

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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June 2020

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

Is God Up There?

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.
This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Genesis 1:1**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

"God, if you are up there, please show yourself to me." Have you ever said that to God? Wouldn't it be great if God just came down and showed himself to us?

God does show himself. In the first line of the Bible, God reveals himself to us. He tells us that he made all things. He made the huge galaxies of the universe. He made the tiniest atoms. He made you and me. His creation demonstrates his power, creativity, wisdom, and tender concern for us.

Take time to notice and to marvel at all God made—the colors of the sky, the light of the sun and stars, the mosaic of leaves outside your window, the beauty of the landscape within your view. Consider how God made you. Think of how your body works—your eyes and ears, your arms, legs, fingers and toes, your brain.

However, God did not make the world and then stand back as a disinterested observer far removed from it all. He is watching over it all. He continues to care for us by providing for all our needs.

Sadly, we often don't thank him for what he has done for us. We forget him. For that, God has every right to turn his back on us. Amazingly, he still cares for us. More than that, he came down to us and saved us from our wayward ways. He came down in love in the person of his Son, Jesus, and rescued us. Jesus lived the perfect life of thanks that we should live. On the cross, he died the death we should die for our sins.

He promises a new and perfect world where all who believe in him will live forever in perfect joy.

Is God up there? Yes, he is! And, thankfully, he was willing to come down here to save us so that, one day, we will see him face to face.

***without him
nothing was made
that has been
made.
– John 1:3***



Worship

We are now meeting in groups of 40 or less. Sign up on our website (willmarwels.net). If you are unable to access the website, please call the church office at 235-5996 or pastor at 444-7641 to register. When we are able, we will increase the size of our weekly gatherings.

Thursday Evening Services

We began holding Thursday services on May 21. These Thursday services are the same as the Sunday that follows.



Pentecost

We celebrated the Day of Pentecost on May 31st. 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 7th, 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.

Electronic Giving

We are now able to offer electronic giving as an alternate means of giving your offering. Look for the red circle on the right side of any page on our website that says "Give." You may give a one-time or recurring offering. You may designate a fund for your offering. If you would like your offering to go to two different funds, there are two ways to accomplish this. The first would be to make two separate transactions. The other way would be to include a note indicating how you would like your offering split. You may give using your bank account or a debit card. Please note that there are no fees charged when you set up an ACH transaction from your bank. There is 1.9% fee to make a debit card transaction. If you have any questions about setting up an account or questions about using the electronic giving option, please let pastor know.



High School Graduates

We had set Sunday, May 31st as a day to celebrate our high school graduates with a reception after the Service. As we are unable to do that, please remember Morgan Lesteberg and Brianna Schriener in your prayers. We give thanks for these gifts of God and ask that the Lord bless them as they step into a new stage in their lives.



Hello Summer



Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2020

Members Present: Rollie Nissen, Martin Fabrizio, Scott Schultz, Norm Riediger, Todd Marxhausen, Tom Jurgenson, Ross Malkuch, Jon Heller, Jay Remmele, Pastor Engel

We opened with a reading from Colossians 2:6-15.

Following the opening reading, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 11:35am.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report:

1. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from the March 8th council meeting with no corrections.
2. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from the March 15th special council meeting with no corrections.
3. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from the March 18th special council meeting with no corrections.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Chairman's Report:

Took the opportunity to listen to a service from WI and extends to everyone to take advantage of the many opportunities to worship available to us online.

Elders Report: No report

Trustees Report:

- There are some issues with the base of the new LED sign that are being addressed and they will be getting some seed for the area around the sign,
- The sign committee will need to meet to make plans for the sign base.
- Comments on making sure the sump pumps get switched over to the summer settings and Pastor said that had already been done.

Board of Education Report: No report

Financial Secretary's Report:

- There was some discussion explaining how the totals were organized so you were looking at the right numbers.

- Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the quarterly and monthly financial secretary's reports.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the March Treasurer's report.

Planned Giving: No report

Pastor's Report:

- It has been difficult not being able to visit with members in need at the hospital.
- Members who need pastoral care are still able to meet with pastor at church.
- Pastor has vacation planned for May 11-14 and will take this on a daily basis depending on government guidelines which are changing daily.

Old Business and Action Committees

AV:

- Currently on hold due to the circumstances with covid-19
- A question was presented asking if we had adequate equipment and personnel trained to assist with services: Currently pastor is using his phone and things are working well so it will stay this way for the time being.
- Pastor is conducting confirmation classes over his laptop.

Equipping Christian Workers:

- This campaign has been put on the back burner until the covid-19 crisis has passed
- We will keep this on the agenda as a place holder until we can pursue it again

Nominating Committee

The committee is working on finding nominations to fill the following position –Trustee

Online Giving:

- With the current covid-19 situation should we speed up the process of finding a solution to online giving so we can implement it soon?
 - Would like it to integrate with Servant Keeper program
 - There are costs associated with implementing and using on-line giving
 - Should be user friendly as council members change and will need to be trained

- Todd and Pastor are looking at a few different options
 - Received referrals from other pastors using online giving resources already
 - Pursued other vendors that offer online giving services
- Todd and Pastor will do some vetting of vendors and will provide the council with some options and specific cost information so we can make an informed decision...hopefully soon.

New Business

Easter Service:

- Rollie will double check with local authorities but they cannot be less strict than the state
- We will hold a special Service of Thanksgiving after the covid-19 pandemic
- Pastor will send out a letter or put information on the church website letting members know the Easter service is cancelled and where to find other services being live-streamed

Counting Offerings:

- Offerings should still be counted once a week as members are mailing or dropping off offerings at church.
- Rollie and Todd will do the counting and will recruit volunteers when they need to.

Quarterly Meeting:

Wait until covid-19 passes before any more plans are made.

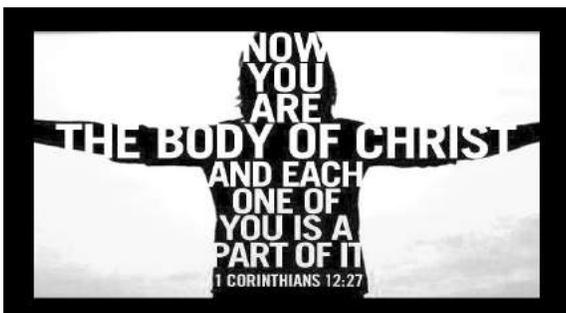
Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- May 10, 2020 at 11:30am council meeting
- June 14, 2020 at 10:30am council meeting

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:33pm.

Pastor closed with the blessing.

Respectfully by Jay Remmele
Interim Recording Secretary



Our Dad

**God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew his masterpiece was complete,
And so, he called it Dad.**

--Anonymous



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KNOW
THAT
THE
LORD
IS GOD.

IT IS HE
WHO MADE US,
AND
WE ARE HIS.

PSALM 100:3, NIV