

And at midnight a cry
was heard:
"Behold, the
bridegroom is
coming; go out to
meet him!"

ST. MATTHEW 25: 6

FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
FOR THE LAST SUNDAY
IN THE CHURCH YEAR

Esprit

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Hidden From View: The Unseen Congregation, The Unseen Judge by Pastor Sutton

IN the last issue, we contemplated the view of the Divine Service that the letter to the Hebrews gives us. The inspired author tells Christians that they are involved in something unseen, a great mystery whenever we are gathered here around Christ. The Lord has said as much: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (St. Matthew 18.20). There is an unseen, hidden reality behind what is happening in the Divine Service.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12.22–24).

We began last month by discussing that in the Divine Service, you are in two places at one and the same time: Poplar Street in Terre Haute, and in heavenly Jerusalem, "Mount Zion... the city of the living God," not located anywhere on earth. Here you have unseen access to the heavenly presence of God. By faith, you enter this heavenly world, yet you are here on earth.

Here, you also join in the performance of the heavenly liturgy – where we sing the songs of heaven "with angels, archangels, and with all the company of heaven." "You have come... to innumerable angels in festal assembly."

The **third** hidden, unseen part of Hebrews 12's description of the Divine Service is that **with you is the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church**. "You have come... to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven."

In heavenly Jerusalem, you are gathered as part of a huge assembly, a supernatural, international congregation of believers in Christ who hear His Word preached in truth and receive His Sacraments rightly administered. With you, these Christians of all times and places assemble in the same place, the presence of the Triune God. You join the whole church of God as it assembles in His holy presence.

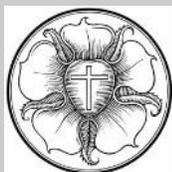
This means that you have special standing before God in two ways. First, you are citizens of heaven, with God as your King, and you enjoy

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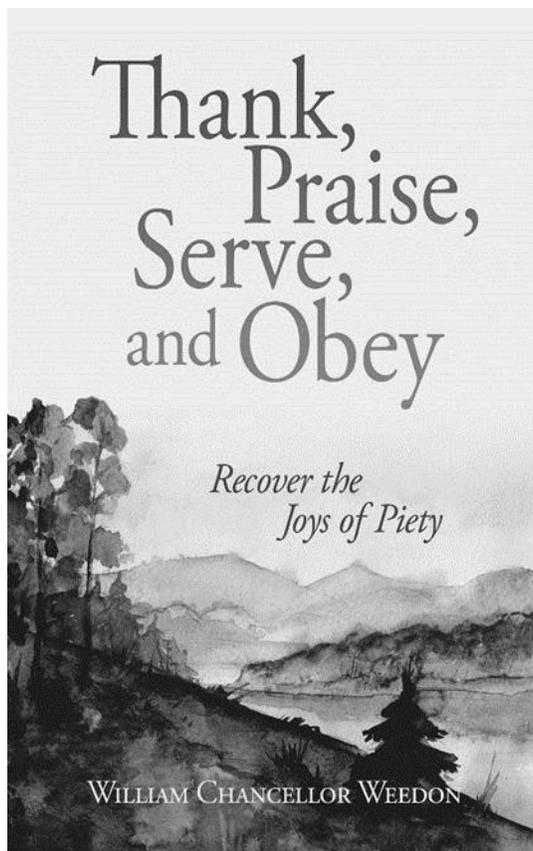
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Esprit is the informational and educational newsletter of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Esprit de corps indicates a sense of union and of common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group. Our community of Immanuel is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to us in the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is an historic and centrally located parish—called, gathered, and strengthened by Christ's Word and Sacraments—confessional in doctrine, evangelical in orientation, orthodox in liturgy, cosmopolitan in membership; serving the Terre Haute community and the students of Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and reaching out to the nations since 1858 as a parish of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Tuesday Evening Class: Eight Habits of A Highly Successful Christian



EXERCISE has been proven to increase strength, stamina, and our overall well-being. Just as with physical exercise, so too we must exercise ourselves spiritually. Do you want to be more at peace amidst an ever-changing and chaotic world? Are you anxious about the future? Do you just wish things in your life were a little more consistent? Whether we admit it or not, everyone desires these things. Join us on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm and form the "Eight Habits of a Highly Successful Christian" – our eight-week class on Christian piety using Rev. William Weedon's book, "Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey." Reserve your book and sign up for the class on the sheet outside the Parish Office, or email Pastor Sutton (pastor@ielcth.org). ✕

October 30 – **The First Godly Habit: Faithful Listening to the Word of God**

The Word of God alone has the power to give and to sustain the gift of faith in Christ in our lives. All the other habits flow from this one.

