



# Immanuel's Newsletter

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## Why Should I Attend A Bible Class?

Let's be honest: studying the Bible is difficult. It's not that we don't love God, his promises or the really cool Bible stories we've learned as children (e.g. David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lions Den, etc. . . ) It's just that the Bible is a hard book to read and understand. Old Testament names of people, places and events seem so unpronounceable that we can't always figure out who's doing what and why. On top of this, a lot of laws and descriptions the Bible uses seem hard to relate to.

The Bible is not the easiest book to pick up and read, and yet God desires that we study it. Why? Because he promises to communicate with us only through his Word – not dreams, not feelings, not signs: just his Word. The apostle Paul says: *Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.* (Romans 10:17 NIV84)

God wants you to study his Word. But how do we do it? I mean, we want to grow in our faith and knowledge of God (anyone who wouldn't want that would be hard-pressed convincing me that they are Christian), but understanding the Bible can be extremely difficult; so how can we do it? By doing the same thing Christians have done ever since Pentecost: gathering together with fellow believers to study the Bible.

But don't we already do this at worship? Yes and no. What I mean is this: when we gather together for worship, it's to hear God's Word proclaimed to us and praise him for his grace. But "once a week for worship" wasn't the only time Christians gathered together in the past to study God's Word. Concerning the first Christians in Jerusalem, the Bible says: *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.* (Acts 2:46 NIV84). Regarding the Christians in Berea, the Holy Spirit says: *they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.* (Acts 17:11 NIV84)

The early Christians understood that, in order to grow in faith and knowledge of Christ, they needed to meet together more than just one hour for worship. They needed to study God's word together as often as possible – asking questions and searching the Scriptures together for the answers. The same was true in Luther's day: people weren't just encouraged to come to the Sunday morning service, but also to Sunday afternoon, evening and midweek "instructive" services. Luther also encouraged the princes and lords of his land to let common folk attend annual week-long seminars that would take the people through the Catechism.

The point I'm trying to make is this: the Christian Church of all time has found it beneficial - not only to gather together for weekly worship with communion, but to also gather at other times to simply study God's Word. We keep this tradition in the form of Bible classes.

Bible classes are an excellent way to grow in your faith and knowledge of the Bible as you study Scripture together with other Christians. I know: some people are scared to come to Bible class because they are afraid that they might look stupid - not knowing as much as they think they should. But here's the thing: Bible class was never meant to be a place to show off. It is a place to learn. My goal is not to embarrass people by putting them on the spot, but to inform, instruct and encourage them with God's Word - explaining the culture, history and meanings behind the passages we study - and showing how they relate to our day to day lives.

Some people come to Bible class just to listen. That's ok. Why? Because others come to ask questions. It's amazing to see how many times someone else will ask a burning question you might have been too shy to ask, and you benefit from hearing the answer. It's also amazing to hear some of the things other people struggle with in their lives and the encouragement they have found in God's Word. I can't tell you how many times a topic that I thought would be boring turn out to be utterly fascinating - applying to my life in more ways than I could have imagined.

Bible study is not a burden or waste of time. It is a wonderful opportunity to grow together in our understanding, faith and love.

Now, this doesn't mean that Bible Class will captivate your attention like a close Packer game. No, studying the Bible takes effort. Due to your pastor's human weakness it can, at times, seem confusing or uninteresting. Due to your own sinful heart, it can seem hard or boring. What are we to do during times like this? 1) Pray - asking the LORD to help and bless your study. 2) Talk. Participate and ask questions. Don't be afraid to tell me: "Hey, Pastor: I didn't quite understand what you were talking about. Can you explain it to me in a different way?" I will try my best to do so.

Whatever you do: don't give up taking the opportunities offered you to gather together with fellow Christians to study God's Word. I know, it's tough this summer with everyone's crazy schedules. But make a plan to start in the fall. I still haven't decided what we will study next, so shoot me a text, send me an email or give me a call about topics that interest you or questions you may have about the Bible. Let me know what days and times work best for you to attend Bible Class and I will do my best to accommodate you.

