

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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JANUARY 2019

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

I Need More...TIME

As you reflect upon previous events in your life—gatherings, graduations, weddings, birthdays, business, kids, careers, vacations, and visits, do you wishfully think: “If only I had a little more time? More time with my kids. More time with my elderly parents. More time to relax and enjoy life.” With a slight sense of regret and a quick glance at what may seem like a schedule fuller than ever, you may feel like throwing up your hands and shouting, “I need more time!”

Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10). You might be thinking that your life is full enough. You do not need more things to do. You need more time! But Jesus is not talking about doing more things. Jesus is talking about a fulfilling life that has a purpose from beginning to end and into eternity.

Jesus entered our world 2000 years ago. Jesus’ purpose in life was simple. He came to earth so that when our time on earth comes to an end, we can spend eternity with him in heaven. In order to make that happen, Jesus lived every moment of every day in perfect obedience to his heavenly Father. His life temporarily ended at the cross when he suffered the punishment of sin for all people of all time. Just three days after his death, Jesus came back to life in order to proclaim his victory over death and his gift of life with God.

What a full life Jesus gives to us!

We do not need to be weighed down by the guilt of our past—things we have regretfully done or left undone. Jesus came to live a perfect life in our place. We have confidence for the future because Jesus is already at the finish line, waiting to welcome us into heaven. Life is no longer about cramming as much as possible into every day. Rather, life is about living each moment of every day in gratefulness to our Savior Jesus.

Need more time? Spend time with Jesus. Get to know him through his Word. Discover the fullness of his love and purpose for you. While he may not give you the additional hour(s) you were hoping for each day, Jesus will help you to make the most of the time he gives to you.

Acts 17:28

*“For in him we live
and move and have
our being.”*



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Epiphany

January 6th is the Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord. The word epiphany means “manifestation” or “visible display” and refers to the “revealing” of Jesus as Savior, not only of the Jews but of all the peoples of the world. The Eastern Christian churches celebrate Christmas when we celebrate Epiphany – January 6, the Twelfth Day of Christmas. This Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord is the celebration of Christ our King to whom the Magi (the Wise Men) offered gifts and worshiped. The Magi were Gentiles (non-Jewish) who worshiped the King of the Jews.

The Magi represent the end of God’s separation of his chosen people, the Old Testament Israelites (Jews) from the Gentiles. Israel’s Lord is God of all. We who are also Gentiles, give praise to the God of all, who revealed his love and light in the One whom the Wise Men worshiped.

The lessons for the Festival of the Epiphany are: Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-12; Psalm 72.

Prayer of the Day for Epiphany: Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THEY SAW *The Child*
WITH HIS MOTHER MARY,
AND *They Bowed Down*
AND *Worshiped Him.*
MATTHEW 2:11, NIV



Epiphany Worship

During the Epiphany season, our lessons carry forward the emphasis we heard in the Christmas season: Christ is revealed as God and Savior. Watch and listen, especially in each Sunday’s appointed Gospel, how the words and works of Christ reveal who he is and what he has come to do, even as his glory remains hidden. Rejoice that in a miracle of epic proportion, the Holy Spirit has opened your eyes to receive the One adored by the Magi, baptized in the Jordan, silencing the devil, doing everything well and revealing himself in glory. The themes for the Sundays in January are:

- January 6th – The Glory of Christ Is Revealed
- January 13th – Jesus Is the Lord’s Anointed One
- January 20th – Jesus Reveals His Glory in Giving Good Gifts
- January 27th – Jesus Reveals His Glory in Teaching and Preaching



Worship and Winter Weather

Our practice is that we will hold services for whomever is able to attend. On the one hand, please use your sanctified common sense about traveling to and from church. On the other hand, don’t allow Satan to use the weather to keep you away from the gifts of Christ in the Divine Service and from the gift of fellowship with your fellow believers. We do publish the lessons and hymns for the following Sunday in every bulletin and on our website so if you are stuck at home, you can join those who are able to attend with hearing the Word and raising your voices in hymns and prayers.

Bible Readings for 2019

One year of a three-year plan to read through the Bible is available in the Narthex. The schedule is worked so that you don’t have to start with year one. The Spirit will bless your time in the Word!

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20th beginning at 12:15. After Bible class we will enjoy a potluck meal.

Thank You

We thank those council members whose terms have now come to an end: Steve Iverson, Steve Kremin, Dwight Munneke Cory Netland.

Mission Festival

Our mission festival is scheduled for January 27th. This year we have a focus on Christian education. Pastor Paul Lindhorst who formerly served at St. Paul’s, Litchfield and now serves at Great Plains Lutheran High School in Watertown, WI will serve at Immanuel that day. He will preach, make a presentation during the time we have for Bible class. There will also be a meal served.

Mission Festival Meal

There will be a meal served following the mission festival presentation on January 27th. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. There is no charge for the meal but we need to know how many plan to attend.

Baptism of Our Lord

On January 13th, we will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. God reveals his glory in Jesus’ baptism and in our baptisms. Because of the importance of this tremendous gift of God, the following from Luther’s Catechisms is offered for your meditation.

³⁷So you see plainly that there is no work done here by us, but a treasure, which God gives us and faith grasps [Ephesians 2:8–9]. It is like the benefit of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, which is not a work, but a treasure included in the Word. It is offered to us and received by faith. Therefore, the “new spirits” violate us by shouting against us as though we preach against faith. For we alone insist upon it as being so necessary that without it nothing can be received or enjoyed.

³⁸So we have these three parts, which must be known about this Sacrament, especially that God’s ordinance is to be held in all honor.

