

What God Looks Like

It may be that you have heard or read the story I'm about to share with you. The version I know sets it during a particular class in Vacation Bible School, when the first-graders were asked to draw a picture of anything or anyone they chose. Fifteen minutes would be devoted to what the children called their "drawing time."

After a couple minutes, Jessica turned to little Rachel, who sat next to her, and asked, "What are you going to draw?" Rachel replied, "I'm drawing a picture of God."

"Aw—nobody knows what God looks like!" Jessica retorted.

Little Rachel couldn't quite agree. After biting her pencil a moment, she replied with sudden determination: "They will when I'M through!"

We don't know what Rachel finally put on her paper, but it might be said that she had a good idea in her heart. She was determined that when she was through, the children around her would have a better idea what God is like.

When you really think about it, isn't that the purpose of Christian life—to show the people around us what God is like? And what does that say about the way we treat others? Think about that for just a moment: Based on the way we as disciples of Christ behave, what would someone think God is like?

St. Paul wrote of us as being letters of Christ, "written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 *Corinthians* 3:3). One purpose of our being in this world is to show people, by word and deed, what God is like.

At His ascension (Ascension Day is May 13th!) Jesus said to His disciples, "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (*Matthew* 28:19-20).

We have an important responsibility, don't we? To communicate the vital facts of divine revelation: that God is holy, just, and righteous—but also merciful, kind, and gracious through Jesus Christ, His Son—crucified, dead and buried, but also risen and ascended into heaven, where He rules all things for the good of His people and for the extension of His kingdom. In many ways people all too often experience the fact that they're inadequate on their own—that's life in a sinful world. The question is, where do they experience mercy, kindness, and grace through Jesus Christ if not through those who are called to be His disciples and make other disciples in His name?

We may not have little Rachel's pencil in our hand, but we do have a life in our hands. And with that life we are to show the world "what God is like" so that other lives may be linked to His for eternity. Think about it—and have...Peace!

In Jesus' name,





"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8

School is out for summer. Teachers are cleaning up and closing out their classrooms which will remain vacant until next fall

when the cycle will begin again. In the meantime our children will enjoy their summer break with magical expectations. Summer sports, swimming, biking, VBS, and neighborhood friends fill these memorable days. Special events like camping, picnicking, and family vacations create indelible marks in their lives.

As these cycles in our lives continue, I encourage all of you to remember who and what is important in your lives. Don't let the summer, or any season, pass without spending time and making memories with those you love, especially our children. Enjoy God's beautiful creation whether it's in your back yard or across the country. Celebrate especially the spiritual renewal that we experience each day through the washing of rebirth and renewal promised in our baptism; that we can start each day forgiven through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus.

May God grant you and your family and loved ones a memorable and safe season.

Jody Timm - Principal

"The ministry of Immanuel Lutheran School is to share Christ by educating, nurturing, and equipping God's people for a life of Christian service."

Christian Concert in Omaha Sun. July 18th

Sr. High Youth and their friends are invited to join us to see Fireflight, Grits, & Sanctus Real in concert. Tickets are \$25. Concert starts at 4:00 p.m. We will leave from the FLC at 2:30 p.m. Space is limited so we need to get tickets early. Please sign up and turn in your money by Fri., July 9th.



Prayer Vigil

July 7, 2010
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Immanuel Church
Sanctuary
Prayer Service @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer requests may be submitted to the church office



Immanuel Lutheran's

THURSDAY NIGHT GRILL OUT!

Immanuel Family Life Center
5:00 -7:00 p.m.
July 22nd, & 29th



Grilled Hamburgers, brat's & hot dogs and all the fixin's

Cost: Adult \$5 (12 years old & up)
Children \$3 (11 & under)

Come as you are and eat out before going to Lawn Chairs on the Square, a ball game, after work

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SLEEP WITH THE FISHES? WELL, UNDER THE FISH!



Overnighter at
Henry Doorly Zoo
July 7 & 8



Sr. High youth from Peace and Immanuel will be joining together for an overnight stay at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha. Cost is \$30 to stay the night and for admission to the zoo the following day. We will leave Columbus at 4:30 p.m. on July 7th, and get back sometime the following afternoon. You will need a sleeping bag and pillow, snacks and drinks, plus any spending money that you might need. Please contact Pastor Ebert to sign up (kebert@immanuelweb.org or 564-0502).