I truly look forward to studying God's Word with you, remembering the Holy Spirit's encouragement:

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.  
(Hebrews 10:25 NIV84)

Pastor out of Town Pastor Sullivan will be leaving 7-27-2017 to visit family in Canada and is planning to return late 8-10-2017. His cell phone will NOT work in Canada. If you need pastoral assistance during that time, please call Pastor Kratz at (920) 388-9500. If you need to contact Pastor Sullivan directly during this time, please email or leave him a message on his cellphone voice mail (920) 255- 8156 - which he will be able to check periodically, whenever he has access to wifi.

### **Membership Changes**

**Transfer from another WELS Church:** Heidi Brunner  
**Transfer to another WELS Church:** David Hoffman Jr.; Sandy Pelnar  
**Release to non-WELS Church:** Alex Gerdmann

# President's Letter

Well, it's summer, wet but warm. Days are getting shorter, less than 6 months to Christmas. With the national holiday here, I would like to present a related subject we see at church, but may not talk about often. In front of church you will notice two flags. Our nation's flag and the white one which is the Christian flag. We place Old Glory on the right of the speaker as the predominant position. The Christian flag holds importance as a symbol of all Christianity, and is used by many denominations. By the way there is a pledge of allegiance for this flag also. So are we correct in having the flags in church? The Scriptures are silent on this matter, so this tradition could be a great topic of discussion. In the end, if we focus our worship on Christ, and our tradition does not detract, it is fine to have this display. For more information and discussion do an internet search- Christian Flag, Flags in Church WELS.

Now to church business, we have our July Voter's meeting coming up July 23, after church. We will ratify a Nomination Committee, discuss the new monitor/screen comparison, discuss the possibility of a pictorial member directory, a reprinting of a Church stained glass window book, Immanuel Staff Study update, Outdoor Service preparation, review VBS preparation and promotion, and some other topics of church business. These items are important for your church, please attend.

As President, I get emails and mailings with good information about WELS ministries and other opportunities to help spread the Gospel. Some of these topics I will post on the bulletin board at church, if you want to help with time, talents, or financial resources, there are lots of ways and "orphans" to adapt!

Vietnam Bibles- Friends of Vietnam Restoring the Word Ministry, are delivering translated Bibles to that mission field. Volunteer opportunities at MLHS- L-C.R.E.W. is a volunteer group for the high school, go to MLHS website for more information. MLHS has its own Script Program to support the high school. It works like Immanuel's program but may have some places in addition to ours, so check it out, can be done online!

I am certainly impressed with the topics Pastor has come up with for discussion during pre-service Bible Classes. There have been good discussions and help us to live our faith. If you have an idea that would be interesting to discuss please talk to him.

In September there is a, "Life of Luther Seminar" by a professor from WLC. It will be at Mt Olive, Green Bay. If anyone would like to attend, and then share this information with Immanuel, or other churches, to help celebrate this Luther centennial it would be great! See the bulletin board.

As we go out to our summer vacations and camping excursions, to create the memories the kids will remember and talk about for the rest of their lives, take some time to talk about family, God's wonderful Creation, the family stories from the past, and what we might wish for the future. Consider including a family devotion or topic discussion around the fire, something we don't always take time for at home. Also, don't forget to use the WELS church locator to plan your attendance at a church near you as you travel. I have found some wonderful places of worship all over this great country of ours- Wisconsin, Florida, Virginia, Arizona, Alaska, and places in between!

I continue to invite you to contact me or your church's leadership, with comments or concerns about Immanuel. Dan Fager 255-2613 [dnlfager2@gmail.com](mailto:dnlfager2@gmail.com)

OWLS OWLS meetings are the first Tuesday of each month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30pm for a Devotion, Meeting, Snacks, Social or Entertainment. Always looking for new members to join us. Contact President Carol Krueger for more information.

