

The publican said,  
“God, be merciful to  
me, a sinner.”

ST. LUKE 18: 13  
FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL  
FOR THE ELEVENTH  
SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



#### Inside This Issue

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Synod Convention                            | 3 |
| Higher Things Report                        | 4 |
| Rev. Walter Steele to Visit<br>September 29 | 5 |
| Greetings from Vicar<br>Keller              | 6 |
| Scrip                                       | 6 |
| Council of Deacons Report                   | 7 |
| Parish Membership                           | 7 |
| Church Picnic                               | 7 |
| Serving at Divine Service                   | 8 |
| Schedule of Divine<br>Liturgies             | 8 |



# Esprit

Volume 46, Issue 9

September 2019

## Firmly Rooted in God's Word

by Pastor Sutton

THE good tree of God's Word produces good fruit in us – boldness to share our Christian faith with the neighbor who needs it, the desire to renounce and repent of sin, strength to bear our daily crosses, and to share the burden of our neighbor's crosses. These all blossom from taking comfort in Jesus' saving death and resurrection for us. God promises that His Holy Spirit comes with His Word to give, renew, and sustain saving faith in Jesus.

Here are some of the ways we can all remain firmly rooted in God's Word:

### I. The Divine Service

You saints in Christ at Immanuel are to be commended and praised. Divine Service attendance is a high priority for you. It is a joy especially to see parents bringing their children of all ages. Attendance has remained steady even through the summer months despite the normal vacation trips out of town that are expected. To God be the glory!

Pray that God would strengthen our resolve to hold His Word sacred, and gladly come every time the congregation gathers for Divine Service, including on those feast days that touch on the life of our Savior.

Friends, look out for your missing neighbor! Call your fellow Christians and encourage them, let them know you miss them at Divine Service. We must certainly love our fellow Christians, our family in Christ, enough to want them to be encouraged and comforted by the Gospel with us each week, even as we prepare for an eternity with our Lord and with them!

### II. Wednesday Coffee Break Bible Study at 9am/Matins at 8:30am (for adults)

Beginning Wednesday, September 11, Matins or Morning Prayer from *Lutheran Service Book* will be prayed in the church on Wednesday mornings at 8:30, followed by "Coffee Break Bible Study." We will be working our way through the Old Testament narratives, looking to see how the great stories of God's people point us to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When an Apostle's feast day or other minor day of the Church Year falls during the week, we will pray Matins at 8:30am on the day. Feasts dealing with the life of Christ will be observed with the Divine Service. Watch your

Continued on page 2

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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.

(Continued from page 1)  
church calendar.

### III. Sunday Adult Bible Class and Children's Sunday School

Brothers and Sisters, if you do not currently attend Bible Class, now is the time to start. This fall, we will be finishing the letter to the Hebrews and beginning to study the Gospel of Matthew.

I highly encourage all of our children to be in Sunday School each and every Sunday. Classes are offered from preschool up through high school. We have excellent teachers who give of their time to prepare, and a solid curriculum from Concordia Publishing House. Be here each Sunday at 9am to study God's Word. Parents, please bring your children and stay for Adult Bible Class!

Blessed is the man whose delight is in the Word of the Lord. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in season, and its leaf never withers. God grant that each Christian at Immanuel, our children, and our children's children would by His grace be such wonderful trees that prosper in all they do and say for the glory of Christ and the salvation of their neighbors! ✠

### Immanuel Children's Catechesis

**CHILDREN'S** Catechesis begins on Saturday morning, September 7, meeting each Saturday at 8:30am. Please pray for our catechumens that by God's grace this time of more intensive catechesis on the Small Catechism and the Scriptures would confirm and strengthen them in the saving faith. We look forward to these young people growing in Christ before us and alongside of us. ✠

### Westminster Bible Study

**MEMBERS** of Immanuel who live at the Westminster Retirement complex form the core group who attend a monthly Bible Study with Pastor Sutton. Recently, we've been studying the Gospel of Mark.

This group meets on the last Friday of every month except when there is a holiday at the end of the month. Watch your Church calendar. We meet in a room across from the main dining room at Westminster at 1:30pm. Anyone is welcome to join us, even if you do not live at Westminster. Call Pastor Sutton if you need directions or for more information. ✠

## The Sixty-Seventh Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

THE Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod met for its sixty-seventh Regular Convention conducted from July 20-25 in Tampa, Florida. The convention's theme was "Joy:Fully Lutheran" (1 Thessalonians 5.15-18). Conventions have two purposes: 1) to elect officers and board members for the Synod and its agencies; and 2) to act upon resolutions dealing with administrative, theological, and other matters.

