

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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July 2019

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

I Need More...SECURITY

Everyone knows disappointment sooner or later. It's that time when the car broke down, when national security was breached, when we lost our job. It's that time when doctors couldn't cure us or our loved ones, our investments disappeared, friends disappointed us, when we disappointed ourselves.

We try to limit disappointment or prevent disappointment from becoming a disaster. We make promises. We buy insurance. We do our homework before making big decisions. We search for what is "guaranteed or your money back." We go to the doctor recommended by trustworthy friends.

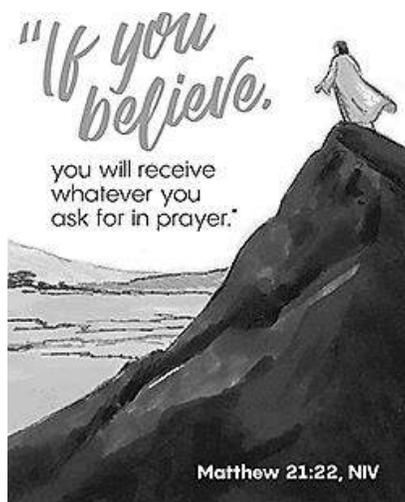
What we're really looking for is security. We just want something we can count on; something that is stable; something that is safe and stays that way. But isn't it striking that even with all the protection agencies, certifications, types of insurance, promises, and money-back guarantees in today's world, we're still left searching for more security?

When it comes to things that can threaten our sense of security, the possibilities appear endless. You probably have had that sinking feeling and said to yourself, "There's always something. What am I supposed to do? If it's not one thing, it's another. Either this or that..."

At such trying times, find strength from these verses in the Bible: "I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Notice: "neither" this, "nor" that "will be able to separate us from the love of God..." The love of God is a faithful, stable, and dependable love. And if we want proof of that, we need only consider how God sent his only Son for us. Jesus came and died on the cross, and he rose again. Our sins weren't too much for him to bear. Death itself could not hold him in his grave. Satan could not stop him from carrying out his mission. Many religious leaders hated Jesus. One of his own disciples betrayed him. One denied him. The rest abandoned him. And the vocal majority crucified him. Did any of these prevent Jesus from keeping God's promise to save us? No! God's love prevailed for the whole world, and now whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life!

God's love will never disappoint you. Nothing in all creation can separate you from God and the power of his love in your life. For Jesus came, he died, and he rose again. We have this as our security: God's love is guaranteed.



***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

July Worship Themes

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. Here are the themes for the month:

- Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, July 7 - Faith trusts God after contrition and repentance
- Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 14 - Followers of Christ expect persecution
- Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 21 - Followers of Christ understand the call for commitment
- Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 28 - Followers of Christ support kingdom work

Summer Bible Classes

Beginning on July 7th, Bible class will be held after fellowship.

Thursday Evening Divine Service

We hold Thursday services during the summer. The Thursday service is always the same as the Sunday that follows. August 30th will be the last Thursday service for the summer.

Summer Bible and Music Academy

Ms. Emily Schmidt, a student from Martin Luther College, is leading 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. 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. It isn’t too late to join us!

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.

Lawn Mowing

Please consider taking a turn mowing the church’s lawn. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have questions about the mower, please speak with Jim Buffington or Scott Schultz.

Sunday School

Instruction in Bible history on Sunday mornings begin in September. Please consider helping out as a teacher.

Confirmation Instruction

Confirmation classes for 5th through 8th graders begin on September 8th. There will be a meeting with parents on that night.

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 is some background into our synod’s efforts:

God’s grace has opened doors to an unprecedented mission opportunity in communist Vietnam.

It all started when Zang Lou, a leader within the Hmong Fellowship Church (HFC) in Vietnam, viewed an online sermon by WELS Pastor Bounkeo Lor in 2011. The clear proclamation of law and gospel and the message of pure grace through Jesus Christ was something he had never heard before . . . and he wanted to learn more. That same year, Zang Lou invited Lor to come to Vietnam to train the HFC in the truth of the gospel. Lor made his first training visit in 2012. Since that

time, Lor has made over 24 different trips to Hanoi, Vietnam. To assist in his training, members of the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) began to accompany him on some of these trips starting in 2016.

With every visit Lor has made to conduct training in Hanoi, approximately 60 church leaders have attended to learn more about the truths of the Bible. These same 60 leaders have been taking the message back to their rural congregations, preaching the message of salvation by faith, not by works - something the members had never heard before. The HFC was a church body of 55,000 members when Zang Lou first reached out to WELS. In the years WELS has provided training, the HFC has grown from 55,000 to over 100,000 members and formed many new churches. HFC leaders have seen the growth and the joy that Lutheran teaching has brought to their congregations and have expressed a desire to become a confessional Lutheran church body.

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. Take a listen to them and tell your friends about them.



Church Council Meeting Minutes April 14, 2019

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

Pastor opened with a reading from Philippians 1:12-30 and the Lord's Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted with one add under Trustees – list of items requested by a member

Secretary's Report: Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the March 17, 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 Roger and Sue Steinke
- Keep the Elders in our thoughts and prayers as they deliberate 6 and 12 week follow ups with members who have not been at worship. The Elders will be evaluating and deliberating options for next steps with each of these members.

