



# Immanuel's Quarterly Newsletter

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## What Does Your R.S.V.P. Say?

*Luke 14:16-24 (NIV84)*

*Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"*

Have you ever planned and promoted a big party, only to have the people you invited back out on you at the last moment for some lame excuse? It's frustrating, isn't it? So much time and effort wasted!

Our devotion text speaks about a party (a feast, really) prepared by a King. The King who prepares it is Jesus and you are his invited guests.

And what is the party Jesus prepares? It is the banquet of the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. Through this banquet we are able to feast on the forgiveness of sin and drink in the Gospel of God's love. Here, Jesus' wonderful and exquisite promises are offered to us - costly food for our souls that we would otherwise never be able to taste. Every Sunday, the LORD prepares a rich meal with you in mind. He wants to give you spiritual blessings that you could otherwise never obtain: peace with God, eternal life, the right to be sons and daughters of the Most High, the Holy Spirit, and His promised presence through every step in life.

And this banquet was not cheap. Jesus purchased this food (these spiritual blessings) for us *not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.* (cf. Luther's Small Catechism's explanation of the 2nd article of the Creed) Yes, every Sunday Jesus prepares this banquet with you specifically in mind, and invites you to come to His divine service to partake of it.

So what's on your R.S.V.P.? Did you stay up so late on Saturday night, that you can't come to Jesus' feast on Sunday morning? Is work getting in the way? How about hunting, fishing, or spending time in the great outdoors. Jesus will understand, right? A person has to work. A person has to relax. It's not everyday that I get to go to a Packer game. It's not everyday the weather is so nice and warm, etc. . .

So, what we're saying is that work, fishing, sleep, nature, hunting, fishing, the Packer's, etc. . . are more important to us than spending time with Jesus' - receiving the rich blessings he prepared for us. And if this is not what we are saying when we neglect worship then, please tell me, what are we saying?

Thankfully, as long as we have breath in our lungs, it is not too late to change our R.S.V.P.? Jesus is still calling you to come and enjoy the blessings he is offering you in worship. Sure, you might have to give up sleeping in, or a few hours of nice weather. You might have to rearrange your work schedule, tell your family and friends to either come with you to worship, or come after you get back . . . but know this: none of the things you might be tempted to miss church for can compare to the wonderful blessings He offers to you through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

And if you delayed coming in the past? If you feel too embarrassed because it has been so long? Don't. And why not? Because your Savior is far more happy to see you come late to the banquet he specifically prepared for you than not come at all. You are his honored guest - honored, not because you deserve it (none of us do), but because He loves you so much. Only do not delay - lest your breath leaves you and you are left outside of heaven.

And if we still are afraid to come because of other worries, remember Jesus promise, when He said: *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* (Matthew 6:31-33, NIV84)

What a wonderful God we have: who loves us so much that He prepares a weekly feast for us.

I hope to see you all there.

## **President's Letter**

The Pastor and I attended our district convention held June 17 to 18. Pastor Kratz also attended as a guest. The Lord has blessed us as a synod in many ways. We were privileged to review the many advances we have made throughout the world in spreading the Gospel. Though there are many struggles such as financial shortfalls or oppression by governments or other religions, growth continues. We said farewell to Pastor Engelbrecht as the District President. He served us faithfully for 20 years. Pastor Joel Zank, who was serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, was elected to

the office of District President. Pastor Engelbrecht recently suffered a heart attack and will be retiring. During the conference we studied two papers; one titled, "Christ is Sufficient" and the other, "The Reality of Our World Today". These were wonderful papers and helped remind us of what is truly needed above all else, Christ. The first paper reminds us that Christ is sufficient for our salvation and our sanctification. He is sufficient for our church's success, Christian confidence, and successful mission work and for all our needs. The second paper discusses the reality of the world we live in and Post-Modernism.

Some characteristics of Post-Modernism are:

- Science has failed to solve life's greatest problems.
- Spirituality (not Christianity) is on the rise.
- Morality is situational and relative.
- Tolerance/Ambiguity/Multiculturalism.
- Meaning is subjective.
- Relationships are valued.

This paper reviews the terrible pressures we face daily to move away from the Lord. It is especially dangerous for the young who are immature in their faith. The paper goes on to discuss how we can use the value of relationships with other people to begin the communication process of reaching them with the Gospel. It doesn't always have to be an all or nothing right now preaching of the Gospel, but communicate in love, teach, lead by your example and the Holy Spirit will do his work.

