

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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OCTOBER 2018

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

God's Encouraging Word ... when I am tired

Sleep experts advise getting seven to eight hours of sleep a night. We need rest for our tired bodies to recuperate.

Even on the most regular day, life is draining. The work day is long and the demands are great. The commute, getting the kids to school, work schedules, meeting deadlines, grocery shopping, getting dinner ready, children's activities, only to get ready to do it over again the next day. Getting older doesn't help matters. By the time you hit the pillow at night you may feel like a smart device that has only 2% battery life left.

But what do you do when you become tired emotionally? It's the exhaustion that comes from strained relationships, heated arguments and being rejected by those from whom you want acceptance.

Then there's that inner weariness—the kind that no one else knows you have except you. The weariness that comes from the burden of sin and guilt. It comes when you must live in the brokenness of past mistakes. When things don't go so well on any given day, you wonder if God is angry and out to get you. The earthly consequences of your sins and knowledge of your guilt is...well...spiritually tiring.

God comes to you today with an encouraging word recorded in the book of Isaiah: **The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

The LORD is the everlasting God. He is the Creator. He never gets tired. He has perfect understanding; he knows what it's like when you feel tired for any reason at all. He promises to give strength to you when you're tired. The LORD God is Jesus, your Savior. He took your sins and guilt to the cross and died for you. It's a fact! Jesus took your sins and guilt away from you, buried it all in his tomb, and rose from the dead. Your sins are forgiven. That's rest—rest for your soul. Talk about strength for the weary!

And don't forget! It's the LORD God who gives the blessing of physical rest too. It's been said that a clean conscience is a good pillow. God gives you this clean conscience in Jesus Christ. He also provides you with home, food, and bed to become recharged to tackle the new day with all its challenges. So do it with all the energy and strength that Lord God gives you as his own through faith in Jesus. U

Psalm 46:1

*God is our refuge
and strength,
an ever-present
help in trouble.*





October Worship Themes

During the month of October, we continue the non-festival portion of the church year, sometimes called "The Time of the Church." Though Jesus remains front and center where he should be, the themes of the lessons shift from those great events of the life of Christ in his work of redemption to the blessed results of that work of redemption in the hearts and lives of the members of his Church. Here are the themes for the month:

- Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 7 – *Reflect the Love of God in the Family*
- Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, October 14 – *Treasure Jesus More than All*
- Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, October 21 – *Jesus Came to Serve*
- Reformation Day (Observed), October 28 – *Repent and Cling to the Eternal Gospel*

Shepherding Plan

Pastor and the elders would like to announce that we are working toward implementing a new process that we feel will be of great benefit for our congregation. The purpose and goal are that we better feed our members' souls with God's life-giving Word. We are making plans to have a regular and standard means to contact those members who have been absent from the service. We would like to begin this endeavor as the new church year begins in December. Watch the November and December newsletters for more information as well as the bulletin on the last Sunday in October and the Sundays in November.

MEALS on WHEELS

We have Meals on Wheels the weeks of Oct. 1-6 and 8-12. Please let Jan Krueger know by Sept. 23rd if you can serve for 1-2 days. It only takes a little over an hour.



Annual Fall Meeting

The meeting will be held Saturday, October 6th, with registration starting at 8:00 a.m. Attendees will learn about the new programs at MLC, select new projects for the 2018-19 school year, and work together with other MLC supporters. Lunch will be available in the Luther Student Center. Presentations and student entertainment will highlight the morning, with workshops and a closing service in Chapel of the Christ rounding out the afternoon. Childcare is available.

It has been our custom here at Immanuel Lutheran to collect food for their food bank. There will be a box placed in the narthex for your donation. A list of needed items will be in the bulletin. If anyone wants to attend the meeting talk to Jan Krueger.

Fall Gathering

Our Fall Get Together will be held October 14th starting at 4:00 p.m. at Steve and Diane Kremlin 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.



