



Immanuel's Newsletter

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Summer 2016



Is Calling a Person to Repentance the Same as Judging Him?

Mike and Jack were good friends. They were the same age, grew up on the same street and even went to the same Church. One day Mike told Jack how happy he was that his girlfriend moved in with him. Jack was stunned. He knew Mike was sinning, but didn't say anything because he was his friend. "Mike was confirmed with me," Jack reasoned within himself, "he should know what the Bible says. Besides, is living together really that bad? Everybody is doing it. It's the way of the world. Doesn't the Bible also say: *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged (Matthew 7:1 NIV84)?"*"

So what do you think about Jack's reasons not to say anything: were they correct? What would you have done if you were in his shoes?

One of the Bible readings appointed for worship on July 3rd contained this verse: *Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. (Galatians 6:1 NIV84)*

But wait a second! Didn't Jesus say, *"Don't Judge? (Matthew 7:1)* Shouldn't we listen to Jesus over Paul?

Jesus never said: "Do not warn a brother caught in sin." No, on another occasion he actually said the opposite: *"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. (Matthew 18:15 NIV84)*

When you carefully look at the context surrounding Jesus' famous *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged"* instruction, it becomes clear that Jesus is not saying that we shouldn't warn people about sin. Rather, He is saying that we should not judge people as being worse sinners than we are - as the very next verse indicates: *For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Matthew 7:2 NIV84)*

Every person on this earth is under God's law and deserves His righteous condemnation. If we look down on others because of their sins, we also condemn ourselves because no one is free from sin. But does that mean that God doesn't want us to warn a person caught in sin? No. What it means, rather, is that God wants us to talk to the person in all humility – recognizing our own need for forgiveness. Look carefully at what Jesus says next:

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. (Matthew 7:3-5 NIV84)

Did you take careful notice of what Jesus said? He did not say "ignore the speck (sin) in your brother's eye." He said, rather, "*first take the plank out of your own eye (that is, repent of your own sin), and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye (that is, you will be able to help lead your brother to repentance).*"

Let's go back to the Galatians passage I quoted earlier. Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. (Galatians 6:1 NIV84)*

The sin Paul warns against is not necessarily the same sin your brother has fallen into, rather it is pride. As you lovingly call others to repent, the devil will tempt you with feelings of self-righteousness and spiritual superiority. This makes it all the more necessary to examine our own hearts - recognizing and repenting of our own sins before we talk to others.

One time a friend of mine mentioned to me how worried she was because another mutual friend had started living with her boyfriend. She asked me if I could talk to her about it. I told her that it wouldn't be wise since our friend confided in her with this information and not me. I encouraged her to talk to our friend. She told me, "But I would feel like such a hypocrite. In my past I committed the same sin. Doesn't this make me the worst person to talk to her?" I replied, "No, it makes you the best. She doesn't need some holier-than-thou person looking down on her. She needs a friend who has been where she is and, by God's grace, been led to repent. Because of your past, you won't belittle her. Rather, out of love for her eternal soul, you will lovingly call her to repent and point her to Jesus to receive the same forgiveness you received."

It's not easy calling a friend to repent of a sin, but, when done in all humility, there is no higher form of love, as the Bible says: *My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20 NIV84)*

Membership Changes

Baptism: Kashton Kickbusch & Maverick Eytcheson
Received by Affirmation of Faith: Keith & Krissy Kickbusch

Permanent Communion Change for Fall Starting in September, Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays (and their corresponding Mondays) every month.

Time Change for Monday Night Services Starting September 5th, Monday night services will start at 6:30pm instead of 7:00pm.



An Outdoor Worship Service and Church Potluck Picnic will take place at Bruemmer Park on **Sunday, August 21st with Worship at 10:00am.** The Men's Club is sponsoring the event with assistance from the Ladies Aid. Hamburgers, Brats and Hot Dogs will be provided and the rest will be potluck. Please bring your own beverage and lawn chair.

