



Immanuel Wisconsin Synod Lamplighter



2020

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www.immanuel-oshkosh.org

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

1 Kings 19:13 "Elijah ... wrapped his face in his cloak, and he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. Then a voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

I'm sure that at some point in your lives you've heard the phrase, "Just what do you think you're doing?" It may have come from a parent, a friend, a co-worker, a coach or a host of others. At times we get sooo wrapped up in our situation, and ourselves, that we are oblivious to where we are and what we are doing.

God's addressing Elijah in our selection. He has called Elijah to serve him. To bring his law and gospel to the people of Israel. Despite Elijah's best efforts, the people have rejected God completely. No matter where he turns, his message has fallen on deaf ears. Elijah has decided that enough is enough. Regardless of God's great show of his power on Mt. Carmel, he is the only believer left, or so he thinks. He's decided that he knows better than the almighty God.

Are we reacting to life the same way? I know that there are days when I would like things to go differently. If only God could see it my way and change my situation. Or, perhaps, maybe he could do something about the way everyone else is acting. In my mind, and I've thought this through, my logic is impeccable. Surely, I've been faithful to my tasks, and God should reward me for my efforts.

Now I've started to act and sound like Elijah. Certainly, God knows where I am. He knows what I'm doing. The problem is I don't. If I'm going to be honest with myself, I realize that I'm pulling an Elijah. Wrapping myself in a cloak, hiding in a cave, being critical of other people, doing what I want to do, and ignoring my Lord and what he wants.

The Lord reminded Elijah that he was not alone. There were 7,000 faithful in the land. And maybe, just maybe, they were going through trials and troubles as well. We thank our Lord for coming to us in a gentle voice. For calling to us with his beautiful and refreshing gospel message. For forgiving us, especially during those time when we need it the most, yet deserve it the least.

COVID-19 Immanuel Guidelines (Revised 08-18-20)

Out of love toward our Lord and all people, the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church offer the following guidelines for August during the current Covid19 pandemic:

Worship - The pews have been marked with service times to help maintain social distancing. For those attending the first service on Sunday, please sit in a pew marked 9:00. For those attending the second (10:00 a.m.) service, please select an unmarked pew. This will assure that the same pew will not be used twice on the same day. The 9:00 service will require members to wear a mask while they are in the building. For the 10:00 service the congregation is encouraged to wear face masks. Please sign-up by Thursday if possible. If you have a change in plans or forgot to sign-up, you will not be turned away; you are welcome to worship.

Communion - When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, please follow the direction of the pastor. Pastor Seelman will wear a mask and distribute the bread and wine. They will both be handled by the participant only, with a distance of six feet between each communicant. Pastor will give instructions each time.

Entry and dismissal - You may use either entrance, however, we ask that you maintain social distancing as much as possible. Before each service, please pick up a bulletin on the table in front of the bulletin board. If you have an offering, you may place it in the offering plate at the same time. Please enter the sanctuary and find a place to be seated according to the instructions above. Second service attendees are asked to stay to the back of the fellowship hall or go to the narthex until all first service worshipers have exited the sanctuary. Please allow space for members who are leaving. If you wish to fellowship, please exit the building to do so.

Social distancing - To maintain safe distancing, in accordance with CDC recommendations, all attendees are responsible to be careful. Out of love and respect for all, please make every effort to allow 6 feet between individuals whenever possible.

Sanitation - All commonly touched areas will continue to be properly sanitized. Door handles, bathroom surfaces, tops of the pews et-cetera, will be a priority. Unless there is an objection, we will continue to sing during the service, but will have decreased verses. However, alternatives are being considered. Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter or leave the building.

Improvement - During this time, we want those who are worshipping to feel safe. If any member has a request or comment, please do so in person at the monthly sanitation and safety meeting. The next meeting will be held on September 15 at 10:30. You may also approach any council member, however, it may cause a delay, as the council only meets monthly and the meeting may be scheduled after the sanitation meeting.

Finally, these are recommendations that have been compiled at the current time. There will be modifications as matters progress in the coming weeks and months. Consideration was made with several factors in mind - CDC guidelines for houses of worship, common practice within the WELS, and Paul's encouragement to all children of God, that we treat each other with kindness, compassion and humility at all times.

Respectfully,

Jim Daubert, Ann Gosdeck, Dave Leatherman, Barb Luft, Beverly Neumann, Joan Radtke, Pat Stieg, Arlene Stowe and Judy Zarter

LADIES' GUILD

Our 2020-2021 'season' will be conducted differently this year. Instead of outlining our entire year-long monthly programs, we will be gathering on a month-to-month basis. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 22 at 10:30 a.m. (immediately following Bible Class).

