

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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November 2019

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

I Need More...MONEY

Someone once asked John D. Rockefeller, "How much money is enough?" "Just a little more," he answered. At the time, he was one of the wealthiest men in the world.

Those who've heard that story and Rockefeller's answer, usually divide into two groups: they either think of him as a greedy miser ("He has more money than he knows what to do with!") or an honest pragmatist ("Hey, he's just telling the truth—even if you're rich, a little more is always nice."). Don't we all occasionally find ourselves thinking, "I need more money?"

There's nothing wrong with financial security, but how much is enough? If you are pricing a vacation home in Florida and feel frustrated that you don't have enough to buy a Ferrari too, that's one thing. If you lost your job and can't pay the bills, and it's getting tough to put food on the table, that's something else.

This is a complicated issue. It's not easy to properly distinguish between real needs and selfish greed. Do you really need more money? Maybe. Maybe not. When it comes to finances, the best advice comes from Jesus Christ. Our Savior said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves

treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

According to Jesus, a lot of folks expend an enormous amount of time and energy in pursuit of earthly treasure and financial security, but for what? In the end—if a bad economy, a poor decision, or unforeseen disaster doesn't claim it, time certainly will—you can't take it with you.

That makes heaven the only worthwhile investment. And here's the great news: Jesus lived, died, and rose again to provide all the heavenly treasure for you. Peace with God—now and forever—that's what he freely gives.

**Keep your lives free
from the love of money
and be content
with what you have,
because God has said,
"Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you."
- Hebrews 13:5**



Put your trust in Jesus. Find in him real treasure and eternal security. What more do you need? Besides, Christians know that the Lord will always provide. We've got his Word on that: "Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31-33).

Do you really need more money? You don't need to answer that question. Put your trust in Christ—seek first his kingdom and his righteousness—and let him answer the question for you.

Thanksgiving Service

A Vespers service of thanksgiving will be held on Wednesday, November 27th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Pumpkin pie and coffee will be served in the fellowship hall following the service. The Sunday School children will be singing in the service.

Thanksgiving Eve Pies

There is a signup sheet on the shelf in the Narthex for bringing pies to serve after the Thanksgiving Eve service.

Sunday School Children Singing

The third through eighth graders will sing on November 10th. All the children will sing at our Thanksgiving Vespers.

Now Thank We All Our God

The Sunday School children and the congregation will sing this hymn in our Thanksgiving service on November 27th. The following background is provided to give insight into the hymn.

This famous hymn, written by Martin Rinkart, is typical of those written during the period of the Thirty Year's War (1618-1648). Rinkart wrote the hymn in anticipation of the end of the war, about 5 years before the Peace of Westphalia. After about 30 years of war, bloodshed and pestilence, physical, spiritual and mental exhaustion abounded and Germany longed for the day of peace as never before. Great was the joy and thanksgiving in the hearts of God's people when eventual peace first began to look possible, then probably and then finally real. Rinkart was certainly in a position to look forward to the end of hostilities. The thirty-two years of his ministry almost exactly coincide with the years of the war. The walled city in which he lived and served was naturally a haven for refugees as well as a magnet for attack. Actual warfare and the result of disease were the daily experience for Rinkart. At the depth of dark experience, Rinkart buried up to seventy people a day,

and 4800 in that year. In addition to his pastoral work, the management of relief work in the city fell on his shoulders and the townspeople looked to him for leadership. In spite of this, the town unfairly and ungratefully taxed Rinkart's property out of his hands and permitted him to become destitute himself. In spite of danger, death, ingratitude, disease, hunger and overwork, this pastor managed to find time to exercise his poetic gifts and has given the church a true treasure in this hymn.



Sunday School Christmas Rehearsals

We will hold rehearsals to prepare for the Christmas service starting November 24th. We will feed lunch to the children at 11:30 and our rehearsal will begin at noon. The children will be dismissed at 1:00 P.M. Rehearsals will also be held on December 1st and 8th. The final rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 14th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The Christmas service will be held on December 15th at 4:00 p.m. A meal will follow the service.