Ladies Aid Our next meetings are August 10 at 6:30pm and September 14 at 1pm. We would love to see more members attending more often and always welcome new members. Without you all, there might be a time in the future that Ladies Aid might no longer be.

Red Cross Blood Drive Our June 21 Blood Drive was success, our goal was 50 units which we almost made with 48 units collected. Thank you to all that came to donate and help on the 21st.

Our next blood drive is August 16<sup>th</sup> from 11-5:30. We need a little extra help that day as Glenn & I will be away visiting our Grandchildren that week. We need someone to oversee the event, please let me know. Thank you, Ann Brunner

## Elders

Elder's Mission: *Reach out in love to our inactive members and work to provide for the physical needs and the spiritual enrichment of all our members and called workers.*

We are moving along on trying to contact the many members who are in the inactive member category. Would you like to help us? This is not about increasing the size of the congregation; this is about reaching out to a missing brother or sister, and sharing our love for the Lord and his Word. If you decide to contact a member who has not been attending services please let us know. We don't want to overwhelm our brother or sister. With the Lord's help we will contact every member on the list within the next quarter and assist him or her in whatever way we can. We are sending out monthly devotions to members who have not been attending services.

Richard Stuebs has taken over the position of Librarian and is doing a great job. He has added shelves and is organizing the children's library books. Thanks Dick.

We will miss Bill and Sue Jacobs. They have moved to Omro, WI. We wish them continued blessings from the Lord. Ellen Wells has also moved to a nursing home in Beaver Dam closer to her niece, but will remain a member at Immanuel.

I'm very happy to report our alms box ministry is going well. This is a wonderful way to give to the various synod ministries that may not be getting support from Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO). Thank you to everyone who has dropped a coin in the alms box. Since our last report: March – WELS Youth and Family Services: \$191.00; April – Time of Grace Ministries: \$192.00; May – Military Services: \$223.00.

Thanks to everyone helping to keep the noise down within the Sanctuary by keeping doors closed and holding conversations in the Narthex. This maintains proper reverence for the Sanctuary prior to the start of church services while the organ is playing and members are preparing for their worship.

I will be attending the WELS Convention at the end of July as your delegate. I have reviewed the Book of Reports and Memorials (BORAM) and sent off several inquiries. If you have any questions about the synod feel free to ask me. I may be able to point you to a particular report in the BORAM that will answer your question. I'll do my best to represent you at the convention if the opportunity presents itself. The agenda is busy as there is much business to get done in a short period of time.

Your brother in Christ,  
Glenn M. Brunner, Chairman, Board of Elders

# Property

Introducing your Property Boards mid-summer newsletter of 2017

Property Board Goal; Maintain Immanuel Lutheran facilities in good repair by careful planning, thoughtful decision making, and the supervision of such activities as they take place.

Property Board recommendations: Relax now that summer is here, grab a cold beverage, sit in your favorite chair and enjoy the outdoors.

Organ: Jack Breedis is nearly complete with tuning our organ. The organ project was expected to be completed the last calendar year. However, Jack and his wife had some health issues preventing him from completing his work. He is back tweaking some of the electrical issues in relays and stops that were not working properly.

Stained Glass Windows: Workers from "Cathedral Crafts" were here to take measurements last week as the work on the window restoration is about to begin. It will be an exciting time to see the much needed repairs in progress. For this board, we can be at ease knowing structural strength will be restored in the studio of window frames. Adding to our security will be a protective layer of Plexiglas on the outside to act as a thermal barrier and to guard against the elements outdoors.

