

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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September 2019

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

I Need More...Knowledge

The Church of Scientology teaches that people are basically good, that their capabilities are unlimited, and those capabilities can be realized. People can also achieve new, higher states of awareness and ability. *Scientology* claims that the secrets to this higher knowledge can only be found in their church through a process they call “auditing.”

Seems strange? But honestly, a cultic religion that encourages you to look within yourself for more knowledge can really satisfy an itch. Who doesn't feel they need more knowledge? And how about being able to pat yourself on the back for pursuing it and supposedly finding that knowledge within yourself? That's pretty appealing to the human heart.

But God's Word sounds much different than L. Ron Hubbard, who authored the book that has become *Scientology's* bible. God says people are not basically good, that people's natural capabilities are limited to sinning and rebelling against God. As a result, God says all people are the same: “There is no one who is

righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God...The way of peace they do not know” (Romans 3:10,11,17).

God is right! Not L. Ron Hubbard! Need proof? Think about Adam and Eve when they pursued more knowledge on their own apart from God. They rejected God's Word and sinned. Look at what their own inner pursuit of knowledge got them and us! A world infected by sin so badly that everyone eventually dies.

Jesus knows we all lack knowledge, and he wants to fill that void. He does so not by telling us to find it inside ourselves, but by telling us to look outside ourselves. We find knowledge in the Bible. Through his Word, God makes us wise; he gives us insight and understanding. (See Psalm 119:98-100.) That's because God's Word gives us knowledge that we can't find or discover anywhere else.



The Bible tells about Jesus. It tells how wide, long, high, and deep Jesus' love is for people. That love drove Jesus to come to this world, bear the sin of every person, die on a cross, and suffer the eternal punishment for all sins. That's love—love so amazing that God declares that your sins are forgiven because of Jesus. That's love—love so beyond understanding that Jesus, the righteous one, should die for the unrighteous. But he did! That's why the apostle Paul says that “this love surpasses knowledge” (Ephesians 3:19). In Jesus' love for you, you have everything you truly need to know, both now and forever.

***But grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now
and forever! Amen.***

- 2 Peter 3:18

September Worship

Themes

We continue to live 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 shifts 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:

- Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, September 1 - Followers of Christ Find True Treasure in God's Promises
- Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 8 - The Word Brings Not Peace but Division
- Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 15 - The Door to Heaven Is Narrow
- Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 22 - The First Will Be Last...Humble Yourselves
- The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels, September 29 - He Will Command His Angels Concerning You

Sunday School

Instruction in Bible history for preschoolers through eighth graders on Sunday mornings begins on September 8th.

Sunday School Teachers

You can pick up your materials on one of two dates: Sunday, September 1st after Bible class or on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:30 p.m. If those times don't work for you, please make arrangements with pastor to pick up your materials.

Confirmation Instruction

Confirmation classes begin on September 4th. There will be a meeting with parents at 6:30 p.m. on that night. All classes will be held from 6:30 until 8:30 this year.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class

We'll start our Wednesday classes on September 4th at 10:00 a.m. All around us and even in our sinful hearts, we hear questions about trusting the Bible. Our class material and discussion will center on the reasons why we can trust what the Bible says. Issues that will be covered in the course include objections about the Bible's reliability including: "The Bible is a mythological story." "The Bible is full of errors." "The Bible can't be God's Word since humans wrote it." "The history of the Bible is not reliable." "Church leaders secretly decided which books should be in the Bible." "The Bible is no longer relevant in our time." "There are so many translations and interpretations of the Bible, how could we know what is true?" "The Bible promotes racism and sexism." "The claims that the Bible makes are too outlandish to believe." Everyone is invited to attend.



Sunday Morning Bible Class

We'll begin a new series of studying God's Word on Sunday, September 8th. We will be taking a look at some of the hard sayings of Jesus that we read in the Gospels. Sometimes, we struggle to understand the words of our Lord and then other times there are things that Jesus has said that we wish he had said a bit differently. There will be opportunity for the class members to dig into words of our Lord that they want to know more about. We meet on Sundays from 10:30 until 11:30.

