

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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JULY 2017

Pastor Craig Engel

The Purpose of the Bible

Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4

Every book has a purpose. Whether it's a cookbook, music book, history book, novel, science book, biography, or even a comic book, every book has a reason. So what is the purpose of the best-selling book in the world, the Bible?

The Bible imparts wisdom, and has been used in many lands during various ages as a key educational textbook. While this is useful, it is not the real purpose of the Bible.

The Bible proclaims the Creator's natural law for his creatures. Guided by its directives, people can live productive and happy lives, caring about others. While this is very beneficial, it is not the real purpose of the Bible.

Many claim the Bible teaches us how to live according to God's commands so we can gain his favor. This common misunderstanding is certainly not the purpose of the Bible. Rather, the Bible clearly proclaims and demonstrates that we cannot keep God's commands to gain his favor for salvation.

God's answer to this dilemma is the REAL purpose of the Bible. According to his eternal plan God sent his own perfect Son, Jesus, to live in obedience to all of God's commands, and to suffer the punishment for our wrongs against God's commands by his death on the cross. Jesus gained God's favor for all of us!

The apostle Paul wrote, "Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

*"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God, and that by believing you
may have life in his name."*

John 20:31



Just before this verse, Paul quoted from what was written in the past, about a thousand years before Jesus was born: "The insults of those who insult you fall on me" (Psalm 69:9). Paul described how that Psalm verse speaks of Jesus Christ, who did not come to please himself, but came to do the Father's will. In his suffering and death Jesus voluntarily bore all people's hostility toward God.

This is the amazing purpose of the Bible. It points to Jesus Christ and describes in detail his work of salvation. It is God's word. It is his eternal plan of salvation for sinners. This is what truly teaches us, encourages us, grants us endurance and hope! This is THE purpose of the Bible—to show sinners their salvation in Jesus Christ alone. So great is God's love for us! ☒

Worship Note

In the month of July, we continue to hear how the words and works of Christ call people to repentance and faith and follow Jesus. The themes of the divine services in July proclaims important parts of that life of the believer.

- July 2nd – Forsake and Suffer All and Follow
- July 9th – Jesus Sends Shepherds to His Sheep with His Promise and His Power
- July 16th – Love Your Neighbor as Yourself
- July 23rd – Faith Grasps the Word and Produces Fruit
- July 30th – Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Synod Convention

Every two years, our church body meets in convention to hear and consider our collective efforts in the past two years and to make plans to walk together and work together for the next two years. This year, pastor is serving as a delegate at the convention. He will leave on Sunday, July 30th after Bible class and return on the night of August 3rd. For those interested, the convention will be live streamed. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Martin Luther Movie

Initial plans are being made to host a showing of the movie Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World at the Willmar movie theater. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Lutheran Hymnody

On June 20th, pastor made a presentation at Grandviews Vineyard in Belview. Several members of our congregation attended the event as well. As we observe the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, pastor will share some of the presentation in the newsletter.

LUTHERAN HYMNODY

Lutheran hymnody is brutally honest about what our real needs and our biggest problems are. We like to take inventory of our lives and think that if only this certain hardship were taken away and if only I could get more then life would be so much better. If only this person would stop what he is doing and if only I could make more progress in this part of my life, well, then, things will be going better. Let's listen to how Lutheran hymnody addresses our great needs. "The old evil foe, now means deadly woe, deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight; on earth is not his equal." "Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us." "This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will." "Fast bound in Satan chains I lay." This lying, scheming, tormenting, tempting, accusing enemy is no match for you. Lutheran hymnody recognizes that not only is the devil powerful, he has as his greatest will and desire your soul and body's eternal destruction. The next great need we have that Lutheran hymnody exposes is victory over the earth and her treasures. The world lavishly offers a fullness of emptiness. It panders to every desire, whim and fancy of the flesh. The world tempts to misuse God's good earthly gifts and moves us to mistrust those same gifts. The world invites us to bow at the feet of creation rather than creator. And so Lutheran hymnody sings, "And do what they will, hate, steal, hurt or kill, though all may be gone." We need to hear and sing this because what the world is and what she offers is one of our favorite idols. In exposing our third great enemy and need, Lutheran hymnody positively soars. When we sing about the true nature of our flesh, Lutheran hymnody sings more truthfully and more honestly than any other body of hymns. "In sin my mother bore me." "Life had become a living hell so firmly sin possessed me." "Dead to all good remaining." "My fears increased till sheer despair left only death to be my share the pangs of hell I suffered." "My wretched state." "Inbred sin that lurks within our nature." "From sin our flesh could not abstain." "Sin held its way unceasing." "None can remove sin's poison dart or purify our guileful heart – so deep is our corruption." "With might of ours cannot be done." By our natures, we are powerless to help. We are without true fear of God. We are without true faith in God. Our will is not free to want to please God, it is bound to please the devil and self. By our nature, not only do I not want to do the things of God, I am completely unable to do the things of God. I can't make a first effort or first movement to God because I am dead.

Sometimes people look at this part of Lutheran hymnody and call it depressing. They don't want to sing it because it isn't fun. Indeed. It's hard. It's hard to admit my natural condition and the true nature of my sins. And that is exactly why Lutheran hymnody proclaims it in all its damning honesty. In doing so, Lutheran hymnody prepares the heart for Jesus. In the months ahead we will be looking at more common themes of Lutheran hymnody and the Scriptural principles they present.

