

# Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**October 2020**

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

## Take Out the Trash!

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.  
This month's favorite Bible verse is: **1 Peter 5:7**

***"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."***

If you were asked to write down your top-ten favorite places, it's hard to imagine a landfill making anybody's list. There's nothing pretty about a landfill. There's nothing attractive or inviting about a place where trash is piled high and deep. It's no fun to be at a landfill; all you can do is watch the pile get bigger. And you certainly wouldn't want to take home any souvenirs!

But in 1 Peter 5:7, God is inviting us (if it can be said this way) to treat him like a landfill. "Pile it up!" he says. "Keep it coming! I can take it! Cover me with it!"

What kind of trash is God asking us to cover him with? Anxiety. Worry about the future. Stress of the present. Burdens from the past. All the things that pile up and make life feel like an endless slog through a murky, mucky swamp. All the things that press hard and cause pain, on the inside and the outside. God says, "Throw it all on me!" He wants to take away all those burdens. He wants to remove the guilt from the sins of the past. He wants to hold us up under the stress of the present. He wants to assure us about the future.

But, as ugly as it sounds, he does this by taking our burdens onto himself. In fact, he already has taken our burdens when Jesus Christ bore the sins of the whole world. He carried all of them when he died on the cross. He didn't drop anybody's burden of sin. He didn't leave anybody out so that now they're stuck carrying their own.



Do you know people who help others so much that they hardly have any time left for themselves? You can marvel at how much they give of themselves, how many burdens they carry for other people. But if you would ever ask them how they can possibly do so much to help others, the answer might come back so plainly, "I just love them."

God's attitude toward you is so full of love—so overflowing with love—that no matter how many of your burdens you pile on him, his love will still spill out for you through Jesus. So take out the trash! Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

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***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."***  
**- Matthew 11:28**

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## October 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:

- Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 4 - Our God Is Incomprehensibly Gracious
- Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 11 - Our God Wants Real Repentance and True Obedience
- Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 18 - Our God Patiently Seeks Fruits of Faith
- Reformation Day (Observed), October 25 - Lord, Keep Us Faithful to the Word

## October Divine Service Schedule

We will continue to hold a service on Thursday evenings in October. We are going to change the starting time of the first service on Sunday to 8:30 a.m. so that we can begin to hold Sunday School classes. We will have an adult Bible class that will meet from 9:45 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We will be reevaluating this schedule monthly.



## Sunday School

On October 4th, we will begin holding classes from 9:40 a.m. until 10:20 a.m. We are going to divide the children into three groups instead of the usual five (Preschool and Kindergarten; 1st through 4th; 5th through 8th). More information was included in the letter sent the parents of our children.

## Volunteers for Sunday School

We are in need of some volunteers to help teach Sunday School and play the piano for singing. Please speak with pastor if you would be willing to help.



## MLC Food Bank

We are again taking a collection to donate food, gift cards, or money to MLC Food Bank used for the married couples, until October 18. This year there are 24 married couples attending MLC, some with families, and may be starting second careers serving the Lord.

## Christian Life Ministries

Since we were unable to do our Mother's Day to Father's Day donations this year, we would like to do a collection from Labor Day through Halloween. Write checks to Immanuel and write CLM in the memo part of the check. Christian Life Ministries' New Day Pregnancy and Family Resource Center offers pregnancy testing, parent and educational support, and Bible studies several days a week with child care provided. The center is working toward expansion, as they need more room for all those who participate. CLM also runs a thrift store that supports much of the needed monetary needs of New Day.

## MN Prairie OWLS

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 27th. St. John's in Redwood Falls has offered to host. Pastor Manion will present on the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter. Beginning at 8:30 a.m.

there will be coffee and rolls followed by a devotion, presentation, meeting, and potluck. Usually done by noon. All seniors are invited and welcome.

## A Prayer In Times Of Civil Unrest

Heavenly Father, Lord of the nations, look in mercy on our nation as we struggle with discord and civil unrest. Frustrate the plans of those who would stir up violence and strife, and bless the efforts of all who promote harmony and peace. Give to our leaders and all in authority a special measure of wisdom and patience as they carry out their tasks, and grant that justice may prevail throughout our land. Help us as Christian citizens to reflect your love in all we do. Let the preaching of your gospel, which alone can bring true peace to human hearts, be heard throughout our land. Hear us for the sake of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, our Savior. Amen.

## A Prayer Before An Election

Lord God, Lord of nations, you have made us citizens both of your kingdom of grace and of the earthly nation in which we live, the United States of America. You have placed us under a government that gives us the privilege of choosing the leaders who govern us. As another election approaches, help us appreciate and use this privilege. Bless our nation through the election of honest and responsible officials and watch over us each day with your almighty protection and your unfailing love. Amen.

## A Prayer After An Election

Lord and ruler of nations, you tell us not to trust in mortal princes but to place our faith in you. By your most holy and powerful Word, strengthen our resolve to do that more and more. Help us to be mindful, as your children, of your desire that we pay proper respect and honor to our nation's newly elected officials because they draw their authority from you. Guild them with your eternal wisdom, and use them for your holy purposes according to your promise. In the name of Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

# Church Council Meeting Minutes

## August 9, 2020

**Members Present:** Rollie Nissen, Martin Fabrizius, Scott Claussen, Norm Riediger, Ross Malkuch, Jay Remmele, Jon Heller

**MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, Passed**

Chairman Nissen opened with a reading from Colossians 4:2-18.

Following the opening reading, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 11:40 am.

### **Agenda:**

- One additional item was added under 6a – New Business.
  - West Central Industries cleaning service discussion.
- MMSP to approve the agenda as amended.

