend!**

Reaffirming the dedication of parents, Board of Education members, students, teachers, and the whole congregation to Christian education at home and at church. **Sunday School Classes will begin at 10:15 a.m.**

#### The following are important dates for Sunday School.

**September 8th "Rally Sunday" - 1st day of Sunday School classes**

Sunday School Bake Sale, each student should bring 1-2 items  
(please bring prior to church service or drop with a board member)

**September 22nd** - First graders receive Catechisms

**October 6th** - Third Graders receive Bibles

**October 13th** - Deadline to sign up for Children's Christmas Eve program

**October 27th - Reformation Sunday** - Sunday School Children Sing

Sunday School Bake Sale, each student should bring 1-2 items  
(please bring prior to church service or drop with a board member)  
German Dinner

### **Mission Statement of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brownton**

"Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ seeking to nurture individuals and families in their Christian faith, teaching them a caring ministry to each other, our community and the world by sharing the message of Jesus through word and deed."

## 2020—125<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Committee Report

One last check of the final draft of the History book is in the works and then it will go to the printers.

The pictorial directory has gone to the printers and they will return a final draft and then that will be ready to print.

We are looking for someone or a group that has an interest in contacting newspapers, radio stations etc. to advertise the yearlong celebrations to stepforward and make those things and deadlines happen. If you have an interest in this type of thing, please contact Barbara Hoyhtya.

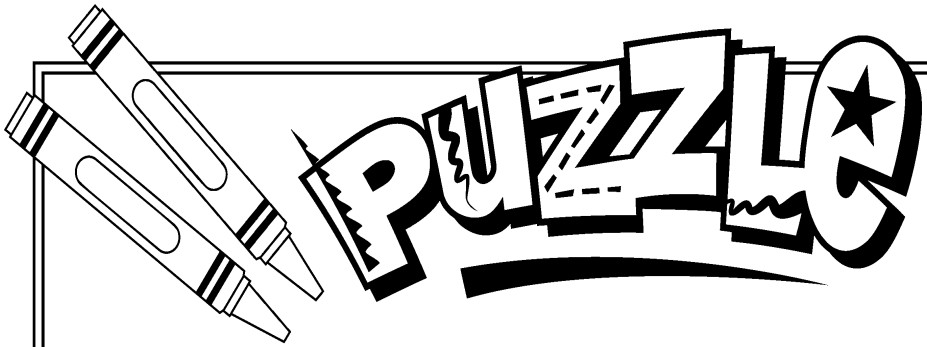
We will again be taking orders for T-shirts/Sweatshirts promoting our church. They will set up in the narthex before and after church. Diane will also have forms if you would like to pick one up at the office. The last date for ordering will be October 6, 2019 at this time.

We have some people working in the library room. The library is not being used as it has been in the past. For that reason, there has been discussions on wanting to make this room more functional. Ideas for the room that have been discussed have been: Nursery, Sunday School music room, Vacation Bible School, and 5th & ; 6th grade confirmation classroom for example. The room is being cleaned and they are working on making it a more manageable room for a lot of different things. The room is being cleaned and they are working on making it a more manageable room for a lot of different things. I am so pleased and thankful for all the people that have stepped up and worked on some aspect of this planning. We have many things yet to work on as the dates get closer. If you have an interest in anything let us know and we will find a spot for you. Thank you.

The next anniversary meeting will be September 3, 2019 at 6:30 in the chapel. Please join us if you would like,

