

A Note
from
Pastor Dan



Dear Fellow Redeemed:

Having at least once had the opportunity to ride a cable car in San Francisco, I am intrigued with the phrase: skinning the wire.

It has to do with the process involved in controlling the speed of an old-fashioned type of trolley car. Here's how it works: As the conductor squeezes a handle, the mouth, which partially surrounds the power cable suspended above the street, opens so that it barely makes contact with the cable. This causes the car to slow down. If the conductor wants the car to move more swiftly, he loosens his grip to allow the mouth to grasp the cable more firmly. Thus, in an effort to go slowly, the grasping mechanism is allowed to merely "skin the wire."

The phrase "skinning the wire" has an obvious application in many areas of our lives and particularly in our life together in the church. Jesus said, *"If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross and follow in my steps."*

Taking up the cross of Jesus and following after Him is a personal challenge which calls for a great deal of commitment. To act in the place of Jesus, to be His assist and encouragement to others, to share His Good Word with others calls for a commitment

which is a far cry from "skinning the wire".

May this full month of Lenten activity be a time for each of us to resolve to do much more than "skin the wire." May we allow for the Holy Spirit to come to us in rich measure through Word and Sacrament and may we also take a firm hold of the opportunities to serve in our Lord's place by the power of His saving name.

Let's be done with "skinning the wire" types of activity! It is high time to take a firm hold so that we may truly be alive.

Firming my grip with you,

Rev. Dan L. Siedenbug
Intentional Interim Pastor

Spring Salad Luncheon

When: Saturday, March 6 at 12:30 p.m.

Who: Men and Ladies

Cost: \$10.00/Adults
\$5.00/Children

(Tickets available before the event or at the door)

Needed: Salads (Bring your favorite salad and take \$5.00 off your ticket)

Donate a Prize

Please help us advertise this luncheon. Take a flyer for your friends.

Come for an afternoon of good food, entertainment and fun!

If you have any questions, please call Gladys Lossow at (612) 729-8492.

2010 MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

"Revelation for Lent"

You are invited to attend Midweek Devotions each week during the Lenten season at **11:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.**

The Word of God for Lent will come from the New Testament book of Revelation.

Each Wednesday we will hear the **Angel of God** speak to an ancient New Testament church with a message which is vital for our contemporary church.

We will follow the following schedule of Revelation readings:
March 3.....**Lent III:** Letter to Pergamum—Revelation 2:12-17
March 10.....**Lent IV:** Letter to Thyatira—Revelation 2:18-29
March 17.....**Lent V:** Letter to Sardis—Revelation 3:1-6
March 24.....**Lent VI:** Letter to Philadelphia—Revelation 3:7-13

HOLY WEEK..11:00 am and 7:00

pm

April 1.....**Maundy Thursday**

Communion: Letter to Laodicea—Revelation 3: 14-22

April 2.....**Good Friday:** Seven Words for Seven Churches

EASTER SUNDAY

COMMUNION...8:00 and 10:30

am

April 4.....**Easter:** "Come, Take Your Crown!"--Revelation 2:8-11

Invite a friend or neighbor and plan to attend these interesting, timely, meditative and family oriented services.



Sunday School

Thanks to all of you that participated in our Annual Talent Show! God has blessed you all with great talent.

Our big upcoming event for March is our annual:

Easter Egg

Hunt/Resurrection Party

Saturday, March 27th

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Cost - \$5,00/Child

There will be crafts, lunch, egg hunt and a petting zoo. Please invite all your friends!

We will be collecting wrapped candy and plastic eggs. Please bring them and put them in the box in the narthex or at Open Arms.

I hope you all will join us for our Lenten Services on Wednesdays. May this help you prepare for His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We want to welcome our new kids to Sunday School:

Gaylen and Alva Frankel

Henry and Charlee Anderson

Happy March Birthday to:

Ashley and Amanda Hallett

Ariell M.

Phillip Geist

May God bless you for many more happy years to come!

We continue to pray for our friend, Ben, as he heals from a broken leg. May Jesus heal you quickly!

