

# Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

## NEWSLETTER

## The Festival of the Reformation

Do you catch the arrogance of anyone who insists that, instead of what God says, what we say should determine truth: "If God would just listen to us, then all would be well and he could live among us in this man-made house of peace"? Yes, and just as bad, do you see the wickedness of declaring a limit to how much of God's Word we will accept or teach or consider important? Indeed, this last may be the worst of all; for by teaching just some, be it a little or a lot of God's Word, many are seduced into thinking that we are free to pick and choose where God's Word might be right or wrong—we ultimately get to be our own bible! Is that not blasphemous? Would a government put up with such a perverse notion: "Here's the law; do whatever you please with it! Obey what you like and ignore the rest!" There are a lot of people in prison who cherished just such a foolish notion. But God who is almighty—should he endure such an insult?

Is it not clear that Thus says the LORD! is largely missing from much of what calls itself the "church," the house of the Lord on earth? The errors of Rome in Luther's day haven't gone away. Rome still teaches what it did back then about purgatory and indulgences—though fewer and fewer Catholics may realize it. Today many non-Catholic church bodies have gone just as far from the Scriptures and some even further in their denial of biblical teaching. Just consider for a moment what so many modern self-appointed builders of God's house have as the foundation for their "faith traditions," their house of opinion. What do they teach? Do they teach that Jesus is the one and only and all-sufficient Savior? Certainly not! They teach that the way to heaven is whatever way you choose; if you think Christ began the work, that's fine. If you think that he didn't even begin it but that he was just a noble teacher of a higher morality, that's fine too. If you think that, to some extent, man must earn his way to heaven, that's okay. If you have decided that ultimately, if there is a heaven, everybody will end up there, well, that too is alright. If you come to the conclusion that our heaven and hell is of our own making here in this life and that death ends all, well, we can work with that idea too.

In fact, there are just a very few left who have as their foundation: Scripture alone, grace alone, faith alone—the three great watchwords of the Reformation. If anything, a recommitment to the truths of the Scriptures restored at the time of the Reformation is more necessary today than it ever was!

Where, then, should we begin if we want to dwell in a house of God's own building? Where else but there where God has said he wants to dwell. He hasn't left it up to us. He declares, "But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." And who is it that is humble in spirit? How can I tell if I am one of them? Take the pattern of Samuel who, when he was still a boy, declared, Speak Lord; your servant is listening! Take the model of the virgin Mary who, at the shocking announcement of the angel that she was to be the mother of her Savior and ours, declared, May it be to me according to your word! The humble in spirit do not invent doctrines. The humble in spirit do not presume to tell God, "Well, this much of your Word I'll listen to and accept, but the rest just doesn't fit my way of thinking, so it will have to go. Maybe I won't outright deny it; I'll just not make an issue of it." That's the opposite of humble in spirit.

And who is it that is contrite in spirit? It is the one who listens to the shattering voice of the law that condemns all of our nature and our own righteousness. It is the one who confesses with Luther's echo of the apostles and prophets in the Bible; with them he taught that we all are by nature lost and condemned creatures; we cannot even believe God's Word and embrace Jesus' saving work without the miracle of faith created by God himself through his Word and sacraments. Yes, and wonder of wonders, such a contrite spirit is at

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### UPCOMING DATES

October 5  
Elders

October 8  
Women of Immanuel

October 12  
Church Council



the same time one that rejoices with joy unbounded. For the faith created by God's gospel message declares that our sins have been fully paid for by Jesus. Such a faith delights in the sure and certain promises of God in his Word that by faith, we are adopted sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of one another and of Christ himself. Such a faith doesn't want to claim any merit of its own; it is altogether content and most happy indeed to claim the perfect merit that Jesus gives to us in the Word and sacraments. Yes, a humble and contrite spirit trembles at the prospect of losing any part of God's Word to arrogant and fallen human opinion.

Thus our celebration of the Reformation is a celebration of what God has done for us in Christ and in us through his pure Word. Far be it from us to ever want to depart so much as a hairbreadth from that Word. Does that Word say things at times that hurt our feelings? Of course! So what?! Our feelings are more than salved by the gospel. Does that Word say things at times that fly in the face of fallen reason and majority opinion? Of course! So what?! It is the Word of the God who created all things and who knows all things; to take his Word instead of my own or that of anyone else should seem the obvious choice.