The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the work progressed under them. They built the temple of GOD according to its original design and reinforced it. (2Chronicals 24 13)

Stay cool, you're members of the hard working Property Board;

Steve Ihlenfeldt, Bucky Ihlenfeldt, Fred Steffen, Jeff Christian, and Greg Hlinak

## Youth Christian Education

Board Members: Chair Brian Dax, David Chaudoir, Chris Richard and Keith Schmelting

- Three students were confirmed on May 21, 2017. Please welcome them as adults into our congregation.
- Anne Kavicky will replace Rachel Christian as Sunday School teacher in the upcoming school year. Rachel was recognized with a plaque in Church on May 21<sup>st</sup> followed by a cake and ice cream social. If you get a chance, please thank Rachel for her 40 years of service and devotion to the Sunday School program.
- Jill Belter is continuing to promote and encourage the teen members of our congregation through the YPS program. Please take the time to encourage the young members of our congregation to participate in the YPS program as it teaches life-long lessons under Christ's guidance.
- Jill Belter will once again be the coordinator of our Vacation Bible School (VBS) program to be held August 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This year's Program is called "All Aboard". Please register your young children in this fun and exciting program. It's a good break from the summertime routine and also serves as a refresher as they head into the Sunday School year. We thank Jill Belter and Laura Sullivan for heading up the VBS program, not to mention all the volunteers that are needed to make the program a success.
- Lastly, our board continues discussion on the M.I.S.S.I.O.N. staff study that the Church Council currently has on their agenda.

Sincerely,  
Brian D. Dax, Chairman



**Vacation Bible School** All aboard! We're hauling precious cargo down the tracks at Immanuel Lutheran Church. All children ages 4 (pre-k) - 12 (6th grade) are invited to join in Making Tracks—a vacation Bible school with a railroad theme. The five-day program runs from **Monday, August 14 through Friday, August 18 from 5:00-7:30pm**. Sessions begin with a free supper/snack at 5:00pm, followed by upbeat, theme-related songs; Bible study; games; and crafts.

Attend all or whichever sessions fit your schedule.

7th and 8th graders and YPS we would love it if you could be leaders and helpers and use your God given talents again this year!

For more information, or if you are willing to help call/text Jill Belter at 920-606-1433 or email at [jillbelter@gmail.com](mailto:jillbelter@gmail.com).



Over the past 6 years, dozens of families in our community have enjoyed coming to Little Lambs and had the opportunity to hear the good news of our Savior's love. Because of this, I feel Little Lambs plays an important role in our church's ministry. Therefore I am always looking for ways to improve the program to best serve our community. This year I will change the schedule again. **Beginning September 19th we will meet every week through November 28.** We will alternate meeting in the playroom and the gym. Each session will include story time and a snack. In January we will begin a special 8 week program consisting of story times and special theme related activities. Finally after Easter we will close out the year meeting in the playroom and gym again.

How can you help? Pray that Little Lambs reaches more people in our congregation and community who need to hear about our Savior. Help spread the word about this great program: share Facebook posts, tell people, offer to hang posters around town, tell me about more advertising avenues and help me implement them. Advertising is the thing I struggle with the most and I could use all the support from you I can get. Let's get the word out!

## *Immanuel Women's Ministry*

### Coffee with Christ

It is such a blessing meeting with women to study God's Word. Immanuel women have the great opportunity to meet together on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 8:00am. Our Fall session is September 16 - November 18. Please join us.

If you have any questions, please call Laura Sullivan at 388-6009.

# Evangelism

We took a look at the guest registry, and noticed that it needed an update. We made the rows taller and wider. That way guests can fit all the information that we are asking of them. We would like all the members who fill it out, to please fill out their address as well to help encourage guest to do the same. This way we can reach out to them, thanking them for visiting, and so on.

Our church brochure has been completed and we have printed 1000 copies. Our set locations have been picked at the following; Kewaunee Chamber, Kewaunee Camp Ground, Cedar Valley Camp Ground, Maple Valley Camp Ground, Coho Motel, Harbor Lights Lodge, Kewaunee Marina, Salmon Harbor Marina, Kunkel's Korner, and our Family Life Center. These locations will have a set amount of inventory, and we are looking for members to help keep these locations stocked up. If you are interested, please see one of our board members, or Pastor Sullivan. This brochure has a nice layout that we put a lot of hard work into. Kari Dorner helped us with some of the artwork. We picked two of her items to go in it. One is our bell tower that is on the front page. We wanted to have it recognizable with our church. The other is the two hands holding a heart with a cross.