November 6 – **The Second Godly Habit: The Daily Prayers**

Many Christians struggle with prayer. The Small and Large Catechisms are replete with solid help for addressing our inadequacies in the life of prayer.

November 13 – **The Third Godly Habit: Frequent and Faithful Reception of the Lord's Supper** *When it comes to the piety of receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to become like little children – Jesus presents us with a mystery both unfathomable and at the same time the utter delight of salvation delivered.*

November 20 – **The Fourth Godly Habit: Confession of Sins and Absolution**

"Can God really forgive me for that?" In both the Divine Service and in Private Absolution, the Lord offers the sweet words of comfort, forgiveness, and a clean conscience for Christ's sake.

November 27 – **The Fifth Godly Habit: Sacrificial Giving**

Our Lord gave His own life to bring in a bumper crop of new lives. In God's Kingdom, one follows Jesus and gains more by giving away rather than by holding on, trusting that everything we have comes from God and His promised provision for us. ✕

Continued from page 1 all the rights and privileges of citizenship in heaven. Thus God has you pray to Him and trust Him to provide all things for you in His Kingdom: His saving Word, daily bread, forgiveness, deliverance from temptation and every evil.

Secondly, you have the status of being the "firstborn" Son of God. Jesus, who is the firstborn only-begotten Son of God, is God's heir. In the ancient world, the firstborn son inherited the position and property of his father. Yet, Jesus has shared His position and His status with you in your Baptism into Him and His name. You stand to inherit everything that belongs to Jesus: "All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you" (St. John 16.15).

You do not have to wait until you die to enter your inheritance. Nor do you have to wait for anyone else to die: "One has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Corinthians 5.14-15). In Christ, here and now, you already receive and enjoy your common spiritual inheritance. The New Testament in Christ's blood has been set in place through His death and guaranteed by His resurrection. Everything that belongs to Jesus is available to you, without price.

The **fourth** hidden, unseen reality of the Divine Service is that **you stand here before God the unseen Judge**. "You have come... to God, the judge of all."

In Texas, I stood before a judge on his high bench and took an oath that I would testify in a trial. After swearing me to tell the truth, he sternly ordered me to arrive in his courtroom within forty-five minutes of any call from an officer of his court, or else I would be put in jail. He was stern and meant business! It was the LAW. I shuddered that I might miss that time

due to Dallas area traffic. My anxiety level was quite high for the three days of that trial. (I never did testify... It's a long story.)

Now imagine appearing before God the Divine Judge. Before whom "no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4.13) Because we have a guilty conscience over our sin (or should have one!), this judge should scare us. We are not as we should be and have not lived as we should. Now Hebrews tells us that we face God in judgement, even before we have to at the Last Day!

But in the Divine Service, God is present as a Judge with a big difference. He is not out to disapprove of us, belittle us, or reject us, not out to cast us away into hell and throw away the key. This Judge comes with glad tidings. He comes to free us from the burden of guilt and to undo the awful damage of sin. He comes to pardon, speaking His Word of absolution. For Jesus' sake, the account for your sin has been declared settled to your good: "Not guilty." Christians welcome God's gracious judgment, and receive His pardon with glad hearts, minds and consciences cleansed and covered by the blood of Jesus. Unlike the earthly judge I stood before, this Judge speaks the GOSPEL to those who repent and trust in Him.

*See, the Lamb so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of gladness,
one and all, to be forgiven!*

*So, when next He comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
and with words of love draw near.*

(LSB 345, stanzas 3-4)

Next month, we will continue this description from Hebrews 12 of the unseen things present at the Divine Service. To learn even more in the meantime, join us in our ongoing study of the letter to the Hebrews at 9am every Sunday! ✘

Man and Woman in Christ

by Vicar Cornwell

IN October, Rigo Barrozo and I attended a conference outside of St. Louis on what it means to be a man or woman in Christ. The general, over-arching teaching was that we are defined by what God says about us in His Word, not by the culture or our own ideas. Implicit in this is that men and women are given different gifts to do different, yet complementary things. So a man cannot bear a child, nor is it given to a woman to hold the office of the ministry.

