

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

1816 5th Street SW, Willmar, MN 56201

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Office Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm, Tuesday - Thursday

Website: www.willmarwels.net



July 2021

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

Our God is... Faithful

The headline read: “Faithful guard dog unfaithful.” The story provided the details. A store owner was robbed. The wily thief tested the guard dog’s faithfulness with a juicy steak, and the dog failed the test.

Faithfulness is questionable in pets and humans. “Dog bites child.” “Spouse deserts partner.” “Employee accepts rival company offer.” “Cat destroys owner’s furniture.”

Is anyone trustworthy? Is anyone ever completely faithful to his word?

The Bible says, “God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9).

God’s faithfulness can be seen in his daily preservation of the world. He makes grass grow and trees bud. He sends sunshine and rain. He provides plants and animals as food to keep us alive. He gives farmers to grow food, truckers to transport it, factories and workers to make it, grocers to sell it, people to make it and serve it. He provides government and societal structure and uses these people to help others. He even does all this without our asking.

God is faithful to his promise: “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Genesis 8:22).

God’s faithfulness is what strengthens us when we are weak. He promises that he provides rest for weary souls and with Word and Meal he delivers.

God’s faithfulness is what comforts us when we are feeling guilty. He promises that he forgives us because of what Jesus did to rescue us from our sins.

God’s faithfulness is what comforts us when we are afraid of death. He promises us eternal life because Jesus defeated death when he rose from the grave.

Whatever you are facing or afraid of, you can take comfort in God’s promises because he is always faithful.

***But you, O Lord, are a
compassionate and
gracious God, slow to
anger, abounding in love
and faithfulness..
– Psalm 86:15***



Kate Schriener Funeral

We were all saddened to hear of Kate's diagnosis and death. We rejoice that Jesus has called her soul to himself. We will gather on July 10th at 1:00 p.m. to hear God's Word for our comfort at Kate's funeral at Immanuel. A meal will be served following the service. If you would like to send Bruce a card, there are sheets of paper with his address printed on them on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Bible Information Class

A new class was begun on June 29th. It isn't too late to join us and undertake a review of the main teachings of the Scripture. Talk to pastor if you have any questions.

Worship Notes

We have moved into 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 will shift 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.

July Worship Themes

- 7/4 - The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - Wait Quietly for the Salvation of the Lord
- 7/11 - The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - Faith Clings to Jesus in the Face of Rejection
- 7/18 - The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Joyfully Share what You Have Received
- 7/25 - The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - The Compassionate Shepherd Tends His Flock with His Word

Sunday School Teachers

Planning for Sunday School classes will begin at the end of the month and continue into the start of August. We will be looking for people who are willing to teach God's Word to our children. Please consider serving in this way. If you are interested or would be willing to help teach, please speak with pastor.

Family VBS

We will hold a family VBS on July 28th, August 4th and 11th. We'll meet at 6:00 p.m. for a meal, followed by Bible study, discussion and application and end the evening with worship. There will be more information in the bulletin as well as in a letter that will be sent out to our families.

SPOTLIGHTING Our Members



Tom and Patti Jurgenson

Tom and Patti have been active in our congregation since January 1977. They raised their four children here. They are blessed with four granddaughters. Tom was brought up in Darfur and moved here from Mankato. He was gifted with a great singing voice and sang in a quartet and our choir. Tom has also served in many positions on the church council and is currently serving as Financial Secretary. Patti moved here from Holdingford. She worked many years for the state and is now retired. Tom will be retiring in June. He enjoys woodworking projects and has done some for the church. Patti enjoys crocheting. Tom has traveled to see the Twins at different stadiums. He values our synod for remaining and insisting that we remain true to the scriptures. He loves worshipping and singing to the Lord. Right now besides serving locally, he sees supporting missions as a way of serving the Lord. The WELS has given them the assurance of heaven.

Church Council Meeting Minutes May 9, 2021

Members Present: Rollie Nissen, Ross Malkuch, Tom Jurgenson, Jim Buffington, Todd Marxhausen, Scott Claussen, Pastor Engel, Jay Remmele

MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, Passed

Pastor opened with a reading from 2 Thessalonians 1 followed by the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 11:06 a.m.