From now through October we plan to have a Mission collection to be used exclusively for some or all of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Student Financial Aid, WELS Martin Luther College Student Financial Aid, Board for Home Missions, P.A.L.S. Apache Learning, Christian Aid Relief, WLA Student Financial Aid and Central Africa Medical Missions. There is a separate offering envelope included with this issue of Lamplighter and available on the sign-up table in our Fellowship Hall for anyone wishing to donate to these charities. Thank you.

DARTBALL

The upcoming dartball season has been put on hold due to the pandemic situation. There is talk that if things were to return to at least *semi normal circumstances*, we may start-up at a later date. I would have to say though, I think that is unlikely.

If you were not aware, Immanuel only had one team last year (Team 2). We started out the season in first place and managed to hold onto it for a while. We did fairly well, finishing in fourth place. Then we even made the playoffs but got knocked out right away. I never heard how we finally placed at the tournament, but I don't think we did too bad there either!

Hopefully things will return to normal so we can play again next season and hopefully we can keep enough players to have a team.

~ Mark Juedes, Team Captain, Immanuel 2

LUTHERN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

*"We are therefore
Christ's Ambassadors"*

This is the theme for the LWMS Fall Rally, planned for Saturday, October 24, 2020 at Riverview Lutheran Church, 136 W. Seymour Street in Appleton. Because the Spring Rally was cancelled, there will be two speakers for this rally which starts with registration and refreshments from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and ends after the 12:30 p.m. lunch. (Keep this in mind as the rally offering goes toward mileage reimbursements and two missions this time rather than just one). Emily Kom (former International LWMS president) will share information about her mission journey to Russia. Our second speaker will be Jerry Worden, staff minister at The Word in Stevens Point. He will also speak on the Campus Ministry at UW-Stevens Point.

Mission box money will be collected until October 4 in the box on the registration table. Because there was no vote in Spring, the missions will be selected at this rally, as well as election of officers. Anyone interested in attending the rally is asked to please sign-up by October 4 to help the hosts plan for lunch and meeting materials. The church is handicapped accessible, but will NOT have childcare services available.

The Taste & See Worship Services, devotions, mission presentations and cooking videos are still available online at:

[welstasteandsee.com/resources/
liveevents](http://welstasteandsee.com/resources/liveevents)
welstasteandsee.com/devotions
welstasteandsee.com/presentations
[welstasteandsee.com/presentations/
moments-with-missionaries](http://welstasteandsee.com/presentations/moments-with-missionaries)

Any questions may be directed to LWMS Reporter, Joan Radtke.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Immanuel's Adult Bible Class continues on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We will continue our study of Acts. All members of the congregation are invited to attend this one-hour, informal learning opportunity!

COUNCIL CORNER

Notes from August 5, 2020 meeting

- ⇒ Many agenda items have been postponed due to our pandemic situation.
- ⇒ The Immanuel Covid-19 Guidelines Team will meet again on August 18.
- ⇒ A 2021 Budget team (approximately 5-6 people) should be assembled to start looking at finances and budgeting for 2021.
- ⇒ Church phone: A different arrangement is being researched. The "church phone 233-1379" will eventually be going back into the hands of Pastor. More to follow on this topic.
- ⇒ Ladies' Guild will hold an informal meeting on August 25 to discuss their 2020-2021 gatherings and events.
- ⇒ Next Church Council meeting is scheduled for September 16 at 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION CLASS

With the ongoing situation of Covid19, we will be looking into a safe and effective way to continue both of these programs to serve our Lord and our children. As of today, there will be no classes during the month of September. Pastor would like to speak to the families with children involved, before putting any plan into place for October.

STEWARDSHIP			
Date	Attendance	Tuesday Bible Class	Total Offerings
08-02-20	33	10	
08-09-20	50	10	
08-16-20	43	10	
08-23-20	56	9	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h1 style="color: blue; margin: 0;">2020</h1> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>1 9:30 a.m. Bible Study</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>2</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>3</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>4</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>5</p> </div> </div>						
<p>6 9:00 a.m. Communion Service 10:00 a.m. Communion Service</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>LABOR DAY</p> <p>Pastor vacation</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Pastor vacation</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pastor vacation</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pastor vacation</p>	<p>11 Patriot Day</p>  <p>Pastor vacation</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pastor vacation</p>
<p>13 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p><i>Guest Pastor Stephen Kurtzahn</i></p> <p>Pastor vacation</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pastor vacation</p>	<p>15 9:30 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Covid-19 Guidelines Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Church Council</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9:00 a.m. Communion Service 10:00 a.m. Communion Service</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Ladies' Guild</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Lamplighter Articles Due</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>

27 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	28	29 9:30 a.m. Bible Study	30	
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