President's Letter

Our year is well underway. Do you remember what the congregation's overall goals are for this year? They were to focus on:

1. Christian School Enrollment, and
2. Visitation Ministry.

Your boards are actively working to support these goals along with other important goals as well. Our success is dependent upon you and the grace of our Lord. He works through all of us, and we need your thoughts, hands, prayers and loving support or we won't achieve what we could. Please provide input to your board members, Pastor or myself.

What are your desires regarding Christian School Enrollment?

This is a question for all of us. Are we not all brothers and sisters in Christ? Do we have school age children? Why are they not immersed in a Christian learning environment, a question we want asked, but it should be without judgment or any preconceived notions or opinions? We ask out of love, or shouldn't ask at all. Be willing to ask, and to respond, in love. Let's move forward out of love for our children. We may not have any living at our homes or dependent on us for daily care, but as members of the Lord's kingdom, they are all our children.

What is it that you want to accomplish with the Visitation Ministry?

The Pastor has taught us about evangelism, sharing the Gospel with others. We can do that in many ways. I look at it in this way. We can share the Gospel *passively (indirectly)* by our actions, or *actively (directly)* by verbally sharing the Word. Sometimes I think we underestimate the power of passive or indirect sharing. An example of this is how we live our lives, what are our priorities? Are they the same as someone who is not a believer? Do we stand out from others, as being different, not wholly consumed by desires for money, property, education (so we can make more money) and all the vanities associated with money or positions of authority? Do we intimidate other drivers on the road by how we drive? Do we control our tongues? Does what we say reflect a righteous spirit? Parents know that we can preach all day, but if our actions don't reflect what we preach, children are much more likely to imitate our actions. Do we go to church to be saved, which is a futile gesture, or do we go to church because we are saved and it is something we love doing, to hear the Word and to give our thanks and praises to the one who saved us? Our children know.

How can we actively share the Word? This is tough. As soon as Pastor starts talking about this subject the first thought that crosses my mind is that I don't have the gifts needed to do that. Does that happen to you? But after I give it some thought I know that what the Lord intended, what the Lord is revealing to us, or what he is teaching us through that ink and paper we call the Bible is the important thing. We must share that, and fight off the thought that we need the training of a pastor, or have all kinds of Bible passages memorized, in order to share the Gospel. If we can't share the Word in our own way our

efforts to reach out to our own straying (Visitation Ministry) as well as others is not going to bear as much fruit as it should. We need people to help with visitations and outreach, but the purpose is not to increase our membership to make our church bigger (because then we will likely fail) but to bring souls to Christ, a God-pleasing reason. It's all about LOVE. Please help if contacted. Not sure how you can help, please ask. Maybe all you or I need to do is to share a few WOW factors.

WOW Factors – Why it is Wonderful to be a Christian?

1. God, the creator of the earth and everything on it, the stars and the galaxies, the creator of the whole universe, all that there is, with power beyond description and human understanding, loves you; yes you, with all your sinfulness and frailties. He created you, he saw you when you were still in your mother's womb. He knows you, everything about you, all your innermost secrets. He has seen everything you've ever done, he knows your thoughts; and even though our sinful natures rebel against him, he still loves you. **Wow!**
2. This loving God wants to be your Father. So God himself sent his Son to be our Lord and Savior, to take on the human flesh of his own creation and to be born of a virgin. This is how much he loves you; he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to **die** for you. No human action or effort could ever span the chasm between sinful man and God,

so God did it for us. He came to us. Jesus interceded for us and gave his life for us! Who are we that God, who is without sin, should be shamefully abused, spit upon, beaten, cursed at, and crucified like a criminal? How infinite must his love be for us! He gave his life and rose again, for you and me, so that we could be with him in Heaven.

Wow!

