

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING DATES

September 7
Church Picnic

September 14
Church Council



Devotion on St. Michael and All Angels

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

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.

~ Psalm 91:11,12

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.)

Season of Pentecost Divine Service Themes

In September, the over-arching theme of our services is **Wounds That Heal**. Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. We often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

September Worship

- September 7th – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Count the Cost
- September 14th – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – The Found are Left; the Lost are Found
- September 21st – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – No One Can Serve Two Masters
- September 28th – Festival of St. Michael and All Angels (Observed) – You Have Powerful Allies

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 will observe this festival on September 28th. 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 Picnic

A church picnic will be held on Sunday, September 7th, 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.

WELS History

If you ordered a copy of the history book prepared for the 175th anniversary of the Synod, please speak with pastor to get your book.

Sunday School Classes

Instruction in Bible history will begin on Sunday, September 7th.

Sunday Bible Class

We will begin a new series on Sunday, September 7th. This would be a great time to join other members as we study God's Word together.

Confirmation Classes

Instruction in God's Word following the outline of the Small Catechism will begin on September 10th. On that night, we will begin with a meeting with parents and children at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Class

Class will meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. beginning on September 10th. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Bailey Estate Gifts

Every year, Immanuel disburses gifts to WELS World and Home Missions and Ministerial Education from the Bailey Family Estate. In January 2025, the voters approved sending gifts to support Grace-Hmong Outreach in Vietnam, 100 Missions in 10 Years, and Luther Preparatory School. In July, checks for \$3,135.72 were sent. The following is some information about how our gift to Luther Preparatory School will be used to support the construction of a new music center.

Our Music Program

Music permeates the culture of Luther Prep. As worship is an integral part of daily life here, so is music an integral part of worship. We have a rich history as Lutherans of using music to enrich worship and teach the truths of God's Word.

100% of students are enrolled in music education classes, all four years. 85% of students participate in one of our three mass choirs. 80% of students are enrolled in keyboard instruction. Students are also involved in band, handbells, strings, guitar and brass ensembles. We produce three drama productions each school year. There is a wide variety of music opportunities for students, and all of our students are involved in at least one - and most students are involved in more than one. At LPS, students don't have to choose between music and athletics. They can do both - and they do!

The Need

Much of the music program is housed in our Auditorium. Built originally as a gymnasium in 1912, the building has gone through many renovations and modifications over the years to accommodate our huge music program, with creative solutions for storage, set construction and practice spaces.

During the school day, the 70-student band is set up on one half of the main floor, with the other half set up for our three mass choirs, seating up to 170 students at one time. Set construction and play rehearsals occur in any space that doesn't have chairs and music stands set up. When performances occur, these classes have to rehearse in other spaces around campus.

For performances, the space is dated, with same level seating that makes it difficult to see the stage. Bathroom facilities are inadequate, with only three women's and three men's facilities to serve up to 600 guests for our

largest drama performances - and these facilities also serve the cast.

We seek to build a state-of-the-art music center with a performing arts theater with sloped seating, designated band and choir spaces, right-sized classrooms, piano studios and practice rooms.

If you are interested in learning more about the project, go to www.lps.wels.net. If you would like to personally give an offering to support the project, please contact Nicole Bessert, Director of Mission Advancement at 920-262-8106 or bessernj@lps.wels.net. You could also give online at <https://www.lps.wels.net/apps/pages/magnify>.

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1st through July 31st, 2025

GENERAL FUND

January 1st			July 31st
Balance	Contributions	Expenditures	Balance
\$ 37,920	\$ 124,402	\$ 117,072	\$ 45,250

WELS CONGREGATIONAL MISSION OFFERING		MLC - CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER GRANT		LUTHERAN INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRY ASSOCIATION (LIMA)	
2025 Commitment	Year to Date Contributions	2025 Commitment	Year to Date Contributions	2025 Commitment	Year to Date Contributions
\$ 32,000	\$ 19,897	\$ 1,450	\$ 815	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,128
Average Monthly Commitment	YTD Average Monthly Contributions	Average Monthly Commitment	YTD Average Monthly Contributions	Average Monthly Commitment	YTD Average Monthly Contributions
\$ 2,667	\$ 2,842	\$ 120.83	116	\$ 167	\$ 161

Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2025

Members Present: Martin Fabrizius, Tom Jurgenson, Jim Buffington, Michael Ziebell, Kent Larson, Aaron Buttenhoff, Pastor, Jay Remmele

MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, Passed

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:50 a.m.

Opened with the Lord's Prayer.

Agenda: MMSP to accept the agenda as printed

Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the June 8, 2025 council minutes as presented

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees:

Chairman's Reports: The chairman will start having monthly meetings with Pastor

Elders' Report: The elders have determined how many new Bibles the church needs and will get updated pricing to replace the current Bibles.

Trustees' Report:

- There is a wet spot on the property, be mindful when mowing to not get stuck in it
- The concrete for the front entryway has been redone to provide easier access for those with walkers and wheel chairs. The work and materials were donated. A sincere thank you for all the help with this project. A thank you letter will be sent.
- The trustees are looking into options for an alternate method to operate the lift
- Matt received a quote of around \$600 for parts to make the front entry doors mechanical handicap accessible. He is looking into the cost of having the parts installed.
- It appears the a/c in the education wing is not working or not working properly. Trustees will get someone in to look at it.
- During the heavy rain in June the parsonage had water seep into the basement. There will need to be some sheet rock replaced and trim to be replaced. Our insurance does not cover water seepage. When things get dried out the parsonage will be fully evaluated for the extent of the damage.
- It was noticed the concrete in the basement of the parsonage is not sloped correctly near the floor drain. We will need a contractor or someone to re-slope a portion of the floor to help drain water away in case there is any water issue in the future
- The dehumidifier at the parsonage quit working. Pastor bought a new one as we needed one right away with all the moisture in the basement.

Financial Secretary's Report: MMSP to accept the corrected May and the June report as presented.

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

Planned Giving: No report.

AV Committee: No report.

Pastor's Report:

- Olivia vacancy: The 212 congregations will have joint services through August.
- Pastor will be on vacation for two weeks in August which will include three Thursday evening services. It is difficult to find pastors to cover Thursday evening services and to find members to open and close the church.
- MMSP to recommend to the voters to end Thursday evening services at the end of July (July 31 will be the last Thursday service).

Old Business and Action Committees:

Pew Committee: The pew builder was in contact with the committee to inquire if we wanted hymn racks on the back of the pews. The committee could not find any records of asking for the hymn racks to be installed. The hymn racks will be added for an additional cost to the pews.

Church Operation Manual: Justin has finished the lengthy Treasurer's job description. Council members please review it for discussion in August.

New Business:

- Church envelopes: it was suggested to look into options to make it easier to donate to MLC by providing envelopes in the envelope boxes.
- There were two options considered:
 1. Provide four envelopes (one per quarter) for MLC like we have for LIMA.
 2. Redesign our current envelopes to provide an extra line for MLC and LIMA.
- Motion Made and Seconded to go with the redesign of our current envelopes.
 - After discussion the motion and second were withdrawn.
- MMSP to add a quarterly envelope for MLC.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- July 20, 2025 **Voters' Meeting** after Bible class
- August 10, 2025 after Bible Class
- September 14, 2025 after Bible class

MMSP to close the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Closed with the blessing.

Respectfully,

Jay Remmele, Recording Secretary

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

