

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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June 2019

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

I Need More...REST

Bill puts in many hours of work each week. Weeknight evenings are filled with activities for children and meetings of all sorts. When the weekend rolls around, there are many activities that he wants to participate in. There are sports for children, recreation for families, and leisurely interests for individuals. Hours on Saturday are taken up by home improvement projects or needed maintenance. By the end of it all he is tired.

Finally, it is Sunday morning, a day of rest, and he gets to sleep in. It is the one morning that if he doesn't get out of bed, his work will not call, and his children will not bother him. Nothing much happens on Sunday morning, so it is a good time to relax. He gets so tired during the week. He needs more rest and Sunday seems to be the perfect day to get it. If he sleeps in on Sunday morning, he may be well rested physically but spiritually he is exhausted.

"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Those are Jesus' words. It is his invitation to provide rest, not for our bodies but for our souls. There are plenty of times one walked into church physically tired, but always received rest for the soul.

He heard a message about his sin and Jesus' forgiveness. She was reminded every time that she had real rest in Jesus. He had the rest of a clear conscience because Jesus took his sin away with his death and resurrection. She had the rest of knowing that when she dies, I will rest eternally with Jesus. He had the rest of knowing that the same Savior who loved him enough to die for him is ruling all things in this world for him, and for the benefit of all his people.

Such a busy life! It makes you wish you could have more rest. You do! In Jesus you have the rest you truly need. The church may not have that Bible passage printed on the wall, but through the Word of God you hear, you will receive rest for your soul in Jesus. Next Sunday morning, come and get some rest with us at church. It is rest for your soul.



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June Worship Themes

On two of the Sundays in June we celebrate festivals. June 2nd is the Festival of Pentecost. On June 9th we celebrate the festival of the Holy Trinity. Here are the themes for the month:

- Seventh Sunday of Easter, June 2 - The Risen and Ascended Christ Prays for His People
- Pentecost, June 9 - Come, Holy Spirit
- The Holy Trinity, June 16 - Faith Trusts the One True God
- Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 23 - Faith Trusts God's Great Power
- Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 30 - Faith Trust God in the Face of Death

Pentecost

We will celebrate the Day of Pentecost on June 9th. The Festival of Pentecost marks the close of the Easter Season. The word pentecost (literally means "50") was the Greek name for the Jewish Festival of Weeks which happened 50 days after the Passover. The Pentecost we celebrate today was the one that happened 50 days after Jesus died and rose again. On Pentecost, the ascended Lord Jesus fulfilled his promise to baptize his disciples with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Trinity

On June 16th, we celebrate the Festival of the Holy Trinity. Triune comes from the Latin tri (three) and unus (one). Our God is triune because he tells us that he is three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but only one God. On this day, we will also use portions of the Athanasian Creed. This creed is named after St. Athanasius, a staunch defender of the Christian faith in the fourth century. It was prepared to assist the Church in combating two errors that undermined Bible teaching. One error denied that God's Son and the Holy Spirit are of one being or Godhead with the Father. The other error denied that Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person. The Athanasian Creed continues to

serve the Christian Church as a standard of the truth. It declares that whoever rejects the doctrine of the Trinity and the doctrine of Christ is without saving faith. The section of the Athanasian Creed we use on this festival is the portion that confesses the Bible's teaching about the Triune God. This portion serves as a very fitting confession of faith for Trinity Sunday. A translation of the entire text of the Athanasian Creed may be found on pages 132-133 in Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal.

Worship Notes

We have moved into the non-festival half of the church year. Sometimes this part of the year is called "the Half Year of the Church." We never leave behind Christ and his work for us which was the center of our attention in the Half Year of Our Lord; but now the emphasis will shift to the result of his work through the Word: the work of defining faith, of creating it and inspiring its fruits in the Church collectively and in each of us individually. After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to strengthen the faith of believers. The following highlights the themes for each week of the Pentecost season, starting with June 9th.