November Worship Themes

During the month of November, we conclude the non-festival portion of the church year, sometimes called "The Time of the Church." Though Jesus remains front and center where he should be, the themes of the lessons shift from those great events of the life of Christ in his work of redemption to the blessed results of that work of redemption in the hearts and lives of the members of his Church. In the final month of the church year, those results of Jesus' saving work bear fruit as believers await his glorious return. Here are the themes for the month:

- All Saints Day (Observed), November 3 - Saints, Rejoice in the Blessings of the Kingdom

- Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, November 10 - Jesus Will Raise the Dead and Give Eternal Life to All Believers
- Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, November 17 - Jesus Will Raise the Dead and Punish All Unbelievers
- Last Sunday of the Church Year, November 24 - The Shepherd King Is Our Righteousness
- Thanksgiving Eve, November 27 - Our Need for Thanksgiving

Advent Preparation

Unlike the world, the Church does not prepare by frantic doing or frenzied promises to get something done. Instead, the Church prepares by receiving. To help us receive the gifts of Christ and be prepared for his threefold coming, we offer midweek Vespers during Advent. These services will begin at 7:00 p.m. on December 4th, 11th and 18th. The Vespers service is the church's evening prayer. The word "vesper" comes from the Latin word which means "evening." The service is meditative and repentant in tone and fits in well with the penitential and preparatory nature of the Advent season. The theme for this year's Advent Vespers is: Your King Is Coming. Each week we will be reminded that we wait, pray and live by faith in God's promises. This is a message that is completely counter-cultural yet one that is completely necessary. Make plans now to receive Christ's Advent gifts as you look forward to celebrating his return.



Mission Festival

Rev. Paul Prange, Chairman, Joint Mission Council will be presenting on Grace, Hmong Outreach in Vietnam at Immanuel on January 26, 2020 for our mission festival.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 10:40 am

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for the July 14, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Trustees Report:

- Some light bulbs were replaced in the sanctuary
- Sewer service backed up – had a plumber come out to clean out our service out to the street – had a blockage in the street

Board of Education Report: Working on contacting teachers for Sunday school

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

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

Planned Giving Committee: The committee has not met but they do have some requests so they will be meeting later this month to review the requests.

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

- September 23 & 24 – Pastor's Conference in Alexandria
- October 3-5 – Governing board meeting at MLS
- October 30 – November 1 – Reformation Lectures in Mankato

Motion made, seconded and passed to enroll in the WELS Shepherd Plan so that Pastor can invest in this plan for his retirement account.

OLD BUSINESS

AV committee – Kelly has a YouTube channel set up. The channel will be linked to the Immanuel website. Kelly and the committee are continuing to finalize details.

Church sign committee –

- Scott reported that the committee obtained a second quote from S.E.W. Enterprises. The quote was presented to the Council for review and consideration. The quote was for \$23,095 plus electrical (estimated at \$1,000) for a sign comparable in pixilation to the Quick Signs quote. However, there were several differences noted between the 2 quotes including:
 - Materials of construction for the framing
 - Digital sign manufacturer was Watchfire with S.E.W. vs. Daktronics for Quick Signs
 - Programming of sign uses a different system and can only be done at church with S.E.W. quote vs. anywhere with Quick Signs quote
 - How the non-digital portion of the sign is lit up

- The Council discussed the 2 quotes. Topics of discussion included:
 - Level of service and maintenance available
 - Comparison of the 2 digital board manufacturers
 - Materials of construction
 - Programming and ease of use
 - Reputation
 - Past projects
- After considerable discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to recommend to the Voters to proceed with the quote from Quick Signs at the approximate cost of \$35,000.

