

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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June 2022

Pastor Craig Engel • 320-444-7641

Does prayer really make a difference?

“I must not be asking God for the right things.”

“If only I could concentrate better when I pray.”

“Maybe God is not really listening after all.”

“Why doesn’t God answer me?”

If these are thoughts that ever cross your mind or settle in your heart, then maybe you are asking the question, “Does prayer really work?” Maybe you have been praying for a long time and have not received the answer you wanted or felt that there hasn’t been any change.



Well, there is good news. Prayer really does make a difference. There are two reasons for this. First, prayer does not depend on us. If answers to our prayers depended on us, we would never have our prayers answered, because as sinful people God would not listen to us. That might hurt our feelings, but it is the truth.

That leads to the subsequent reason why prayer makes a difference. It depends upon God. In the Bible, we read this little prayer, “Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief” (Psalm 143:1). The person who spoke this prayer recognized that it was God’s faithfulness on which the answer to his request depended.

God’s faithfulness was demonstrated when he kept his promise to send us Jesus. In saving love, Jesus died to pay for our sins that had separated us from God and had closed his ears to our prayers. Jesus’ perfect sacrifice opens the way to God and gives believers in Jesus the gracious promise that their prayers are heard and answered.

***Call upon me
in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you,
and you will honor me.
– Psalm 50:15***

If you are struggling with prayer—if you don’t know what to pray for, or how to pray—worship with us to hear more about your Savior, Jesus, and the difference he makes for your prayers. Because of Jesus, prayer really does work. We have his Word on it.

Thursday Evening Divine Service

Starting June 2nd, we will hold Divine Services on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. They are always the same as the Sunday following. The final Thursday service for the summer will be on September 1st.

Pentecost Worship

During the first half of the church year, the church's focus is on the life of Christ. During the second half of the church year, the church turns its attention to the teachings of Christ. His words establish our faith, transform our hearts and minds, and guide our lives in him. During the Season after Pentecost, we gather to let the Holy Spirit do the work Jesus promised he would do in the way Jesus promised he would do it.



June Worship Summary

- June 5 – Day of Pentecost: The Spirit Marches Victorious through the Word
- June 12 – First Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Trinity: Through the Word, The Triune God Blesses Us
- June 19 – Second Sunday after Pentecost: Through the Word, the Lord's Reign Over Evil Advances
- June 26 – Third Sunday after Pentecost: A Focused Savior Has Focused Followers

Summer Bible School

Preschoolers through sixth graders will meet on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer starting on June 15th. We will meet at different locations around Willmar as well as at church from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to bring

and serve meals, help with crafts and teach a lesson. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. If it rains, we will meet at church.

- June 15 – Robbins Island
- June 22 – Church
- June 29 – Jefferson Park
- July 13 – Church
- July 20 – Miller Park
- July 27 – Ramblewood Park
- August 3 – Church
- August 10 – Rice Park (wear your bathing suits for the splash pad)

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

The Augsburg Confession, the principal doctrinal statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, was formally presented to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at Augsburg, Germany on June 25, 1530. At its heart and core, it confesses the justification of sinners by grace alone, through faith alone, for the sake of Christ alone. 491 years later, to be a Lutheran Christian remains to be a confessor of the Augsburg Confession. The reason we can say this is because the Augsburg Confession says nothing new or different than what the Holy Christian Church has always believed. On June 25th, the church remembers and give thanks to God for the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession.

Christian Life Ministries Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Our baby bottle fundraiser for Christian Life Ministries, our life ministry in Little Canada, is from Mother's Day until Father's Day. Please take a baby bottle, sign it out and have your family put all their change in every day. If you prefer to write a check, make it payable to Immanuel Lutheran and write on the memo line, Change for Life or baby bottle. We thank you for your participation!



Christian Life Ministries

Lawnmower

The church council has approved the purchase of a new lawn mower. A request for funding will be submitted to the CPGC and funds in the current lawnmower fund will be used (\$1892 as of May 24th). If you would like to contribute to the fund, please mark it on your offering envelope. The old lawnmower was sold in an auction and the proceeds were put into the lawnmower fund.

Lawn Mowing

A sign-up sheet for the lawn mowing is posted in the narthex. 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.



