

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MAY 2019

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

I Need More...CONFIDENCE

Meet Doug. As he toes the line for the final game of his senior year basketball season, he wonders if his scholarship dream is going to happen.

Meet Kristin. As she graduates from college, she wonders if she's adequate for her new job.

Meet Samantha. As she faces her second round of chemotherapy, she wonders if she's going to live.

Meet Scott. As he says his vows to his wife, he silently wonders if his second marriage is going to last.

Meet Harold. As he once more strives to keep his heart pure, he wonders about the surety of his forgiveness.

Have you been there? Doug, Kristin, Samantha, Scott, Harold, you and I all have one thing in common: we need confidence. Let's face it; there are times in life that it's easy to be filled with doubt. Doug doubted his future. Kristin doubted her abilities. Samantha doubted her treatment. Scott doubted his love. Harold doubted his forgiveness.

But there's One whose future, abilities, treatment, love and forgiveness never fail. That's the one true God revealed to us in the Bible. Our confidence to face whatever life throws our way comes from the promises God gives us in his Word. God kept his promise of sending a Savior for everyone. As our Savior, Jesus lived perfectly to give us confidence that his life counts for everyone. He died to make the payment necessary for our sins to be forgiven, no matter what we've done. He rose again to give us the confidence that one day we will be with him in heaven. And all this is God's free gift by faith in Jesus. The cross of Jesus is God's answer to our doubt.

Because of Jesus, when we doubt our future, Jesus reminds us, "I am going there to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2). When we doubt our abilities, he assures us, "I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you" (Isaiah 41:10). When we doubt our treatment plan, he promises, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). When we doubt love, his Word helps us "grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Ephesians 3:18). When we doubt forgiveness, Jesus says, "This is my body. This is my blood. Given for you. Shed for you. For you! For forgiveness, life and salvation." That's the difference only Jesus makes.

Need more confidence? In Jesus you are safe.



Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

- Isaiah 54:10

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Christian Funeral

Our Risen Savior called the soul of his dear child Duaine Kalkbrenner to himself on Easter Sunday. Duaine's family and friends gathered around the Word of the Risen Christ on Monday, April 29th for their comfort. May the Good Shepherd continue to comfort those who mourn this earthly loss. Christ is risen!

Easter Greeting

During the season of Easter, we will use the Church's traditional Easter greeting at the beginning and close of our services. The pastor will say, "Christ is risen!" The congregation responds, "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

Easter Worship Themes

During the month of May, we continue to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord. Here are the themes for the month:

- ◆ Third Sunday of Easter, May 5 - The Risen Lord Appears In Power
- ◆ Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 12 - The Risen Lord Is Your Good Shepherd
- ◆ Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 19 - The Love Of The Risen Lord Is Shared
- ◆ Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 26 - The Love Of The Risen Lord Brings Peace
- ◆ The Ascension of Our Lord, May 30 - See The Conqueror Ascend In Triumph

Easter Season Worship Notes

- ✚ Easter Sunday has the place of prominence in all of the Sundays of the Christian Church year.
- ✚ Scripture records that Christians continued to gather for worship on Sundays in remembrance of the Resurrection.
- ✚ The fifty days of the Easter season make up the oldest season of the Christian Church year.
- ✚ The Sundays of Easter and the Festival of Ascension all highlight the victory of Christ's resurrection and the temporal and eternal blessings the resurrection imparts. Our worship in

the Easter season strives to rejoice in this.

- ✚ During the Easter season, the 1st Lesson read in the Service is from the New Testament book of Acts. These lessons highlight and proclaim the power of the Risen Christ.
- ✚ The Paschal Candle has been used in the Christian Church since the 5th or 6th Century.
- ✚ During the Easter season, the Paschal Candle will be lit for all of our services before worshippers enter the Sanctuary. The Paschal Candle will remain lit until those worshipping leave the Sanctuary each Sunday.
- ✚ On Ascension Day, the Paschal Candle will be extinguished after the Gospel. This symbolizes and emphasizes the visible removal of Christ's physical presence from his disciples after his ascension into heaven.
- ✚ During the rest of the year, the Paschal Candle will be lit at baptisms and funerals. It serves as a visual reminder of the close connection between Easter and baptism; Christ's resurrection and our resurrection to life everlasting.
- ✚ At the beginning and conclusion of our services during the Easter season, pastor will address the congregation with the words, "Christ is risen!" The congregation responds, "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" These words are sometimes called the Paschal Greeting. In following this ancient custom of the church we share in the certainty and joy of the resurrection.

