

# Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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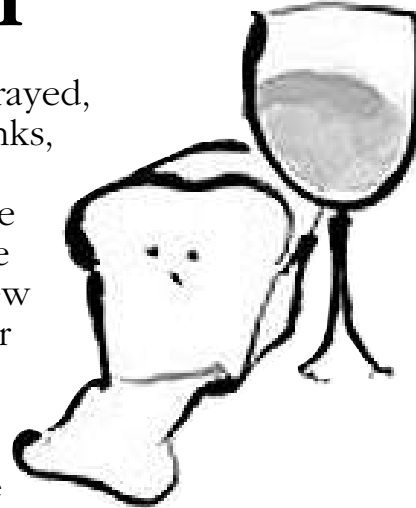
**OCTOBER 2017**

Pastor Craig Engel

## Holy Communion

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:23-25



**O**ften we have a hard time believing that we are loved. Men and women who have a keen awareness of their flaws will wonder if anyone can really love them. So we have a need to not only hear that we are loved, but also to receive tangible assurance of that love.

If we need that assurance from our fellow human beings, how much more do we need that assurance in our relationship to God?

God knows us so well. He knows how we feel. He knows what we need. Not only does he tell us in his Word that he loves us, he also gives us personal assurance of that love.

How does he do that? He does so in what Christians call Holy Communion or The Lord's Supper. In this special meal Jesus gives us bread that isn't just bread. He tells us, "This is my body." He also gives us wine to drink that isn't just wine. He says, "This is my blood."

Now before anyone gets grossed out, this isn't some kind of weird cannibalism. It's bread and wine that looks, smells, and tastes like bread and wine. Yet, in a way that we can't perceive or comprehend, Jesus tells us that with the bread and wine, his body and blood are really present in this Supper.

Here's why this is such a great gift. You may think, "I know that Jesus forgives all those other people out there, but I'm not really sure that he can forgive me." In Holy Communion, Jesus comes to you personally and says, "I love you. Your sins are all forgiven. You want proof? Here's the price I paid for you on the cross. This is my body which was sacrificed for you. This is my blood which I shed for you."

Whenever we receive the Lord's Supper, we remember Jesus' saving, self-sacrificing love for us, and we personally receive not only assurance of that love, but we also receive his forgiveness. ☒

## Church Happenings



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. S.W. in Raymond). Please bring a dish to pass and lawn chair(s). Beverages, plates and eating utensils will be provided.

### 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 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: [www.welshymnal.com/research/cut-hymns-list](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.



### Martin Luther College Ladies' Auxiliary Fall Meeting

The fall meeting will be held on Saturday, October 14th on the campus of Martin Luther College in New Ulm. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the meeting runs from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Watch the bulletin for information about collection food for the married students at MLC.

### District Reformation Service

The Minnesota District has organized two festival services celebrating God's grace in the Lutheran Reformation. The first service will be held on October 29th at the Chapel of the Christ on the campus of Martin Luther College in New Ulm. That service begins at 3:00 p.m. The president of our district, Rev. Charles Degner will preach; Professor John Boeder will preside; MLC Choirs, Wind Ensembles and Handbells will sing and play. There will be fellowship and refreshments after the service. On November 5th, the second of the services will be held at St. Croix Lutheran High School in West St. Paul. Professor Paul Koelpin will preach; Rev. Joel Gawrisch will preside; MLC Choir, St. Croix and West Lutheran High School Choirs, and a grade school choir will sing and the Reformation Brass will play. There will be fellowship and refreshments after the service. The service at St. Croix begins at 4:30 p.m.

## Bible Quiz

How many times does Jesus say we should forgive others?

- A. 7
- B. 70
- C. 77
- D. 70 x 7
- E. C or D, depending on the translation

*forgive*

Answer: See Matthew 18:22



K I N G O F  
**KINGS**  
W O R D O F  
**WORDS**

When Jesus Christ utters a word, he opens his mouth so wide that it embraces all heaven and earth, even though that word be but in a whisper. The word of the emperor is powerful, but that of Jesus Christ governs the whole universe.

—Martin Luther, *Table Talk*



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Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Each week brings new topics on current events, books, movies, and theological discussions. You can listen to what you want when you want.

