

Immanuel Lutheran News

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Visit our web site at www.immanuelaltamont.org

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From Pastor Wright

Honor your father and mother that it may be well with you and you may enjoy long life in the land.

Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:3

So many troubles come from ignoring this simple commandment. This commandment offers a promise. If we learn to respect, honor, love and obey our parents while we are young, we will learn how to get along in society. We will be able to relate to our teachers without failing in school. We will learn how to get along with our employer when we finish school. We will learn to get along with police and magistrates who enforce the law. We won't have to learn how to get along with prison guards and probation officers, debt collection agents and other enforcers of the law. We will have a chance to enjoy the life we live. We may live much longer because we respect the law and no one will have to employ deadly force to restrain us from evil.

On the other hand, if we do not learn to respect and obey our parents, we will not obey our teachers, our employers, the police, our prison guards, and we will live a short and unhappy life in the land. The only thing we will respect is the loss of our life, which will be quickly taken from us to protect the innocent from our selfish and violent actions.

Think of how Jesus honored and obeyed his mother and father when he was a child (Luke 2:51). If the Son of God submitted to parental authority, how much more should we respect and obey those God places over us?

God forgive us for doubting that He has our best interest in mind. He has given us a life with a particular station to occupy. Let us learn to be content, and appreciate the forgiveness we receive from Jesus for wanting to be someone else than who he made us to be.

Pastor Wright

From Pastor Ross

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Americans, some things are just foreign to us, as those who have traveled throughout the world can testify. One of those things which still exists in some countries is that of royalty, with those beneath them as servants. These United States exist as a nation because we fought against a British King and won independence, and thus, we haven't had to care about royalty for 235 years and counting!

But as Christians, being an American is a slight disadvantage, because while we have no earthly monarchs over us, we are all subjects of the Kingdom of Heaven, with our Triune God as our absolute, benevolent monarch, and we as His servants; when you get down to it, **Christians are servants.**

Who then do we serve? The answer is easy: our Savior Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, as any Christians can readily state. But how do we serve?

The Scriptures repeatedly state that we serve the Lord here on earth (Exodus 23:25, Joshua 24:15, Psalm 100:2, Romans 12:11) and even in heaven (Revelation 7:15), but how is this done? Does God need help? Is He incomplete and waiting on us to provide what He needs to be whole? Is there something that an all-powerful God cannot do for Himself, and thus we, the servants, are called into action?

As Martin Luther had said, "God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does." We are God's servants, and as servants, we serve Him by serving other human beings according to the grace given to us (1 Peter 4:10-11); to put it another way, Jesus wasn't joking when He spoke of our works and declared, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you have done to me" (Matthew 25:34-45).

How do we serve God by serving others? We serve by addressing their needs: if someone needs to hear the Gospel, we bring them to church. If someone is hungry, we feed them. If someone is lonely, we give them an ear to listen and a shoulder to lean on, and so forth. If you use your abilities and time to serve others in a way that is pleasing to the Lord, you not only are serving them, but like a good and faithful servant, you serve your King!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ross, Servant

Stewardship Corner

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the instruction and Word of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the Law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven

through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents, but there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything.

And children try to copy it, which can be quite humorous when parents wish they wouldn't. It can be uncomfortable and embarrassing if a child copies or repeats something less than polite that they learned from a parent. Sitcoms thrive on these situations. It only happens because children emulate their parents because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God, by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs – heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace and mercy, His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the Church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Catechism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

"Give us this day our daily bread." *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

In other words, God gives us everything we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds. Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week to set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the Church.

We don't do this simply because He has commanded us so to do; it is because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

This month I would like to share a great article with you from Pastor Scott Murray of Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. I had the same experience as a child:

Pastors are often berated for talking "about money" from the pulpit. Whatever we treasure most is farthest out of bounds for sermon fodder. Yet, the Bible has extensive and explicit instruction to believers about financial offerings to the church of Jesus Christ. When I was a small child, my father every Sunday gave me two quarters to put into my decidedly pink Sunday School offering envelope. I remember the anticipation I experienced as the time for the Sunday School offering arrived. Even as a small child I had a clear understanding that the gift I was giving was offered for the sake of Christ, who was my Savior. Much that we know as children is not taught directly, rather it is absorbed through our experience. My early understanding of giving gifts to the church was shaped by my experience of bringing that pink offering envelope to Sunday School opening. I can still sing from memory: "We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord from Thee" (LSB 781:1).

