

# Immanuel News

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## *Red River Reflections #4*

The not so supreme court does not always get things right. As Christians, we obey laws because God has placed governments and their officials over us for our good and He admonishes us in His word to obey the ruling authorities to the extent that we can without violating God's law. Luther stood against Rome pointing out that Popes and Councils erred whenever they departed from scriptural truth; in the same way, we as Christians must stand against laws that depart from God's truth. In our democratic system, through good citizenship we can and should attempt to effect positive change when our leaders go astray. We have done it before and we have been called by our creator and our time to stand for God and his truth as we speak it in love (in accord with Ephesians 4:15) regarding life and family ethics, and obey God rather than men (in accord with Acts 5:29).

When the supreme court gets it wrong, dedicated Christian citizens need to speak the truth in love to promote Gods moral standard of truth. The separation of church and state does not remove our freedom to live and act in accord with our faith. The first amendment protects our right as American citizens to exercise our faith and speak freely about it in any setting, even on the campuses of our schools. And we as Christian citizens are called to speak the truth in love to our neighbors when the Supreme Court gets it wrong as they have numerous times in the past, and to seek with the help of God and our neighbors to set things right so that our laws would promote and protect lives and families in accordance with God's word.

Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court can only be over turned or superseded in two ways: by constitutional amendment, or by the Supreme Court overruling itself.

There are many examples of the court reversing decisions. Many have nothing to do with morals or faith, but it shows there is a process to correct poor decisions by previous courts. When the Supreme Court changes its position it changes US legal precedence; sometimes making things better and sometimes making them worse. We will avoid a list of good decisions that later were overturned and focus on the times the Supreme Court ruled wrongly and was corrected later by one of the aforementioned mechanisms.

-1857: The Dred Scott decision declared that black people were inferior to whites, weren't and couldn't be U.S. citizens, and had no rights. It took the Emancipation Proclamation, a civil war and two amendments to fix.

-1883: The Supreme Court upheld a law forbidding mixed marriage, then overturned it in 1967.

-1896: The Supreme Court upheld "Separate but Equal" laws, then overturned the decision in 1954.

-1973: The Roe v Wade decision declared that the unborn are not people and had no rights. In the words of one of a once time presidential candidate, "unborn persons have no rights under the law". (Hillary Clinton April 16)

-2015: Obergefell v Hodges declared genderless marriage the law of the land.

The last two decisions are wrong and as I write this the 1976 decision it appears will be overturned in a couple of weeks. The battle to protect life will then move to the states. 11 States and 2 Territories will have no restrictions. 10 states will have 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester bans and 28 states will have bans ranging from first trimester only down to conception. So, for those of us seeking to protect life the struggle is not over. Our first amendment rights to exercise our faith and speak freely about it are under attack. Make no mistake about it: the abortion industry wants to use the government to make you pay directly and indirectly for what they do. The radical LGBT agenda is to get everyone to celebrate, parade and virtue signal support for them. Human sin does not want to simply live and let live. As we try to speak the truth in love we will be condemned as judgmental, religious bigots, even while the very people who make these accusations do so in a judgmental, bigoted way. Take comfort though; there is nothing new under the sun. God will prevail; he is in control of all things even though we do not understand how. Keep Matthew 7:24-27 in mind as you pursue God's truth.

***"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."***

Press on, be wise, and seek to do his will in your life.

In Christ,

Pastor Portier

# What's with all the change?

Pastor Yeager

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time, he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me ... Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So, he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. (Luke 8:26-28; 32-33, ESV).

One day I was listening to a devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries. This devotion was over Luke chapter 8. This was the story of Jesus casting out the demons from a man who lived among the tombs. Here Jesus not only shows his divinity by casting out the demons, but also His humility by healing the man who was oppressed. What a great thing for this man and what a glorious sign to give to those who are watching this event take place. Shortly before, the LORD preformed a miracle, and you would think that there would be praise following. However, the exact opposite happened. Instead of praise, the town was afraid. Instead of a welcome they pushed Him away. Now, it's at this point of the devotion the reader mentions something interesting to consider; the town was more afraid of Jesus than they were of the demon.

The reader then makes a conclusion that the town was ultimately afraid of change, more specifically, the potential change that Jesus was offering. The question then is this, how do you react to change? Change happens to us all, when we go from one stage of life to another, or when we go from one job to the next. How do you react while you watch your children grow older, when they leave the house, or when they get married? How do you react when your loved ones get sick and are diagnosed with a terminal illness? How do you live when your loved ones soon pass away? Change can be frustrating; change can be hard and even depressing. But change is not just a one-way street. While we certainly can think of the bad things that come from change, there are also good things that come out of change as well.

Consider the man who Jesus healed. This was a good change. Here Jesus gave him life, a new life free from Satan and his oppression. Jesus gave him a life that proclaims the glory that God gives.

You are also given this same gift. Jesus offers you change, good change. This change is given to you through the forgiveness of sins. In Holy Absolution, you are free from the bondage of your sins and the consequences thereof. You are given a new life in Christ, a life that revolves around the cross which He bore for you on Calvary. Jesus gives up His life in order to save yours from a certain life that leads to eternal death. This change comes to you through Jesus's death and resurrection. A new life bound eternally to Jesus Christ our LORD.

Instead of going with Jesus on the boat, Christ told the man that he healed to go back to the town and proclaim all that Jesus had done. How would he do this? By living the new life that Jesus gave to him. This man, who had once been dead, now lives and the more he lives the more the town will remember who gave this man life. While we continue to live in a world that rejects Jesus, we too can live in a way that proclaims Christ. No longer bound to our sin, we are free to live a life of love. Love for God and love for our neighbor. Therefore, when we are faced with change that is difficult or disconcerting, we can remember the good change that God gives us every day. The new life that we receive through the forgiveness of sins.