3. The Father wants a personal relationship with you; like that between a loving child and a loving father. He will always hear you when you pray to him if you believe and have faith in his Son who died for you and rose again. We are clothed in Jesus' righteousness. Jesus is in Heaven, interceding for you with the Father when you sin. **Wow!**
4. God gives you faith. It is free! By God's grace, because of his love for you, he gives you faith so that you can overcome Satan and continue to believe. It is a free gift. He sends his Holy Spirit to strengthen you against the onslaught of the Devil and our sinful flesh and sends his holy angels to guard and protect us. Who can withstand the power of God? Not even the Devil can. **Wow!**
5. God freely gives us all we need for our earthly lives and our salvation. He gives us his Word to guide and strengthen us. He gives us his law, the hope of salvation, and the key to eternal life; by his grace we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. By our faith in the Lord Savior we have the hope of salvation. This knowledge fills our hearts with joy. We will spend eternal life in Heaven with our Savior! Now we understand what it is to love and hence, how to love others, as he loved us. **Wow!**
6. Because of God's infinite love for us we can trust in his eternal faithfulness. He promises that. Although we may stray, he remains faithful, always patiently waiting for us to return to him in repentance. No matter what troubles we may face, he is with us and will never leave us. All things work for our good because we know how much he loves and cares for us. **Wow!**
7. We are baptized into the kingdom of God. We are with untold numbers of brothers and sisters in Christ. We are never alone. Jesus himself is one of our brothers! **Wow!**

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

Your brother in Christ,
Glenn M. Brunner

Property

Summer has arrived as the property board's first outdoor meeting was conducted on the parsonage back porch this past week. Discussions were held on some of the projects to be completed this year. Such as, seal coating of the parking lot, railing installation at the front of church, stained glass windows process, and the church roofing inspection. There are numerous routine maintenance projects about the church that are needed, some are in progress and few already completed. All conducted with care in order to keep Immanuel property in good repair. This year

out door lawn cutting task is being conducted by Wayne Kittel. Also, yard work on decorative bushes and flowers has been done by caring church volunteers that give the property a pleasing appearance. If you would like to help, please feel free to come and dig your fingers into the warm soil about the church land scape and pull some weeds. Or, maybe simply water flowers and the young trees recently planted. The family life center activities are also at rest as basketball, volleyball seasons are inactive and baseball can be played outdoors. Well folks, you're hard working property board extends to you a great summer season. Stay cool!

Submitted by Greg Hlinak

Elders

Summertime. My favorite time of the year. I'm reminded of my own childhood. Playing baseball (which I did a lot, riding bike, fishing, and all the other activities. It was an innocent time around Kewaunee in the late fifties and early sixties. It seems you were always doing something outside.

I don't see much of that anymore. It's now a world of I-phones, I pads, computers, and all the rest that occupy the kids time. What a shame. It sure was a fun time for me.

On to church business. The bike ride June 18th turned out to be a great time. About thirty people did the ride, the youngest being Emily Sullivan and the oldest Bob Cox. An additional five people joined us for lunch and

fellowship. The weather treated us well (not too warm or windy). Many people came up to me and said they thought the ride was a good idea and wanted to do it again. So we decided to do another on October 8th. Hope to see you there.

The Elders have been "slowly" contacting delinquent members. We again ask the congregation to help us in this ministry by talking to family members, friends, relation, and neighbors and encourage them to come to here Gods word. Also, the talent survey is ready (there should be one in this newsletter). Please fill it out and return it to church or one of the Elders (Dick Stuebs, Scott Kieckbusch, or Bob Heiter) or e-mail it to me at rimstuebs@charter.net. If you need more copies for your household, there will some in the back of church.

We also plan to have the railing up, if it's not already, in the near future. More ideas about fellowship are being developed, but more on that later.

Finally, although it's been said many times before, we here at Immanuel are very fortunate to have Pastor Sullivan. His decision to stay eased a lot of minds. His preaching and teaching of God's word and all the other things he does is truly a blessing. Always keep him in your prayers.

Dick Stuebs—Chair, Scott Kieckbusch, Bob Heiter

Evangelism

In order to let visitors and new residents in Kewaunee know about our congregation, we are currently working on the development of a general information brochure.

For the future we will be working on the Christmas mailings and radio messages.