Our 2017 High School Graduate



Jonah Fabrizius graduated from Willmar High School on June 4th. Jonah will be attending the U of M Twin Cities at the College of Biological Sciences in the fall.



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12

"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."
Proverbs 4:23

Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2017

Members Present: Steve Kremin, Jim Buffington, Jay Remmele, Scott Schultz, Dwight Munneke, Bruce Schriener, Martin Fabrizius, Ron Lesteberg, Steve Iverson, Pastor Engel,

Pastor opened with a reading from Galatians 3:1-9 and we joined in the Lord's Prayer. Following the opening reading, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iverson.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with no changes

Secretary's Report: The April 9, 2017 Council minutes were approved with no changes.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Chairman's Report: Steve has been in contact with Josh about the roofing project. Josh has sublet the job and work will begin as soon as possible.

Elders Report

- The elders spoke about the use of screens in the sanctuary. Since we are now printing each service in its entirety, this is no longer something that we need to look into.

- A motion was approved to accept the following as communicant members by confirmation:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Emma Elaine Engel | 4. Makenna Rae Kohls |
| 2. Clara Grace Fabrizius | 5. Marissa Mae Marxhausen |
| 3. Derek Allan Jaspersen | 6. Zachary Scott Schultz |

- A motion was made and seconded to accept the following by profession of faith. The motion carried.:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Caleb Bedner | 2. Ruth Carruthers |
|-----------------|--------------------|

- The elders mentioned general appreciation for the new format of the service folders.

- There was discussion about noisy conversations in the sanctuary prior to the divine service which was distracting some from preparing for the service. There was discussion about the need to reserve the rear pews for parents with small children. Pastor will announce the two matters.

Trustees Report

- The trustees will investigate the leak above the ceiling in the northeast corner of the classroom portion of the basement.

- There is a leak in the RO system. The trustees will change the filter.

- Many thanks to Ross for spraying weeds.

- The stucco will be refinished in the next couple of weeks.

- There was a question about the installation of larger gutters on the church building to help retain the runoff from the steep pitch. Steve Iverson will talk to Josh about it.

- We were informed by the service company for our copier that the reason we have been having so many difficulties with the copier and service calls to fix it is because the floor isn't level. The company has stated that we need to make a level base for the copier or they will have to start charging for service calls and parts to fix the copier.

Financial Secretary's Report: A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was approved accepting the Treasurer's Report.

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SUMMER
BIBLE AND MUSIC
ACADEMY

By Emily Schimdt

The Summer Bible and Music Academy is now in full swing, and these first few weeks have been great! Currently, there are 52 students, ages 4 to adult, taking a total of 69 lessons. It's very exciting that about half of these students are beginners. Music has so many benefits for all ages.

Our Bible Academy on Wednesday nights has also been going well. Right now we are learning about prayer, with our focus currently on the Lord's Prayer. We have also been learning about the hymn "Lord Keep Us Steadfast On Your Word," and we have the first verse memorized!

It has been an amazing summer so far, and I pray that the Lord blesses everyone's efforts.

**"MAY WE THINK OF
 FREEDOM NOT AS THE
 RIGHT TO DO AS WE
 PLEASE BUT AS THE
 OPPORTUNITY TO DO
 WHAT IS RIGHT."**

—PETER MARSHALL



Church Council Meeting Minutes continued from page 3 (insert page)

Pastor's Report

- Pastor noted when he would be away from Willmar in the next couple of months.
- Pastor noted that Carol Laumer was working the company from which we purchased the new fellowship hall chairs in order to get the damaged chairs replaced, repaired or refunded.

Old Business

2016 Audit – The members of the committee have spoken about getting together to complete the audit and look to have it done in the near future.

New Business

There was no new business.

Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. It was noted that the meetings in June, July and August start after the 20 minute Bible study. There is not a meal before the July voters' assembly meeting on July 16th. A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 12:00. We closed with the blessing.

*Respectfully Submitted,
 Pastor Engel, secretary pro-tem*

Puzzle!

Read the Old Testament book of Ruth, which is a great love story. Then search for the words below, which are all from that book.

B A W O N N I W S L S Z D R V
 D E B O T B A O M H X Q A I R
 X W T Q Y R L M C X G G V O P
 N A A H A R V E S T E B I Z B
 P O V M L S L A D N A S D N B
 O G V N Z E R F I R I L S B F
 N A N O M U H V L M M K S E J
 L G O I M D L E O C F G H I J
 C L L H L Y A M B H L O Y A
 E E H I F S N A E T F R B O D
 S A A K F B E G U G P W E P S
 N N M W X E V R R A A R M M J
 E I G D J U D A H J E E W S G
 A N X P E M Z I S T W K V H O

- Barley
- Bethlehem
- Boaz
- David
- Elimelech
- Gleaning
- Grain
- Harvest
- Jesse
- Judah
- Kilion
- Kinsman
- Mahlon
- Mara
- Moab
- Naomi
- Obed
- Orpah
- Ruth
- Sandals
- Threshing
- Vinegar
- Winnow

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