The front page states the Evangelism's theme "*A friendly place for you and your family*" The back shows a map and our address and contact information. The inside has a Welcome with an invite to share with us "*Peace in Jesus, Purpose for Life, and Hope for the Future*". We also have "*What We Believe*" and what "*We Offer*". We believe this will be a great tool to help in our mission. Feel free to share one with whoever may need it.

Upcoming work - We plan to work on getting signs for members to proudly display in their front yards.

And supporting the Fellowship committee with all the work they are doing.

The 2017 Evangelism Board consists of Jason Belter, Lou Richard, Pastor Ken Kratz, and Jake Hlinak. If you have any questions or suggestions you would like this board to take action on, please reach out to any member.

Respectfully,  
Jason Belter

## Planned Giving Committee

EVERY CHECK A REMINDER

WELS Foundation's gift annuity program, which benefits WELS ministries such as our congregation, appeals to donors for several reasons.

First, the annuity payments are fixed and unaffected by the ups and downs of market conditions. You can count on receiving the same amount on every payment date.

Second, the payment rates are very attractive, especially for older donors.

Third, the payments last a lifetime. It doesn't matter how long you live, your payments will keep right on coming.

Fourth, part of the payment amount is tax-free. This benefit lasts until you reach the normal age of life expectancy.

Fifth, you receive an income tax deduction when you obtain the annuity, and your estate may benefit by having the asset removed from possible estate taxes.

Sixth, your gift annuity provides you with immense satisfaction, knowing that you have made a significant gift to the Lord.

Seventh, your gift annuity is a powerful example to family and friends that you value your congregation and what it represents.

Annuitants (those who receive payments from annuities) receive their annual payments on a quarterly basis. This means that every three months they either receive a check or a notice that funds have been deposited in their account. These quarterly payments can serve as a reminder of the benefits of having a charitable gift annuity.

To learn how you can obtain your own gift annuity through WELS Foundation contact Christian Giving Counselor, Rev. Dennis Kleist, [Dennis.kleist@wels.net](mailto:Dennis.kleist@wels.net), 920-740-5899.

He can share with you helpful information and provide a personalized illustration showing what a gift annuity can mean for you. There is no cost or obligation for the consultation.

#### PLANNED GIVING TABLE

An updated 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. Currently, Immanuel is raising funds toward the restoration of our beautiful stained glass windows. The estimated cost for this project is \$62,000. To date \$39,393 has been raised.

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 Schneider  
David Siegmund

“So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?”  
Luke 16:11 (NIV)

# MLHS News & Notes

MLHS Lancer Wrestling - A Lancer Wrestling Camp will be hosted by head clinician Morgan Sickinger and the Junior Lancer staff on July 28 & 29 at the high school. Students entering grades 3 through 8 are encouraged to register at [mlhslancers.org](http://mlhslancers.org).

The new High School wrestling coaching staff would also like to welcome any prospective wrestlers to observe on Saturday, July 29th from 1:30 to 3:00pm and join at 3:30 for a spaghetti dinner. It will be a great opportunity to see what wrestling is about and meet the staff: Sam Bramstedt, Jason Jost, and Darin Bramstedt. Any questions about the varsity program or camp can be directed to [sbramstedt@mlhslancers.org](mailto:sbramstedt@mlhslancers.org).

**MLHS Maintenance/Custodial Positions Available: Open immediately-** MLHS has several openings in its Custodial & Maintenance Staff. Please consider if one of these would be of interest for you, and share with anyone you think might be interested. This is a great place to work, with the opportunity to be involved with our students and ministry!