Agenda: MMSP to accept the agenda as presented.

Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the minutes from the April 11th council meeting with no corrections.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Chairman's Report: No report.

Elders Report:

- Ushers list – Please respond to Martin with which month you can serve as usher.
 - May – Rollie Nissen
 - June – Jim Buffington
 - July –
 - August –
 - September – Todd Marxhausen
- MMSP to receive by profession of faith: Kristen Johnson and Brian Johnson.
- Elders will be discussing possible changes in COVID protocols now that state restrictions are getting relaxed.

Trustees Report:

- Annual Church and grounds clean up:
 - The lawn was cleaned up and the dirt still needs further leveling from the snow plow piles.
- Narthex stairwell sheetrock water damage:
 - Trustees will address this later in the summer.
- The trustees are looking into the electrical for the lighting of the outdoor sign.
- Pastor will try to get an active online lawn mowing sign-up sheet going again this year.

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.
- The carpet bill has been paid in full and shows on the April report line 6110.
- The elevator had needed service/repairs done and shows on the April report line 6100.
- The clarification asked for from last month's report were provided:
 - There were a couple Sunday School gifts missing from the January report.
 - A \$150 online gift error was corrected in January.

- The first April offering was dated in March and has been corrected.

- Justin and Aaron met for the 2019 audit and had a couple questions of the previous treasurer. We assume there will be a report available next month.

Planned Giving: No Report.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor will be taking vacation the second Thursday in June for the weekend.
- Pastor also has vacation time planned for July.
- State social distancing mandates will change on May 28th. Pastor and elders will meet to provide guidance on how the church will conduct services and activities.

OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION COMMITTEES

Equipping Christian Witnesses – recruitment, financial aid and facility improvement at MLC:

- Ground has been broken for the new field house.
- Missions Sunday will be moved from January to February to help accommodate the workload of the guest speaker.

NEW BUSINESS

Online giving subscription: Last year the company we use to provide online giving gave us a scholarship to reduce the cost of the program to \$49 a month. This year we are continuing to receive a discount so the cost will be \$64 a month instead of the full price.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- June 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. council meeting
- July 11, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. council meeting
- July 18, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. voters' meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Closed with the Blessing.

Respectfully,
Jay Remmele, Recording Secretary

Lawn Mowing

A sign-up sheet for the lawn mowing is posted in the narthex. You may also sign up online. Please consider helping out. If you have any questions about using the lawn mower or getting into the shed, please speak with Scott Claussen, Jim Buffington or pastor.

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.



Equipping Christian Witnesses: Martin Luther College's campaign will be the focus of our mission festival next January or February. More information will be shared with the congregation as we approach that date. Through June 17th, Immanuel's members have given \$4795 in support of this effort. The June update is included below.



EQUIPPING
CHRISTIAN
WITNESSES

JUNE 9, 2021

Campaign Update

GIVING

\$6,556,035 Donated or Pledged to ECW*

5,346 Total Gifts

2,675 Donors

**Number doesn't include the special gift for the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse*



<p>STUDENT</p>  <p>RECRUITMENT</p> <p>900-1,000 STUDENTS</p> <p>Eager to Train for Gospel Ministry</p>	<p>STUDENT</p>  <p>FINANCIAL AID</p> <p>Congregational Partner Grant Matching Fund</p> <p>\$3-5 M</p>	<p>STUDENT</p>  <p>FACILITIES</p> <p>Residence Hall \$12 M</p> <p>Athletic Center FUNDED!</p>
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CONSTRUCTION FOR THE BETTY KOHN FIELDHOUSE IS UNDERWAY!

You can follow its progress via the fieldhouse live webcam and time-lapse at:
<http://mlc-wels.edu/webcams>



CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER GRANT PROGRAM

We report these 2020-2021 statistics to demonstrate our need to match about **\$500,000** in CPGP congregational gifts every year. Our ECW goal of **\$3-5M** will allow us to match these gifts for years to come.