Barbara Hoyhtya  
Chairman



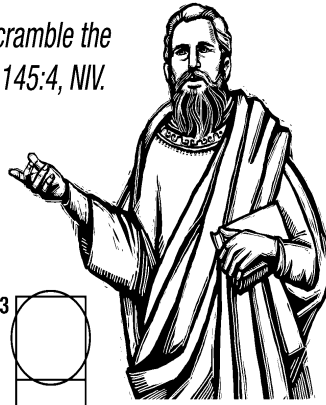
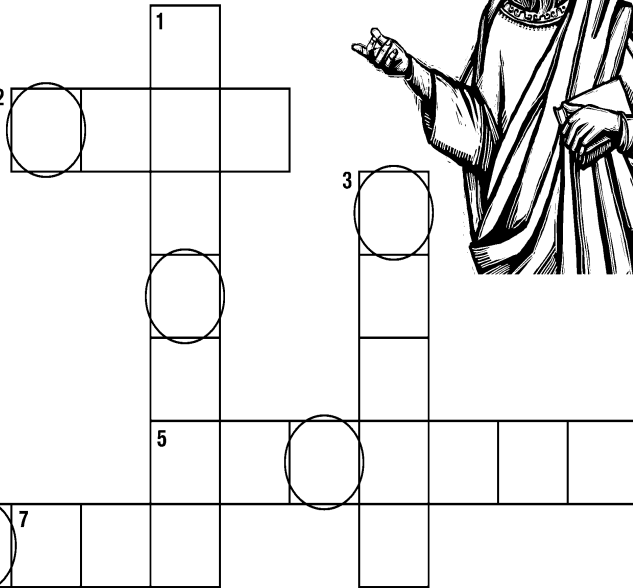
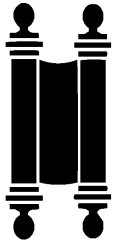


# PUZZLE

## Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

*Directions:* After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.



### ACROSS

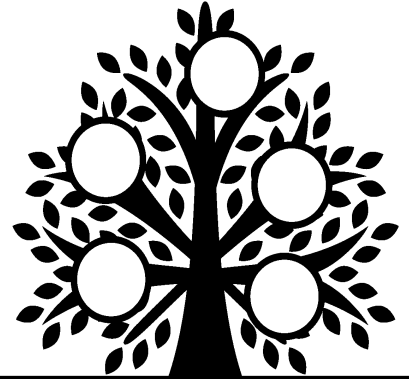
- 2. David's grandfather
- 5. Jacob's grandfather
- 6. Esau's grandmother

### DOWN

- 1. Judah's grandmother
- 3. Joseph's grandfather
- 4. Solomon's grandfather
- 7. Jesse's grandmother

One G \_ N \_ \_ \_ \_ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obad, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah; DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth. Generation



## GROWING generations

Honor your grandparents with a gift that all generations can enjoy.

### What you need:

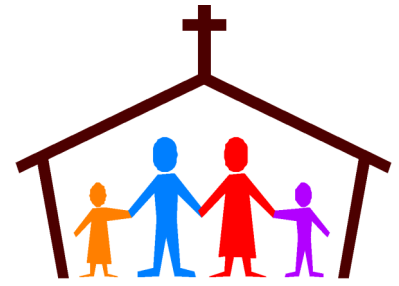
- Cups (various sizes)
- Pencil
- Family photos
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Clothespins
- A small potted tree or bush

### What you do:

1. Use a cup to trace a circle around faces in the photos. Cut out the circles.
2. Cut larger circles out of paper. Glue each photo onto a paper circle.
3. Glue a clothespin to the back of each photo. Clip photos to the branches.
4. Present the gift to your grandparents, and tell them you're glad to be in their family tree.

## Stewardship “A Church Family”

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod defines stewardship:  
“Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources



*Maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons.*

“*God’s stewards are loved and loving*” is the sixth of eight Biblical Stewardship Principles being used in The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

This principle proclaims the Gospel truth that God’s stewards recognize that their stewardship flows out of God’s act of love for them in Christ which empowers them, in turn, to love others in acts of Christ-like love.

St. John said it so simply and clearly when he wrote: “*We love because he first loved us.*” (1 John 4:19) St. Paul added more emphasis on our response to God’s love when he wrote: “*For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all have died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*” (2 Cor. 5:14-15)

What a challenge for us as God’s stewards to respond to his love in such a way that we consider the best interest and welfare of others more highly than our own!

Our proper response to Christ’s love is to love God above all else and then love our neighbor as we already love ourselves.