- The Believer Has Faith...
 - Faith that trusts the One True God.
 - Faith that trusts God's great power.
 - Faith that trusts God – even in the face of death.
 - Faith that trust God after contrition and repentance.
- The Believer Follows Christ...
 - Followers of Christ expect persecution.
 - Followers of Christ understand the call for commitment.
 - Followers of Christ support kingdom work.
 - Followers of Christ love their neighbor.

- Followers of Christ listen when God speaks.
- Followers of Christ pray boldly.
- Followers of Christ know that earthly wealth is meaningless.
- Followers of Christ find true treasure in trusting God's promises.
- The Believer Hears Jesus' Warnings...
 - The Word doesn't bring peace, but division.
 - The door to heaven is narrow.
 - The first will be last...humble yourselves.
 - Count the cost of discipleship.
- The Believer Grows in the Christian Life...
 - Christians love the lost like Christ.
 - Christians have a right relationship with worldly wealth.
 - Christians find real wealth in heavenly treasure.

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.

Bible and Music Academy Volunteers

We are in need of some help for our Bible and Music Academy this summer. We will be looking for people to provide supper for the children on Wednesday evenings. Supper is served at 6:15 pm. Talk to pastor for more information about helping out.

Summer Bible Classes

We will have two opportunities to hear God's Word on Sundays in addition to the Divine Service. The usual 20-minute class that we hold during the summer will begin at 8:30 a.m. After fellowship time, one of the elders will read a chapter of John's gospel.

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

The Augsburg Confession, the principal doctrinal statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, was formally presented to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at Augsburg, Germany on June 25, 1530. At its heart and core, it confesses the justification of sinners by grace alone, through faith alone, for the sake of Christ alone. 489 years later, to be a Lutheran Christian remains to be a confessor of the Augsburg Confession. The reason we can say this is because the Augsburg Confession says nothing new or different than what the Holy Christian Church has always believed. On June 25th, the church remembers and give thanks to God for the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession.

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.

Synod Convention

Ross Malkuch will serve as Immanuel's delegate to the 2019 synod convention in New Ulm this

summer. The convention meets every two years and Immanuel sends a lay delegate about every 15 years.

A meditation on the Address of the Lord's Prayer

Written by Professor Em. Daniel Deutschlandler and adapted for use at Immanuel.

The Address: Our Father who art in heaven

Father, dear Father! That's what I dare to call you. For out of your inestimable grace and mercy it has pleased you to call me your child. In spite of the sin and shame in which I was conceived and born, you adopted me to be your own. Yes, and you did it not by laying aside your own holiness. You did it by sending your only begotten Son to bear my sin and shame and then to wash it all way in the sacred flood of Baptism. Purchased by his blood, washed and reclaimed by your free grace in the Sacrament, I now dare to call you Father, dear Father.

And such a Father you are! You dwell in heaven, high above all earthly toil and turmoil. Over it all you reign and rule. So exalted and powerful are you that I, your child and a joint heir with your beloved Son, my Savior, need fear nothing in time or in eternity. You will not and can never abandon or forsake me. Too precious was the price you paid for my redemption, too dear the blood that bought me.

Yes, Father, dear Father, you who inhabit the praises of the saints and angels in heaven, you bring me a glimpse of your glory in heaven even now. For where is there a heaven on earth? It is not in perishing wealth or fleeting popularity. It is not in perfect health that one day is here and tomorrow gone. It is not in any earthly joy or success or prosperity, as thankful as I am to you for these when you send them. No, you give me a glimpse of heaven whenever you draw near to me in your Word and sacraments. There I see Jesus, my brother. There I hear his sweet voice assuring me that all of his holiness is mine when sin is forgiven.

There I see him when he comes with his own true body and blood to feed my soul that longs alone for his presence. There he raises me up with the assurance that those who come to him he will never, no never cast out.

