

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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September 2021

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

Dress yourself with...Kindness

They often embarrassed their mother by the way they acted in public. It seemed to her that her sons were always arguing. It seemed as if there were nothing that wouldn't lead them to squabble with each other.

At the supermarket, the brothers would fight about which cereal she should buy. When they were home they could never agree which movie to watch. Sometimes she doubted that her two boys would ever survive their childhood together.

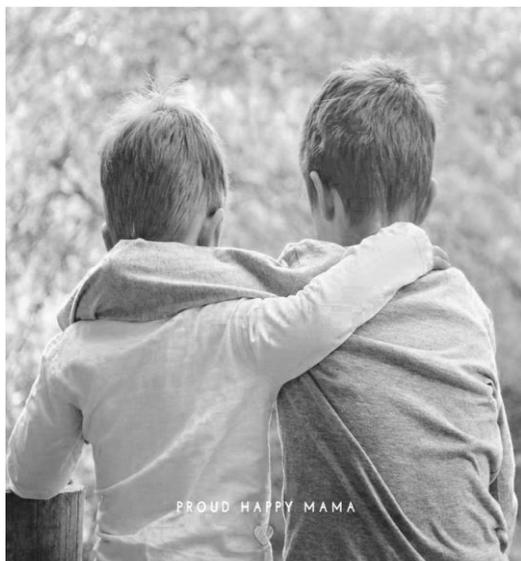
While they often bickered, the brothers were also fiercely loyal to each other. If another child from the neighborhood made fun of one of them, the other was sure to come to his defense. It baffled their mother!

How could they quarrel so, yet a short time later seek to protect their would-be rival? Blood truly must be thicker than water!

This scenario is a reality for many of us. Sibling rivalry, it seems, is universal. And for the most part, defense of one's own family is equally universal. Playground conversations usually prove this true.

God has another scenario he wants us to follow. He encourages us in the Bible to treat all people as though they were family. "Make every effort to add to your faith ... brotherly kindness" (2 Peter 1:5,7).

There are dozens of things that make each of us different from everyone else in the world. They include where we live, the color of our eyes, our talents, our likes, our dislikes, the size of our paycheck, and so on.



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

- Colossians 3:12

Even though we enjoy associating with people who are like us, God commands that we love our neighbor as ourselves. After all, God's love

prompted him to send his Son, so that everyone who believes in him has life in his name.

Blood is not always thicker than water.

Every person who is made a child of God through his Word and the water of baptism also becomes our brother or sister in Christ. They are family. An aged man in Russia, a middle-aged woman in Spain, a newly baptized baby in New York, a teenager in Mexico...all part of the Holy Christian Church...all members of your family.

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.

September Worship Themes

- 9/5 - The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Be Faithful and Obedient In All
- 9/12 - The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Jesus Does Everything Well
- 9/19 - The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - Rejoice as You Bear the Painful Cross
- 9/26 - The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels - He Will Command His Angels Concerning You

Church Picnic

A church picnic will be held on Sunday, September 12th, at 11:30 a.m. Pulled pork sandwiches, juice and water and tableware will be provided. Members are asked to bring a side dish and/or dessert to pass. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex if you plan to attend.

Hymnal

Our church body's new hymnal will be available this fall. We will begin introducing elements from the hymnal in Advent. Members of the congregation have an opportunity to purchase hymnals for congregational use and for home use. If you would like to purchase a hymnal (or hymnals) for congregational use, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. You will be able to note if the hymnal is in memory of a loved one. You could also call the church office. You can find more information at christianworship.com.

Sunday School Classes

Instruction in Bible history will begin on Sunday, September 12th.

Sunday School Teachers

Planning for Sunday School classes has begun. We are 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.



Confirmation Classes

Instruction in God's Word following the outline of the Small Catechism will begin on September 8th. On that night, we will begin with a meeting with parents and children at 6:30 p.m. Parents, watch for a letter toward the end of the month for more details.

Wednesday Bible Class

We'll start a new series of studies on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on September 8th. Watch the bulletin and September's newsletter for more information.

Online Bible Class

We are going to continue our Tuesday afternoon online Bible class. We meet at 1:00 p.m. If you would like to participate, please email pastor to let him know to include you when he sends out the link each week. More information will be shared in the bulletin.

Crow River Circuit of LWMS Fall

The Crow River Circuit of LWMS Fall Rally will be Saturday, September 25th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran in Glenwood.

