



Immanuel Wisconsin Synod

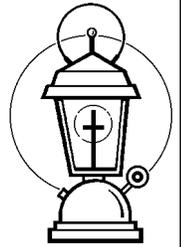
Lamplighter

John E. Seelman, Pastor

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

www.immanuel-oshkosh.org



Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (EHV)

I remember nineteen years ago, when a much younger version of this pastor was trying to keep up with a family of six, two congregations, and over 400 members. Both churches had a Sunday school, Ladies Aid, church council, confirmation class, etc. Neither had a grade school, so my children went to yet another church. Needless to say, it was imperative that I have an accurate schedule.

Back then, most pastors still used a pocket calendar to keep everything straight. I'm pretty sure that I would be burning through erasers on a regular basis if that were the case today. Now, I find two words pop up daily as I check and change my schedule - delete and edit. Life has changed dramatically in the past seven months. In my world, the most dramatic change is...change. Each day over my morning coffee, I check and re-check my scheduled plans. Many days I need to edit my plans. Some days barely start and I am deleting some appointment. When will things change back? Maybe never.

However, in my life in Christ, I find stability. I find two things that never change. And I know they never will. First, is his love for me. Before I was born, he loved me. Just as surely as I was a sinner, Jesus saw me and loved me. Made me his own. Watched over me. Yes, I go on sinning every day, but his love for me will never change. Jesus will never just hit the 'delete' button. I offend him with my words. Does he change his mind? Never. Best friends may part ways, employees may be fired, marriages may result in divorce, but Jesus doesn't allow our weaknesses to change his mind about us.

The second thing that will not change is his plan of saving me. We are told that God's plan was fashioned before the foundation of the earth was laid. How comforting is that? Because that is the case, he's never going to change the rules on us. He'll never call a meeting in the off-season to go over the rule book. He doesn't assess what's happening on this earth from time to time and hit the 'edit' button. His plan for me is accomplished. Jesus finished his work - paying for my sin - suffering my punishment - releasing me from guilt, he did it all. No need to change or adapt.

That was great news for the early Christian church, and it's great news for the children of God today. Because Jesus IS CHANGELESS. I'm sure that the words 'delete' and 'edit' will continue to be used in my earthly life. However, may I keep the word 'changeless' in my mind, whenever I reflect on his love and plan for my salvation.

~Pastor

COVID-19 Immanuel Guidelines (Revised 09-15-20)

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 - Starting the first Sunday in October (10-04-20), we will have only one Service at 9:00 a.m. Please continue to sign-up if you plan to attend. This is especially important on communion Sundays. If you have a change in plans or forgot, you will not be turned away. You are welcome to worship BUT only those who signed up or notified Pastor will be able to receive communion. Masks and social distancing will be required until Governor Evers lifts this mandate.

Communion - Pastor must know by 8:00 a.m. each communion Sunday how many want to receive communion. If you cannot sign up, you can call or text the church or Pastor. This is so we have an accurate amount of wine and wafers set up and do not waste by setting up too much. The left over wine and wafers have to be disposed of. Pastor will serve the Lord's Supper and will wear a mask and give instructions each time.

Entry and dismissal - You may use either entrance. You will be welcomed by a greeter and be seated by another greeter so that seating will be spaced appropriately for social distancing. Greeters will be volunteers and do not necessarily need to be ushers. After the Service, Pastor will greet and dismiss each row of pews, one at a time, starting at the front. If you need to speak with Pastor, please do so after everyone has been dismissed. Please maintain social distancing as you congregate after church. If weather is nice, you many want to gather outside.

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 etcetera, 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 October 20, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. 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

MINI MISSION FESTIVAL

October 11, 2020

Although missionaries are unavailable and a group festival dinner is not possible, we can remain positive in our calling to tell of the love of Jesus, and spread the message that he died for all.



THE 7 UPS

1) WAKE UP!!

Decide to have a good day. "This is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

(Psalm 118:24)

2) DRESS UP!!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16: 7)

3) SHUT UP!!

Say nice things and learn to listen, for our God gave us two ears and one mouth. "He who guards his lips, guards his soul." (Proverbs 13: 3)

4) STAND UP!!

Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

(Galatians 6: 9)

5) LOOK UP!!

Keep your focus on your Savior. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me."

(Philippians 4: 13)

6) REACH UP!!

Set your priorities on something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." (Proverbs 3: 5-6)

7) LIFT UP!!