### **Secretary's Report:**

MMSP to accept the minutes from the July 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting with no corrections.

## **Reports of Officers and Standing Committees**

**Chairman's Report:** No report.

**Elders Report:** No report.

### **Trustees Report:**

- Scott C. trimmed some branches that were rubbing on the church roof.
- The landscaping for the church sign is completed.
- It was noticed today that there is a bulb out in the sanctuary that points to the hymn board.
- There was a short discussion mentioning the carpet project had been approved by the voters and action should be taken to complete it. It had been put on hold with the COVID pandemic.
- There was a dead bat found in the front of church before members arrived. May need to inspect the building for entry points and seal any if found.

**Board of Education Report:** No report.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** MMSP to accept the Financial Secretary's report as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** MMSP to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

**Planned Giving:** No report.

**Pastor's Report:** No report.

## **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 and WELS pension will not be charging premiums in October, so we will not have to pay the premiums.

## **New Business**

### **6a. West Central Industries:**

**WCI** provides cleaning services for the church and education areas once a week. Cleaning had been temporarily suspended due to the covid -19 crisis. WCI is now prepared to start cleaning once again but with a reduced staff as they can only transport two workers in a van at a time to abide by covid-19 policy. WCI would also like to move the cleaning day from Thursday to Wednesday.

- There was discussion as to how WCI bills us:
  - By the hour?
  - By the hour per individual working?
- There was discussion on moving the cleaning day.
  - Wednesday morning Bible class would be interrupted.
  - Wednesday morning Bible class does not meet during the summer
- It was decided to give WCI the go ahead to temporarily resume cleaning until we have clarification to the following:
  - Rollie will follow up to get clarification on how we are billed
  - Discussions will be had to determine if WCI can change the day back to Thursday or arrangements can be made to have them work without interrupting Bible class when it resumes in September or move Wednesday morning Bible class
- Note: Rollie is on the board at WCI and did not give the council direction but provided insight where he was able.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

- September 13, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.; council meeting
- October 11, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.; council meeting
- October 18, 2020 following meal (?); voters' meeting

MMS to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m.  
Ross closed with the blessing.

Respectfully,  
Jay Remmele, Recording Secretary



# SPOTLIGHTING Our Members



## **Justin and Beth Kannas Family**

Justin Kannas grew up in Watertown, South Dakota. He obtained a BS in Civil & Environmental Engineering from South Dakota State University in 2001. After working in St. Paul for about 4 years, he moved to Willmar in 2005.

Beth spent her early years in DeWitt, Iowa. She obtained a BA in K-12 Education at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA in 2000. She also started her 24 year Walmart career while attending college. She spent 8 years in Yankton and Sioux Falls, SD working as an Assistant Manager and Co-Manager for 3 Walmarts before moving to Litchfield in 2007. Now Beth is store manager at the Litchfield Walmart since it opened in 2007. Justin is a Principal Engineer with Bolton and Menk since 2005. He currently serves as the City Engineer for the cities of Buffalo, Rockville, and Clearwater, and assists in several other communities with their engineering needs.

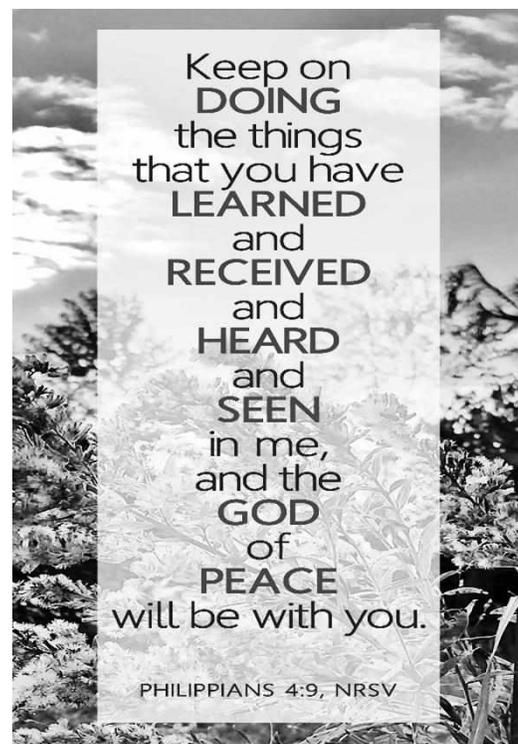
Justin became a member of Immanuel in 2005 and Beth in 2008. Justin and Beth were married at Immanuel September 2008. They did not say how they met so we will have to ask.

They were blessed with Madelyn, now 10. She likes dance and practicing being a teacher with her sisters. Recently she also has interest in piano lessons and golf. Ella and Sophie are 8. They both like gymnastics, soccer, and dance. The girls all attend Community Christian School (CCS) in Willmar.

The Kannas' like traveling including visiting Justin and Beth's family in WI, IA, and SD, going out to eat, attending Twins games, and camping. They are trying to fill out their state park passport by visiting the different state parks. Beth and Justin also like to golf and vacation in Aruba. Beth serves on the Board of Directors for the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce and volunteers in a variety of ways at CCS. Justin serves on the Board of Directors for CCS.

They value the in depth training the synod provides to all of its' called workers. It is comforting to know that our pastors are trained in the original languages of the Bible by synod Professors who are in complete agreement with what the Bible says. We are thankful for the blessing of building a family on this solid foundation of faith from the Holy Spirit through the WELS. There are so many ways to serve our Lord in our daily lives simply by doing our best to act as Jesus would want us to live our lives. Professing our faith in Him and showing love and kindness to our neighbor are great ways to serve our Lord.

We are so happy to worship and share fellowship with this family of believers.



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