

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

1816 5th Street SW, Willmar, MN 56201
Office: (320) 235-5996 • Parsonage: (320) 235-6728
Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:30pm, Tuesday - Thursday
Website: www.willmarwels.net



August 2020

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

Can God take my guilt away?

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.
This month's favorite Bible verse is: **2 Corinthians 5:21**

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

"I wish I could take it all away," Mom whispered to her suffering five-year-old son. He had the flu for a couple of days now, and Mom's heart was broken. As he lay in his bed suffering from the chills and a fever, there wasn't much Mom could do except give him some children's flu medicine and just be there for him. Mom felt helpless and wished she could take it all away from him. She even wished she could have the flu instead of her son.

When children are sick, the love of Mom and Dad really starts to shine through. In a heartbeat, parents go to extra lengths to make sure their kids are feeling as comfortable as possible. If you're a parent, you've been there. You make sure their pillow is extra fluffy. You bring their favorite juice box. You provide their favorite movie to watch. And any time you hear them call, you quickly respond with, "What can I do for you?" The love of Mom and Dad goes so far that if they could take the sickness away, even become sick instead of their child, they would. But they can't, and it hurts.

Has there ever been a time when you wished you could take it all away? Not just a sickness of a child, but something you did that you really regret? Maybe it was something you did to end a close relationship with a friend. Maybe you said something to a family member that you wish you could take back. Maybe it was something that only you know about, but it haunts you each day.

It's at moments like these that God's love really starts to shine through. He knows your sin, your guilt, your regrets. But he doesn't just wish he could take them away. He did take them away. He forgave them all! He took your sin and guilt away when he put them on his only Son, Jesus. He loves you so much that he had Jesus die for your sin so that you wouldn't have to. God forgave your guilt and now considers you right with him because of what Jesus did for you.



Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- Psalm 32:5

Worship

We will continue to meet in groups of 40 or less. Please sign up for a time slot on the website (willmarwels.net). There is one time slot to attend on Thursdays and two on Sundays (if the two times on Sunday fill up, we will add a third). If you are unable to access the website, please call the secretary at 235-5996 or pastor at 444-7641 to schedule your time. If you are not feeling well, please refrain from attending. While at church, please follow recommendations for hand washing, distancing and face coverings. If you are uncomfortable meeting at church, please contact pastor to schedule a private meeting, either at your home or at church.

August 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:

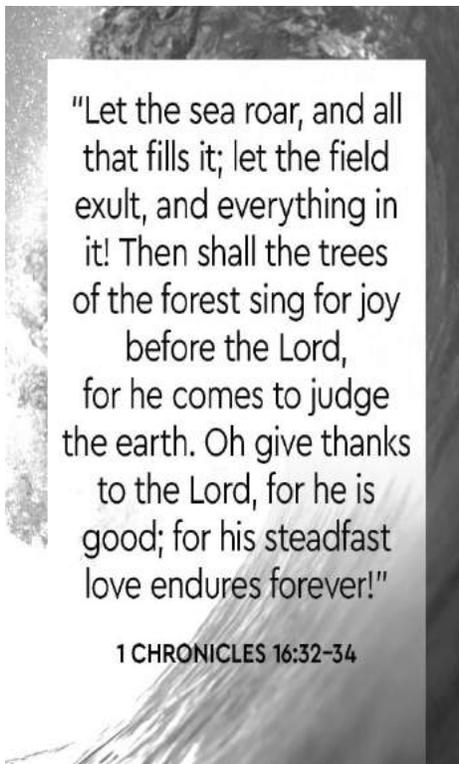
- ✠ Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 2 - The Christian Lives as Wheat among Weeds
- ✠ Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 9 - The Christian Seeks Spiritual Wealth
- ✠ Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 16 - The Christian Trust God to Provide
- ✠ Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 23 - The Christian Answers Doubt with Faith
- ✠ Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 30 - The Church Is for All

Thursday Evening Divine Service

We hold Thursday services during the summer. The Thursday service is always the same as the Sunday that follows.

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.



Church Council Notes

At the July meeting, the council noted one of the fruits of faith of Immanuel's members since we began restrictions on our Sunday gatherings in March. We give thanks to God for the generous support of our members in their thank offerings. Please join us in this thanksgiving as we continue to support gospel ministry here and through others we help send throughout the world.

Lawn Mowing

There is a list on the bulletin board for volunteering to mow the grass. Please consider taking a turn. If you have questions about equipment or getting into the shed, please speak with Scott Schultz, Scott Claussen or pastor. Thank you to those who have volunteered so far this summer!



A lachrymatory lesson

To calm his crying children, Charles Ferrell used to say, "Wait until I get a jar! I want to catch and save your tears." While he pretended to search for a vessel, his kids usually quieted down.