NEW BUSINESS

Synod Convention: Ross attended the Synod Convention and gave a brief report on a couple items. Ross strongly suggested everyone to watch the opening worship service which is available on-line. A full report of the convention is printed in the WELS Together newsletter included in the bulletin today.

Trustee Appointment: Motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Scott Claussen as the trustee to fill Gabe Okins term (2019-2021)

Budget Committee: Motion made, seconded and approved to appoint Norm Riediger, Aaron Jaspersen, Jim Buffington, and Martin Fabrizio to the Budget Committee

September Council Meeting Date: September council meeting will be changed to 3rd Sunday of September due to the picnic.

Upcoming meetings:

- Special Voters meeting on 8/25 for action on the church sign construction
- September 15th 11:30 am – Council
- October 13th 11:30 am – Council
- October 20th after meal – Voters

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42. Pastor closed with a reading from Philippians 3:1-11 and the Blessing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Kannas, Secretary

Equipping Christian Witnesses

With support from the WELS Conference of Presidents, this two-year capital campaign will celebrate the 2020 silver anniversary of Martin Luther College. The title, "Equipping Christian Witnesses," reflects not only the mission of our institution— to train a corps of Christian witnesses to meet WELS ministry needs—but also the pillars of this campaign. Pray boldly that we use this celebration to recruit with rigor countless Christian witnesses . . . to increase our financial support of our students . . . and to provide the necessary facilities to equip our students for their future ministries. Watch for ways that we as a congregation and our individual members may participate. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Justin Kannas.

World BeFriend A Mission Assignment



Pastor Daniel Rautenberg and his family serve the Native American Christians as Field Coordinator of this mostly Apache Natives. He travels weekly to nine sites which include nine churches, two elementary schools, one high school, and one adult training school for ministry serving about 3,500. This year they turned 125 years old and now the focus is to have the Native Americans lead, serve and reach out with the gospel. Ninety-five percent of all Native Americans from Canada to Central America are not Christian. We are working only on two reservations out of 500, so there is a long way to go. Their goal is to start two new missions in the next three years.

Pastor Rautenberg (7/30/74) and his wife Katie (12/27/73) were married September 3, 1999. They have four children. Emma (3/30/01) entering college in a pre-med program. Allayana (8/19/02) is going to graduate next year and plans to go to MLC to be a teacher. Josiah (12/26/04) is still struggling with some health issues related to their years in Grenada as missionaries. He goes to Peridot Lutheran on the reservation along with his brother, Samuel (1/16/07).

Pastor asks us to especially keep them all in our prayers as they support the Native American Christians in spreading the word.

Peridot Lutheran Mission
P. O. Box 118, 590 Hwy. 170
Peridot, AZ 85542.

Email: pastordan@nativechristians.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NativeChristiansWELS/

Website: www.nativechristians.org

Winter Weather and Worship

Please be reminded that we will hold our regularly scheduled services for those who are able to make it to church. If conditions are poor enough, we may cancel Sunday School, Bible classes and other activities but we will always hold our services. Check Operation Snowdesk for cancellations. Please use your sound judgment to determine whether or not you should travel to and from church in hazardous conditions.



Prayers

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers: Lolla Schiffman, Kathy Gould, Ricky Westby, Gary Anderson, and Richard Thimijan.

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.

Women of Immanuel Coming Events

December 8th at 3:00 p.m. congregational caroling at local nursing homes and 5:30 p.m. Women of Immanuel Christmas Party. Bring hors d'oeuvres for supper and a gift to share. Also in December (date TBD) Craft/Bake Sale - crafts/baked items, garden produce/Cookie Walk. More information to follow. Hope to see you there!