A Prayer for Christian Fathers

For Christian fathers, thank you, Lord
Who lead their sons to Christ's sure Word
And daughters to the Scriptures true
Wherein they all are led to you.
As leaders in their households, they
Seek your redeeming grace each day.

They toil, they tire, their strength wears thin

Their consciences seared by their sin.
They come before your holy throne
And plead no merit of their own.
And claiming Jesus' royal dress
They plead his holy righteousness.

Your Word, your law, your gospel, Lord
A light to them in this dark world.
Convicts, then comforts, then empow'rs
To serve you gladly all their hours.
A Christ-like love they strive to share
With those entrusted to their care.

And when the hour of death draws near
Their souls uplift, their burdens clear.
Assure them that the time is planned
When they around Christ's throne will stand.

Eternity, with you above
For you first shared the Father's love.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2022

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

MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, Passed

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nissen at 11:30 a.m.

Pastor opened with a reading from Hebrews 5: 1-10 followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Agenda: MMSP to accept the agenda as presented.

Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the minutes from the March 13, 2022, council meeting as presented.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Chairman's Report: No report.

Elders Report: No report.

Trustees Report:

- Bids were presented to seal the parking lot.
 - MMSP to accept the bid from MN Seal and Asphalt of \$4,795 to clean, crack repair, seal coat and stripe the parking lot.
- Quotes were presented for new lawnmowers for church.
 - MMSP to purchase the John Deere Z530M with 54 inch deck for around \$5,200. Scott will look into the cost of a seat upgrade also.
- The old lawnmower will be put on an online auction site and parties interested in purchasing the lawn mower can bid on it.

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
- Justin noted some of the expenses from the first quarter included the purchase of new computers and related software.
- The purchase of the lawnmower and the parking lot repair will be covered by the general fund until gifts come in.

Planned Giving: There will be another meeting in May.

Pastor's Report:

- The memorial for Doris will be used to purchase Advent candles with oil and processional candles with oil instead of the wax candles according to the wishes of the donor. Pastor will take care of this.
- The district convention in New Ulm will be June 6th – 9th.

OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION COMMITTEES

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

AV Committee:

- Bonnie, Judy, Ross, Todd, and Kelly

Project List:

- Hire out lawn mowing
- Replace bulbs in church and parsonage with LED
- Replace or repair the shed
- Expand the parking lot
- Lighting for the parking lot
- Improve the sanctuary lighting
- Encircle the tree roots with landscaping to prevent mower damage
- Put a canopy over the driveway at east entrance
- Expand the Sunday school and fellowship hall on grade to the west
- New lawnmower, trustees getting bids
- Trustees will bring back a prioritized list to address the items on this list.

NEW BUSINESS

Easter Breakfast plans were made.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- May 8, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. council meeting
- June 12, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. council meeting
- July 10, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. council meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Closed with the blessing.

Respectfully,
Jay Remmele, Recording Secretary



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.

SPOTLIGHTING Our Members



Ron and Wendy Kluver joined our congregation this winter, coming from Danube to worship with us and their lovely daughters and their families: Emily and Matt Sindelier and their two sons Logan and Liam, along with Liesl and Ben Dols and their three children, Titus, Indira, and Eloise. Kim and Brad Lanning also have two boys, but they still worship in Danube.

Ron and Wendy own Danube Upholstery and shoe repair, recovering and repairing tarps, boats and cars. That's where they spend most of every day. They also still run some acreage, but no longer milk the cows.

Ron enjoys car shows, besides working on them. Wendy likes music. She was privileged to sing with the chorale from the time they started till last year.

An interesting sidelight is Wendy was baptized and confirmed by our Pastor Engel's grandfather.

Wendy and Ron appreciate the WELS for being a true confessional Lutheran, scriptural, and liturgical where each part of the service means something. They are thankful for the firm faith that brings. Wendy was happy to play the bells at Christmas. She will serve for after services and for funerals if needed. Ron will usher as needed. Glad to have them be part of our church family.



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

The Address: *Our Father who art in heaven*

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.

