

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:30pm, Tuesday - Thursday

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SEPTEMBER 2017

Pastor Craig Engel

Living with Real Purpose

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Your life matters. You are living for a reason. Your life has purpose. Without purpose, life is boring and meaningless; there is little sense of life's significance and value. Having a life filled with purpose is not just for the super-successful and highly important. God doesn't just look after famous people who have accomplished great feats or individuals who have been placed in high positions of leadership. He cares for everyone. From the macro to the micro level, he declared his love for the world. There is no doubt, he loves you and gives your life real purpose. He does all this, not because you are deserving, but purely by his grace.

God demonstrated his grace when he saved you through your Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus' perfect life counts for you. He suffered and died as your substitute. His rising from the grave means that you will also rise from the dead. And since he has saved you for all eternity—the greater thing—does he not also have great purpose for you in this life, the lesser thing? Yes! What is more, God says that he has created you to do what he has already planned for you. With every task and responsibility God has given your life purpose.

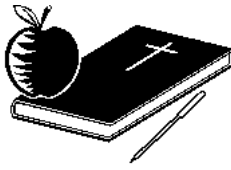
There is purpose in the mother who cares for her newborn and the father who teaches his son to double-knot his shoelaces. There is purpose in children who obey, just as there is purpose for the soldier who follows orders, the citizen who respects leaders, and the employee who goes to work.

Even your average day has purpose, for God has equipped and called you for each task of life. He does not intend life to be mundane mediocrity. Life is not meant to be compartmentalized into significant and insignificant pieces. Instead, God wants you to see his purpose for you as the fiber seamlessly woven through fabric of every facet of your life.

You have important purpose in life. Primarily, it is to know God's love for you through Jesus. Motivated by his grace, you can willingly follow his lead through life and lovingly serve the people he brings into your life. That's living with real purpose! ☒



FALL CLASSES BEGIN



Sunday School

Instruction in Bible history begins on Sunday, September 10th. We'll meet in the sanctuary and welcome the kids, have a short devotion and then they will go to their classrooms. We have classes for pre-schoolers through eighth graders.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class

We continue our study of Lutheran hymnody on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. Our first class will be held on September 13th.

Confirmation Classes

Instruction in the doctrine of the Scriptures for fifth through eighth graders begins on Wednesday, September 13th. Fifth and sixth graders begin at 6:15 pm and the older students start at 6:30 pm.

Confirmation Parent Meeting

Parents and students will meet in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 10th, at 11:30 am for a brief meeting about confirmation classes this year.

Service Use and Feedback

Our congregation has been asked to use and evaluate *The Service* that has been produced by the Rites Committee of the WELS Hymnal Project. We will be using this version of the historic liturgy of the Western Christian Church. We will be following this order for 12 weeks, until November 26th. Toward the end of our field test, the congregation will be invited to share feedback. More information will be shared about submitting feedback in November.

Cut Hymns List

The WELS Hymnal Project invites feedback on its initial decision about which of our currently-published hymns (Christian Worship and Christian Worship: Supplement) will be kept for the new hymnal and which will be cut. Our current list of hymns will be

published in nine segments. Each segment will indicate which hymns are designated to be kept and which are designated to be cut. Each segment includes a feedback form where we invite you to indicate any hymns (up to ten) from those designated to be cut that you would like to see kept. This list is being published in concurrence with a series of nine monthly articles published in *Forward in Christ*. To view which hymns will be kept and cut, and to offer feedback, go to: <http://www.welshymnal.com/research/cut-hymns-list>. If you would like to see a printed list of hymns designated to be kept or excluded, please talk to pastor.

Parsonage Loan and Receiving We Share Offering

Our parsonage loan has been paid off. Thanks be to God for his wonderful gift through the generous fruits of faith of his people. The original amount of the loan for the parsonage remodeling project was \$227,500 and was taken out in November 2011. The church council invites our members to prayerfully consider to continue giving the gifts which had been planned to apply to the parsonage loan with the intent that we bring our general fund out of a \$1500 deficit as well as replenish our \$5000 ready reserve fund. These shortages have come to pass for mainly three reasons: 1) In the last few months, our expenses have exceeded our offerings; 2) Our portion of the cost to repair the roof; 3) Costs to repair the stucco on the church building. If you would like to participate in this endeavor, please continue to use the Receiving, We Share envelopes or marking that on your weekly offering envelope.

MLC Food Bank

We will be collecting food for the MLC food bank from September 24th until October 13th. A list of needed items will be in the bulletin before September 24th. A box will be placed in the Narthex.