## Martin Luther:



### The Professor And Preacher

From *The Life and Faith of Martin Luther*, by Adolph F. Fehlaue.  
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**D**uring the months that followed the posting of the theses, Luther quietly continued to do his work as teacher and pastor. He knew that his theses were being read and discussed throughout Europe, but little did he realize that soon he would have to contend and do battle with the most powerful organization on earth—the Roman Catholic Church.

### Reaction from the Church Leaders

Luther expected that the church leaders, especially the pope, would support him in his effort to correct the abuses in the sale of indulgences and in other practices of the church. At the time he had posted the theses, he also wrote a letter to Albert, the Archbishop of Mainz. In this letter he pointed out how Tetzel was misleading the people. A copy of the Ninety-five Theses was enclosed with the letter. Luther was hopeful that the archbishop would stop Tetzel. He sincerely hoped that the leaders in the church would discuss with him the abuses to which he referred in his theses. But the archbishop was not about to oppose a good source of income for the church and for himself. Instead of encouraging Luther, the archbishop wrote to the pope in Rome. He asked the pope to order

Luther to stop speaking and writing against the sale of indulgences.

Leo X had recently become the new pope of the Catholic Church. At first he was not much concerned about Luther and his theses. He regarded the whole matter as a harmless squabble between two German monks. He said, “A drunken German must have written this. He’ll change his mind when he becomes sober.” He thought that the problem could easily be taken care of by John Staupitz, Luther’s superior in the Augustinian Order. He wrote to the general of the Augustinian order and told him to ask Staupitz to speak to the young monk and convince him that the Ninety-five Theses were not in agreement with the teachings of the church. That certainly was not what Luther had expected. He said, “I had hoped that the pope would support me. I had so fortified my theses with proofs from the Bible and papal decrees that I was sure he would condemn Tetzel and bless me. But where I expected benediction from Rome, there came thunder and lightning instead, and I was treated like the sheep that had roiled the wolf’s water.”

In April a general meeting of the Augustinian order was held in Heidelberg, about two-hundred-seventy miles west of Wittenberg. Luther and Staupitz attended the meeting. As it turned out, the main topic of discussion was not the sale of indulgences, but the doctrine of the church pertaining to good works. The Heidelberg professors were friendly and respectful to Luther even though they were not in complete agreement with his teachings. They listened attentively to his presentations and were impressed with his knowledge of the Scriptures and his sound judgments. The conference did not order Luther to discontinue his preaching and teaching. Before this conference adjourned a resolution was passed asking Luther to write a detailed explanation of his theses and to give the pamphlet to John Staupitz. Staupitz, in turn, was to forward it to the pope. Luther was pleased with the Heidelberg meeting. He had not been told to keep silent, and he

sensed that many of his Augustinian brothers were in sympathy with his views.

On May 15, 1518, Luther returned to Wittenberg. The next morning he preached a strong sermon in the castle church on the power of excommunication. Some enemies of Luther from the Dominican order were in church and heard Luther say, “Not every person who is excommunicated will be eternally lost.” Later they prepared a set of false theses in which they twisted and changed Luther’s words and thoughts in order to make him appear to be a most dangerous heretic. These forged theses were spread throughout Germany under Luther’s name. A copy was sent to Cardinal Cajetan. On August 5 Cajetan sent the theses together with an imperial letter to the pope. In this letter the emperor asked the Curia, the pope’s court, to ban Luther for his heretical teachings. The Curia agreed. Leo X authorized Cajetan to arrest Luther at once and to bring him to Rome to stand trial. The pope also asked the Elector of Saxony and the general of the Augustinians to deliver the “son of perdition” to Cajetan.


The papal summons reached Luther on August 7th. He was to appear in Rome in 60 days. Luther was in grave danger. His friends were greatly concerned about his safety. They and Luther knew what the church had done to Huss and Savonarola. If the church found him guilty of heresy, he would be condemned to death. An Augustinian brother wrote to Luther, “You are right. You speak the truth, but you will not accomplish anything. Go back to your cell and pray God for protection and mercy.” Martin Luther was concerned, but did not lose courage. He said, “The more they threaten, the greater becomes my confidence in God. Wife, children, fields, house, money, possessions I have not. My fame and my name are already torn to bits. All that I have left of me is my frail body. If they deprive me of that too, they will shorten my life, but my soul they can not take from me.”