Pastors' Conference

Pastor will attend the Minnesota District Spring Pastors' Conference in St. Cloud on May 6th-8th.

Church Cleanup

We have scheduled our spring cleanup of the church grounds for Saturday, May 4th, starting at 9:00 a.m. Please consider spending some time and effort to spruce up our property.

Confirmation Day

Our confirmation day will be on May 5th. We have two confirmands this year: Brent Johnson and Kylie Anderson. There will be an informal reception beginning at 10:30 and all are invited to attend.

Thursday Evening Divine Service

Our Thursday services will begin on May 23rd. August 29th will be the last Thursday service for the summer. The Thursday evening services begin at 7:00. The Thursday service is always the same as the Sunday that follows it.

Ascension Day

Along with Christmas, Epiphany, Transfiguration and Easter, Ascension Day is one the "festivals of our Lord." On this day we hear how Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after his resurrection. His ascension assures his church that he now lives and reigns at the right hand of God the Father, ruling all things for the church's good. The ascension also assures us that Jesus will visibly return to raise the dead and give eternal life to all believers in him. Make plans now to join us for a Vespers service beginning at 7:00 pm on May 30th.

Summer Bible and Music Academy

Ms. Emily Schmidt, a student from Martin Luther College, will be with us at Immanuel again this summer to lead our Bible and Music Academy. She will offer free piano, organ, voice, oboe, flute, clarinet, saxophone, and/or percussion lessons to our members and to the community. Watch for more information about signing up for lessons. Each Wednesday we invite preschoolers through those entering sixth grade in the fall to join us for studying God's Word and learning some great hymns of the faith. Supper will be served to the children each week. Please join us! Share an invitation with your friends and neighbors. There will be more information in the bulletin and in the announcements after church in the coming weeks. Music lessons will begin on June 10th. Bible Academy will start on Wednesday, June 12th.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2019

Members Present: Jim Buffington, Norm Riediger, Justin Kannas, Martin Fabrizius, Pastor Engel, Ross Malkuch, Todd Marxhausen, Rollie Nissen, Aaron Buttenhoff, Bruce Schreiner

Pastor opened with a reading from Philippians 1:1-11 and the Lord's Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 11:38 am

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted with one add under Elders – Accept by Profession of Faith – Marion Ruplinger

Secretary's Report: Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the February 10, 2019 council meeting minutes as submitted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Elders Report:

- Motion was made and approved to accept by Profession of Faith Marion Ruplinger
- Motion was made and approved to release from membership: Nate, Angie, Travis and Carson Jaspersen and Brittney Huisinga

Trustees Report:

- The lectern was repaired
- Trustees want to remind everyone to make sure that the back door gets closed completely and latches. If any snow gets in the way it will not latch.
- A comment was made that light is coming through in the front of the sanctuary where the block meets the drywall. Discussion was we thought this was fixed last year when the stucco was repaired. The trustees will look into the issue further.

Board of Education Report: Committee has been working with teachers to make sure they have the curriculum and materials they need. Reminder was given that materials are also available on our website if needed.

Financial Secretary's Report: A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report for February 2019.

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

Pastor's Report: Bible and Music Academy Update: Emily has some other personal opportunities and commitments this summer. To accommodate her schedule the best we can, Bible and Music Academy will start 1 week later and go 1 week later this year.

OLD BUSINESS

AV Committee – No report.

Church Sign – No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Salary – Ross and Pastor met with Jo to complete an annual review and discuss compensation. The review went very well on both sides – Jo is performing very well and Jo has no concerns.

The Council discussed compensation for Jo. Pastor reported the following:

- Jo was hired at a starting wage of \$13/hr
- She has received 2 - \$0.50/hr increases since she started making her current wage at \$14.00/hr.
- On average she works about 21 hrs/week (1134 hrs/year)

A proposal was brought forth from the Elders to increase Jo's wage to \$14.50/hr and offer her 3 paid time off days per year.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to increase Jo's wage to \$14.50/hr and offer her 3 paid time off days per year with no carryover of PTO days from year to year.

Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10. Pastor closed with the Blessing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Kannas, Secretary



A Mothers' Day hymn:

For Christian mothers, thank you, Lord
Who teach your lambs your precious Word.
For selfless love and faithful care,
We praise you Lord for mothers, dear.
They seek not glory, honor, fame
But humble service in your name.

Teach them, O Lord, that they may be
A blessing to the family.
Send peace and love to them from heav'n
And all your gifts so freely giv'n.
Keep mothers faithful, Lord, and strong
Until they join the heav'nly throng.

If all their efforts seem but loss
Direct them to their Savior's cross.
When guilt and fear and shame set in
Assure them then of sins forgiv'n.
Thus strengthened by your holy Word,
Refreshed again to serve you Lord.

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.

SPOTLIGHTING Our Members



Diane and Steve Kremin have been serving their Savior here at Immanuel since they joined way back in 2001, coming from Calvary in Glenwood with their 2 little children. They were married in 1982 and traveled in 1989 to adopt Abby from Bogota, Colombia and to Bucharest, Romania in 1991 to adopt Mitchell. They are both grown with Abby employed by the San Diego Padres for 5 years. Mitch is employed in St Cloud a little closer to home. Since both Diane and Steve are retired they are able to travel and visit Abby in the interesting places she goes to for her job. Diane retired from teaching at MACCRAY several years ago. Steve retired from Case New Holland in 2017. They have been able to spend a few months in AZ during the cold MN winters.

Diane still plays organ, helps with Jesus Cares, has directed the Sunday school music for many years, is active in the Women of Immanuel and other mission and special occasions. Steve has been on the church council, mostly as trustee where his talents are really used. He put up the railing leading to our north entrance which is so appreciated by the older people. Steve ushers often, they both serve as greeters and have hosted a fall festival for the past few years. They value the WELS for being able to hear the law preached and then to hear the gospel's saving message. They appreciate sharing that faith with other believers no matter which church you attend. We are happy to share in the church work with them. Please greet each other in Christian love.

Mother's Day

As we give thanks to God for his gift of mothers, consider the following:

Now observe that when that clever harlot, our natural reason (which the pagans followed in trying to be most clever), takes a look at married life, she turns up her nose and says, "Alas, must I rock the baby, wash its diapers, make its bed, smell its stench, stay up nights with it, take care of it when it cries, heal its rashes and sores, and on top of that care for my wife, provide for her, labor at my trade, take care of this and take care of that, do this and do that, endure this and endure that, and whatever else of bitterness and drudgery married life involves? What, should I make such a prisoner of myself? O you poor, wretched fellow, have you taken a wife? Fie, fie upon such wretchedness and bitterness! It is better to remain free and lead a peaceful, carefree life; I will become a priest or a nun and compel my children to do likewise."

What then does Christian faith say to this? It opens its eyes, looks upon all these insignificant, distasteful, and despised duties in the Spirit, and is aware that they are all adorned with divine approval as with the costliest gold and jewels. It says, "O God, because I am certain that thou hast created me as a man and hast from my body begotten this child, I also know for a certainty that it meets with thy perfect pleasure. I confess to thee that I am not worthy to rock the little babe or wash its diapers, or to be entrusted with the care of the child and its mother. How is it that I, without any merit, have come to this distinction of being certain that I am serving thy creature and thy most precious will? O how gladly will I do so, though the duties should be even more insignificant and despised. Neither frost nor heat, neither drudgery nor labor, will distress or dissuade me, for I am certain that it is thus pleasing in thy sight." (Luther, Martin: Pelikan, Jaroslav Jan (Hrsg.) ; Oswald, Hilton C. (Hrsg.) ; Lehmann, Helmut T. (Hrsg.): *Luther's Works, Vol. 45 : The Christian in Society II*. Philadelphia : Fortress Press, 1999, c1962 (Luther's Works 45), S. 45:39-40)

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.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



John 14:27, NRSV