Finally, as nominations for church leadership positions are fast approaching, we ask that, if you are nominated to serve on a board, you happily accept and serve God and this congregation to the best of your abilities. If you are nominated for Evangelism, there is currently very little knocking on doors, but mostly we get the message out through written materials and at times by radio.

Lloyd Nimmer, Jacob Hlinak, Lou Richard, David Hlinak & Ken Kratz

Youth Christian Education

The YCE Board mailed out 28 questionnaires to all families of school-age children on their thoughts, ideas and feelings of a Christian-based

education. It is designed to provide us with issues that need to be addressed as well as inform us of anything we may be able to do to help families strengthen their children's Christian education. 10 of the questionnaires have been returned and the YCE Board is looking at the data and suggestions and will be considering possible programs that Immanuel can put into place to strengthen Christian Education in our children.

11 Youth and 2 Chaperones attended the WELS International Youth Rally in Fort Collins, Colorado at the end of June. They all had an awesome time! Short recaps from each of them are included in this newsletter.

Sunday School starts on September 11th. Austin Richard will be teaching 5th grade this year and we thank him for serving the Lord in this capacity. Jack Novak will now teach grades 6-8.

Sincerely,
Brian D. Dax, Chairman

Planned Giving

Your Will, Your Won't

There is a reason why the main estate planning document that is used to disburse one's assets at death is called a "will." This

single word encases the wishes of the deceased. It expresses the intention, the goal, or the purpose of the one making the declaration. The document contains legal words of one's personal will. "I will that Mary receives my pearl necklace."

In this document, a person establishes the future owners of his or her assets. No one can change a person's will once death occurs. The will of the deceased continues until every part of it has been completed, every deed done.

In his or her will, the person directs the distribution of earthly belongings that aren't apportioned through other means (e.g., beneficiary designations). When the reading of the will occurs during probate, it is legally as though the person is right there handing out each and every personal asset to a family member, a charity, or other entity.

When a person dies without a will, they go to the grave powerless to control the distributions of their worldly possessions. They abdicate their "will power."

A word we might apply to the absence of a will might be "won't." This invisible "document" declares that the descendant died intestate, or without a will. This non-will lets family members and others know that all the worldly possessions of the deceased will be distributed by the will of the state . . . and this will may vary vastly from what the decedent might have wished.

Do you have a valid, up-to-date will in place? Or have you settled for a "won't"? For the sake of your family and others who could be helped through your will through the charitable causes you support, we urge you to turn your "won't" into a will, and to coordinate it with your other legal documents.

Christian Estate Planning Worship Service

Are you looking for guidance on how best to use your gifts to not only help your congregation and/or other WELS ministries, but also plan for your future?

On Sunday, October 23 & Monday, October 24, 2016, Immanuel will be holding special services on Planned Giving. Each service will be followed by a seminar for those members interested in Christian Estate Planning. Pastor Dennis Kleist, one of our WELS Ministry of Christian Giving counselors, will conduct both the services and the seminars. For assistance with your will and Christian estate planning, contact one of our WELS Christian giving counselors serving our congregation. This a free service of our church body in order to help WELS members praise God through their estate plans.

Rev. Dennis Kleist
Dennis.kleist@wels.net

920-740-5899

Rev. Davis Waege
David.waega@wels.net
612-716-2749

Planned Giving Table

The **Planned Giving Table** can be found on the bulletin board in the church narthex. The table was developed to let the congregation know about projects and items that need funding. The table is not just a "wish list", but it also includes desperately needed projects and items that our yearly church budget might not cover. Anything on the table listed in **BOLD** is high priority.

If you wish to contribute something on the Planned Giving Table, simply put your contribution in an envelope and write on it the project or item it is to go toward. Place the envelope in the alms box or give it Julie Siegmund.

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 Schnieder & David
Siegmund

Announcements

Blood Drive The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in the Family Life Center on Wednesday, August 24th from 11:00am to 5:30pm. Please consider donating blood. For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (733-2767), visit

redcrossblood.org or talk to Ann Brunner. Volunteers are also needed to support this effort. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Without your help we cannot continue to support the Red Cross.