Tear jars were actually common in biblical times. Called lachrymatories, they're still sold in Old Jerusalem. Bible characters had a variety of uses for these jars. The woman who cried at Jesus' feet may have felt such sorrow about her wayward lifestyle that she brought a jar of her tears and added to them. In Psalm 23:5 (KJV), the cup that "runneth over" may have referred to a lachrymatory filled with tears of joy due to God's goodness.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2020

Members Present: Rollie Nissen, Martin Fabrizius, Scott Claussen, Norm Riediger, Todd Marxhausen, Ross Malkuch, Tom Jurgenson, Jay Remmele, Pastor Engel

Pastor opened with a reading from Colossians 3:5-17. Following the opening reading, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 10:55a.m.

Agenda: MMSP to approve the agenda as presented.
Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the minutes from the May 10th council meeting with no corrections.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Chairman's Report: No report

Elders Report:

- Even though we are legally allowed to have 50% capacity, we feel it is better for members to maintain a capacity of 40 people per service to allow for proper social distancing during the covid-19 pandemic.
- Have met to discuss incorporating a full service again which would include singing hymns.

Trustees Report:

- The lawnmowing list is posted in the narthex.
- If it is a dry week and the grass doesn't grow, you can skip the mowing.
- Pastor thanked Ross for spraying the dandelions.
- The metal gas can finally gave out...it will be replaced with a plastic one.

Board of Education Report: No report.

Financial Secretary's Report:

- E-giving was utilized seven times in May.
- Some members have already set up scheduled e-giving
- MMSP to accept the Financial Secretary's report as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

- Kid's Care gifts will go to Equipping Christian Witnesses this year
- MMSP to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Planned Giving: No report.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor will be taking his study week and vacation July 20th -August 9th.
- We will need volunteers to open and close church.
- There was some discussion around Pastor using a mask during communion distribution. Pastor will make one general address and then distribute instead of addressing with each communicant.

Old Business and Action Committees

AV: Currently on hold due to the circumstances with covid-19.

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.

WELS VEBA Premium Holiday August 2020: In light of the covid-19 crisis WELS VEBA will not be charging premiums in the month of August so we will not have to pay the premium.

New Business

WELS Pension Holiday: Pension Holiday for October 2020.

Update on church sign and landscaping:

- Quick Signs has installed the new base. This is the third one as the first two were warped.
- We are currently obtaining bids to finish the landscaping around the signs:
 - Stacy's
 - Material: \$2,575
 - Material and labor: \$5,099
 - Green Lake Nursery: awaiting bid
- Some members feel we can provide our own labor. We will have more discussion when the final bid(s) is/are in.

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

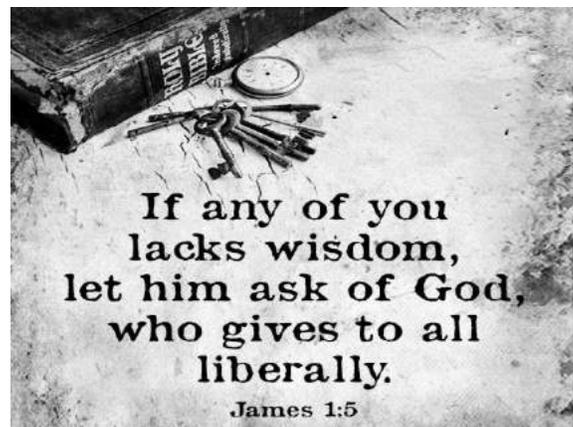
Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- July 12, 2020 after 10 a.m. service; council meeting
- July 19, 2020 after 10 a.m. service; voters meeting

MMS adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Pastor closed with the blessing.

Respectfully,
Jay Remmele, Interim Recording Secretary



SPOTLIGHTING Our Members



Blaine and Judy Field

Blaine and Judy have been members of Immanuel since 1986. They have lived in their house on Ringo Lake in Spicer since they got married in 1980. They have three adult children. Their son Nathan has a daughter, McKenna, and they live in Spicer. He owns Eagle Lawn and Labor. Their son Michael is married to Emily, and they live in Kandiyohi. Michael owns Premium Properties, and Emily is a project manager at NovaTech. Their daughter Karen is married to Tyler Johnson, and they live in New London. They have two sons, Haakon and Reid. Karen teaches second grade at New London Spicer Elementary, and Tyler is project manager for Double J. Blaine and Judy love every opportunity to get together with their kids and grandchildren and are so thankful that they live nearby.

Blaine began his career as a special education teacher and work coordinator and made a career change in 1989 to become a physician recruiter. He officed out of their home and enjoyed the challenges and diversity of responsibilities that came with it. He retired about five years ago. Judy taught business classes at Willmar High School and in 2001 began teaching at Ridgewater College in the Administrative Support Department. She retired from her full-time teaching position in 2017 and is teaching on a part-time basis for St. Cloud Community and Technical College in their Customized Training division, mostly teaching Excel to business people in the St. Cloud area. She thoroughly enjoys the many benefits of retirement (did they mention that they have grandchildren?!).

The Address: *Our Father who art in heaven*

A devotional prayer on the Address of the Lord's Prayer. Written by Professor Em. Daniel Deutschlander and adapted for use at Immanuel.

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. Amen.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
1816 5th Street SW
Willmar, MN 56201



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



For I know
the plans I have
for you,
declares the LORD,
plans for welfare
and not for evil,
to give you a future
and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11