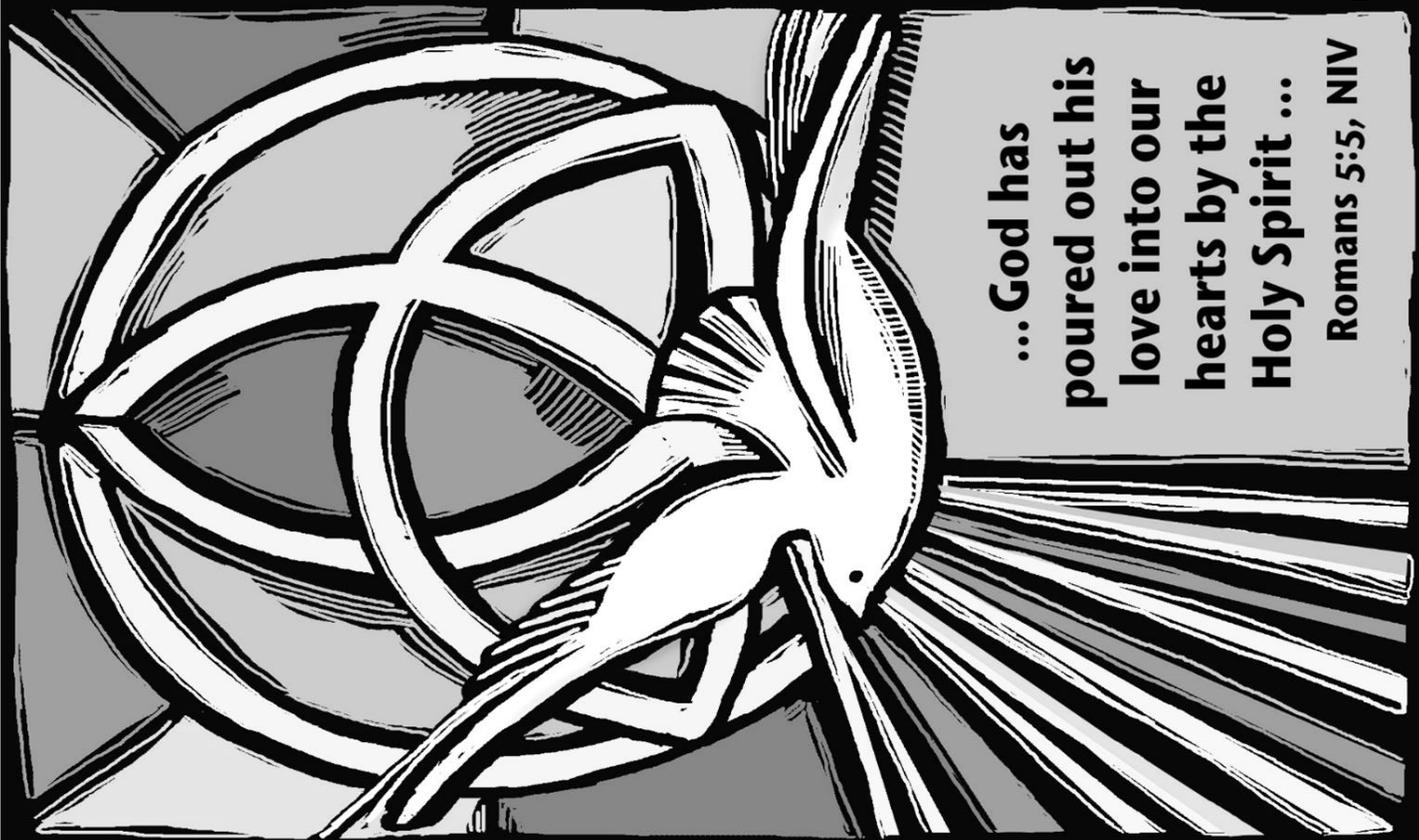
As an earthly father disciplines his children when they misbehave, so you also show your love by discipline when I stray from humble obedience to your Word. Ah, but this is my comfort in the suffering that you send to me as a result of my sins: You never send the full consequences of my sin, else I would 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.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A black and white illustration of a dove sitting in a nest. The nest is a simple wooden structure. The dove is facing right, with its wings tucked. Behind the dove, there is a large, stylized cross symbol. The background consists of several vertical lines of varying lengths, suggesting a window or a light source. The text is positioned to the right of the dove, within the same frame.

**... God has
poured out his
love into our
hearts by the
Holy Spirit ...
Romans 5:5, NIV**