Yet men and women are not different to evoke some sort of competition, but rather to work together. This becomes most evident in the gift of marriage. After God created Adam, God said that He would make a *helper* fit for (or, as the Hebrew denotes, “corresponding to”) him (Genesis 2.18). The two are joined into one to work toward a common goal, namely pointing one another to Christ and encouraging one another in godly living. This union of man and woman in marriage is an image of the relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church (Ephesians 5.22-33). Therefore, as the Church submits willingly to Christ, so too the wife is to submit to her husband.

But this is not some slavish work the wife is to do. In fact, when you read over Ephesians 5, the husband has the greater responsibility. He is to sacrifice everything for his wife, even his own life, if called to it. He is to defend her honor at all times, presenting her before others as spotless and without blemish, just as Christ presents the Church before the Father sinless

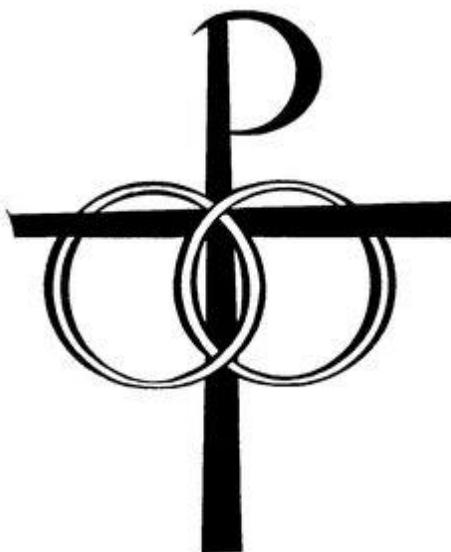
and perfect. Every accusation that is made against his wife, the husband is to take upon himself. As the wife sees this love her husband has for her, she willingly submits, knowing that this submission is not simply doing whatever the husband wants her to do, but rather that it is because he always has her best interests in mind. For Christ Himself did not just come and say, “Obey Me”, but first loved us by sacrificing everything He had that He might save us and present us blameless before the Father (1 John 4.19).

As we grow in understanding this love that God has for us, shown in sending His Son, we desire more and more to willingly submit to God’s will, no matter what that may be.

Knowing that He always has in mind our good, even if we do not understand it. May God grant to all of us – husbands and wives, as well as those of us who have not been given such – the grace to grow in the understanding of His great love for us, that we may submit to Him willingly all our days. ✠

University Student Outreach

Are you a college student or do you know someone who is a student in town? Invite them to join us Sunday evenings for a free meal, followed by a Bible study, starting at 5:30. All are welcome to join. Each week we get together for lunch and typically have a social event as well. If you are interested, speak to Vicar Cornwell! ✠



All Saints' Day by Kantor Schultz

IN the Divine Service, we are joined together with the "angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven." We have a foretaste of heaven as we receive Jesus' Body and Blood. We rejoice that those departed in Christ are gathered around the throne of the Lamb of God, and we look forward to joining them.

The hymns of All Saints' Day are a great comfort to us, knowing of our eternal life in Christ, even as we wait here on earth. They are a comfort knowing that our loved ones departed in Christ are now in His presence, free from all cares, fears, and tears.



The Hymn of the Day for All Saints' Day is "Oh, How Blest are Ye Whose Toils are Ended" (*The Lutheran Hymnal* 589). In this beautiful hymn, we sing of the glory of those saints in heaven:

*Oh, how blest are ye whose toils are ended,
Who through death have unto God ascended!
Ye have arisen
From the cares which keep us still in prison.*

Here we see God works in ways we might not expect. As we are buried with Him through baptism into death, so now our death from this life causes us to ascend to Him.