Jesus Cares

In September 2006, we began our first Jesus Cares meetings on Tuesday evenings. On September 10th at 7:00 p.m. we will begin another year of Jesus Cares classes. We look forward to sharing God's Word, renewing acquaintances and making new friends. Come and join us!

Church Picnic

We will hold a church picnic on Sunday, September 8th. Pulled pork sandwiches will be provided. Members are asked to bring a side dish, salad and/or dessert. Drinks and tableware will be provided. The picnic will begin after Bible class and Sunday School. There will be some games for people to enjoy. Please plan to join us and sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.



Fall Gathering

Our Fall Get Together will be held September 29th starting at 4:00 p.m. at Steve and Diane Kremin's home (11700 142nd St. S.W. in Raymond). Please bring a dish to pass and lawn chair(s). Beverages, plates and eating utensils will be provided.

MLC Food Shelf

Time to collect for the MLC food shelf so the food can be delivered on October 15th at the auxiliary meeting in New Ulm. There is a collection table for donations in the narthex.

Ladies' Fellowship

Ladies' Fellowship will meet September 3rd and 17th at 1:00 p.m. We will be finishing baby quilts for Peace in Gilbert, AZ which is this year's Home Mission project for the LWMS Crow River Circuit and quilts for Martin Luther College students. Our next project for the Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine will be "twitter sleeves and mittens." Join us to help with these projects. All are welcome. Meditation and coffee with dessert at 2:30 p.m.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2019

Members Present: Justin Kannas, Pastor Engel, Ross Malkuch, Bruce Schreiner, Martin Fabrizius, Jim Buffington, Aaron Buttenhoff

Pastor opened with a reading from Philippians 2:1-11 and the Lord's Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pro Temp Engel at 7:03 pm

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted with 2 adds.

Secretary's Report: Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the April 14, 2019; April 28, 2019; and May 15, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Elders Report:

- Motion was made by the Elders and approved to release from membership Stacy Row and Dean Prahl.

Trustees Report:

- Mowing has been going well. Getting good participation from volunteers. Trustees have not had to do the mowing.
- Ross sprayed weeds at the church and parsonage
- Pastor is still shopping for a dishwasher for the parsonage
- Jim will check into wastebaskets, soap dispensers, vacuum, and the chain link fence section at parsonage to be fixed which are all outstanding items

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

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report as submitted. The insurance check for deductible for sign came in June.

Planned Giving Committee: A request is anticipated to be coming in for some Audio/Video equipment

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported on upcoming dates that he will be gone and discussed who will open and close church

OLD BUSINESS

AV Committee – Kelly has been working on different plug ins to use on our website to host the videos. He hasn't found one that he likes yet. He tried his own but that did not work either. He will be sending some examples to the committee for review.

Church Sign – The committee reported on the updated design that the committee developed which includes a digital board. The quote was received from Quick Signs for approximately \$35,000.

A possible funding scenario was discussed to include:

- Insurance Proceeds - \$14,000
- Designated Gifts Received - \$1,500
- Building Fund - \$6,500

- Special Request to Planned Giving Committee - TBD
- Special Offering Requests – TBD

It was decided to announce the above funding strategy in the bulleting in the next few weeks to give members an opportunity to give special offerings for the sign. A presentation is planned to the full congregation regarding the sign prior to the July Voters' Meeting.

Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43. Pastor closed with the Blessing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Kannas, Secretary

Own It!

By Pastor James Douglas

"God said to Noah, "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:13).



We crossed the peninsula of Cape Cod to its very end—Provincetown, Massachusetts. My wife Sarah, our five young children, and I were taking a trip to see the place where a persecuted band of pilgrims first stopped to scout the land and to sign the Mayflower Compact.

What surprised us were the flags flying throughout the town. Were they flags with stars and stripes? No. Rainbow flags were all over the place. It seems that Provincetown has become somewhat of a bastion for homosexuality. I wondered what the pilgrims (many being Puritans by faith) would do if they could see Provincetown now.