Meals on Wheels

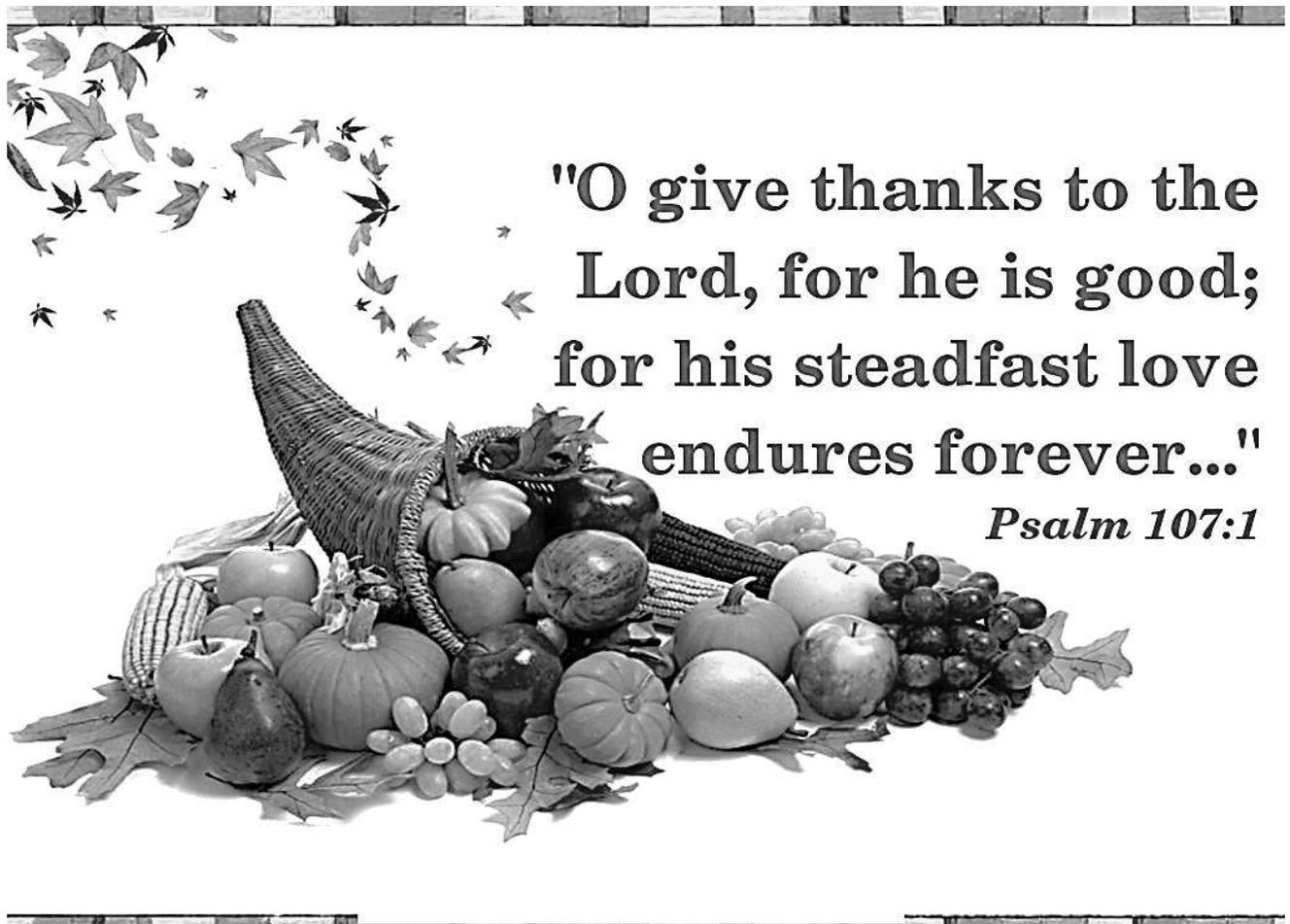
Our church will be doing Meals on Wheels November 25-28 and December 2-6. It only takes an hour. Please call Jan Krueger at 520-400-7930 by November 17th if you are able to deliver meals.



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Willmar, MN 56201



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**"O give thanks to the
Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love
endures forever..."**

Psalm 107:1