In stanza four, we hear of the song of heaven:

*Christ has wiped away your tears forever;
Ye have that for which we still endeavor;
To you are chanted
Songs that never to mortal ears were granted.*

Finally, in hope, we pray for the day when we will join the blessed saints in heaven:

*Come, O Christ,
and loose the chains that bind us.
Lead us forth and cast this world behind us.
With Thee, the Anointed,
Finds the soul its joy and rest appointed.*

"Oh How Blest are Ye" was written by Simon Dach (1605-1659) and published in the Königsberg *Auserlesene Geistreiche Lieder* in 1639.

Dach was a professor of philosophy and theology, and also very gifted in poetry. In his later years he became a prolific hymn writer.

The origins of All Saints' Day began with a day to commemorate the martyrs in 360. In 610, it was set on May 13 when the old Roman Pantheon was rededicated as a Christian basilica in honor of Mary and the martyrs. It was moved to November 1 in 835 for the dedication of a chapel to all apostles, martyrs, confessors, and all the just and perfect who are at rest.

The Collect of the Day wonderfully summarizes the theme: "O almighty God, who hast knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those unspeakable joys which Thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love Thee..."

Join us on Thursday, November 1 at 7pm for Divine Service for All Saints' Day. ✠

Poinsettia Orders

THE Christmas Poinsettia Order Form is on the table in the Narthex. Poinsettias are \$11 each. Please write your name under "donated by" and, if you would like, a name of a person you would like to remember or honor. Orders are due November 19. ✽

ISU Masterworks Chorale Concert

YOU are invited to hear the Indiana State University Masterworks Chorale perform two settings of the *Gloria in Excelsis*—one by Antonio Vivaldi and one by K. Lee Scott. The concert will be Sunday, November 11 at 4pm in Tilson Auditorium. I've enjoyed singing with this group this semester and hope you can join us to hear these compositions. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for non-ISU students with ID, and free for ISU students with ID. —*Kantor Schultz* ✽

Scrip

THE Scrip Program allows you to purchase gift cards while earning money for Immanuel. The gift cards can be given as gifts or for your everyday purchases while donating anywhere from 1-13% back to Immanuel. Scrip orders are placed the first and third Sunday of each month and are available for pick up the following Sunday. Stop by the Church office anytime to pick up Scrip cards that are kept in stock; shopping, restaurants, gas and many more! Earnings from the Scrip program are designated to the mercy fund to help our neighbors in need.

Contact John Schulz at 812.299.1429 or johnschulz2@yahoo.com with questions, or visit 222.shopwithscrip.com to see what vendors are available. ✽



Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 4 at 2am. Remember to set your clock back 1 hour before bed.

Children's Christmas Service

THE Children's Christmas Service is Wednesday, December 19. It will be here before you know it! We have already begun working on the hymns in Sunday School opening.

Practices for the Christmas program "Jesus Christ Thy Manger Is" will begin in November. All children in catechesis class and younger are encouraged to participate. Speaking parts are being assigned. Please let us know if your child is planning to participate so that parts can be assigned.

The practice schedule is as follows:
Sundays, November 4, 11, 18, and 25, December 2 and 9; 9-9:15am and 10-10:15am.
Wednesdays, December 5 and 12; 6:15-6:45pm, following the midweek dinner.
Sundays, December 9 and 16; Noon-2pm, with lunch served.

Our volunteer leader is Karie Sutton. She will need volunteers to help. If you are willing, please let her know. If you have any questions, please contact Karie_Sutton@yahoo.com or 972-922-7276 (cell). ✽

Council of Deacons Report

by Richard Monday

THE October 6 meeting opened with meditation on God's Word, in which Pastor led a prayer for the parish, followed by the study of the Lutheran Confessions, beginning to study the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article VII on the Lord's Supper, and the "Crypto-Calvinist" controversy that brought that article about. The study will move onto FC VIII in November.

Pastor Sutton reported on membership changes in September, including funerals conducted. Emily Royer was accepted by the Deacons as a new member by transfer from Immanuel – Valparaiso. Eric Crucitti was approved by the Deacons as Immanuel's lay representative to the October 14 Circuit Forum.

Pastor and Vicar will be teaching a Tuesday night class beginning October 30 on Christian piety. Immanuel received a note of thanks from Concordia Theological Seminary for our ongoing participation in the vicarage program. Offering level to the Indiana District/Synod was discussed.