³⁹Now there is not only God's commandment and injunction here, but also the promise. Because of this, Baptism is still far more glorious than whatever else God has commanded and ordained. It is, in short, so full of consolation and grace that heaven and earth cannot understand it. ⁴⁰But it requires skill to believe this, for the treasure is not lacking, but this is lacking: people who grasp it and hold it firmly.

⁴¹Therefore, every Christian has enough in Baptism to learn and to do all his life. For he has always enough to do by believing firmly what Baptism promises and brings: victory over death and the devil [Romans 6:3–6], forgiveness of sin [Acts 2:38], God's grace [Titus 3:5–6], the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with His gifts [1 Corinthians 6:11]. ⁴²In short, Baptism is so far beyond us that if timid nature could realize this, it might well doubt whether it could be true. ⁴³Think about it. Imagine there was a doctor somewhere who understood the art of saving people from death or, even though they died, could restore them quickly to life so that they would afterward live forever. Oh, how the world would pour in money like snow and rain. No one could find access to him because of the throng of the rich! But here in Baptism there is freely brought to everyone's door such a treasure and medicine that it utterly destroys death and preserves all people alive.

⁴⁴We must think this way about Baptism and make it profitable for ourselves. So when our sins and conscience oppress us, we strengthen ourselves and take comfort and say, "Nevertheless, I am baptized. And if I am baptized, it is promised to me that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body." ⁴⁵For that is the reason why these two things are done in Baptism: the body—which can grasp nothing but the water—is sprinkled and, in addition, the Word is spoken for the soul to grasp. ⁴⁶Now, since both, the water and the Word, make one Baptism, therefore, body and soul must be saved and live forever [1 Corinthians 15:53]. The soul lives through the Word, which it believes, but the body lives because it is united with the soul and also holds on through

Baptism as it is able to grasp it. We have, therefore, no greater jewel in body and soul. For by Baptism we are made holy and are saved [1 Corinthians 6:11]. No other kind of life, no work upon earth, can do this. (The Large Catechism)



THE INSTITUTION OF BAPTISM

First: What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word.

Which is that Word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"

THE BLESSINGS OF BAPTISM

Second: What does Baptism do for us?

Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

What are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

THE POWER OF BAPTISM

Third: How can water do such great things?

It is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word used with the water. For without God's Word the water is just plain water and not baptism. But with this Word it is baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of rebirth by the Holy Spirit.

Where is this written?

St. Paul says in Titus, chapter 3, "God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM FOR OUR DAILY LIFE

Fourth: What does baptizing with water mean?

Baptism means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul says in Romans, chapter 6, "We were buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2018

Pastor began with a reading from Ephesians 5:1-21

Chairman Steve Iverson called the meeting to order and asked for additional agenda items. An additional new business item was added; new fridge for the sacristy. Motion to approve agenda was forwarded and passed.

Secretary's report from Oct 14, 2018 was approved as presented.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

1. **Chair** – no report
2. **Elders** – Dwight reported that the elders have been studying the Formula of Concord, Epitome. They have also been discussing a regular way to touch base with members who aren't attending. This has been presented by Pastor and will begin with the new church year. A schedule of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas services and times was also given in the agenda.
 - Wednesday November 21st at 7 pm – Thanksgiving
 - Wednesday December 5th, 12th, and 19th at 7 pm – Advent Vespers
 - Sunday December 16th at 4 pm – Sunday school Christmas program
 - Monday December 24th at 5:30 pm – Christmas Eve
 - Tuesday December 25th at 9 am – Christmas Day
 - Monday December 31st at 5:30 pm – New Year's Eve
3. **Trustees'** – Steve Kremin noted that they would be placing a lawn mowing service in the budget and presented options. Weekly prices and business: Rent-A-Guy \$60 plus tax, Oaks Lawn Service \$100 plus tax, Zach Schultz Lawn mowing \$90. Decision will be left up to trustees.
4. **Board of Education** – no report.
5. **Financial Secretary's report** – approved as presented.
6. **Treasurer's report** – approved as presented.
7. **Planned giving committee** – no report.
8. **Pastor** – contacted MLC, will have Emily Schmidt as music teacher in 2019.

Old Business

1. AV committee – Scott taping and giving to Kelly. Making progress on process.
2. Called worker compensation committee – haven't met.
3. Church sign – Todd will be following-up. No money has been received from insurance company yet.
4. Budget Committee – initial meeting conducted, request letters for budget items were sent to appropriate committees, some have been returned.

New Business

1. Nominating committee (D. Munneke, chair; S. Iverson, S. Kremin, C. Netland)
 - a. Pastor has position descriptions that he will share with the chair.

2. Fridge for sacristy – a family wants to donate a small refrigerator. A cabinet has also been requested for extra storage in sacristy, will put in trustees budget for 2019.

Upcoming meeting dates:

December 9, 2018 at 11:30 am
January 13, 2019 at 11:30 am
February 10, 2019 at 11:30 am

Motion made and approved to adjourn.

Minutes submitted by Martin Fabrizius on behalf of Justin Kannas

SPOTLIGHTING Our Members



Ron and Marlys both turned 80 earlier this year. They moved here from Courtland in 2000.

They became very active servers in our congregation, from serving coffee and other get-togethers, to helping start our Jesus Cares Program, teaching Sunday School and any other way they could help. In fact, you will still see them folding bulletins, newsletters, and setting up communion.

Both are just now fully retired. Ron now enjoys woodworking and reading. Marlys continues to bake and make delicious dishes.

In their younger years, Marlys worked with challenged people continuing as a bus aide when they moved here. Ron owned and operated a grain elevator. When they moved here, he drove bus for the challenged.

They value listening to the Word and continuing to learn in Bible Study. We appreciate all they do and have done in service here. Ask how many years they have been married.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Gentiles are ...
sharers together
in the promise
in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:6, NIV