God Bless,
Natalie Mylander

Youth News

Our upcoming March events will be:

Sunday, March 7th after church we will be having pizza and then going to see A. J. and Heidi DCamp in "Joseph and

The Amazing Coat" in Prior Lake.

Friday, March 26th at 5:00 p.m. meet at church. We will be having supper, filling and hiding the eggs for the Egg Hunt and then going to Grand Slam afterwards.

We continue to pray for Nicole and Bryanna's Mom as she continues with her cancer treatments.

May God continue to bless our youth here at Holy Emmanuel and everywhere. May their faith grow stronger and stronger each day.

In His Name,
Natalie Mylander

Open Arms News

Thanks to all of you that joined us for our Valentine Lunch/Talent Show. It was a great turn out. I know God was smiling from above as the children sang their hearts out.

As most of you know, Mr. Joel's wife, Xochitl, was in a serious car accident. She is now at Bethesda Hospital for rehab. We continue to pray for both of them. They have a long journey ahead of them. We know God will be with them and only He knows our future plan for us. You are encouraged to check out their Caringbridge web page at www.caringbridge.org/visit/xochitlgrant

Congratulations to Mr. Dan Olson who became engaged this month. We wish him and best on his future marriage to Kayla.

As you continue to support and pray for Open Arms, we ask that you pray God will bring us more children to nurture. Due to the economy, we have had a slight loss of children.

Thank you for always praying for our needs at the center. Prayer is powerful and we know God hears everyone of them.

God is a Mighty God!

In His Name,
Natalie Mylander

ECC Fundraiser

The staff at Open Arms is raising funds for new carpet in their front entry and classroom supplies.

Please support this effort by purchasing a Journey of Faith candle at \$12.00/each.

Natalie will be available in the narthex today, or contact Open Arms at (952) 888-5116.

Thank you for your continued support of Open Arms!



Attention All Parents (Infant thru Teen)

Please join us for a parenting class (taught by Randy Marko) where together we learn and support one another as we improve our parenting skills. We are starting a new DVD series called "Effective Parenting in a Defective World" by Chip Ingram (President of 'Living on the Edge' & Sr. Pastor of Venture Christian Church in CA). Class is the third Monday of each month in the Holy Emmanuel Church fellowship hall. It starts with a free dinner at 5:30 p.m., class at 6 p.m. and ends by 7:30 p.m. There is also free babysitting. Questions? Call Randy or Cindy Marko @ 952-894-6359.

"A Teaching Moment" from the Board of Christian Education

How much do you love others? How much do you love yourself? How much do you love God? These are some important questions to ask ourselves and to be prepared with answers. As we celebrate the Lenten season we must be considering our commitment to love and our commitment to God. Please read on and consider how much our Lord loves us. God bless and guide you as you reflect on these questions and consider your personal commitment.

The Evidence You Are Loved

Most of us don't have a friendly neighborhood blacksmith anymore. This is especially true for city folks who may never see one if they didn't have them at historic sites and some old-time American theme parks. We stopped at one of those theme parks not long ago and walked into a blacksmith's shop. Our granddaughter was really interested in his fire and how he pounded those hot, shapeless metal pieces into useful objects. Later, as we started to leave, Mr. Blacksmith stopped us. Even though he does some pretty tough work, he's obviously a caring man. He caught up with us because he wanted to do something special for our little girl - he handed her a nail that he had just made. She wouldn't let go of that nail for most of the rest of the day. And last I knew it was still one of her treasures.

Our granddaughter has a reminder of a blacksmith who took a special interest in her - the evidence is a nail. It's hard for me to think about that without thinking of the Man who demonstrated His love for me

with the same kind of evidence - a nail. Actually, three nails - the two they drove through His hands and the one they drove through His feet when they hung Him on a cross.