LWMS Fall Rally

The fall meeting of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society will be held on September 30th at Calvary in Glenwood. Registration begins at 10:30 am. Mr. Brad Price will speak about WELS prison ministry. If you have any questions or want more information, please speak with Rose Pederson. We will gather a freewill offering for those who would like to support the work of the LWMS on Sunday, September 10th.



Our Fall Get Together will be held on Sunday, October 1st, starting at 4:00 p.m. at Steve and Diane Kremin's home (11700 142nd St. SW in Raymond). Please bring a dish to pass and lawn chair(s). Beverages, plates and eating utensils will be provided.



MLC National Ladies Auxillary

The Auxillary meeting will be held at MLC, Saturday, October 14th. Registration begins at 8 am with 9 am opening. Closing devotion in the chapel at 3:15 pm.

Martin Luther:



The Professor And Preacher: Part 2

From *The Life and Faith of Martin Luther*, by Adolph F. Fehlauer.
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The Evil of Indulgences

As the pastor of a congregation, Luther was responsible for the spiritual welfare of its members. He felt that some things were practiced and permitted in the church that were wrong and harmful to the people. One such matter was the misuse of indulgences. Originally an indulgence was a letter or certificate issued by the church that released a person from earthly punishment for certain sins that he had committed. For example, an indulgence might release a person from an obligation to make a pilgrimage to a holy place, such as Rome or Jerusalem, or from an obligation to fast for a certain number of days. If it was impossible for a person to make the pilgrimage, he could obtain an indulgence by giving the church a specified amount of money. In time, however, the common people came to believe that indulgences freed them from their sins. They thought that they were buying the forgiveness of sins when they bought an indulgence, and the church made no effort to correct this false belief. After a while, the people were told that they could even buy indulgences that shortened the time of suffering in purgatory for relatives and friends who had died. The church even permitted people to believe that some expensive indulgences

freed them from punishment for sins they were planning to commit. The people were told that indulgences were valid because they drew on the surplus of good works that the saints had accumulated. The sale of indulgences became a very profitable business venture for the church. The income from indulgences helped in the establishment and maintenance of churches, cathedrals, and universities.

At the time, the pope was in need of much money to rebuild St. Peter's Church in Rome. In order to increase the sale of indulgences, he granted certain churches and individuals the right to sell indulgences throughout Europe. The Castle Church in Wittenberg was also granted that right. Over the years Elector Frederick of Saxony had gathered and obtained more than nineteen thousand so-called holy relics, which he put on display at certain times in his castle church. The relics supposedly included the teeth of several saints, a piece of cloth from Mary's veil, a piece of cloth in which the Christ child was wrapped, and a gold piece brought by the wise men. The people were told that if they viewed the relics and made a certain contribution, they would receive an indulgence that would reduce their time of suffering in purgatory. And added contributions would reduce the time of suffering for their loved ones. As pastor of the city church, Luther felt that it was his duty to tell the people that the forgiveness of sins could not be obtained from God by adoring relics and making contributions to the church but that salvation is a gift of God through the atonement of Christ. In 1516 he preached three times against the misuse of indulgences. This did not please Elector Frederick of Saxony, because part of the income from the sale of indulgences was intended to help support his castle church and the University of Wittenberg which he had established.

In 1515 the pope granted Bishop Albert of Brandenburg the right to promote a special sale of indulgences in Germany. Albert appointed a priest by the name of John Tetzel

to be his salesman. Tetzel went from town to town carrying a large red cross with the pope's coat of arms. He would set up for business in the town squares. First he would preach a sermon telling the people about the terrible torments that awaited them if they did not receive remission of their sins.

Then he would tell them that remission of sins could be obtained right then and there by purchasing an indulgence. He said, "I have here indulgences for everyone. There is no sin so great that an indulgence cannot remit. No repentance is necessary. I have indulgences for both the living and the dead. I have saved more people from the torments of purgatory than St. Peter by his sermons. As soon as the money in the coffer rings, The soul out of purgatory springs."

—o—o—o—
"It is an error to teach and believe that papal indulgences free you from your sins. The forgiveness of sins cannot be bought with money."
—o—o—o—

Many people bought indulgences from him and went away thinking that their money had obtained forgiveness of sins before God.