- **Evening Custodial position:** approximately 20 hours / week during afternoons & evenings. Duties will focus on routine cleaning of the building.
- **Weekend / As Needed “Float” position:** approximately 8-10 hours / weekend. Duties will focus primarily on cleaning of gymnasium, commons, and office areas around weekend events.
- **Student position:** approximately 1-2 hours each day after school. Duties will focus primarily on routine cleaning (sweeping, garbage, recycling) of the building. This is a great position to assist with tuition. Go to [www.mlhslancers.org/jobs](http://www.mlhslancers.org/jobs) to fill out an application today and indicate which position you are interested in. Questions should be directed to Scott Reinhard at 920-242-9204 or [screinhard@mlhslancers.org](mailto:screinhard@mlhslancers.org).

**Lancer Golf Classic – Saturday, 8/5/2017:** It’s almost time, and I truly hope you’ll join us for the Lancer Golf Classic! Gents or ladies, young or old(er), scratch golfers or huge duffers, it’s a fun day (and a great opportunity to get that co-worker who keeps hitting you up for their kid’s cookie sales to return the favor J ) New this year for our younger alum & guests: The College Rate (just \$60 for those age 18-22) so recent alum or younger friends & family can enjoy the day with us. Register now online at [www.mlhslancers.org/lancergolfclassic](http://www.mlhslancers.org/lancergolfclassic) , and lock in another great day!

And watch for the event on Facebook as well – Like & Share it with friends & co-workers and let’s make this year’s outing the biggest & best yet!

**KOINE Outdoor Concert – Saturday, 8/12/17:** This is a FREE outdoor concert at MLHS where you and anyone in the community is invited. Concessions at 6pm and concert at 7pm. All donations benefit Painting Pathways Clubhouse where they empower adults with diagnosed mental illness in Manitowoc County by building community, supporting recovery and changing lives. Bring your lawn chair. If it rains, concert will be in the gym. If you are able to volunteer please contact Lori Miller at [lmiller@mlhslancers.org](mailto:lmiller@mlhslancers.org).

## Manitowoc Lutheran High School Delegate Report

### 1) FINANCE SUMMARY

- 2016-17 Financial Report, Items of Note
  - Tuition Receivable: Less than 6% past due (down from 21% two years ago); none deemed uncollectible and all anticipated to be collected yet in FY 2016-17
  - Endowment Balance: \$2,189,690 (3/31/17)
  - Building Loan Balance: \$521,282 (3/31/17)
  - Repeat Performance passed \$1.25 million of total contributions to MLHS over its history. Its budgeted commitment for 2017-18 decreases tuition by \$800 for EVERY student attending. Please continue to support Repeat Performance with your second hand/gently used items.

## 2) CALL UPDATE

- Dave Uhlhorn (presently on staff) will fill the Director of Education and Athletic Director duties for the 2017-2018 school year. Calls for Director of Education will resume in late 2017.

## 3) SUMMER 2017 SECURITY PROJECT

- Proceeds from the 2016-17 Showcase events were earmarked to improve building security during the summer of 2017. A total of \$41,000 was raised from these events.
- While we wish we wouldn't have to think about it, in this day & age building security is a serious issue. Recognizing this, MLHS will be completing a pair of significant security improvements:
  - Installing and/or replacing 26 security cameras throughout the interior & exterior of our building.
  - Installing electronic locks to exterior doors.