A great deal of the Bible's instruction makes clear what we are giving for. Those of us who claim to be adults must pay attention to that. We are giving financial gifts to help the needy, because God does not need our money. The church gives to the needy of the church. That covers the "to whom." But why we give is more important than the "to whom." There are a number of hints about why we give in 1 Corinthians 16. The Apostle tells his readers to put something aside for contribution to the church every Lord's Day. The Lord's Day is the day of new life, for it is the day on which our Lord breaks death's grip upon our throats by rising triumphant over the dust of earth. He triumphs over that dust on Sunday, a day so completely shaped by His resurrection that it is named by Christians "the Lord's Day." Since we have been snatched from death on the Lord's Day, it also *becomes the day of thanks to the Lord. We have life in Him. For us eternal peace with God has been procured by Him. Now we have the privilege of returning to the living Lord what He has given to us for our stewardship. On the Lord's Day the living Lord comes to be enthroned upon our altars in the Lord's Supper. He feeds us on His most precious body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. This is a day to celebrate by putting aside a gift for the Lord's Church from the Lord's body.*

Even the exalted Lord Jesus is not ashamed to be in need. About his own circumstances while living among us, He says: "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Luke 9:58). He took the mantle of human poverty, even the privation of our sins upon Himself. He became poor that we might become rich in Him (2 Cor. 8:9). If He did not disdain our poverty, why should we scorn to offer to the little brothers so that we have done it to Him (Matt. 25:40). Poor Christ is so united with His faithful poor that whatever is given to them is given to Him. Whatever is given to the body is received by the Head. Here the "to whom" and "the why" come together.

This month Pastor Wright is teaching the Basics of Christian Stewardship on Sunday mornings at 9:45. I invite everyone to look at the scriptures together with me.

Burgers, Brats, Beans Fundraiser Sunday, September 30, 11-1 at Immanuel Parish Hall sponsored by Lutherans For Life. Cost is a free will donation. All you can Eat! Join us for the last cookout of the season served in the Parish Hall.

2019 National Youth Gathering - youth who are going need to have their deposits, worksheets, and Declaration of Intent forms turned in to Pastor Ross by **October 14**.

Church Council Monday, October 8, at 7:30 PM. All church officers are to attend. Elders and Trustees meet before at 7:00 PM.

Voters' Assembly is Sunday, October 21 at 1:30 PM.

New Member Class continues on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 on with Pastor Wright in the Conference Room by the church office. Please spread the word. These classes will continue on Tuesdays into November.

Tour of England and Scotland Join Pastor and Lisa Wright as they visit Stonehenge, Salisbury, Bristol, Bath, Stratford, the Lake District, Edinburgh, York, Oxford and two days in London. Dates are July 15-25, 2019. The tour includes airfare, first class hotels, most meals, professional tour guide and motor coach, admission fees, taxes, and local guides. Price is \$4,299. See the brochure in the parish hall lobby or talk to Pastor or Lisa and reserve a seat now. jimwright1961@gmail.com

Bible class on the Book of Acts On Wednesdays, two sessions by Bob Kassel: 10AM at church; 1PM at Lutheran Care Center. A third *monthly* class will be Sunday, Sept. 30, 6PM. Learn how the early Christian church expanded rapidly.

Prayer Corner

- For healing of Bessie Budde, Kenneth Budde, Tiffany Dunaway, Abbey Franzen, Wayne Franzen, Mike Herboth, Jim Jones, Pam Kepley, Amiee Lowry, JR Newby, Karen Richter, Paul & Shirley Schulze, Evelyn Shumaker, Candy Stuemke, Elizabeth Weidner, Randy Wolf, Allen Wolff, Lisa Wright and others.
- For our pastors, church staff, ALIS school staff.
- For Lutheran missionaries Ted Krey, Andrew Schlund, Britt Odemba and for their families.
- For all who travel
- For peace in the world, an end to violence in the name of God, and for harmony among the nations.
- For those persecuted for their faith in Jesus.
- For police, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel, and those who serve in our military and their families

Large Print workers needed for Tues. October 2. Sign the chart in narthex or call Eloise 483-6439.

Life Chain 2018 is Sunday October 7, 2-3pm in Effingham. Prayer Service in Sacred Heart Parish Center at 1:30pm. Call 217-536-5573 for info.

Lutherans For Life meeting Sunday, Oct 14, 1pm in the Parish Hall.

Thank you from John Hawkins with the Nat'l Office of Lutherans For Life for the gift of \$150 from Immanuel Lutheran LFL. We are thankful for your gift. God's blessings to the Pastors and to all of you.

Thank you from Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield, IL for Linder & Marilyn Wendling who have been working with Laborers for Christ since April with a building project to add 5 classrooms and more renovations.

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, well wishes, cards and visits after my fall and since I've returned home. Thanks also to Pastor Wright and Pastor Ross for their prayers and visits.

May God Bless You All, Margaret Miller

Altamont Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry

Needed Items: *Fruit, vegetables, crackers*

The Altamont Ministerial Association takes donations to help the poor with food, gas, and utilities payments in a time of great need.