The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him (Luke 8:38-39, ESV).

In the name of Jesus+  
Amen.

# FYI

**Sunday Service Bulletins are printed Thursday mornings. If you have an item for inclusion, please have into the office by Wednesday afternoon. Thanks!**



You are invited to join our group for intercessory prayer for prayer for others. Prayer Ministry is an opportunity to serve Jesus and our congregation by lifting others in prayer when they have a need. If this appeals to you, or if you have any questions, please contact Shirley Fortune at 318-402-8940.

## July Readings

### July 3

Wed. Sermon Mic. 7:18-20

1 Pet. 5:6-11

Sun. Sermon Luke 15:1-10

### July 10

Wed. Sermon Gen 50:15-21

Romans 8:18-23

Sun. Sermon Luke 6:36-42

### July 17

Wed. Sermon 1 Kings 19:11-21

1 Peter 3:8-15

Sun. Sermon Luke 5:1-11

### July 24

Wed. Sermon Exodus 20:1-17

Romans 6:3-11

Sun. Sermon Matthew 5:20-26

### July 31

Wed. Sermon Genesis 2:7-17

Romans 6:19-23

Sun. Sermon Mark 8:1-9



# July Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 MITES  Divine Worship 9:00 AM  Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM	4 Office Closed	5 Moms in Prayer 9:30 AM  Boards of Education, Stewardship 5:30 PM <u>VBS</u>	6 Responsive Prayer Service 7:00 PM  <u>VBS</u>	7 <u>VBS</u>	8 <u>VBS</u>	9 <u>NYG</u>
10 Divine Worship 9:00 AM  Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM <u>NYG</u>	11 <u>NYG</u>	12 Moms in Prayer 9:30 AM  Finance Board 5:30 PM  <u>NYG</u>	13 Responsive Prayer Service 7:00 PM  <u>NYG</u>	14 Board of Elders 6:00 PM	15	16
17 Divine Worship 9:00 AM  Voters Meeting 10:30 AM	18 <b>NEWS-LETTER DEAD LINE</b>	19. Moms in Prayer 9:30 AM  Church Council 6:00 PM	20 Responsive Prayer Service 7:00 PM	21 Sewing Mission Outreach	22 Sewing Mission Outreach	23 Sewing Mission Outreach
24 Divine Worship 9:00 AM  Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM	25	26 Moms in Prayer 9:30 AM	27 Responsive Prayer Service 7:00 PM	28	29	30
31 Divine Worship 9:00 AM  Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM						

**VOTERS MEETING**

**JULY 17**

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHURCH**

# July Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 <i>Bethanie Dunn</i>
3	4 <i>Karin &amp; Thomas Glenn</i>	5	6	7 <i>Konnor Downs</i>	8	9
10 <i>John Frederickson Glenda Juneau Krinita &amp; Tod Dickson Becky &amp; Harley O'Neal</i>	11 <i>Delane Ahrens  Jackie Ambrose  Cecile McCann  Roxanne Voigt</i>	12	13	14 <i>Linda Lewis  Gerald Lutterman  Logan Sisemore</i>	15 <i>Diane Derbonne  Derrel Franks</i>	16 <i>Woody Lemon  Alexandrea Yeager</i>
17 <i>Shirley Fortune  Tammy Lemon</i>	18 <i>Lauren Banet  Bob Gernand  Wayne Morgan</i>	19	20 <i>Erin Castanes  Eddie Johnson</i>	21 <i>Emma Jones</i>	22 <i>Vicky Cotton</i>	23 <i>Jeannette &amp; Jimmy Cox</i>
24 <i>Jackson Voigt</i>	25	26	27 <i>Karlie O'Neal  Phyllis &amp; Zolly Kirsch</i>	28	29	30 <i>Maddox Buggs Tiffany Fike Vicky &amp; David Cotton</i>
31 <i>Noah Duncan Sloane Engle Mary &amp; Delane Ahrens</i>						



## Ministering Among Us In July

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<i>Diane Ford, Stephanie Hooker, Lana Deville, Marianne Mosteller</i>
<b>USHERS</b>	<i>Harold Mohrmann, Wayne Morgan</i>
<b>GREETERS</b>	M.L. Rogers, Kaleb Castanes
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	
<i>July 3</i>	<i>Karlie O'Neal</i>
July 10	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>
<i>July 17</i>	<i>Evan Morgan</i>
July 24	Jameson Voigt
<i>July 31</i>	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>
<b>POWERPOINT</b>	
<i>July 3, 17, 31</i>	<i>Sloane Engle</i>
July 10, 24	Tammy Deblieux
<b>Sound</b>	
<i>July</i>	Lee Anderson
<b>ELDERS</b>	
<i>July 3</i>	<i>Harlie O'Neal</i>
July 10	Jim Owens
<i>July 17</i>	<i>Bob Gernand</i>
July 24	Scott Broberg
<i>July 31</i>	<i>Jimmy Cox, Justin Lacy</i>

## In Our Prayers

Mary Ahrens · Joanne Davis · Addison Gould  
 Todd Willis · Mary Jo Minks · Roger Davis · Jack Derbonne · Gerry Meche  
 Robert Frederickson · Edwin Coyner · Norma Langston · Sophia Borghardt  
 Glenda Juneau · Pat Stevenson · Cheryl Carroll · Erin Castanes  
 Lois Hibbs · Laura Leshner · Jack Russell · Hannah Frobeld  
 Virginia Lutterman · Carol Buther · Kathy Sorenson