We have established an organ fund; you may have noticed the addition of that fund to the budget status summary in the bulletin. We have a long way to go but the first funds are starting to arrive. We must plan for the future; the organ is in need of repair. Please consider contributing to this fund. We would like to have the organ working in top condition in time for the celebration of our upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Lord continues to bless us in many ways. I hope you will join with me and give thanks to those who volunteer to be on your boards and committees. One way to do this is to come to the Voters' Meetings and thank them personally. I hope to see you there. I spoke about our financial status in the last newsletter. We had a concern earlier this year and were faced with the possibility of taking out a loan, but the congregation rose to the challenge and we paid all our bills. What a wonderful blessing! We should all give thanks, but as I already mentioned we need to do some work on the organ, and because of shortfalls in the overall budget this year the Board of Property haven't been able to execute some of the major tasks approved by the voters for this year's maintenance schedule. But we have been blessed financially as compared to some congregations who are in much greater debt and struggling to keep their lights on, and that is something to be thankful for.

Do you have some feedback for me? Always feel free to give me a call or send me an email at [glennbrunner1@gmail.com](mailto:glennbrunner1@gmail.com).

Your brother in Christ,  
Glenn Brunner

## **Membership Changes**

**Baptism:** None

**Transfer In:** Robert Drews

**Received by Profession of Faith:** None

**Adult Confirmation:** Reuben Stuebs & Scott Fenendael

**Release:** None

**Loss to Eternal Life:** Lorna Habeck & Ken Siegmund

## **Elders Board Report**

Summer being in full swing and we all find ourselves busy with yard, garden, and vacations- with the bugs- so much fun. Almost forgot about them with the long winter. I always think, if Noah had only used his fly swatter on them two back then....well, no, all God's creatures have a good purpose.

The 150<sup>th</sup> committee continues to work on planning details for next year events. We are focusing on details necessary for the current dates and events- April 19 is the Charles Bono Organ Concert, July 19 is the Anniversary of the Congregation Sunday, and August 1 is the Church Picnic with the Koine Band being featured. There are many details and items yet to be discussed and worked on so come to the planning meetings, we will announce them in the bulletin or call Dan Fager.

The Elders continue to call or contact members that may not have been in church recently, based on the pew sign-in registers. We simply want keep in touch with our fellow members. If you know of someone we should contact, please tell the Elders or Pastor. One special way that we also keep in touch, is remembering everyone on their birthday or anniversary, in our collective prayers during services. Now if you don't hear your name, or you know of someone we should include, please let the secretary know. We promise not to say how many just the date.

In the back of church we have sign-up sheets for the service flower arrangements and greeter volunteers. If you have questions about these ask the ushers, or we can get you in contact with the Altar Guild committee on the flower arrangements.

## **Property Board Report**

Summer has arrived based upon the property board's first outdoor meeting which was conducted on the parsonage back porch this week. Discussions held on projects needing completion were hot and heavy. So far, due to the financial condition of the church, your property board has placed those projects on hold until finances allow. The board will continue with any spending as an on needed basis. For example, should something break, we'll get it fixed!

The parsonage sewer line has been dug up at the street grade and replaced by Ihlenfeldt Plumbing and Matts Services. Sewage back-ups have continued to plague pastor's home which required a major unplanned project to take place. The cause of the disruption is believed to be the age of the sewer line, a tree root invasion and the brutal cold winter sending frost well below where it should go. All combined into one complex, to break and bow the line and cause trouble.

Conditions involving operations of the church pipe organ have warranted the exploration of a rebuilding of the musical instrument. The organ needs to be brought up to ready to serve standards especially with the 150th celebration due next year. Several pipe organ companies have been contacted to inspect the device and provide price quotes which will be made available.

The outdoor yard work is going at a full speed ahead as the grass cutting is keeping pace with the growing grass. Cleaning of the interior of the building can rest a bit, because all the snow, salt and dirt tracked into the building during the winter season is at rest. In addition, many of the family life center seasonal activities are also at rest. Well that's all for now folks. The property board wishes you a great summer season.

Your hard working Property Board,

Steve Ihlenfeldt, Gary Hardtke, Fred Steffen, Jeff Christian, Jason Karnopp, Greg Hlinak

## **Manitowoc Lutheran High School (MLHS) Delegate Report**

In the coming year we will need to consider whether we want to participate in the Wisconsin school voucher program. I mentioned some of the pros and cons of participating in the program in my last letter. Since that time the Board of Control has decided to recommend to the federation delegates that we participate in the program. A decision will be made in the August Federation meeting. I believe one of the driving reasons for participating in the program is financially based. Please let Chris Richard or myself know of your feelings on the issue.

