

The Power of Habit: Christ-Centered Community

from WELS Teen Devotions

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

These are the days when we are more connected and yet more disconnected at the same time. We are more connected on our phones, more connected through social media. At the very same time, we are also quite disconnected as we live life. We're connected thumb-to-thumb but not face-to-face and not soul-to-soul.

That can be a dangerous thing. Social media can lead us to be fake with other people. We easily filter the way life is really going. We can easily hide what is really going on with us. We can easily isolate ourselves from the Christ-centered community that we so desperately need. The truth is: The lone wolf gets picked off. That's who the devil goes after because there is no one around to help when tempted.

God's people need each other. We need other people in our lives. That is precisely why the writer wrote these words to us. He knew that we needed a Christ-centered community around us.

On the one hand, we need each other to see the blind spots in our faith and the sins that hide in the corners of our lives that we can't see. We need other Christians to show us our sins. Even more than that, we need them to show us Jesus' forgiveness. We need a Christ-centered community around us to keep us close to our Savior.

On the other hand, other people need us just as deeply in their lives. They need us to lovingly show them the blind spots of their faith, the sins that hide in the corners of their life. They need us to show them their sins and even more than that to tell them that Jesus has forgiven it all! They need us to spur them on with gospel encouragement!

You, dear Christian, need the family of believers, the community of Christ-followers, around you. In fact, they are God's gift to you to keep you close to Jesus until he returns. And in the very same way, you are God's gift to them to keep them close to Jesus.

Prayer: *Dear God, thank you for blessing me with many wonderful friends. Be with my friends and me. Help us to encourage each other to grow in your Word. Keep Christ as the center of our lives and bring us closer to each other by bringing us closer to you. Amen.*

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Note from the Chairman

We'd like to leave the first four pews in front of the care room open for families with small children and visitors. We don't want a mom or a dad carrying a baby, a diaper bag, and a car seat to have to go up and down the balcony stairs to get to the care room. We don't want them to have to sit in the front of church either. And we certainly don't want to make our visitors uncomfortable this way. Please consider choosing a pew besides the four in front of the care room. Thank you!

Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes

Join us to grow in God's grace every Sunday beginning at 7:45 in the sanctuary. There is a 5-minute devotion with fellowship time and refreshments before heading to the various classes. Parents, please don't drop your children off outside or in the Sunday school room as there will be no supervision there. Bring them into the sanctuary. Thanks! If you happen to worship on Thursday, come just for the fellowship and growth on Sunday.

Pick up Donuts

Are you willing to pick up donuts from Kwik Trip for Sunday morning fellowship time? Just get them by 7 am (tell them they're for Immanuel) and deliver to the table in the back of church by 7:30. There is a sign-up sheet in the back. Thanks.

Help Yourself!

Some industrious members of the Ladies' Aid have sorted through cupboards and shelves in the kitchen and storage room for items that are no longer used. In early November these items will be set out in the south bay of the Sunday School room. Members are welcome to take home any items they would like. A freewill offering basket will be set out for anyone who would like to give thanks in this way.

Christmas Card Workshop @ Immanuel

Would you like to make beautiful, handcrafted Christmas Cards? Join with your sisters here at Immanuel on **November 4** at 10:15 am where our member, Mary Schultz, will have stations set up for us to make 8 Christmas cards. Cost for the workshop is \$15 and includes refreshments and all materials except adhesive (bring your own or purchase from Mary). We will begin with a short devotion to inspire us as we work. Space is limited, sign up on the sheet in the hallway!



Singers for Christmas Eve Wanted

We'd like singers of all ages to help lift our hearts to God in our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. If you'd be willing to be a part of a special choir of voices, please let the pastor or someone else on the worship committee know (Melanie Metzger, Jim Buege, Pastor Bartsch, Rita Bartsch, Carla Morris-Robinson). Thank you!

Candlelight Canvass

Please join us on our next canvass on 12/15/18 at 10:00. Sign up and get more information at www.immanuelinfarmington.com/canvass.

LLHS Casino Night Fundraiser

The LLHS Music Parents Organization is proud to announce Casino Night, a Marching Band Uniform Fundraiser. Our goal is to have new uniforms for the summer 2020 trip to the Calgary Stampede. Plus, we have been blessed with a generous donor who will match dollar for dollar up to \$10,000! Casino Night will be **November 9** from 6:30-10:30 pm at the beautiful Hayloft Barn (W2765 E Gate Dr, Watertown). Cost is \$35/person or \$60/couple. Each guest \$500 in casino chips, an appetizer buffet and two beverage tickets. At night's end, your "winnings" allow you to bid on some cool prizes. There will also be a silent auction during play. RSVP to llhsmo@gmail.com or

by calling Jeanette Jensen at 920-382-9242; payment is at the door. Please consider coming out to support a great cause or consider donating in other ways.

Lord's Prayer

Following input received at the semi-annual voters' meeting, the Worship Committee recommended to the Council that we start using the current Lord's Prayer in the 2nd and 4th weekend services. The Council approved this recommendation and to begin this schedule in November. Feedback will be appreciated at our annual voters' meeting in January.