Parishes in the LCMS are grouped into electoral circuits of 7-20 parishes in a geographic area. Each circuit sends on behalf of its parishes what each parish is entitled to: representation by one layman and one pastor. Our Indianapolis West circuit was represented by Rev. Matthew Schneider of Peace—Greencastle, and layman Dennis Eickhoff of Prince of Peace—Martinsville.

**Elections:** The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison was re-elected Synod President prior to the Convention, each parish having two votes by secure internet voting, one layman and one pastor. Immanuel's votes were registered for Rev. Harrison. During the convention, elections proceeded for the vice-presidents of the Synod down through Boards and Committees, Boards of Regents for Seminaries and Universities, etc. According to delegates in attendance, conservative, confessional Lutheran candidates won eighty percent of the elections, and will be supportive of President Harrison's leadership and direction to ensure that Synod remains confessional and distinctly Lutheran.

**Resolutions:** Parishes, boards, circuits, and districts of the Synod submit overtures (proposed actions) to the Synod for actions at the convention. Committees of delegates to the convention

meet to review all the overtures and reports to the convention from the various officers of the Synod, and under specific areas then compile the overtures into written resolutions for the convention to consider. Pastor Sutton served on a floor committee three years ago for overtures dealing with "Seminary Education." Resolutions propose by-law changes for how the Synod is governed, confess a public theological position based on Scripture, affirm fellowship with other church bodies, or give recognition publicly from the Synod to an organization that has done some specific good work to be thankful for. Some important resolutions adopted were:

- ✘ Confessed a six day creation ("six natural days") based on Genesis 1-2.
- ✘ Affirmed residential seminary formation as the preferred route for pastoral formation.
- ✘ Prohibited clubs and organizations at our Concordia University schools based on sinful behaviors (i.e., no "pride" clubs).
- ✘ Confessed clearly against transgender ideologies.
- ✘ Opposed physician-assisted suicide (euthanasia).

Meanwhile, the direction taken by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in their convention included voting by 98% that there may be other paths to "knowing God the Father" than by the Christian faith, and declaring themselves to be a "sanctuary church" body which will harbor illegal immigrants from law enforcement and the government (breaking the fourth commandment).

Thus, we give God thanks for the solid, Biblical, confessional Lutheran leadership now in the LCMS, and our prayer should be that the Synod remains faithful in the years to come. We should also pray for Christians caught in liberal, apostate church bodies, that they would be rescued from these dangerous false teachers who run their denominations. ✘

## Higher Things Report by Kantor Schultz

**E**IGHT Immanuel youth and seven chaperones attended the annual *Higher Things* conference on July 16-19 at Concordia University Wisconsin. This year's theme was "Concordia," and was about unity in the Church.

Each day included the Daily Prayer offices (Matins, Vespers, and Compline), and the conference began and ended with Divine Service. The services were held in the beautiful Chapel of Christ Triumphant.

This was my second year attending Higher Things and I enjoyed seeing the youth "Dare to be Lutheran" by participating in hymns and liturgy that are part of our Lutheran heritage, and seeing the kids learn about the Scriptures, the Church, and current events from a Lutheran perspective, taught by a variety of pastors. It was also fun for me to be back at my alma mater.

Kathy Todd remarked about the beautiful campus and its setting on Lake Michigan, and the enjoyable experience of singing hymns with the whole group. Each day, we had the opportunity to choose from a number of smaller "breakout sessions" on a number of topics. Juniper Stephens enjoyed "Phenomenal Cosmic Power, Itty-Bitty Living Space" by Pastor Brett Simek. Pastor Simek presented on the divinity of Jesus described in Revelation and how He is delivered



to us in His "itty-bitty living space," the bread and the cup. Juniper also enjoyed the escape room and petting zoo activities.