Congregational support has dropped considerably since 2010, but the cost of running a school has not. The school is facing a \$120,000 deficit for fiscal year 2014-2015. When congregations do not respond to meet shortfalls it forces tuition increases, which have the potential of pushing Christ centered education further out of reach of parents. I had received a letter from the Board of Control asking that all congregations reconsider the amount of financial support provided. I presented it to the church council earlier this year and we agreed to specify that our alms collected in the month of March be designated to support the school and added to what we had already committed for the year. We collected \$900.00. Thank you to everyone who opened your hearts and wallets to help keep higher level Christian education available to us in the future. Our total commitment for the year is now \$10,900.00.

Don't forget SCRIP is available from MLHS. Your purchase of SCRIP from MLHS is a simple way for you to support Christian education. You can put money into an account for future Immanuel HS students if you designate it to Immanuel's account.

The Federation delegates have authorized the Board of Control to rezone an unused MLHS section of the property for construction of an AT&T cell tower.

Please pray for our high school as we face financial challenges and pray for our parents that are struggling financially to keep their children in Christ centered education.

Glenn M. Brunner  
MLHS Lead Delegate

# Planned Giving Committee

## **Giving through Wills and Trusts**

For many of our members it is very practical to provide gifts to WELS organizations, including our congregation, through a will. Such bequests can be made in any amount and can significantly reduce estate taxes. Types of bequests include:

### **Specific Bequest**

Such a bequest designates a specific amount, specified property, or a percentage of the assets that the will controls.

### **Residual Bequest**

After provisions have been made for loved ones, a WELS ministry can receive all or a fractional portion of the estate's residue.

### **Contingent Bequest**

A WELS ministry receives all or a designated portion of the assets controlled by the will in the event that another beneficiary has predeceased.

### **Trust**

A trust can be created by a will which provides payments to a loved one for a specified period of time. A WELS ministry receives the remaining trust principal after the income interest has ended.

When preparing your estate plan, it is important to identify any charitable beneficiary by their legal name, address, and tax identification number. A free workbook on estate planning can be found online at: <http://welsfoundation.net/free-workbook>

If you don't have internet access and would like a copy of the workbook please contact one of the Planned Giving Committee members. You can contact our **Christian Giving Counselor**, Pastor Dennis Kleist, [Dennis.kleist@wels.net](mailto:Dennis.kleist@wels.net), 920-740-5899

The **Planned Giving Table** has been updated to include the **Organ Fund**. Estimated Cost to repair our organ is **\$80,000**.

For more information on the Planned Giving Table or planned giving in general, please contact any member of the Planned Giving Committee.

Lou Richard  
Charlie Novak  
Larry Schneider

## Youth Christian Education

Jason Belter needed to step down as Chairman of the Youth Christian Education Board due to personal reasons. We sincerely thank Jason for his dedication to this Board & his commitment to Youth Christian Education. Brian Dax was asked to fill the open position and he graciously accepted. Thank you Brian!

### Vacation Bible School

## *"From Raindrops to Rainbows!"*

August 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

5:00pm - 7:30pm

Ages 4 Years through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Weather is always on the minds of children as well as adults. The exciting "From Raindrops to Rainbows" weather VBS course is filled with weather fun. The lessons that teach us God's truths are each weather related, from rain to dew, from floods to sunshine.*

We will have bible lessons, crafts, games and snacks! We will be having snacks right in the beginning again!!

The VBS Children will be singing in Church on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Whether you can help 1 day or all 5 days, any and all is appreciated and a great way to help out our church and share God's Word. If you have any questions or ideas for this year please feel free to contact me. If you would like to help out please contact Jill Belter at church or email - [jillbelter@gmail.com](mailto:jillbelter@gmail.com) or call 920-606-1433.

- ❖ **VBS Wish List** This year VBS is asking for a little help. If you would like to donate some items to help us teach the children the gift that Jesus has given us, please take a moment to look at the "Rainbow" in the Narthex. These items will be used to do some great crafts with the children during the 5 day VBS.
- ❖ **Sunday School** The 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Sunday School will be September 7<sup>th</sup> with a start time of 7:45am.
- ❖ **Youth Group** Amber Binney & David Chaudoir will be working together to bring this program back to Immanuel's Youth.
- ❖ **ATTENTION 9-12TH GRADE STUDENTS!!!!** Keep your calendar open for Sunday, September 21 (Time TBA) YPS (Young People's Society) will be holding an introductory get together. This is an opportunity for the young adults in our congregation to get together with fellow young adults for socialization, fun, discussions, etc. Look for further information to be coming in your mailbox soon. Looking forward to having an AWESOME time with our young adults in our congregation. We're ready to ROCK this!!! Amber Binney and David Chaudoir