Christmas 2018

Please help with a synodwide campaign to reach one million souls with the gospel prior to and on Christmas Eve. Go to www.welscongregationalervices.net/c18 to help and to receive regular updates on Christmas 2018.

Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors

The next OWLS meeting will be on **November 20** at 1:30 pm at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hustisford. Rev. Dr. Paul Luther will give a talk entitled *Gospel Outreach to Southeast Asia*. Refreshments will be provided. The Organization of WELS Seniors (OWLS) exists to provide meaningful activity for those who are retired and/or 50 years and older.

Servicemen/women

Do you know a serviceman or woman serving on our behalf? Go to www.wels.net/refer to register them for free resources.

Marquardt Help

We could use some help in our Marquardt worship services on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Volunteers begin wheeling residents to the chapel about 9:30 for a 45 minute worship service and back to their rooms afterwards. It's really easy and if you could help out, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Pastor for more details. Thank you!

Building Improvements

Would you like to help with building improvements? Please use the envelope in your box of envelopes, one of the envelopes kept at

church, or simply indicate on your check that your gift is to go towards "building improvements." Check out our fundraising progress on the poster on the north wall of the hallway. Thank you!

Family Usher Teams

The idea behind Family Usher Teams is to have ushers representing who we are—a family, to have guests welcomed by folks just like them—a mom, a grandpa. Imagine the impact when a young mother comes to our church for the first time with her baby in her arms, a little nervous as it's her first time to any church in a while, and another young mother opens the door for her and calms her nerves, tells her where things are. Or a grandpa with his granddaughter going out to open the car door of an elderly woman who needs help with her walker. Everyone in our church can help make such an impact. Please ask others to help you make a team. We'd like at least four people on each one, and you don't even have to be of the same family (we're all family in Christ). See the schedule in the main hallway and sign up for a date today!!

Reserve a Room

If you'd ever like to use one of the rooms in our church to celebrate with family or friends (baby shower, confirmation party, etc.), please reserve it on the big calendar in the office.

Electronic Giving

Did you know you can give your offerings electronically? Whether you're able to make it to church or not, you can always make sure your offering arrives. It's a safe, convenient way to give your firstfruits every week. Ask Carla for more information.

Large Print Editions

Could you benefit from a large print edition of our weekly worship folder, the *Meditations* devotional booklet, or the *Forward in Christ* magazine? We'll gladly make these available if you'd like. Please let Pastor or Carla know. Thanks.

Register for Holy Communion

Please remember to fill out a registration card for the Lord's Supper. These cards are used by our Inreach Team to encourage faithfulness in worship. Thank you!

Offerings vs. Budget as of 9/30/2018

Offerings: \$252,886.14 Budget: \$236,706.00 Difference: \$16,180.14

Sunday Usher Teams

- Nov. 4 Jerry Schultz Family
- Nov. 11 Guenterberg/Metzger/Marti
- Nov. 18 Naatz Family
- Nov. 25 Morris-Robinson Family



Couple	Date	Years
David & Marlene Schultz	11/19	63
Bailey & Patricia Bruce	11/1	52
Terry & Debra Frey	11/3	45
Robert & Cynthia Buss	11/10	39
Daryl & Maria Melcher	11/7	31
Dennis & Kristen Brown	11/1	21
Jamie & Melissa Guld	11/29	21
Troy & Angela Heald	11/5	19
Greg & Linda Buxa	11/12	19
Robert & Michelle Keller	11/1	15
Justin & Kiara Erdmann	11/2	5





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Michael Stade, 11/2
Bernice Sukow, 11/4
Gabriel Maier, 11/4
Irene Kugler, 11/6
Sara Staude, 11/6
Jerold Eckhardt, 11/7
David Kugler, 11/7
Mark Wright, 11/7
Donna Hartwig, 11/8
Taylor Joseph, 11/9
Jessica Dach, 11/10
Alyssa Nora, 11/10
Joey Schultz, 11/10
Lorraine Knaack, 11/11
Amy Junker, 11/12
Betty Stout, 11/12
Jake Frey, 11/15
John Morris, 11/16
Alan Mares, 11/17
Suellen Busalacchi, 11/18
Madelyn Marschke, 11/18
Sandy Nachtigall, 11/18
Andrew Burk, 11/19
John Hartwig Jr, 11/19
Herbert Vogel, 11/19
Suzanne Clouse, 11/21
Jane Schmidt, 11/21
Antoinette Fenner, 11/23
Laura Christian, 11/24
Carter Dach, 11/24
Kiara Dach, 11/25
Trevor Kleinsteiber, 11/25
Amber Fink, 11/26
Timothy Frey, 11/26
Lisa Lotz, 11/26
Rachelanne Dobson, 11/27
Mary Rummler, 11/29
Kyle Maron, 11/30
Finnegan DeBlare, 11/30

November 6th



WELS

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Pastor Paul Burk

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