Potluck and Voters' Meeting

We will enjoy a potluck meal on October 21st after Bible classes. The voters' meeting will begin at 12:15 p.m.

Sunday School Children Sing

Parents, please remember that your children will sing the first two stanzas of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* on October 28th. Please use the stanzas at home (maybe as an evening prayer) to supplement what they learn on Sunday mornings during music time.

Volunteers

We are in need of some volunteers for the following: folding bulletins and newsletters and preparing the elements for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Please consider helping out in this way. The sign-up sheets are on the shelf in the Narthex.

Daily Devotions

On our home page (willmarwels.net), there is a link for daily audio devotions. These devotions were written and prepared by a group of WELS pastors over the course of the last year. Take a listen to them and tell your friends about them.

WELS World Missions News

The Sun Came Out at Midnight (<https://wels.net/sun-at-midnight/>)
On Monday, August 13, 2018 the crescent moon – thin and red – hung low in the night sky as I drove up to the church. It reminded me of the same crescent moon I saw the first night I was in Pakistan in March 2009. That day my hosts arranged a visit to a Sunday School upon my arrival. The children threw petals of flowers, sang hymns, recited Bible verses and put on a play. As I walked back to the car, there in the western sky (now dark) was a white crescent moon. In my first hours of being in the country I was surprised to see this well-known symbol on the flag of Pakistan displayed so marvelously. And tonight, there it was again.

I was nervous. We had been preparing for this event for more than a year. I took a nap at 7 p.m., woke up at 8 p.m., and shaved and put on a suit and tie. My translator told me to wear a suit since in the Pakistani mind this shows greater respect to the students and to the event itself.

As I drove up to the church an hour early, my nervousness gave way to excitement. I was going to see men whom I had come to know during my visits to Pakistan, men whom I had not been able to converse with except through

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SPOTLIGHTING Our Members



GENE AND ADELINE WILMS became members of Immanuel five years ago. They moved to Willmar from Marshall where they were members of Zion Lutheran in Island Lake and then Christ Lutheran in Marshall.

Gene worked in construction and Adeline was a purchases for the dietary department at the Marshall Hospital.

Both Gene and Adeline are now retired. After constructing much of their home in Marshall by themselves, they have continued their do-it-yourself projects in their new home in Willmar by completing some remodeling.

On November 1st, Gene and Adeline will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. They are blessed to have a son and a daughter, Kent and Kim. Both are married and they have five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

They believe that the WELS teaches the true Word of God and then God does the rest.

We are happy to have them sharing the fellowship of believers with us.

Youth Group Project

Our youth group purchased and planted seven Limelight hydrangeas on the south side of the church



Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2018

Members Present: Jim Buffington, Norm Riediger, Scott Schultz, Steve Kremin, Bruce Schriener, Justin Kannas

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pro-tem Norm Riediger at about 10:40 am

Agenda: The agenda was approved with 1 add under New Business – New communion flagon (wine pitcher) under New Business

Secretary's Report: Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the July 8, 2018 council meeting minutes as submitted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Trustees Report: Outdoor Church Sign – Gary from Quick Signs will be meeting with Scott to write up a quote including brick work for the sign base and an electronic/digital sign. The consensus from the council members in attendance was that we should continue proceeding with receiving quotes for a sign that we think is a good, long term capital expenditure for the church.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

AV Committee: A camera including an added external battery has been purchased. Scott is trying out the camera during Sunday services during the 30 day trial period. Different angles and video quality options are being tried out. The videos are being uploaded to Dropbox for the committee members to review. So far overall remarks are positive.

Called Worker Compensation Committee – No report – have not met yet.

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on Sept. 23rd. They also planted several daylilies donated by Bonnie Watson on Aug. 22nd. Thank you for a job well done!



written reports – men who were my dear brothers in Jesus.