Right now our funds are running out. If you can help with a cash donation, please make payable to Altamont Ministerial Association and bring it to the church. We are also planning a fundraiser in the near future.

Immanuel After School Care has begun its eleventh year.

The After School Care program has reached its maximum enrollment capacity at 135 students. Any additional families wishing to enroll must fill out an Enrollment Form, but will be placed on a "waiting list" and will be contacted if openings occur.

64 A.L.I.S. and 71 A.G.S. children are enrolled including 48 Immanuel children from 29 Immanuel families. Children are enrolled on a "full-time", "part-time" or "occasional" attendance basis. Usual daily attendance is ranging in the 80-90's this year.

ASC is operated and supported by Immanuel Lutheran Church and also relies on additional financial support of donations from participating families, individuals and memorials. The Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation through the Bill & Jaquelyn Anderson Youth Fund again just presented a \$1500 check to ASC. The CID Lutheran Church Extension Fund designated up to \$1000 to be spent to purchase Bible related books to be distributed and religious material to be used by children's activities. Some of this CID-LCEF funding has been spent, and the rest will still be used.

ASC has also been added as an agency to the United Way of Effingham County for the 2019-20 school year. ASC may be awarded up to \$3000 if United Way reaches its goal. Personal and business support is encouraged to United Way from October through December to help them reach their goal.

Thrivent Choice Dollars can be directed to Immanuel Lutheran Church, but the church office must be informed each time the designation is completed, if the designation is to be directed to the After School Care program.

The program again currently has four full-time paid workers and a few adult volunteers. High school students are welcome to volunteer to earn "community service hours".

Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer on a regular or occasional basis is welcomed to assist. Help can be used with homework, playing table games, assisting with certain planned projects or general supervision. Volunteers must agree to a background check if requested.

If there are any questions or need for more information, please call the Immanuel Church office at 483-6395, stop by the church office during business hours (9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) or contact Vern Spilker.

Ladies Aid Meeting October 4, 7PM. Devotion by Ruth Spilker; topic is Lutherans for Life. Hostesses are Carol Kassel and Roxana Wendling.

Pastor Appreciation - The Elders again have suggested that we show appreciation for our Pastors and all that they do for us by a monetary donation. *Keep the funds separate from the general fund by placing in an envelope marked "Pastor Appreciation."*

Take advantage of our Electronic Giving: Make your donations to the church automatically. Your offering will be marked with your envelope number. If interested, contact Barb Busby 618-694-5499.

Tax Savings Take advantage of this tax law allowing IRA distributions to go to a Qualified Charity. Consider donating your IRA Required Minimum Distribution to the Church and pay no tax on the amount distributed.

Offering Envelopes – To save money on envelopes, we will be renumbering 2019 offering envelopes.

Each month, a **LWML-CID mission grant** will be featured. Our mission goal for 2018-2019 is \$95,000; \$71,250 for district grants, \$23,750 will be sent to LWML for national mission grant projects. Grants are paid in full in the order presented as funds become available. Updates are available at lwmlcid.org.

LWML-CID MISSION GRANT #2: Camp CILCA Christian Growth Center (\$15,000)

The Camp CILCA Christian Growth Center is used by many groups who meet to learn new ways to spread the Gospel, as well as groups who meet for Bible study and Christian fellowship. Many updates need to be made, especially to the kitchen. This grant will be used to repair or replace the stove and other needed items.

What can I do? Pray for this mission that God would provide the resources for Camp CILCA to be able to make these renovations. Support your church's LWML society by dropping all that loose change in the designated large mite box. Contact any member of your church's LWML society for more information about this grant.

Sing for Joy Women's Fall Retreat at Camp CILCA,

October 12/13 with speaker Rev. Mitchel Schuessler, Nat'l LWML Pastoral Counselor. *See PH bulletin board for details and sign-up sheets.* Regist. Fee \$50 by Sept. 30 and \$60 postmarked after Sept. 30; Sat. only is \$30 fee. Make check payable to LWML-CID.

2018 Lutheran For Life Nat'l Conference, St. Louis, MO Oct. 12-13

at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 9733 Olive Blvd. Olivette, MO. Sign up right away. *See bulletin boards for details.*

Luther's Luncheon at **Bethlehem , Altamont** Sunday, October 14, serving begins at 11:30am in Bethlehem Parish Hall. Brats, hot dogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut salad, baked bean, rice pudding, sweet/sour cabbage, applesauce and chips with homemade German desserts. Take outs are available. *Proceeds for Restoration Project of the 1958 Schantz Pipe Organ.* The beautiful 1868 Church, built by German craftsmen, will be open for tours beginning at 12:30.

ALIS needs a volleyball coach January to March season, with practices beginning in December. Contact Bethany Nelson 217-240-0556 bnelson@alisrockets.com.