Jesus brought back to heaven only one thing from His visit to earth - the nail prints in His hands and feet. They are the unarguable evidence of how very much Jesus loves you. I don't know what your experiences with love have been in your life. Maybe you've been blessed to have lots of love over the years. You can still be missing the love you were made for - the love on which your eternity depends - the love of Jesus Christ. Or maybe love - or the absence of it - has been the source of a lot of hurt and disappointment in your life. Because we tend to expect from God the same kind of treatment we've gotten from humans, it just may be hard for you to believe that the greatest person in the universe deeply loves you.

Consider the nails. Consider Jesus' wounds. It was, in fact, the sight of those wounds that drove a man named Thomas to throw open His life to Jesus. Thomas had followed Jesus for three years. He had heard all the sermons, seen all the miracles, but apparently he had withheld his total commitment. When Jesus came back from the grave and appeared to all the disciples but Thomas, Thomas said he would not believe that Jesus was alive unless he touched the wounds from His death on the cross. When Jesus appeared a second time with Thomas in the room, He invited the doubter to come and touch the holes the nails and the spear had left. All Thomas could do was to fall on his knees and cry out, "My Lord and My God." (John 20:28).

The awful punishment that Jesus submitted Himself to was, in reality, the punishment for my sin - for your sin. And the worst punishment wasn't what people could see. It was the Son of God being totally cut off from God the Father as He carried all the horror and all the hell of all our sin. The certainty of His love is powerfully expressed in Isaiah 49:15-16 , "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands". Every time Jesus looks at His hands, He thinks of you and me because His love for us is engraved there in the print of the nails.

That's why it's so unforgivable to reject His love. You may not mean to reject Him, but if a gift is offered to you and you just sit there, you have rejected both the gift and the giver. Jesus is holding out to you eternal life in heaven; the forgiving of every sin of your life. The greatest mistake a person can make is to fail to respond to this love of Jesus Christ.

Jesus has been reaching for you for a long time. It's time to grab on to His hand?

By Ron Hutchcraft



Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

- **Book of Revelation** (Led by Pastor Dan in the Chapel)
- **Book of Acts** (Led by Randy Marko in the Accounting Room)
- 1st & 3rd Sunday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.** (Meet at Church)
- Couples in Christ**
- **“John 3:16, Stories of Hope”** (Led by Rick Marko)
- 3rd Monday Evenings at 5:30 p.m. – Supper, 6:00 p.m. – Bible Study**

- **Parenting Class – “Discipline”** (Led by Randy Marko)

Tuesday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

- **Book of Luke** (Led by Pat Squires at the Gables Apt. Bldg.)

Men’s Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

- **The Authenticity of the Bible** (Led by Nick Marko in the Accounting Room)

Wednesday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.

- **Recessed until after Easter**
- Thursday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.**

- **Crash Course on Jesus** (Led by Chuck Squires in the Accounting Room)

March Daily Bible Readings

Morning Readings

- 1st – Numbers 26, 27
- 2nd – Numbers 28, 29
- 3rd – Numbers 30, 31
- 4th – Numbers 32, 33
- 5th – Numbers 34, 35, 36
- 6th – Deuteronomy 1, 2
- 7th – Deuteronomy 3, 4
- 8th – Deuteronomy 5, 6, 7
- 9th – Deuteronomy 8, 9, 10
- 10th – Deuteronomy 11, 12, 13
- 11th – Deuteronomy 14, 15, 16

- 12th – Deuteronomy 17, 18, 19
- 13th – Deuteronomy 20, 21, 22
- 14th – Deuteronomy 23, 24, 25
- 15th – Deuteronomy 26, 27
- 16th – Deuteronomy 28
- 17th – Deuteronomy 29, 30
- 18th – Deuteronomy 31, 32
- 19th – Deuteronomy 33, 34
- 20th – Joshua 1, 2, 3
- 21st – Joshua 4, 5, 6
- 22nd – Joshua 7, 8
- 23rd – Joshua 9, 10
- 24th – Joshua 11, 12, 13
- 25th – Joshua 14, 15
- 26th – Joshua 16, 17, 18
- 27th – Joshua 19, 20
- 28th – Joshua 21, 22
- 29th – Joshua 23, 24
- 30th – Judges 1, 2
- 31st – Judges 3, 4, 5