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## The Friendly Elector

A number of capable and learned men had become Luther's staunch supporters. One of them was Philip Melancthon, who arrived at Wittenberg in August 1518. He was to be an instructor of Greek at the University of Wittenberg. He soon became one of Luther's best friends and aides. Luther also had gained the respect and admiration of the elector of Saxony, Frederick the Wise. When Luther received the summons to come to Rome to be tried, he appealed to his elector for help. Prince Frederick feared that Luther would not receive a fair hearing in Rome. Therefore he requested that Luther be examined in Germany.

Elector Frederick was one of the most influential electors in Germany and had also found favor with the pope by promising his support in the war with the Turks. Saxony was also a good source of income for the church. Furthermore, an election of a new emperor was about to take place, and there was a good possibility that Frederick might be elected. The good will of the elector therefore was most important to the pope at this time. He could ill afford to deny the elector's request to have Luther examined in Germany. So Leo X informed Elector Frederick that arrangements would be made to try Luther in Germany. Here again we see the hand of God steering the course of history.

Elector Frederick requested that Cardinal Cajetan have Luther examined in Augsburg, Germany. This was agreeable to the pope. At first Luther was to be tried by a jury, but Cajetan suggested that he first meet personally with Luther. The pope agreed, but told Cajetan not to debate church doctrine with Luther. He was to accuse Luther of false teaching and then order him to recant. If he refused to recant, Cajetan was to condemn him as a false teacher and heretic, but not to arrest him—not yet. 



# Church Council Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2017

**Members Present:** Steve Kremin, Jim Buffington, Jay Remmele, Dwight Munneke, Bruce Schriener, Martin Fabrizius, Pastor Engel, Justin Kannas  
Pastor opened with a reading from Galatians 3:10-14. Following the opening reading, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Pro-tem Pastor Engel around 10:35 a.m.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved with 1 add under New Business – Use of new chairs by members.

**Secretary's Report:** The May 14, 2017 Council minutes were approved with no changes.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

### Trustees Report:

- The sump pump leak has been fixed in the southeast corner of the Sunday School area in the basement.
- The shingling on the church has been completed. It was completed during some very hot days and it appears the shingles were scuffed a fair amount during installation. Steve K. will call Josh Iverson to discuss further.

**Board of Education Report:** The summer music and bible academy program is underway and going very well. Everything is being covered. Emily is busy the entire time with music lessons, bible academy, preparation time for both and preparation for playing organ and singing during Divine Services. Most of the music lesson slots are filled.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** The parsonage loan balance is currently \$6,750. The General Fund balance is currently \$6,621. A motion was approved accepting the Treasurer's Report.

### Pastor's Report:

- Pastor will be gone for Krogmann wedding June 15 & 16
- Presentations at Grandviews from the Vineyard on June 19 and 20
- Crow River Delegate Conference on June 20
- Pastor will be gone for Synod Convention July 31 – August 3
- Pastor is planning to be gone August 20 – September 4 for vacation
- Members have been continuing to work with the company that supplied the new chairs for the basement to get the damaged ones replaced. The damaged legs are being replaced and the paint that is chipped will be touched up by the company.

**Old Business:** 2016 Audit – The audit was completed by Justin and Martin last week. No issues were found. Disbursements and receipts were checked for two random months and everything was properly recorded and documented.

### New Business: Policy for Chair Use by Members

- There was discussion regarding use of the new padded chairs outside of the church by Immanuel members. After discussion, the church Council adopted a policy that the new padded chairs from the downstairs fellowship hall shall not be used outside of the church by anyone.
- If members wish to use chairs outside of the church, they should use the folding chairs first. If additional chairs are needed, the plastic stacking chairs may be used with the understanding that caution must be given to not use them on textured or broom finished concrete which damages the bottoms of the plastic slides on the chairs. This policy will be re-addressed if plastic slides are becoming damaged.

Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. We closed with the Blessing.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Justin Kannas*

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