## Organ Fund Update

*"The voters have decided to establish an organ repair fund drive. Our goal is to raise \$80,000 so the organ can be fully repaired and its full range of capabilities and sound restored. We would like to accomplish this in time for our 2015 anniversary. We may have to take out a loan to accomplish this timeline but hopefully we can avoid this if funds are forthcoming. Please prayerfully consider an extra gift above your normal weekly gift and specify 'Organ Fund'. Thank You, Glenn Brunner, President."*

*Donations as of July 20, 2014*

<b>From</b>	<b>Honor/Memory of</b>	<b>\$</b>
<i>Shirley Stitt</i>		<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>OWLS</i>		<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Bill &amp; Sue Jacobs</i>		<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Sheldon &amp; Shirley Prodell</i>		<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Glenn &amp; Ann Brunner</i>		<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Dawn Kieckbusch</i>		<i>\$300.00</i>
<i>Carol Krueger</i>		<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Cash Donors</i>		<i>\$60.00</i>
<i>Jack &amp; Merrie Novak</i>		<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Kim Koss</i>		<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Greta Bloniarz</i>		<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Char Hackman</i>		<i>\$200.00</i>
<i>Stuart Arians</i>		<i>\$100.00</i>
	<i>M of Ken Siegmund</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>
	<i>M of Lorna Habeck</i>	<i>\$1,340.00</i>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Outdoor Worship Service & Church Picnic** Please note that the Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic will be held at Bruemmer Park on Sunday, August 24th with the Worship Service starting at 10:00am. A Potluck Picnic will follow with the main course being provided by the Congregation & prepared by the Men's Club & Ladies Aid. Hope to see you there!
- ❖ **WELS Night' at Miller Park!** On Tuesday, August 5th, join many other WELS churches and members for an evening at Miller Park to watch the Brewers take on the Giants. The area WELS congregations are working on getting a bus full of Brewers fans to go to the game which starts at 7pm. At this time we are just trying to determine if we will have enough people to go, therefore we don't have the details worked out, as to departure time and cost. If interested please sign up on the pink sheet in the back of church or call Mari Fager at 388-2841.
- ❖ **Lutheran Ladies League Rally** The annual Lutheran Ladies League Rally will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Maribel. The focus for the day will be our work in Nigeria and Cameroon.

- ❖ **Blood Donors Needed** Our Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm to 5:30pm. If you would like to put up posters announcing the blood drive, let me know. I will be posting a volunteer sign-up sheet in August for the day of the drive. I am still looking for a Youth Coordinator (16-24) to help with this drive. The Red Cross has Visa gift cards if the drive meets certain goals like collecting at least 25 pints of blood and additional if at least 30% of donors coming in are 16 to 24. Call me soon if you are interested. Ann Brunner 388-0217 or 629-3011.
- ❖ **OWLS Agenda** Lakeshore OWLS will not meet in August. OWLS members are encouraged to attend Immanuel's church picnic, August 24<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be held in the Immanuel fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. For the October OWLS meeting, members are invited to attend the National OWLS Convention at Wisconsin Dells, October 7-9. No local meeting. November and December we will return to our meeting schedule on the first Tuesday of the month. December will be our Christmas Party.
- ❖ **Ladies Aid Meetings** Our August meeting will be held Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. NOTE THE TIME CHANGE. This is to work around the VBS evening schedule. Our future meetings are as follows: September 11<sup>th</sup> is an evening meeting at 7:00pm, October 8<sup>th</sup> is in afternoon meeting at 1:30pm, November 13<sup>th</sup> is an evening meeting at 7:00pm, and Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> is our Ladies Aid Christmas Party.
- ❖ **Volley Tots at Immanuel's Family Life Center** The Immanuel Athletic Club, along with the Kewaunee Area Junior Volleyball Club, will once again be holding their youth volleyball program. The program is open to girls and boys in grades 1-6 and will run on Saturday mornings Sept 13<sup>th</sup> - October 18<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$32. If you have any questions or you would like a registration form, please contact Greta Bloniarz (920/255-4919 or bloniarz4@msn.com) Registration is open now through Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Time 'n Talent/Silent Auction** The Immanuel Athletic Club has set Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> for this year's event. We are making some changes from past years and will hold this year's event at Immanuel with a brunch being served by the Athletic Club. Donations for the Time 'n Talent can be turned into any of the AC members at any time - deadline for donations is September 14<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to contact any member if you have questions. AC members are Greta Bloniarz, Rachel Christian, Brian Dax, Tonya Fenendael, Kathy Gerdmann, Jerry & Nancy Kolmorgen, Shirley Prodell, Lou Richards, Dick Stuebs, Annette Teske, and Kathy Vanness. More details to follow in future church bulletins.
- ❖ **Fireside Dinner Theater Trip** Immanuel Fellowship Group will again be sponsoring a trip to the Fireside Dinner Theater at Fort Atkinson, WI on Thursday, November 6 to see the Christmas Show The cost is \$86 per person. The coach bus will leave the church parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and return between 7 and 8 p.m. If interested in signing up, contact Mari Fager at 388-2841. Sign up is on a first come basis, and limited to the first 56 people.
- ❖ **Have You Made A Planned Gift to Church or MLHS?** If you have made or are considering a gift to church or MLHS through your will, insurance policy, or retirement plan, do they know it? It is very important for a charity to know what you have in mind while you are still alive so that any questions can be answered and your wishes carried out. MLHS has a gift acceptance policy explaining how undesignated gifts are used; we are happy to share this with individuals or congregations. Tax and estate laws can change from year to year, as can plans for ministry and family circumstances. PLEASE, if you have made such a gift, contact your pastor (for church gifts) or Scott Reinhard at 242-9204 (for MLHS gifts) to share your thoughts and wishes.