Then the moment came. Our contact and I stood before the camera. We saw the eleven men and four wives gathered in the classroom. All of the students introduced themselves. We exchanged pleasantries and then we began our study of Luke's Gospel. The men will teach what they learn from Luke's Gospel to the 58 house churches in Pakistan. Each man will visit 4-5 house churches a week. The ladies will minister to women and teach children in our Sunday Schools.

Our 10-day Bible Institute ran from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Central Standard Time, which is the same as 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Pakistan. The "day" was broken up into four, two hour sessions with breaks in between.

Our contact and I have found that standing while teaching keeps us alert... The first two nights we stayed up the entire night. Now we take a nap while the students have lunch. We wake up half an hour before the third session to make sure our brains are in gear. We also eat snacks to keep our energy level up – granola bars, honey on bread, apples, peanuts, and decaf coffee. We sleep as best as we can during the day.

I was not used to so many filters in teaching – the filter of culture (the Pakistani mindset, the American mindset), the filter of language (translation from English to Urdu and back again), and then the filter of technology (cameras, microphones, picture quality, sound quality, being unable to move around while teaching). I wish I could be physically present, but that was not possible due to security concerns. In spite of these filters, and because of them, God in his great mercy supplied what I was lacking and enabled us to connect head-to-head and heart-to-heart.

There have been four surprises:

1. *The amount of interaction.* It was our goal to have a lot of interaction, but we didn't know if we

would be able to achieve it. We wanted to avoid "the sage on the stage" where everyone sits quietly and listens to a man talk for a long time. Every day we taught there was more interaction.

2. *How much the students know.* Their knowledge of the Bible is deeper than we had expected.

3. *The camaraderie and good will.* There is a joy and a closeness among us. Many times the students spontaneously wanted to sing a hymn after learning a Bible lesson. With the accompaniment of drums, they stood and sang an Easter hymn after learning about Jesus raising to life the only son of the Widow of Nain.

4. *The formation of a team.* We spent several sessions talking honestly about the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats in our churches in Pakistan. Talking back and forth – listening to the students thoughts and concerns – makes them feel they are respected. This shows them that we consider them to be valuable members of our team.

The first three days we were without the use of a live video transmission for only 45 minutes during 15 total hours of teaching. We had high hopes, but we did not expect the video signal to work so well. This was a great gift from God. When the video transmission stopped, we used the phone. We, of course, have plans to repeat and enlarge our Bible Institute; but we will not mention them here for security reasons. I thank everyone who worked so hard – in Pakistan and in America – to make this happen.

The Old Testament prophet Zechariah said, "When evening comes, there will be light" (14:7). On the evening of August 13, 2018, a crescent moon was setting in the western sky and the sun came out at midnight.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5 (*Written by: WELS Friendly Counselor to Pakistan*) To learn more about WELS mission work in Pakistan, visit wels.net/Pakistan.

NEW BUSINESS

- September Council Meeting Date – Due to the church picnic occurring on the normal meeting date, the September council meeting will be moved to September 16th at 11:30 am.

- Communion Flagon (Wine Pitcher) – Marilyn Larson and Bonnie Watson have researched the replacement of the current flagon and provided a written report for council consideration. The current flagon is over 7 year old and has a broken hinge, the cross has broken off twice and the interior gold plating has eroded. A matching replacement is cost prohibitive with a cost starting at \$1,895. Plain flagons are about \$670. After considerable research by the members, their recommendation is to proceed with the purchase of 2 glass pitches (1 for a spare backup) at a cost of \$120/ea. They also recommend replating of the chalice at Elmquist Jewelers due to pitting that is occurring and sale of the existing flagon to Elmquist as scrap.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to refer the items to the Elders since this is a communion item that falls under their area of responsibilities and no Elders representative was present. Norm will follow up with the Elders.

Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Kannas, Secretary



Issues, Etc.