A Christian needs three things, pray, more prayer, and much prayer. "Do not worry about anything; instead pray about everything." (Philippians 4:6)

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

LADIES' GUILD

Our Mission collection continues through October. Collected funds will 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. Mission Offering envelopes are available on the sign-up table in our Fellowship Hall for anyone wishing to donate to these charities.



October's meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27 at 10:30 a.m. (immediately after Bible Class) in our Fellowship Hall. ALL ladies' of our congregation are invited to join us!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Our Immanuel records indicate we have two sixth graders for the 2020-2021 school year. Pastor will be working with the two families on a schedule to get an introduction to the catechism.



Thank You

Thank you to the mystery person that "cleaned-up" our backyard garden area! Since we are now officially in *autumn*, additional clean-up will be needed to keep things tidy. Anyone wishing to cut-back plants and/or flowers is welcome to do so; no appointment or permission is necessary. Just pick a warm Fall day and come over!



LOOKING AHEAD.....

Our Thanksgiving service will be held **Wednesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m.** This "Thanksgiving Eve" service should help to accommodate those that are not available or too busy on Thanksgiving morning to attend worship service.



Advent Services will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, **December 2, December 9, December 16 and December 23** to prepare our hearts and souls for Christmas!



Our **Christmas Eve Service** is scheduled for **Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.** This will be a song and celebration service.



Christmas Day Service is scheduled for **Christmas morning at 9:00 a.m.**



Please mark your calendars of these upcoming opportunities and plan to join us for these special worship services. As always, your feedback is welcome and appreciated.

LUTHERAN 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
- welstasteandsee.com/devotions
- welstasteandsee.com/presentations
- welstasteandsee.com/presentations/moments-with-missionaries

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

Dear Lord,
So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.....but I will be getting out of bed in a minute. I think that I will really need your help then!

Report of Offerings September 1-September 30

Description	Amount
General Offering	\$6,213.00
Missions	\$522.00
Forward in Trust	\$55.00
Improve/Maint. Fund	\$50.00
Other Special Gift (Organ)	\$20.00
Total	\$6,860.00



**Daylight Savings
Time ends on Sun-
day, November 1.
Don't forget to
turn your clocks
back before going
to bed on
Saturday,
October 31.**

Council Corner...

(from September 16 meeting)

- ⇒ Guest Pastor Kurtzahn was here on September 13 and will be back on October 18. Pastor Seelman will be out-of-town October 12 thru October 19 visiting his daughter in South Carolina.
- ⇒ Marge and Marjean have offered to play organ/keyboard (once each) per month. It is wonderful to hear them again.
- ⇒ Some old documents have been pulled and can be discarded from our conference room. This is an on-going purge.
- ⇒ A Budget Team should be assembled soon to start addressing a financial forecast for 2021.
- ⇒ Confirmation Class for two Immanuel sixth graders. Pastor will contact their parents to plan a date and time to start meeting.
- ⇒ Mission collections continue thru October via our Ladies' Guild. Contributions this year will go to charities selected by our LG. October 11 will also be our "mini" Mission Festival.
- ⇒ Start-up of a Constitution Team will be postponed until the current Covid-19 pandemic subsides.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving Service will be Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Four Advent Services will be held in December, but there are no plans at this time for soup suppers.
- ⇒ Next Church Council meeting is Wednesday, October 21 at 5:30 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP

Date	Attendance	Communion	Tuesday Bible Study	Total Offerings
Aug 30	47	N/A	10	\$2,877.00
Sept 6	49	47	N/A	\$2,327.00
Sept 13	50	N/A	10	\$1,212.00
Sept 20	52	48	9	\$1,922.00
Sept 27	52	N/A	Unknown at time of printing	\$1,399.00

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>Immanuel Lutheran Church</h1>						
				1	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Worship Service	5	6 9:30 a.m. Bible Study	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 a.m. Communion Service	12 <i>Pastor Vacation</i>	13 No Bible Study <i>Pastor Vacation</i>	14 <i>Pastor Vacation</i>	<i>Pastor Vacation</i>	16 <i>Pastor Vacation</i>	17 <i>Pastor Vacation</i>
18 9:00 a.m. Worship Service <i>Guest Pastor Kurtzahn</i> <i>Pastor Vacation</i>	19 <i>Pastor Vacation</i>	20 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Covid-19 Team Meeting	21 5:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting	22	23 <i>Lamplighter</i> Articles Due	24 LWMS Fall Rally

25 9:00 a.m. Communion Service	26	27 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Ladies' Guild	28	29	30	31 
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