We are returning to our regular format and schedule. Registration will begin at 10:15 a.m. Coffee & rolls will be offered and time to shop Thai Village crafts. The event starts at 11:00 a.m. with Devotion and Bible Study. A luncheon will be provided followed by opportunities to shop Thai Village crafts. Our mission speaker is Kate Tohal who will present "Equipping Christian Witnesses." Information on BAM missions, Kids Care program will follow. The rally

will conclude with the business meeting.

All women of our circuit are encouraged to attend. Children, families and guests are welcome. If anyone wishes to attend the rally via Zoom, please contact Teresa Ross by email at taross316@gmail.com. The rally will also be livestreamed on our LWMS Crow River Circuit Facebook page. If you haven't joined our private group, open up Facebook, search for LWMS Crow River Circuit, and send a friend request today.

The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels

Michael is one of two angels that Bible names for us. The other is the great messenger of God's grace, Gabriel. Gabriel's job was to announce the remarkable works of God's salvation to the waiting world. Michael's job is different.

Michael is called the archangel, that is, the leader of the angels. The Bible says that he is in charge of the great army of angels that God uses to protect and care for us. This is the day we remember God's great love in giving us these amazing protectors, the angels. The church celebrates this festival every year on September 29th. This year we are celebrating the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels on September 26th. For 1500 years the Christian Church has celebrated this festival near the autumnal equinox, the day of 12 hours of sunlight and 12 hours of darkness. As Christians watched the autumn nights grow longer and the days grow shorter, they were reminded of the struggle between good and evil—between the forces of light and the forces of darkness—between the angel armies of God and the demonic forces of Satan. And so, every year as autumn darkened into winter, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Archangel, and remembered that Michael and All the Angels fought on their side. You see, angels are one of God's answers to our fears. God wants to give us the proper perspective as we go through this life. No matter what sounds we hear, or dilemmas we face, or tragedies we endure...God's message for us is: Don't be afraid, because we are not alone.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2021

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

MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, Passed

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 10:34 am.

Pastor opened with a reading from 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Agenda: MMSP to accept the agenda with one addition under Elders: Release Makenna Taylor from membership.

Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the minutes from the June 13th council meeting with no corrections.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Chairman's Report: No report.

Elders Report:

- Motion made by Chairman Nissen to accept Kinsley May Hayes by Holy Baptism. Motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.
- MMSP to release Makenna Taylor from membership.

Trustees Report:

- Sand Electric can do the lighting for the outdoor sign.
- There was discussion on the current lighting in the sanctuary and if it should all be upgraded. Justin had looked into this in the past. We will get information from Justin if he still has it and continue from there.

Board of Education Report: No report.

Financial Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the Financial Secretary's reports for the month and second quarter as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

- MMSP to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.
- There was clarification given on online giving as to when it is received by the church and when it is actually posted by the bank in our account.

Planned Giving: No Report.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor will be taking vacation time in July.
- Ross will open and close church July 18th.
- Rollie will open and close church July 25th.
- Bible Information Class is going well with a fair number of attendees.

OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION COMMITTEES

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

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed by-law changes:

- A committee to review the by-laws and propose changes if needed.
- Members are Martin Fabrizius, Steve Okins and Pastor Engel.
- Initial changes were presented to the council.
 - Lowering the number of council members due to no longer having a school and the size of the congregation.
 - No longer having a Board of Education due to no longer having a school.
 - Reduce the number of Trustees to two, but put more effort into encouraging members to volunteer as needed.
 - No longer have a standing stewardship committee, but readily implement one on an ad hoc basis.
 - Change the audit committee to be voting members of the congregation and not only council members.
- Council commented on the changes and offered other changes.
 - Recommended to change CPGC membership wording.
- The committee will amend their recommendations and present to the council again.
- The goal is to present updated by-laws to be voted on by the congregation at the October 2021 voters' assembly.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- July 18, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. voters' meeting
- August 8, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. council meeting
- September 12, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Closed with the Blessing.

Respectfully,
Jay Remmele, Recording Secretary



The Lutheran Convention for Seniors,

sponsored by the OWLS, is scheduled for October 20-22 at Best Western Plus and Martin Luther College in New Ulm. We will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the formation of Martin Luther College, 1995-2020, with the theme of "Teaching the Next Generation the Praiseworthy Deeds of the Lord." All seniors are welcome. Please review the agenda as posted in the narthex along with registrations. Note that you can attend Thursday only with or without the banquet. It is always a good time and there are great speakers. Talk to Jan or Dennis Krueger, Tom Schroer or Evelyn Heil if questions.

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.