When John Tetzel came to Saxony in 1517 to offer his indulgences in Wittenberg and other cities, Elector Frederick would not permit it. He was afraid that Tetzel's sales would hurt his own indulgence sales in the castle church. But Tetzel was not stopped from making his indulgences available to the people in Wittenberg. He set up his business in the town of Jueterbock, about 25 miles away. Many members of Luther's congregation went to Jueterbock to buy Tetzel's indulgences. When Luther became aware of what his parishioners were doing, he became greatly alarmed. Tetzel was misleading them. Luther told his people, "It is an error to teach and believe that papal indulgences free you from your sins. The forgiveness of sins cannot be bought with money."

continued on page 5

God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

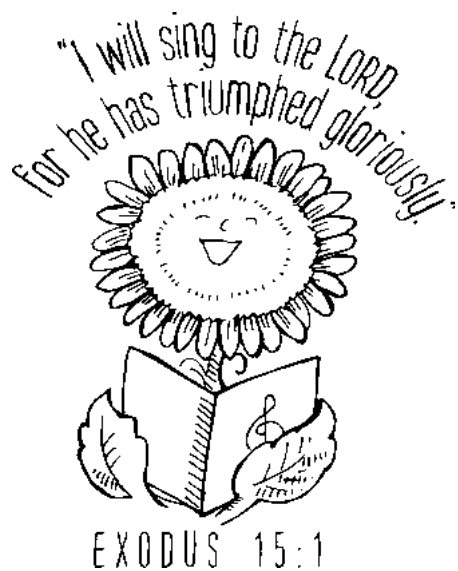
Bible Quiz

In memorable language in Revelation, God tells the church in Laodicea, "I am about to spit you out of my mouth," because it is metaphorically _____ (fill in the blank).

- A. too hot
- B. too cold
- C. tasteless
- D. lukewarm



Answer: See Revelation 3:16



In balance

Knowing God without knowing our wretchedness leads to pride. Knowing our wretchedness without knowing God leads to despair. Knowing Christ gives the balance.

—Blaise Pascal

Martin Luther, continued from page 3

The Concerned Pastor and Professor Takes Action

Martin Luther was convinced that some action had to be taken against the misuse of indulgences. He felt that the time had come to have a thorough discussion about the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins. In a few days the Feast of All Saints Day would be celebrated in the Castle Church. Parishioners, professors, students, and pilgrims would be coming to the church to worship and buy indulgences. Any announcement posted on the door of the church would be read by many people. So Luther decided to use the church door for an important announcement and for stating his views about indulgences.

Luther carefully prepared his list of ninety-five theses, or paragraphs, in the tower room of the Black Cloister. The theses were not directed against the teachings of the Catholic Church, or even against indulgences themselves, but only against the misuse of indulgences as practiced by John Tetzel and others. Luther wrote: "In the desire for clarifying the truth a disputation (debate) will be held on the following propositions at Wittenberg under the presidency of the Rev. Martin Luther, Augustinian Monk." Then followed the ninety-five paragraphs in which he clearly stated his opinions about sin and forgiveness. We quote from three of the theses:

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ says, "Repent," he desires that the whole life of the believer would be one of repentance.

When true repentance is awakened in a man, full forgiveness from punishment and sin comes to him without any letters of indulgence.

All believers in the Savior automatically share in the merits earned by Jesus Christ and receive them without the purchase of letters of indulgence.

On October 31, 1517, Luther walked to the castle church and nailed the Ninety-five Theses to the door. Then he returned to the Black

Cloister. He hoped that what he did would lead to a debate with learned theologians. That, he hoped, would help clarify the matter about the forgiveness of sins and the sale of indulgences. He did not know that the posting of his theses would mark the beginning of the reformation of the church. The thought that he was attacking the Roman Catholic Church never entered his mind. Later he said, "I was then a monk and a papist and would readily have murdered any person who denied obedience to the pope." He thought that the pope was not aware of the abuses in the sale of indulgences and that he did not know about the harm Tetzel was doing to the church in Germany.

The next day, November 1, was the All Saint's Day Festival. Crowds of people came to Wittenberg to celebrate. Many came to view the relics and to obtain indulgences in the castle church. They saw the placard that Luther had posted on the church door. Students and priests read the Latin theses and discussed them. When the common people saw the lively discussions, they asked the students to translate the theses into German—which they gladly did. They did more. They copied them and gave them to the printers. Within weeks, almost all of Germany knew about Luther's theses. Students, priests, professors, and lay people were all talking about them, but no one accepted the invitation to debate them with Luther. Within a few months copies were available in England, Spain, and Hungary. Many agreed with Luther. "God willing, that man will do something," they said. "He will restore the truth."

Tetzel and others condemned Luther and called him a false prophet and a heretic. The Bishop of Brandenburg accused Luther of attacking the church. He wrote to Luther, "You must realize that by your actions you are being disloyal to the pope and to the emperor." ❏

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