- ❖ **Jr. Lancer Football** Any boys (grades 5-8 this fall) still interested in playing Jr. Lancer Youth Football may still register. Forms are available on the Athletics / Jr. Lancers page at [www.mlhslancers.org](http://www.mlhslancers.org). Practices begin the first week of August.
- ❖ **MLHS Middle School Band** It's not too late for beginner students, grades 5-8, to "Blast Off With Band" and register to learn an instrument! Registrations are due Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. If you did not receive the handout from your student last May, please contact Renee Schmill at 973-5044 or [rmschmill@mlhslancers.org](mailto:rmschmill@mlhslancers.org).
- ❖ **Daily Devotions** Pastor sends out daily devotions via email. They consist of a bible lesson, brief commentary and prayer. If anyone wants to receive these devotions, they should send Pastor their email address. Send the addresses to: [navilluspm@gmail.com](mailto:navilluspm@gmail.com)
- ❖ **Address Updates** In an effort to stay in communication with our members, please keep the church office updated on your current address and telephone number. Thanks for your help!
- ❖ **Automatic Transfer Available for Church Offerings** Immanuel participates in a program called Simply Giving that will automatically transfer funds from your bank account to ours Weekly, Semi-Monthly, or Monthly. There is NO cost to you. This is a great option for many reasons. It encourages regular giving, eliminates the need to write a check (which saves you money) and saves Immanuel money on purchasing church envelopes. Please contact Julie Siegmund at 388-4541/[juliesiegmund@charter.net](mailto:juliesiegmund@charter.net) if you are interested in this option. You would also cancel or change your authorization directly with Immanuel.
- ❖ **Use of Immanuel's Facilities** It is Immanuel's policy that anyone wanting to use the Fellowship Hall or any of the classrooms should contact [Greg Hlinak](#) or indicate the use on the calendar in each room. Requests for rooms should be made at least one week in advance. Chair and table rental should be coordinated through [Greg Hlinak and the Property Board](#). Please only call Paul Nimmer with questions related to the Family Life Center.

## The Synod Page

WELS Commission on Evangelism is making it even easier to access a devotion each day. The commission's Daily Devotions are available in an ever-growing number of ways, one of which should fit into almost anyone's lifestyle. More than 9,000 people subscribe to receive these devotions via e-mail. Or for on-the-go convenience, you can listen to these devotions via podcast as you drive to work, exercise, or cook dinner. You can also read the devotions on [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net), [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or—new in 2014—[Google+](#). Audio and text formats are also available through the [WELS mobile app](#).

The Commission on Evangelism began coordinating these devotions, written by WELS pastors, in 2001. Over the years the reach of these devotions has continued to grow and grow. In addition to the thousands of e-mail subscribers, hundreds—perhaps thousands—more read and listen to the devotions online each weekday. For example, with more than 14,500 followers of the WELS Facebook page, the number of people who read the devotions each day on Facebook is considerable. As Rev. Mike Hintz, director of the Commission on Evangelism, explains, the devotions are also easily shared, so the true reach of these devotions is impossible to determine.

You can [subscribe online](#) at [www.wels.net/wels-subscriptions](http://www.wels.net/wels-subscriptions) to get the devotions sent right to your inbox.