Board Reports:

Finance: The September financial report was encouraging. The stocks held (a gift received) in the account with the broker are performing well in the current market, and this is being monitored. Budget preparation for the December meeting is underway.

Outreach, Assimilation, and Fellowship: Planning is underway for the Brat Trot on October 20.

Property and Grounds: All Ways Electric has completed all electrical work. Contact has been made with the bell company in Ohio regarding regular maintenance on our steeple bell.

Annual Congregational Meeting: is scheduled for Sunday, December 2, following Divine Service.

The next regular meeting of the Council of Deacons is Saturday, November 3 at 7am in the Parish Center. Other communicant members who wish to meet with the Council of Deacons to discuss special concerns, needs, or requests should make arrangements with the Chairman of the Council of Deacons prior to a scheduled meeting. ✕

Immanuel Parish Membership

Christian Burial:

Thomas Arthur Bilyeu – died September 25
Jimmie DeWayne Senff – died October 6

Transfer In:

Emily Royer from Immanuel – Valparaiso, IN

Adult Bible Class in November

The Ever-Living High Priest

November 4 – Hebrews 7.11-19

The Lord Jesus, of the tribe of Judah, is not a high priest according to a law of fleshly commandment like Aaron and the Levites. His priesthood is "according to the power of indestructible life."

The Eternal Intercessor

November 11 – Hebrews 7.20-28

Jesus is a high priest unlike any other – He has the power to save completely "because He always lives to intercede" on behalf of those who come near to God through Him, having been made perfect for eternity.

The Heavenly Liturgist

November 18 – Hebrews 8.1-13

Jesus has obtained a liturgical ministry that is "more excellent" than that of the Old Covenant given according to the Law. Jesus is mediator of a better covenant, instituted on better promises. Jeremiah 31.31-34 is the basis of Hebrews' teaching.

Hebrews in the Lutheran Confessions

November 25

The Lutheran Confessions have much to say about Jesus as the mediator between God and His people in the Divine Service. Above all, they stress that the congregation has access to God the Father and His grace only through Jesus as their mediator.

DIVINE SERVICE is celebrated every Sunday at 10:30am and on Feast Days as announced.

DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS (MORNING PRAYER) is prayed at 9:30am Tuesday–Thursday, and Feast Days as announced; **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) is prayed at 4:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is offered the third Thursday of the month (*November 15*) from 5-6pm, or anytime by appointment. Vespers is prayed at 4:30pm prior to Confession.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY are at 9am.

ADULT CHOIR rehearses on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm, and on Sundays from 9:45-10:20am.

“WORSHIP ANEW,” produced by Lutheran Media Ministries of Fort Wayne and supported by Immanuel’s special gift collection, airs every Sunday morning on WTWO at 8am.

WESTMINSTER BIBLE STUDY meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:30pm except when there is a holiday at the end of the month. All members are invited to attend. The next meeting will be November 23.

ESPRIT DEADLINE for December is Thursday, November 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing on Wednesday, November 21.

Serving in November at Divine Service

Altar Guild – Kelly Bays; Pam Anderson

Ushers – Darryl Harris; Jasen Gibbens; Justin Gibbens; Tom Reck

Tellers – Rich & Deb Bucy; Jack & Pat Casassa

Acolytes – (*Thurs*) November 1: Kole Mullins; Adam Sutton; Levi Altvater; Eli Gibbens; Pearson Tate

November 4: Evan Pound; Kole Mullins | November 11: Noah Sutton; Connor Howard

November 18: Pearson Tate; Eli Gibbens | (*Weds*) November 21: Noah Schulz

November 25: Tony Altvater; Austin Fitzgerald

Schedule of Divine Liturgies for October

November 1	(<i>Thursday</i>) All Saints’ Day, 7pm	Divine Service
November 4	Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
November 11	Third-Last Sunday in the Church Year, 10:30am	Divine Service
November 18	Second-Last Sunday in the Church Year, 10:30am	Divine Service
November 21	(<i>Wednesday</i>) Thanksgiving Eve, 7pm	Vespers
November 25	Last Sunday in the Church Year, 10:30am	Divine Service