 <p>280 Participating Congregations</p>	 <p>607 Students Receiving Grants</p> <p>\$545,638 Submitted for Matching</p>
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MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE
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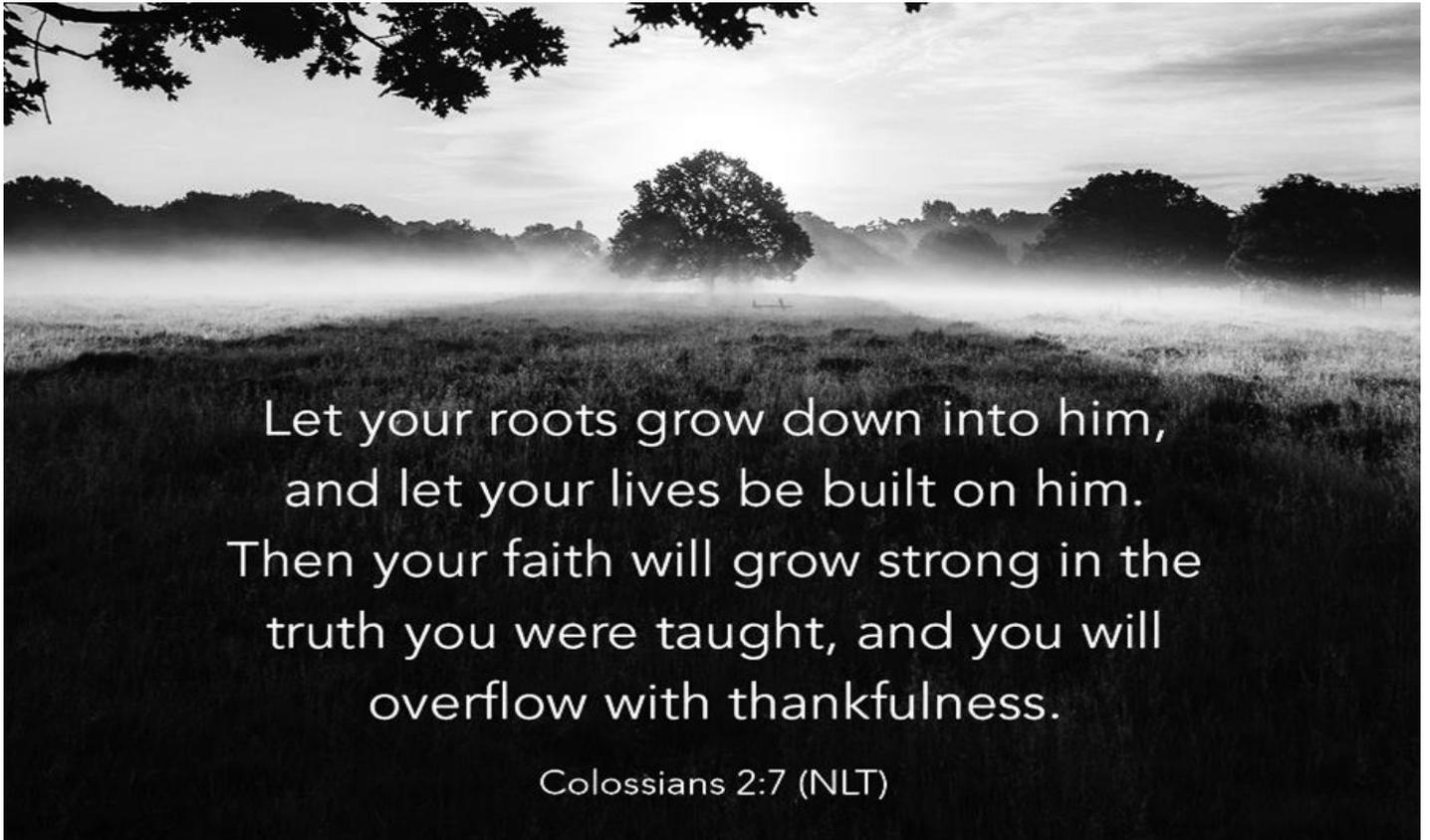
WELS MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN GIVING 800.827.5482



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Willmar, MN 56201



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Let your roots grow down into him,
and let your lives be built on him.
Then your faith will grow strong in the
truth you were taught, and you will
overflow with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:7 (NLT)