For this is the one on whom God looks; this is where he is pleased to dwell: with the one who despairs of his own merit and by faith embraces the merit of God's own Son, our only Savior. Thus it is with the one who believes and holds fast to all that God, his Creator and Redeemer, has said, even if the whole world thinks it nonsense. Our celebration of the Reformation is our small way of declaring to the whole world that that's where we want to be—in the house God builds, in the church where "thus says the LORD" is everything!

## Season of Pentecost Divine Service Themes

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, we come to the end of series of services under the theme **Wounds That Heal**. We have seen why not all wounds are bad. Just as a skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle to bring not harm, but healing, so Jesus does with his words. Those words cut us to the heart. They wounded us. However, those painful words also provided the very healing we needed. Jesus shared truths we needed to hear, even though it hurt to hear them. We thank him that while Jesus speaks words that wounded us, his intent was to heal our very souls.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our final Sunday series of the church year. It is entitled: **Cause/Effect**. *"Every why hath a wherefore."* That was Shakespeare's poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect.

We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus' life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that "every why hath a wherefore." We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God's kingdom.



## October Worship:

- October 5<sup>th</sup> – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Increased Faith Increases Duty
- October 12<sup>th</sup> – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Generosity / Gratitude
- October 19<sup>th</sup> – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Promises / Prayer
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – The Festival of the Reformation (Observed) – Truth / Freedom

## Church Bibles

For two years, we have been saving the money distributed to Immanuel from the Bailey Family Estate to replace the Bibles we have at church. Because we can no longer buy the version of the NIV that we have, we purchased the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV). The new Bibles have been ordered. After they have been placed in the pews, fellowship hall, and classrooms, we will also begin using the EHV for the Scripture readings.



## Jesus Cares Bible Class Teachers

We will have be a Bible class for our Jesus Cares participants from 10:30-11:30 a.m. We are looking for volunteers to take turns teaching. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and you may pick up which lesson you will be teaching as well. If you would like more information or would like pastor to walk through a lesson with you, please talk to him.

## Serving Opportunity

If you are not currently on one of the three serving groups and would like to serve in this manner, please contact Jenny Marxhausen, Jodee Okins or Diane Kremin.

## MLC Auxiliary Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. with the meeting starting at 9:00. Hear informative presentations, meet a scholarship recipient, get a sneak preview of the fall play, and be part of selecting the 2025-26 projects. Agenda items include potential name change and presenting new constitution and bylaws. Daycare only provided if you contact them at [mlcauxiliary@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:mlcauxiliary@mlc-wels.edu).

## Help for Evangelism Committee Effort

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the Evangelism Committee will be providing lunch for college students at Ridgewater. We are looking for help in two areas. We need 15 dozen cookies. We are looking for some volunteers to help serve the lunch. If you would be willing to help, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. If you will be helping with cookies, please indicate how many dozen you will bring. If you would like to help serve, we need to be at Ridgewater at 10:30 a.m. and lunch is served until 2:00 p.m. You would not need to sign up to help for the whole shift. Thank you for your help!

## Volunteers to Provide Transportation

We need some more volunteers to give rides to church on Sunday morning. Please talk to pastor if you would be willing to help.

## Thank You

Thank you to all who participated in the LWMS door offering on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The total amount was \$575.

## 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.

## Lawn Mowing

A sign-up sheet for the lawn mowing is posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please ask Scott Claussen, Jim Buffington or pastor.