Lutheran Ladies' League Rally Immanuel will co-host the 52nd Lutheran Ladies League Rally on Saturday, September 17th starting at 9:00am. The theme is "Women's Ministry" and the speakers will be Naomi Schmidt and Kathie Wendland. Reservations are \$7.00/person and should be made with Ruth Siegmund by September 5th.

2016 Volley Tots Youth Volleyball Program Open to girls and boys in grades 1st - 6th. Sessions will be Saturday mornings September 17th - October 22nd in the Family Life Center. Grades 1 & 2 9:45-10:45; Grades 3 & 4 8:30-9:30; and grades 5 & 6 11am - 12pm. Cost is \$36 - includes team t-shirts. Registration forms are available in the church narthex, in the Family Life Center, or you can contact Greta Bloniarz (255-4919 or bloniarzmg@gmail.com).

2016 Time 'n Talent: October 2nd has been set for this year's Time 'n Talent/Silent Auction. It will be held at Immanuel in the Fellowship Hall and will again feature a breakfast brunch served by the Athletic Club. Due to a WI law change, pre-sales multiple container raffles are no longer allowed. Therefore, this year we will have a single container raffle and a silent auction. Although no item is too small, to ensure all winners drawn will receive a prize valued at \$50 or more, some donations will need to be combined. Donations received after August 15th will be placed in our silent auction. Donations can be emailed to bloniarzmg@gmail.com or you can contact any one of the Athletic Club members.

MLHS Sweet Corn Thank you to those who picked corn and to everyone who provided a donation in support of tuition vouchers for students attending Manitowoc Lutheran HS. We raised \$436.00. I hope you enjoyed the corn. The corn was provided by Howard and Tamara Schultz of Greenleaf. Glenn M. Brunner, MLHS Lead Delegate

Fellowship Opportunities

Fireside Trip on Thursday, Sept. 8th for the show "Million Dollar Quartet" featuring music of Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins. Cost is \$88 per person, includes: coach bus, dinner show ticket and snacks. Bus leaves at 7 am from Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot. Call Mari Fager at 920-388-2841 to pay for and reserve your spot.

Exercise Class The Immanuel Fellowship Group invites our congregation members to come for exercise class in the Family Life Center on Wednesday & Friday mornings from 9 to 10am, starting on Wednesday, September 21st. The Strong Bones class is led by Renee Koenig from UW Extension. Come and join us!

Bike Ride & Fellowship Mark October 8th on your calendar. More information to follow.

Fireside Trip on Thursday, Nov. 3rd for the Christmas Show. Cost is \$88 per person, includes: coach bus, dinner show ticket and snacks. Bus leaves at 7 am from Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot. Call Mari Fager at 920-388-2841 to pay for and reserve your spot.

Manitowoc Lutheran High School (MLHS) Delegate Report

Finances

- Tuition for the next school year has been held to \$5,600. MLHS and Immanuel have tuition assistance programs available to assist families so that any parent interested in sending their student to MLHS should be able to do so. What a blessing!

Call Status Summary

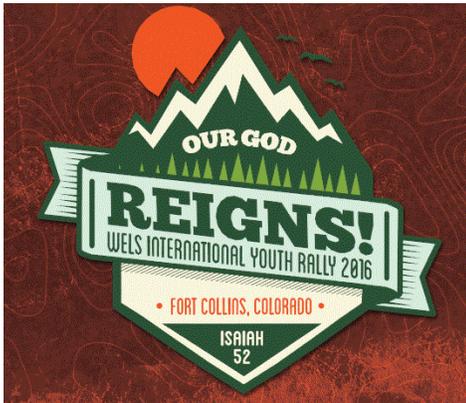
- Mr. Nate King has been extended the call to fill MLHS' International Student Coordinator position. Mr. King currently serves as a teacher with "Friends of China".