As an earthly father disciplines his children when they misbehave, so you also show your love by discipline when I stray from humble obedience to your Word. Ah, but this is my comfort in the suffering that you send to me as a result of my sins: You never send the full consequences of my sin, else I would perish forever. You chasten me neither too much nor too little as an earthly father often does. You are not fickle or arbitrary in your fatherly acts in my life. Always you are the perfect Father, the Father who sees everything, knows everything and then acts in love to bring me to repentance and to draw me ever closer to you. What an amazing thing that is! With all world before you, the great and the small, the pious and the wicked, you never run out of time or wisdom or energy to act as my heavenly Father!

What a delight then it is for me to address you, Father, dear Father, you who are in heaven and you who by Word and sacraments brings heaven so close to me. Unseen and veiled is now the view. But that does not make it any less real. And so, prompted by your Word and trusting in your promise, I dare to claim you as my Father and to now draw near to you, exalted as you are in the heaven above the heavens. For as far as that may be, you are nevertheless as near as your Word and promise on which I rely and in which I place my trust. So then, dear Father, hear me as I pray.



Mission Festival

We have already received word that Rev. Paul Prange, Chairman, Joint Mission Council will be presenting on Grace, Hmong Outreach in Vietnam at Immanuel on January 26, 2020. The following article written by WELS President Mark Schroeder tells more about this work. Watch for more updates between now and next January.

WELS members have responded overwhelmingly to the opportunity that God has given our synod in Vietnam. Gifts have been received from hundreds of congregations and individuals, totaling half of what is needed to support the building project and ministry training costs for a two-year period.

The Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam (HFC), a church body with approximately 100,000 members, has asked WELS to provide theological training for its pastors. Their leaders and several dozen pastors have been receiving instruction from WELS pastors for about three years. They have concluded that we are teaching biblical truth and have embraced the teachings of the Lutheran church. They want to be a Lutheran church body. With the permission—and even encouragement—of the Vietnamese government, the HFC has invited WELS to establish a theological training school where eventually all their pastors will receive thorough instruction and pastoral training.

Due to the generous outpouring of support, the first concrete step in making this plan a reality was taken two weeks ago. I, along with Board for World Missions Administrator Rev. Larry Schlomer and Director of Missions Operations Mr. Sean Young, traveled to Vietnam to sign a memorandum of understanding with Vietnamese religious officials and with the leaders of the Hmong Fellowship Church. This agreement enables our synod to secure the use of a four-acre parcel of land on the outskirts of Hanoi and to begin construction of the planned theological training school. Details are now being worked out, and we hope that construction will begin in the near future. Gifts received so far have enabled us to secure the land and will make it possible to build the school. We pray that additional gifts will provide the means to operate the school with WELS instructors.

We do not know where this effort will eventually lead. What we do know is that we have been given an amazing opportunity that would have been unthinkable only a few years ago. As we begin down this road, we do so realizing the risks, but also with our eyes of faith focused on the grace and promises of God and the opportunity he is giving us to proclaim the saving gospel in a place where it has been rarely heard. To God be the glory!

SPOTLIGHTING Our Members



Sue and Roger Steinke moved recently to Diamond Lake and joined us to worship. They came to us from Springfield where Roger owned the Engine Doctor. Sue was employed in Redwood Falls. They lived there for 45 years. Please make them feel welcome and part of our church family. Sue has already offered to serve for our coffees after church.

They have two daughters' families that live in St. Peter and Mankato. They feel very blessed to have their immediate family living close by so they can attend the grandchildren's sports and dance recitals. The four grandchildren are big golfers and will soon have to teach Nana to golf. We do have some members here that like golfing.

June will be a busy month with two grandchildren graduating high school then off to college in the fall.

Sue and Roger enjoy entertaining their families at the lake, going to concerts and taking the Spider out for a spin. Neither of them are liking the Minnesota winters so they do find time to take off a few weeks to go south when the snow flies. Many of our members feel the same, but find the weeks turn into months enjoying the southern weather.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The glory
that you have
given me

I have
given them,

so that
they
may be

ONE,

as we are
ONE...

John 17:22, NRSV