## 4) DEBT AND SITE PLANS

- Over the last 15 years, the MLHS Federation has conducted several capital campaigns to address finance and facility needs of the high school. Through these years, our building debt has decreased to only \$521K. Cash reserves are sufficient to continue the loan payments until mid-2018. As such, the Board of Control is assembling an ad-hoc committee to explore a capital campaign. Options for the campaign could include debt repayment only or possibly include a "tangible" project on our campus.
- The Site Plan Committee has been working for over a year reviewing and updating MLHS' master campus site plan. Working with A.C.E. Construction again, the committee has developed an alternate site plan from what has been used for the last 15 years. Several major change of this alternate illustration include:
  - Constructing the second gym and locating it on the southwest section of the building rather than the far eastern end. This new gym would be about 1/3 smaller than illustrated in the past, but still address the significant increase in gym usage since our current gym was constructed in 1962.
  - Utilizing the existing locker rooms as part of the project.
  - Not converting the existing gym to an auditorium, instead keeping it as a multi-purpose facility.
  - Improving building security.
  - Minimizing the impact of various codes (parking, storm water, etc) that result from construction.
  - Illustrations of this alternate site plan are available for viewing at MLHS, and Scott Reinhard is ready to share the illustration and field questions from any groups (church councils, voters' assemblies, Men/Ladies groups, Parent/Teacher organizations, etc.) at any time upon request.

## 5) MISC

- CURRICULUM: Efforts are underway to improve both writing and typing skills among our students. Efforts include coordination at both the grade school and high school levels beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

## 6) MLHS School Cash Rebate Incentive Program (SCRIP)

- Income generated from the use of MLHS SCRIP provides money to support tuition assistance for families with children attending MLHS as well as other selected projects.
- 50% of the proceeds are normally designated to go to the MLHS tuition assistance account (necessary to maintain the program as a tax exempt program).
- 50% can be designated by name to a particular family/student. We have two students attending MLHS: Dana Richard and Dylan Belter. Designating them as your chosen recipient helps their families with tuition assistance.
- You can also open your own account or purchase SCRIP under the Immanuel, Kewaunee account. When using our congregation's account please ensure you specify Kewaunee since there is more than one congregation named Immanuel in the Federation. Money generated in our congregational account is used as we determine.

# Adult Discipleship Devotion

*Devotion from "Manna" (by Carl Manthey-Zorn)*

I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, O Lord, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds. I love the house where your glory dwells. (Psalm 26:6-8)

In keeping with the Third Commandment we are to hold preaching and God's Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it. But the expression, "I wash my hands in innocence," reminds us that we should be "ceremonially clean" when we worship God, for we would only increase our guilt if we appeared before God harboring known and unconfessed sin.

Not just any preaching, but proper preaching, whether in learned or simple style, is preaching which is based on Scripture and interpreted in terms of Scripture. When we hear such preaching we are to accept it "*not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God*" (1 Thess. 2:13). And even as God is holy, so we are urged to regard his word and the preaching of it in conformity with that word as sacred and holy to which we defer more than to anything else in this world.

We should fear his word as we fear God himself, that is, we should stand in childlike, reverential awe before his word; be silent and attentive to it and seek to be guided by it and conform our lives to it. The proper attitude over against God's word we find described in Isaiah 66. There God says: "*This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.*" That attitude makes us "ceremonially clean."

Because it is the word of truth, through which we are born again to a new life, becoming the first fruits of God's creatures, the word which saves us for life eternal (James 1:18,21), and by means of which God in his believers works faithfulness to him and other fruits of faith (1 Thess. 2:13), it should be as dear to us as God himself is. We should be able to say concerning it what David says in Psalm 119:72: "*The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.*"

It is for all these reasons that we should gladly hear and learn that dear Word. Without constraint, willingly, gladly, indeed joyfully and longingly, both in the assembled congregation where we join others in thankful praise, and also at home in family and private devotions. When the Triune God by means of his word wishes to enter our hearts and lives, we too like David will feel constrained to say: "*I will go about your altar, O Lord, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds. I love the house where your glory dwells.*" And as he says in Psalm 27:4: "*One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*"

Oh, we realize to our shame how far we still come short of such zeal, to what an extent sin still interferes with our devotion to God! Surely in sincere repentance we must daily ask God to create in us a clean heart and to renew a right spirit within us.

Oh, may these heavenly pages be  
My ever dear delight;  
And still new beauties may I see  
And still increasing light!

Divine Instructor, gracious Lord,  
Be Thou forever near;  
Teach me to love Thy sacred Word  
And view my Savior here.  
(TLH 284:5,6)