Trustees Report:

- Gabe presented a list of items that had been requested by a member including soap dispensers for the bathrooms, a vacuum for upstairs, and wastebaskets with lids for the restrooms. The consensus of the Council was to allow the Trustees to pursue items such as this that fall within the yearly budget amount for maintenance.
- Lawn Mowing – Trustees will work to provide a more active role in reaching out and seeking volunteers for lawn mowing.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

AV Committee – Kelly is working on options for hosting files on the website

Church Sign – The committee met recently. They are working on a design and obtaining updated quotes from Quick Signs. They will bring a recommendation with prices to an upcoming Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Spring Cleanup – The cleanup day will be Saturday May 4th. Pastor will make announcements.

Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15. Pastor closed with the Blessing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Kannas, Secretary

Church Council Meeting Minutes May 15, 2019

Members Present: Norm Riediger, Justin Kannas, Pastor Engel, Ross Malkuch, Rollie Nissen, Bruce Schreiner, Gabe Okins

Pastor opened with a reading from Philippians 1:19-30 and the Lord's Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 7:33 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for the April 14, 2019 meeting were not available at the time of the meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Elders Report:

- Motion was made by the Elders and approved to release from membership Jesse Hedy
- Motion was made by the Elders and approved to accept as Communicant Members Kylie Anderson and Brent Johnson

Trustees Report:

- Spring cleanup went well
- There is one section of chain link fence at the parsonage that needs to be replaced
- Dishwasher at the parsonage is not cleaning well, brackets are broken, and the trays pull completely out causing dishes to fall on the floor
 - Motion made, seconded and approved for Pastor to purchase a new dishwasher – amount will be up to Pastor's good judgement. Consensus was to purchase a dishwasher that will perform well – not to target the cheapest dishwasher on the market.
- Dandelion spraying – Ross volunteered to spray the church property for dandelions.

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

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported on upcoming dates that he will be gone.

- 6/4 – 6/7
- 7/17 – 7/19
- Summer vacation – dates TBD

OLD BUSINESS

AV Committee – Committee still working on hosting videos on church website and coordination with copyright licenses.

Church Sign – No report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Kannas, Secretary

SPOTLIGHTING Our Members



Ben and Liesl Dols are local business owners. Ben has been involved in Snap Fitness for 10 years, owner for 5. He helps you become physically fit. Liesl opened the Bombshell and Brows a year or so ago. There they help you with various beauty tips and procedures. They are blessed with Titus, their 2 and 1/2 year old son. Ben grew up in Kerkhoven, and Liesl in Danube. They attend Immanuel to grow their Spiritual fitness. They appreciate the WELS Biblical teaching of the Word. We are happy to welcome them all to our church family.

A Devotional Prayer On The First Petition

The First Petition: *Hallowed be Thy Name*

With such a rich and mighty and loving Father, what then should I ask of you? Should I ask for all the wealth of the world? No; who needs it, when the Father has promised to provide for all that I need in this life and the next and has already purchased it for me in the work of his Son and my

Savior. Should I seek before all freedom from care and want? Why ask for that when I know that every care or want that you send me is designed to remind me and to keep me from forgetting that all my wants you supply as is best for me and all my cares your Son carries with me. Should I seek comfort and ease when you have promised that only through many trials and tribulations we enter into your kingdom?

No, none of that will be of first importance to me. This and only this is my first and may it be my all-consuming desire: Father, dear Father, may your name be holy! Yes, I know that your name and your revelation of that name as God and Father and Savior is already holy. And I know too that it can never be made more holy than it already is, certainly not by me or by anything that I might do.

Nevertheless, Father, dear Father, how I long for your name to be manifest as holy in me, in all that I do and think and say. And so I beg of you, as the very first thing that I could desire of you: Grant me this grace and favor, that my heart and mind may ever and alone cling to your Word in all of its truth and purity. For there I not only learn your holy name of Father and Savior but receive it as your free gift when you clothe me in the holiness of your only begotten Son. Keep close to me and me close to you by that saving, that holy Word, that revelation and gift of yourself to me. Grant that I do not waver in my love and loyalty to all that you reveal in your precious and saving Word. Yes, save me from the foolishness and the wickedness of setting aside anything that you have said for the nonsense and the evil that my own heart might prefer. For then your name, all-holy in itself, will be kept holy in the shrine that you have made of my heart by the power and gift of yourself to me in your holy and saving Word.

Yes, and may your name made holy in my heart by your Word also more and more be seen as holy in my life, in what I say and do at home and away, before friend and stranger. As of old people knew that Christians had been with your Son by the way they lived with one another and in the world, so may it be with me. May those who see me and know me see you in my words and works. May your gift of holiness find a reflection, dim and imperfect though it will ever be this side of heaven, in words unstained by anger or hatred or spite or envy or malice. May my works as well reflect the unselfishness which you and your Son have so perfectly shown in my salvation and in all that you have given me besides. May your holiness so live in me and through me that my works may be a visible evidence of an unselfish zeal for service to those around me, a zeal which seeks neither praise nor reward but only the pleasure of reflecting your perfect holiness.

Then Father, dear Father, I will have this as my greatest joy that your name is holy in my heart and seen as holy in my life!

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**WHOEVER LOOKS INTENTLY
INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT
GIVES FREEDOM...
WILL BE BLESSED IN WHAT THEY DO.**

JAMES 1:25, NIV