Education

- Online Classes: In the 2012 – 2013 school year three students took online classes. For 2016 – 2017 there are 73 seats lined up for 20 different courses.
- 31 students took the Advanced Placement Courses for college credits in U.S. History, Environmental Science, Psychology, Calculus, and Economics. This is

a wonderful number and reflects the excellent level of education available at MLHS.

Glenn M. Brunner
MLHS Lead Delegate



Dylan Belter: My experience at the Youth Rally was Fun! I was most surprised when we went on the Old Fort Collins scavenger hunt and seen a guy on a one wheeled seg-way in a wizard costume. I loved the worship services, because they were led by the band Koine. It was an upbeat concept that I like. I liked the workshops that we attended, it

was a good experience. On the scavenger hunt, it was hard. There were morose codes and clues that we had to find in the town. The beds at night were amazing. And that's my experience at the Youth Rally.

Dana Richard: The youth rally was so great! I had so much fun and I met so many new people. I especially enjoyed the modern suspect concert and the white water rafting. The hardest part was trying to find my dorm and the bus ride there and back. The whole campus was very nice as were the dorms. But what was especially cool was that koiné lead all of the devotion music. Everyone there was very nice and friendly. Also it was amazing how many people that were there, I found it so cool that some people were from China and Japan. I almost wish we could have stayed longer; I had so much fun, I definitely hope I can go next time too!

Rachel Dax: This past week in Fort Collins, Colorado has been eye opening to say the least. Being able to have a worship service with 2500 other believers and followers of Jesus makes one realize how powerful our God is. One of the things I will always remember from this trip is something so small, but yet so big- As we were driving up the mountain to go rafting, I glanced out the window and noticed I was surrounded by mountains. Now, most people would think that is a pretty ordinary sight when visiting Colorado. However, many people don't take a second to realize how those mountains were put there- these beautiful landmarks were formed and put there by our Lord Jesus Christ. This week I was able to really look at how much we take for granted. For example, one of our keynote speakers included a family from Pakistan. This family risks their life day in and day out as they are spreading God's word throughout their country. As being the present youth, and the future leaders of the church, this rally was very useful for all of us. I challenge both the young and the old members of our congregation to thank the Lord for all the struggles you have been faced with. You weren't faced with those challenges if the Lord your God did not think you could handle them. Thanks again for sending us on this trip! Our God Reigns!

Michael Stauber: Hi I'm Michael Stauber, I will be attending Kewaunee High School this year. I just got confirmed this past year and I would like to thank you for paying for the trip that was very nice of you. Now I will tell you how it went. I enjoyed the trip because we had a good time learning about God. My favorite part was rafting. The rafting was not part of learning about God but it was a very good time. Every day after we ate breakfast we had a 1.5 hour devotion all teaching us about how Our God Reigns. It was interesting because we got to worship with 2,500 other Christian people. With all the other people came other Pastors. It was cool seeing the way the pastors teach the word of God. We also had workshops, I had a workshop talking about how super heroes and how they are supposed to be Christ in movies. The second workshop I learned about Psalm 46 and how it shows the weaknesses of the world.

Brooke Walechka: I had the opportunity to go to Colorado with a bunch of my Sunday school classmates both younger and older than me. We all had to ride a coach bus to Colorado which was a 21 hour trip. when we got to Colorado we had to go to our dorms and unpack and settle in. Then we got to go to worship and sing with the Koine band which I loved. We went to worship every morning after breakfast and every night after supper. We had keynote speakers which I thought were very funny but at the same time very serious and true to what they were preaching to us. We all had two workshops that we got to go too and I learned that

it's okay to be different because everyone is different in their own special way. Each individual group or church also had their off time or free time which we chose to go whitewater rafting. Which I never went before so I was scared at first but I'm glad I went because I had a blast. This trip honestly taught me a lot and I think it would be awesome if we could do more services like we did in Colorado.