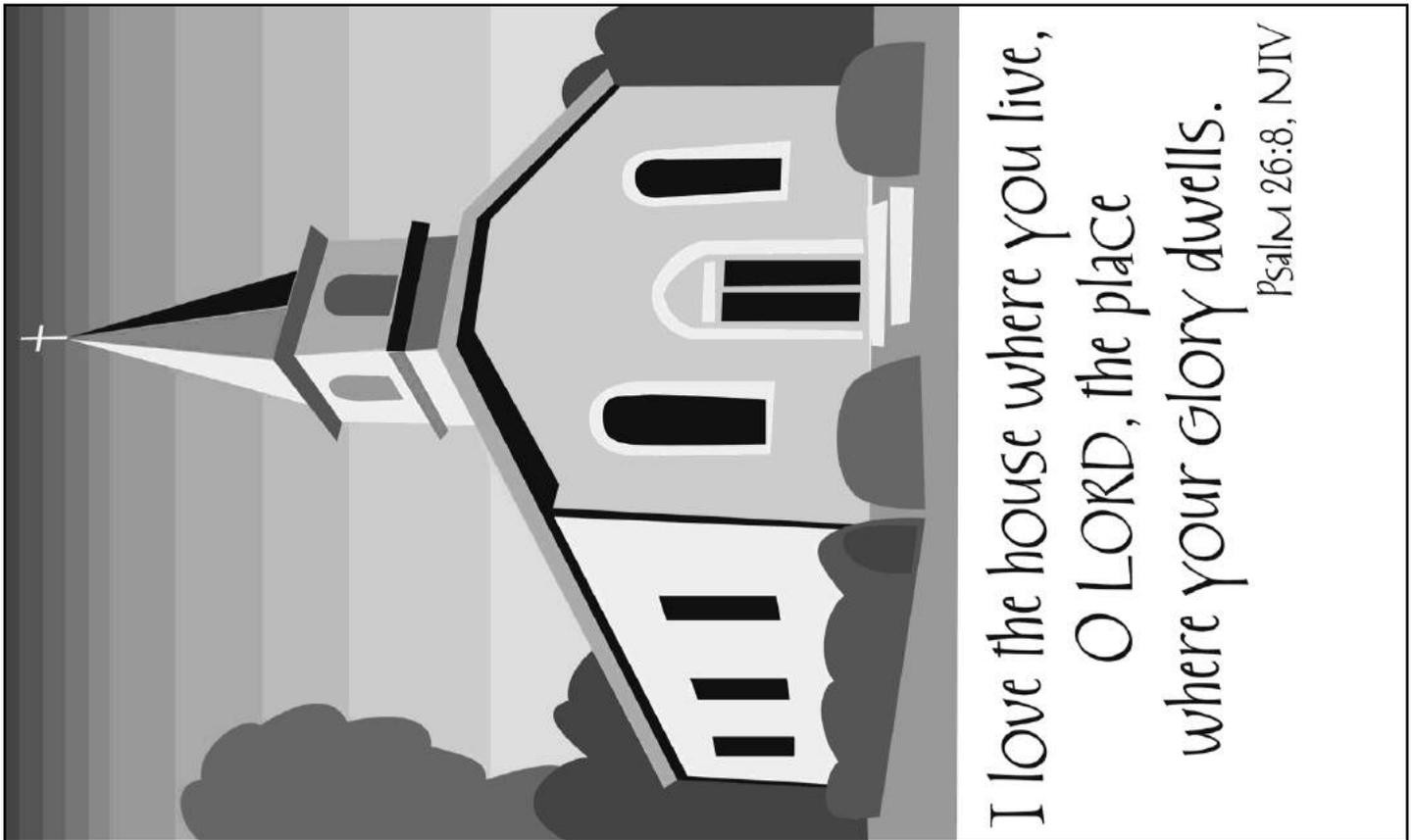
www.issuesetc.org

Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
1816 5th Street SW
Willmar, MN 56201



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*I love the house where you live,
O LORD, the place
where your glory dwells.*

Psalm 26:8, NIV