## 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.

## 62nd Annual LWMS Convention – Sowing the Seeds of Faith

Was held June 26-29 at Arvest Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Registered attendees were 617 with 55 of the 60 circuits represented. Current LWMS membership is 783 congregations and 24 individuals. Attendance was 682 for opening worship. Mission presentations were given by: Rev. Joel Nitz (Asia One Team) – Grace to All in Asia; Rev. Ross & Charissa Chartrand (New Mission, AR) – Planting Seeds in a Growing Garden; Rev. Andy Westra (Christ Our Refuse, TX) – Telling the Next Generation; Rev. Luis and Carolina Acosta and Rev. Andrew and Cindy Johnston (Latin America One Team) – Academia Cristo: The New Model is the Old Model. Workshops held were: TELL Network – Rev. Joel & Kate Hoff (Africa); High Plains of Texas Ministry – Rev. Hans Thomford & Derek Gulrud (Amarillo, TX); Sowing Seeds Always Works! – Dr. Eric & Staci Landwehr (San Carlos Apache Reservation); Church Planting Insights – Rev. Nate Sutton (South Central District Mission Board Chairman); A Beautiful Neighborhood – Rev. Allen Kirschbaum (LWMS Pastoral Advisor); Australia Missions via Zoom – Rev. Matt & Christine Doebler (World Mission). There were also 71 Mission Flags presented, including the new Navajo Nation Flag. Worship Offerings totaled \$44,030.26 and will be split between Project #HM-2024-05: Tools for Outreach (Home Mission) - \$22,015.13 and Project #WM-2024-11: Hmong Outreach in Vietnam (World Mission) - \$22,015.13. The 63rd Annual LWMS Convention is scheduled for June 25-28, 2026 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8, a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

22	13	16	24	18
2	1	20	18	
1	2			
2	1	20	7	14
7	20			
26	1	20	18	
1	2			
1	15	20		
6	1	18		
26	11	5	5	
2	5	1	26	7
20				
2	16	18	7	22
25	15	13		
13	12	7		
13	12	7		
6	20	16	22	22
26	11	13	12	7
20	22			
13	12	7		
A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y
Z				

ISAIAH 40:8

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV

# Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2025

**Members Present:** Martin Fabrizio, Jim Buffington, Michael Ziebell, Kent Larson, Aaron Battenhoff, Matt Sindelir, Jay Remmele

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 11:00 a.m.

Opened with the Lord's Prayer.

**Agenda:** MMSP to accept the agenda as printed

**Secretary's Report:** MMSP to accept the July 13, 2025 council minutes as presented.

## Reports of Officers and Standing Committees:

**Chairman's Reports:** A thank you letter on behalf of the congregation was sent to Tyler Johnson of Johnson Concrete for their work on the front curb.

### **Elders Report:**

- In the past Bibles were provided for all confirmation students. This will be starting once again with all children grades 3 and up receiving their own personal Bible.
- The fall and winter service dates have been set. There will not be a New Year's Eve service.

### **Trustees Report:**

- The parsonage basement is still drying out. Once it dries then the water issue can be addressed.
- The church has a lift, not an elevator. Due to the style of lift there is no other option to activate or run the lift.
- Trustees are still looking into the cost and feasibility of making one set of front doors handicap accessible with remote door opener switches.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** MMSP to accept the Treasurer's report with one correction:

- On the report titled "Treasurers Report – January – July 2025", under the WELS Investment Summary, the note next to the Trust Fund should read:
  - o 5/15/2025 – Moved from **Endowment** Fund (5,853.31)

**Planned Giving:** No report.

**AV Committee:** No report.

**Pastor's Report:** Olivia vacancy - The 212 congregations will have joint services through August. In September Zion will go back to having guest preachers each Sunday, and pastor will go to Zion once a month.

## Old Business and Action Committees:

**Pew Committee:** The pew builder is working on the pews

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

## New Business:

**No New Business**

## **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

- September 14, 2025 after Bible class
- October 12, 2025 after Bible Class
- November 9, 2025 after Bible class

MMSP to close the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Closed with the blessing.

Respectfully,

Jay Remmele, Recording Secretary

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

January 1st through August 31st, 2025

### **GENERAL FUND**

January 1st			August 31st
Balance	Contributions	Expenditures	Balance
\$ 37,920	\$ 138,089	\$ 130,387	\$ 45,622

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	\$ 22,784	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,075	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,563
Average Monthly Commitment	YTD Average Monthly Contributions	Average Monthly Commitment	YTD Average Monthly Contributions	Average Monthly Commitment	YTD Average Monthly Contributions
\$ 2,667	\$ 2,848	\$ 120.83	134	\$ 167	\$ 195



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LET US NOT BECOME

*Weary* IN DOING  
GOOD

FOR AT THE PROPER TIME

WE WILL  
REAP A *Harvest*

IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

*Galatians 6:9*