Tanor Bortolini: Hi I'm Tanor Bortolini and I'm a incoming freshmen into Kewaunee High School. Since I was confirmed and going into High School I was able to go to the WELS Youth Rally. It was in Fort Collins, Colorado and it was a trip I will definitely not forget. It's was a ton of fun being able to interact with a bunch of kids who shared the same belief with me. We met so many people that were awesome and great to hang out with from all around the nation. They even had speakers come in from China and Pakistan. The bus ride was interesting to but I'll leave that out. They had a band called Kioné and they were really cool! I really enjoyed getting the opportunity to attend the devotions. One of the most interesting things was when we got to go white water rafting, our guide Jack was cool and it was a lot of fun. I hope I can do this again someday!

Sara Dax: Over this past week, I went to the 2016 youth rally in Colorado. We experienced a lot of new things on this trip. Some things are worshipping 2-3 times a day with over 2500 people together, meeting new people, learning more about the Lord in classes and having people come in from all over the world, such as China and Pakistan, to talk about how they preach and spread the word in their country. We also had an opportunity to go rafting! I really enjoyed it and I met new people there as well. I learned that there are so many ways to hear and spread the word of the Lord by not just reading the bible. The Koiné band was there and they were amazing! It was great having a band play in worship, I really enjoyed it. Thanks.

Andrew Richard: My name is Andrew Richard and our trip to Fort Collins of the International Youth Rally was a very fun. I learned a lot about God in a new way that I am used to. Our first morning we had our first meeting in the mobey center and we had a keynote speaker named Pastor Jared. He taught us that God is the only thing that can fill us up spiritually he did with funny stories and experiences from his life. During this past week I met a lot of new people from a lot of different places. We had to go to some workshops to learn about God I, one of them was Giving Gifts to the Giver, where I learned that we must use the abilities God gave us to praise him. Our morning sessions were led by the band Koine and they were really good. The best part of the trip was the white water rafting and it was fun. We went through class 3 Rapids it was a thrill. It was a very fun experience and a good learning experience.

Taylor Brown: On Monday June 27 we had a big trip ahead of us! All of the youth that were attending the rally that went to our church gathered outside of the church with their luggage, packed and ready for our big 20 hour bus ride! We took a coach bus which was extremely convenient to me and all of the others who travelled with us. We arrived around 2 pm in Fort Collins Colorado. While experiencing a time change that put us

one hour behind our normal Wisconsin time. As soon as we got there we discovered our dorm areas where we would be staying for the next few days. The next day we attended two workshops that were extremely interesting! Every morning we would enjoy a devotion with excellent music and inspirational speakers who made things fun to learn. The next day was one of my favorites, we went white-water rafting! It was a experience that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Over the course of the four days of the youth rally our group enjoyed delicious food catered by the college, music played by koiné & modern suspect. I made life long friends as well as memories that will be with me forever.

Hailey Novak: During this past week in Colorado for WELS youth rally 2016, we met new people, and was able to watch new ways in which they preach their faith. This trip made me think about what the future of our church may look like if we follow these ways of teaching. I believe with these ways of reaching our congregation will be strong in faith. Along the course of the trip we attended 6 rally's where us and others listened to different speakers and watched different shows. Together me and over 2500 people were able to learn and preach about our God. If I had another chance to attend another one of these youth rallies again I would do it in a heartbeat.

McCoy Walechka: Hi, I'm McCoy Walechka and this trip was awesome experience for me! I learned about how we can

give gifts to God in many different ways besides just reading the bible. I meet many different people and they taught us how they also do things in church and I told them what we do. Some churches do different things like a band that I really liked. When we came into worship every morning we had a keynote speaker speak to us and they taught us different lessons about life and how to thank our God. This trip was very useful to me from meeting new friends and learning new things while also praising our lord. If I could do it again I would without a second guess. Thank you.

Michelle Dax & Jason Belter: Our travels to Colorado were a great experience for all of us. We learned patience and how to sleep on a 21 hour bus trip with limited space and leg room. We learned that our God Reigns. We did this through devotions, song, worship, workshops and enjoying what God has given us. We also learned that we need to make our youth feel that this is their congregation too. It is our hope that we will reach out to them and make them feel that.