The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels Devotion (September 29th)

Psalm 91:11,12 - He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Now is this not truly an amazing thing! Read all of Psalm 91. There is one wonder after another in the promises of God to bless us, to help us, to rescue us, to keep us from all harm and danger. So full and complete are the promises of God that we must conclude that anything in our life that seems painful or in the least disagreeable comes from the hand of one who loves us and who intends nothing but blessings for us.

Of all the things for which this psalm give us reason to praise our gracious God and Savior on this day, we think especially of his promise to send the holy angels for our help and protection. Day and night, without our seeing or noticing it, they surround us at God's command. A thousand perils in the night from Satan and his hosts these holy defenders ward off. Like a wall, they shield us against countless dangers during the day. How many times, for example, have we escaped harm when someone was careless in traffic? How many times has disaster been turned aside from us when we were foolish in going to where we could expect only threats to our physical or moral safety? At God's command the holy angels were our protectors.

Yes, and when we are walking in God's ways, keeping close to him in loving obedience, the angels have always accompanied us so that we do not so much as suffer a stumble of a foot against a stone. That is so even when we meet sickness, pain, or loss. It is so because God directs all things for our good and uses the holy angels to bring it all to pass. For pain and loss do not come because God has forgotten about the promise in this psalm. Rather, they are God's appointed means for bringing us to rely on him in every circumstance in life. That's not stumbling; that's a blessing. That's what he has promised, and he would not lie to us.

The reasons we have on this day to thank God for the holy angels are too numerous to mention. But there are a few things that we just cannot pass by. For example, is it not a wonder that God sends the holy to protect and shield the unholy? Holy is what the angels are, perfect in every way. We might think that they would want to shun us because of our failures so open and obvious to them. We might think that they would be disgusted when they see how often we deliberately fall and risk danger to body and soul. We might think that they would just give up on us, turn away, and leave us to our own devices. But that's not their way; without any damage to their own holiness, without, therefore, even any complaint against God for the work he has sent them to do, they stand day and night as guardians "so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Then there is this: God sends these princes of heaven to the aid of dust and ashes, for the help of us frail and dying mortals. What king would ever think to do such a thing, to

send his most noble and mighty princes for the defense of the ignoble, the foolish, and the fallen? In all his ways with us, God is constant in his generosity, persistent in his love, giving more than we realize or see or can ever fully understand. In his love, in his generosity beyond measure, he sends these mighty soldiers to protect us, his feeble and frail children. So it is that we this day give him thanks for the love he has lavished on us through the protection of the mighty angels. They are guardians for us his children. On the way to school, as it were, while we finish our earthly education in the classroom of good days and bad, they are our companions and protectors.

Marvel at it and give thanks for it: What the holy angels do at God's command, they do for him. And they do it for us; they do it all willingly—gladly even—because it is God's good pleasure. We see their joy in what serves for our good and our salvation so clearly in their singing at the birth of Jesus: They are happy that Jesus has come down from heaven to save us. They are happy for us, even though they know that what Jesus has come to do for us will be at the price of greatest suffering for him whom they love, worship, and adore. They are happy because Jesus wanted to do it; that for the angels is reason enough to rejoice; his will is their delight. Is that not an amazing thing?

In the work of the holy angels, we see again what we see so often in the Bible: God often binds tightly together the high and mighty with the weak and lowly. The mighty angels who always behold the face of God in heaven love to, at God's command, guard and keep the frail and struggling sinner whose face is so often turned to the dust from which he was taken. The deathless spirits around the throne of God watch over and accompany us right up to the moment of our death—that moment that proves just how weak and frail we are. And then these mighty princes of heaven, wrap our souls in a blanket, so to speak, and take us speedily and in an instant to the waiting arms of Jesus.

How blessed for us in heaven when we, so lowly and weak, will see these our guardians, so high and mighty, and forever praise and worship our dear Savior with them! What a delight it will be for us in heaven perhaps even to speak with those angels who watched over us with such love to God and to us! Even now we marvel and thank him for their cheerful obedience to his commands for our benefit. But in heaven how wonderful it will be if we can ask them about the times when unseen they kept us from ruin or danger. That would be a joy to add to our greatest and perfect joy as we worship and adore forever the Savior who was with us every day, especially in his Word and sacraments.

As in our life of repentance we strive to live in him who lived and died for us, let us give thanks for his abiding presence and protection. Let us as well praise and thank him for the companionship and help of his dear messengers and our strong protectors, the holy angels. May we not by clinging to our sins drive Jesus away! May we not by deliberate sin shame and embarrass the angels he has sent for our help! (Deutschlander, Daniel. *On Giving Advice to God, Part 2*. Pp.246-248.)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



To love him
with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength,
**and to love your neighbor
as yourself is more important**
than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Mark 12:33, NIV