All our activities motivated by faith and this kind of love are properly Christian stewardship. Such activities include participating in worship and Christian education, giving of time, skills and financial resources for the extension of Christ’s kingdom, and giving of ourselves in acts of service to the church, community, workplace and wherever we have the opportunity to “*express our faith through love.*” (Gal. 5:6b)

Left to our own abilities and resources we would fall hopelessly short of showing this kind of love to God and others. But when we are first touched by the undeserved love of God seen most clearly in the sending of his only-begotten Son to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, then we are empowered by God’s Spirit to live in such a manner that love flows forth in a free, joyful and spontaneous way.

This is the only life worth living!



# SEPTEMBER 2019

Sundays, 1<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9 a.m. Worship Services with Holy Communion

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 1<sup>st</sup>

Proverbs 25:2-10; Hebrews 13:1-17; Luke 14:1-14

*“Jesus Is Our Comfort”* based on Hebrews 13:5-8

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8<sup>th</sup> RALLY SUNDAY

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Philemon 1:21 Luke 14:25-35

*“The Cost?”* based on Luke 14:25-35

Wednesday, Chapel at 1:30 p.m.

11<sup>th</sup>

*“The Gospel of Philemon”* based on Philemon 17-20

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 15<sup>th</sup>

Ezekiel 34:11-24; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Guest Pastor, Rev. Bob Alsleben

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 22<sup>nd</sup>

Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-15; Luke 16:1-15

*“The Honest Steward”* based on Luke 16:1-15

St. Michael and All Angels The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 29<sup>th</sup>

Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3; Revelation 12:7-12; Matthew 18:1-11

Guest Pastor, Rev. Bob Alsleben

## Ushers & Acolytes

Please be at church 15 minutes before service. If, you cannot find anyone to help you out by exchanging, you may call the church office (320) 328-5522.

### September

1<sup>st</sup> Ushers, Alyssa Zellmann, Dylan Kucera Acolytes, Ethan Berge, Haley Korson

8<sup>th</sup> Ushers, Ashley Ribar, Jasmine Knick Acolytes, Ava Hoffman, Kiera Schuette

15<sup>th</sup> Ushers, Evan Battcher; Jessica Headlee; Acolytes, Noah Say; Darrin Uecker

22<sup>nd</sup> Ushers, Christian Chmielewski; Kaleb Templin Acolytes, Brianna Matheny; Autumn Schuette

29<sup>th</sup> Ushers, Heather Benson Megan Becker Acolytes, Bradlee Nordby; Levi Silfverston

### October

6<sup>th</sup> Ushers, Cadance Knick, Brysen Sondergaard; Acolytes, Brianna Matheny, Autumn Schuette

13<sup>th</sup> Ushers, Abigail Radke, Shyla Binger; Acolytes, Luke Radke, Jackson Mackenthun



**Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**  
**Pastor: Rev. R. Allan Reed**  
**700 Division St. P. O. Box 147**  
**Brownton, MN 55312-0147**

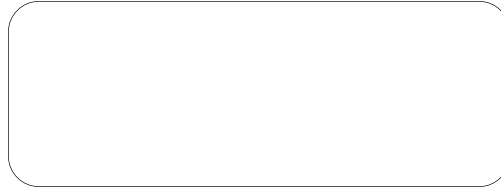
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# 2019 September **The Caller**



**A Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church**

700 Division St. P.O. Box 147, Brownton, MN 55312-0147

[www.immanuellutheranbrownton.org](http://www.immanuellutheranbrownton.org)

**Pastor's Office and Church Office: 320.328.5522**

**Noah's Ark Preschool: (Vicki Herrmann) 320.328.5325**

Publication by Church Office Secretary, Diane Harbarth

**Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, Confirmation Class begins**

**Rally Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup>, Christian Education Emphasis**

**Pastor's Bible Class in Chapel & Sunday School Classes begin**

**Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, Worship/Holy Communion: gifting of Catechisms**