Evening Readings

- 1st – Mark 8:22-38
- 2nd – Mark 9:1-29
- 3rd – Mark 9:30-50
- 4th – Mark 10:1-31
- 5th – Mark 10:32-52
- 6th – Mark 11:1-19
- 7th – Mark 11:20-33
- 8th – Mark 12:1-27
- 9th – Mark 12:28-44
- 10th – Mark 13:1-13
- 11th – Mark 13:14-37
- 12th – Mark 14:1-25
- 13th – Mark 14:26-50
- 14th – Mark 14:51-72
- 15th – Mark 15:1-26
- 16th – Mark 15:27-47
- 17th – Mark 16
- 18th – Luke 1:1-23
- 19th – Luke 1:24-56
- 20th – Luke 1:57-80
- 21st – Luke 2:1-24
- 22nd – Luke 2:25-52
- 23rd – Luke 3
- 24th – Luke 4:1-32
- 25th – Luke 4:33-44
- 26th – Luke 5:1-16
- 27th – Luke 5:17-39
- 28th – Luke 6:1-26
- 29th – Luke 6:27-49
- 30th – Luke 7:1-30
- 31st – Luke 7:31-50

DIRTY CUPS

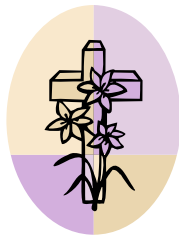
Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups 3/4 full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.



Easter Flowers

If you would like to order Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter morning, please fill out the form below and send or bring it in with your check. Place orders and payments in the Easter Flower Folder on the counter in the Church Office. The flowers may be taken home on Easter Sunday, following the second service. We hope that many of you will be able to donate again this year.

Sunday, March 21st the last day to place your order.

- _____ Easter Lily \$7.25
- _____ Tulips (Red) \$6.75
- _____ Tulips (Purple) \$6.75
- _____ Tulips (Yellow) \$6.75
- _____ Mums (Purple) \$8.00
- _____ Mums (Yellow) \$8.00
- _____ Hydrangeas(Pink)\$11.00

Name

In Honor of

In Memory of

Please make checks payable to Holy Emmanuel. If you have any questions, check with Cindy Marko. Thank you!

Stewardship Corner

What Have I Done for Him?

Lent is a season in the church year during which we particularly focus on the sacrifice Jesus made for us to pay the debt we owed for our sin. We know there is no way we can pay the debt ourselves. Only the sinless Son of God could do that. We have access to heaven only by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.

While we cannot repay Jesus for what He has done for us, His love does require a response. Paul, speaking of our ministry of reconciliation, wrote, "For Christ's love compels us . . ." (2 Corinthians 5:14). We remain on earth to carry out the tasks which Christ left for us to do: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the prisoner, (Matthew 25:31-46). James admonished us that ". . . faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17). We provide the funds that support our pastors, teachers, and missionaries. Again, we can quote Paul writing in 1 Corinthians 9:11-12. "If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?" Certainly each of us is addressed by the Great Commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations . . ." (Matthew 28:19). The following words from Frances Ridley Havergal are a poignant reminder that Christ's love and sacrifice for us require a response:

Thy life was given for me, Thy Blood, O Lord, was shed That I might ransomed by, and quickened from the dead.

Thy life was given for me, What have I given for Thee?

And Thou hast brought to me Down from Thy home above.

Salvation full and free, Thy pardon and Thy love.

Great gifts Thou broughtest me, What have I brought to Thee?

We are saved by grace through faith for works. Let us pray for the desire to be good stewards of the gifts of salvation, health and wealth, and time and opportunity which God has given us that we might have a part in the furthering of God's kingdom.



Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, March 7th
11:30 a.m.**

**Sunday, March 14th
11:30 a.m.**

Chancel Choir Members

The Chancel Choir will practice on Sunday, March 7th and 14th at 11:30 a.m. immediately following the Living Praise Worship Service.

We will be practicing music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Please join us!

If you have any questions, please contact Rick marko at (952) 896-0017