Juniper and Hannah Wineinger both enjoyed the "house competitions." During the conference, the participants were arranged into four groups based on the "tetramorphs" (Greek: "four shapes"), the four angelic beings depicted in Ezekiel. The groups were "Vir" or "Man" (Gospel of St. Matthew); "Leo" or "Lion" (St. Mark); "Bos" or "Ox" (St. Luke); and "Aquila" or "Eagle" (St. John). Immanuel was part of the Aquila group, and Aquila had the most points to win the challenge. Various activities

and competitions throughout the week earned each group points toward the final score. Our Immanuel youth notably won the campus scavenger hunt, perhaps due to the help of a CUW alumnus on our team. Each evening, there were recreational activities to enjoy. Pearson Tate fondly remembers falling down the warp wall on his attempt to climb it.



Erin Wineinger said, "I loved the whole experience! I love that the kids are meeting other Lutheran kids and pastors. I was really impressed with the organization of the whole conference and I was really proud of our kids! I especially loved spending so much time in the chapel singing the liturgy!" Hannah enjoyed participating in the conference choir.

Each day, the group heard plenary sessions by Rev. Jacob Ehrhard, pastor of St. John's—Chicago and Rev. Brian Mosemann, professor at CUW. Noah Sutton describes how one plenary session tied the conference together:

“The thing that I enjoyed most about the conference was our unity in the Lutheran Church. The last plenary talked about when the congregation sings together, your heart beats at the same rate and time as everybody else's. We went to every service in unity and worshipped the same one, true God, including people from

three different countries. The theme was ‘Concordia.’ I think it showed how unified and how much harmony (the meaning of ‘Concordia’ in Latin) we had as a church both musically, devotionally and our theological



thoughts at this conference. The biggest thing I love about this conference is there are kids like me! You are not going to find any Lutheran pastor's sons around Terre Haute, so I find it so cool to find people that have the same ideas and thoughts as I do at this conference and we can worship in ‘Concordia’ to our great and mighty God.”

Thank you to the members of Immanuel for supporting our YPI events throughout the year, which helps defray the costs of our youth and chaperones attending the conference. We hope other confirmed youth from our

parish will be able to join us next year. Next year's conference theme will be “Watermarked.” Out of four locations, we are planning to attend at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), which will be July 14-17, 2020. ✕

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## Rev. Walter Steele, Former Vicar, to Visit September 29

OUR former vicar, the Rev. Dr. Walter Steele (served 1992-93), will be coming to Immanuel to preach for Divine Service, and give a presentation on future missionary work to Kenya to the Adult Bible Class on Sunday, September 29 (St. Michael, Archangel).

Dr. Steele has been called to be a full-time missionary professor by the LCMS, to teach at Matongo Lutheran Theological College, the premier confessional Lutheran seminary in the Horn of Africa. The seminary is located in the western part of Kenya, close to Lake Victoria, about an hour south of Kisumu, the third largest city in Kenya. Matongo is about 5,000 feet above sea level. Pastoral and deaconess students are trained there, earning a Bachelor of Theology. The goal of Dr. Steele's mission work is to begin the process of raising the theological education of the seminary to the Master's level, with long-term support from LCMS Lutherans in the USA.

From Dr. Steele: “Robyn and I are aiming at deploying in January 2020. While Robyn's responsibilities are not spelled out, she will be behind the scenes enabling me to do the work of the ministry. I will be teaching during the week, counseling students, preaching chapel, as well as preaching out in the villages on Sundays. She will also be looking for other ways to serve, perhaps in conjunction with the deaconess students.”

You can view the Steele's prayer, missionary information, and online giving card at [www.lcms.org/steele](http://www.lcms.org/steele). There will be two opportunities to hear Rev. Steele's presentation on September 29. He will present during Adult Bible Class at 9am, and following the Divine Service in the Parish Center, where we will serve light refreshments. ✕

## Greetings from Vicar Keller

DEAR brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is my honor to serve as the thirtieth vicar here at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church. I would like to thank all who helped Maggie and me move in, for the pantry shower, and for welcoming us into the church and the community. It can be hard settling into a new place, but we truly feel at home here in Terre Haute.

I am proud to say I was born and raised a Hoosier. Though I was born in Greenfield, which is near Indianapolis, I was raised in Evansville, where my dad, who is a pastor in the LCMS, took a call when I was two. When I was sixteen, he took another call to Brownstown, where they still reside.