We enjoyed seeing the museum and climbing the monument set up to honor those pilgrims. But I left a bit disgusted. It's safe to say that the experience with Provincetown left me eagle-eyed for anything resembling a rainbow, accompanied with a strong aversion to it, until the drive back home.

As we traveled back to Charlotte, North Carolina, we went through some thundershowers in the mountains. At one point as we were descending into a valley, we saw a bright rainbow arching over the road and plunging like a waterfall into the valley some 500 feet below us. I was awestruck and so was my family. We marveled for a short time that the rainbow was beaming through our windshield. And then my five-year-old son spoke up, "Rainbows are God's promise that he will never flood the world again!" We weren't just staring at some beautiful natural phenomenon. We were looking straight into a promise of the Almighty!

That promise connected with the rainbow is yours from God. Own it! Don't let the world hijack God's promise and attach another meaning to this beautiful visual picture of his promise. I'm not advocating tearing down multi-colored flags, but I am advocating reclaiming the picture of one of God's beautiful promises to you. It's the rainbow. Don't be ashamed of it! Own it! It's yours by God's grace—a reminder that, at the time of the Flood, the God of salvation held his believers in the palm of his hand, and he does that for you too! It's a reminder of God's covenant with you. It's yours! Own it!

Befriend a Mission

LWMS (Lutheran Women's Mission Society), of which Immanuel is a member of the Crow River Circuit, Rallies are held spring and fall in member churches with speakers and updates on missions. Each circuit is also assigned a Home and World Mission to support and encourage. Our Home Mission is Peace Lutheran in Queen Creek, AZ. Pastor Greg Hein was assigned here to begin the mission five years ago. They meet in a gymnasium at 9:30 on Sundays and average 95 per service.

Whatever encouragement we can give the family is much appreciated. We plan on sending several baby blankets to share with their new families with little ones. Restaurant gift cards for extra busy weeks or for groceries are always special blessings. Prayers for finding a permanent building location and for the building process are requested. A family picture of Pastor Hein (birthday November 11, 1986), Julie (birthday November 29), Evelyn (April 28, 2013), and Leo (April 13, 2015) is below. Their anniversary is July 10, 2010. Their address is: 21115 E. Carina Plata, Queen Creek, AZ 85142.



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.



Ignite your passion for Missions- Make LWMS a Priority in Your Life!

The Crow River Circuit Rally is set for **September 28th** at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Litchfield, MN** at **11:00 a.m.** with registration at **10:30 a.m.** The theme is **Ignite your Passion for Missions** in your congregation. Leigh McGrath of the LWMS Awareness Committee is presenting the keynote address. The Crow River Circuit is excited to have her attend our rally and show us how vital LWMS is to the work of God's kingdom.

LWMS, since its inception in Winona, MN over 50 years ago, has become an important support to the WELS Board of Missions. LWMS provides broad financial support to continuing Home and World Missions. Each of the over 60 circuits and individual members select one project each from 25 Home Mission and 33 World Mission Projects 2018-19, identified by LWMS and the WELS Mission Office, to support each year. Seventy-five percent of the local circuit offerings go to support the two projects voted on by the members, while twenty-five percent goes to LWMS Central for the selection of two projects voted on annually by the International LWMS Convention attendees.

In addition to financial support to the projects the mission may undertake to increase their outreach efforts and to the missionary families, LWMS members provide their prayers and support and encouragement through cards, letters and other remembrances.

We encourage young women of Immanuel to attend and learn about the impact LWMS makes on missions through our prayers and offerings.

For further information, contact our local Reporter Rose Pederson.

If you cannot be a watchman,
standing high on Zion's wall,
pointing out the path to heaven,
offering life and peace to all.

With your prayers and with your offerings,
you can do what God demands:
You can be like faithful Aaron,
holding up the prophet's hands.
(Christian Worship 573:3)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FOR WE BROUGHT NOTHING INTO THE
WORLD, AND WE CANNOT TAKE
ANYTHING OUT OF THE WORLD. BUT
IF WE HAVE FOOD AND
CLOTHING, WITH
THESE WE WILL
BE CONTENT.

1 TIMOTHY 6:7-8, ESV