I am blessed to have attended Lutheran schools for all but two years of my life. I went to Trinity Lutheran School in Darmstadt from pre-school to eighth grade. I had two years at Reitz High School, but graduated from Trinity Lutheran High School in Seymour. From there, I attended Concordia University Chicago (River Forest, if you prefer), studying theology and theological languages. I also played in the Wind Symphony. Finally, I have spent my last

few years at the seminary, where I sang in the Kantorei.

I met my wife, Maggie, at Trinity High School, and we started dating right after I graduated. During my senior year of college, I proposed to her and we were married in 2016. This coming December, we will be welcoming our first child. Maggie has been a blessing to me throughout our marriage, whether it is to keep me organized, help me through emotional or physical adversities, or to be my closest confidant.



I always wanted to be a pastor, from kindergarten to now. I would be the sixth generation pastor in my family. My dad, who is my role model, never pressured me into going to seminary. Rather, he helped nurture the gifts that God has given me, and has been someone I can come to for advice, help, or just to chat.

That is a little about me and where I have been. I would love to get to know all of you this coming year. Please come and say hello! I am looking forward to this year as we grow in Christ together. God's blessings to you all!

In Christ,  
Vicar Keller ✝

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## 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 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](mailto:johnschulz2@yahoo.com) with questions, or visit [222.shopwithscrip.com](http://222.shopwithscrip.com) to see what vendors are available. ✝

## Council of Deacons Report

by Richard Monday

THE July 13 meeting opened with meditation on the Word of God, in which Pastor led a prayer for the parish, followed by the study of the Lutheran Confessions, the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article VII on the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Sutton reported membership changes since the last meeting, including the new adult catechesis class. The Deacons approved the transfer in/profession of faith of Jim and Linda Haas, Marshall Rector, and the Jarrod Gibbens family (after adult catechesis). Pastor discussed upcoming events in the congregation's calendar.

### Board Reports:

**Education:** Vacation Bible School was a success with many students and volunteers. The next meeting is August 13.

**Finance:** Offering receipts were slightly better. The Deacons discussed electronic giving.

**Property and Grounds:** The new shelter house will begin concrete pouring shortly. Some slate has fallen from the Sanctuary roof, and will be looking into it. Also will look into the steeple bell not striking correctly.

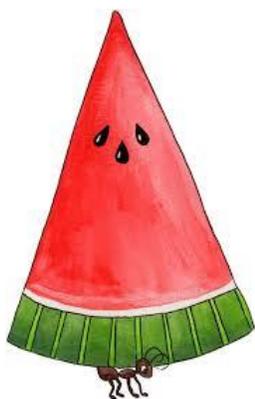
**Outreach/Fellowship:** Brad Cress reported on the Brat Trot.

**Worship:** Rick Todd reported on finding volunteers for ushering.

The next regular meeting of the Council of Deacons is Saturday, September 7, at 7am in the parish center. The August meeting was cancelled due to vacations and other events. 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

**Wedding:** Joseph & Emily Eckardt – July 13



## Immanuel's Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, September 8  
Following Divine Service

Please bring a dish to share.

RSVP on the insert in the bulletin.

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

**DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS** (MORNING PRAYER) and **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) are prayed as announced in the weekly *Parish News*.

**PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** is offered the third Thursday of the month (*September 19*) 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. The Bible Study is studying the book of Hebrews.

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT BIBLE STUDY** with dinner is Sunday at 5:30pm.

**ADULT CHOIR** rehearsals are Thursdays from 7-8:30pm, and 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 September 27.

**ESPRIT DEADLINE** for October is Sunday, September 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing on Friday, September 27 at 10am.

### Serving in September at Divine Service

Altar Guild – JoAnn Beleslin; Sherril Porter

Tellers – Jerry & Sally Mueller; Paul & Kathy Danielsen

Ushers – Marv Gradert; Jeff Allen

Acolytes – September 1: Austin Fitzgerald; Noah Schulz | September 8: Evan Pound; Eli Gibbens  
 September 15: Kole Mullins; Connor Howard | September 22: Tony Altvater; Pearson Tate  
 September 29: Noah Sutton; Levi Altvater

### Schedule of Divine Liturgies for September

|              |  |                |
|--------------|--|----------------|
| September 1  | Eleventh Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am   | Divine Service |
| September 8  | Twelfth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am    | Divine Service |
| September 15 | Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am | Divine Service |
| September 22 | Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am | Divine Service |
| September 29 | St. Michael, Archangel, 10:30am          | Divine Service |