

The Power of Habit: Know Your Weakness

from WELS Teen Devotions

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

No one gets married and thinks, “In ten years, I’ll be unhappy in this marriage and go looking for love somewhere else.” No one ever says to themselves, “I think I’ll be a drug addict or an alcoholic when I grow up.” No Christian ever confessed their faith thinking, “I won’t always believe this.”

Yet it happens every day. It even happens to pastors of churches and the most dedicated students of the Bible. They fall into sin and away from Jesus. What happens?

Peter never dreamt that he would be the one to deny Jesus. He actually took an oath, because he was so sure that he would never do it. But just hours later, he swore another oath saying that he didn’t even know who Jesus was.

What happened?

Jesus identifies it for us: “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” We have the heartfelt desire to remain faithful and steadfast. We have the sincere intention to stay true, faithful, and steadfast in our faith. Our spirit is certainly willing.

But our flesh is weak. Our nature has been weakened by sin and weakness. Ever since Adam and Eve, our nature has been tipped toward sin in the most despicable and vile ways. Even as Christians, our sinful nature is still a powerful force to be reckoned with.

Our spirit is willing, but our flesh is weak. Because of the weakness of our nature, we need spiritual disciplines to bolster and to hold us up. We need the power of God’s Word to correct, rebuke, encourage, and train us. We need to be people of prayer, constantly turning to our source of strength. We need close and trustworthy Christian

friends around us to keep turning us back to the God of our salvation.

Because of our sinful weakness, it vital for us to keep active in God's Word and prayer and to stay close to God's people.

His Word, prayer, and his people are God's gifts to keep us close to him all the days of our life and to call us back when we stumble and fall. Use them. They are God's gifts to you.

Prayer: *Lord God, I know my weakness more and more each day. Keep turning me back to you for strength and direction. You are my Savior. I need you. Please help. Amen.*

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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.

Adopted Seminary Family

Our family at Immanuel has once again adopted a family from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We are supporting seminary student Dominick Olson, his wife Bethany, and the newest member of their family, Ella Mae, born January 13. Please see the display in the hallway for more information about this family, what their needs are, and an envelope to give gifts to help support them and send words of encouragement. Thank you to everyone who responded to the special freewill offering collected during January!

Your thoughts and prayers

My family and I would appreciate your thoughts and prayers as we prayerfully consider my new call to St. John Newark, DE. Feel free to call, email, or talk to us in person. Thank you! ~Pastor

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.

Grace-Hmong Outreach in Vietnam

Our synod has an amazing opportunity! We have been asked by a large Christian group in Vietnam to teach and train pastors. We have been invited by the government to build a theological training facility in the city of Hanoi. Our goal is to raise \$2 million by the end of June to build the facility and cover operating expenses for the first two years. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this enormous outreach opportunity! There is a designated giving envelope in the informational booklet about the Grace-Hmong Outreach which is available in the main hallway. Thank you!

Organization of WELS Seniors

Our OWLS chapter will have its next gathering at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Oconomowoc on **February 19** starting 1:30 pm. Rev. Nathan Strutz of Resurrection, Verona will present *Rural Evangelism & New Church Startups*. The Organization of WELS Seniors (OWLS), provides meaningful activity for those who are retired and/or 50 years and older. Here is a wonderful opportunity for seniors to grow spiritually and enjoy the fun and fellowship of neighboring WELS and ELS members. Guests are always welcome!

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.

Worship Service DVDs

Do you know someone who'd be interested in regularly receiving DVDs of our worship services? Please let Pastor know. We'll mail them out to them. Extra DVDs are next to past bulletins in the entryway and available for anyone now.

Cookie Committee

Are you good at making cookies? Are you able to deliver cookies? Could you do both? A new exciting way to serve is developing. Please see the signup sheet in the entryway.

College Planning Workshop

Wondering if you'll be able to help your student finish college and still retire someday? **February 19** you are invited to attend a college planning overview, led by Greg Buxa, to learn how academics, admissions, and financial strategies can work together to help save you and your student money on college. Refreshments will be served at 5:45 pm and the presentation begins at 6 pm. RSVP on the sheet in the hallway or by phone to 262-567-2940. See the poster on the bulletin board for more details.

NEW Ladies' Bible Study

Do you feel weighed down with worry? Could you use some calm? In this five-session video Bible study, author Max Lucado explores God's treatment plan for anxiety found in Philippians 4:4–8. As you follow this prescription – celebrating God's goodness, asking for his help, leaving your concerns with him, and meditation on good things – you will experience God's peace. This is a peace that "transcends all understanding" and will help you reframe the way you look at your fears. This new study started at the end of January, but it's never too late to join in. For more class information please see the poster on the bulletin board or contact Carla at 262-370-8084.

Immanuel Picture Directory

The new picture directories are here! Each family may pick up one directory from the table in the main hallway. Also on this table are the 2019 offering envelopes. If you haven't picked your box up yet, please take it home with you today. If you don't see one for your family, let Pastor or Carla know. We'll get you one!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

A reminder to all our members who have not designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars from 2018, you have until the end of March 2019 to do so. Please consider direction your Choice Dollars to Immanuel. Thank you!

Wine Tasting Night Out

Christian Life Resources invites you its 5th Annual Wine Tasting Night Out on **February 7** beginning at 6 pm at the Chandelier Ballroom, 150 Jefferson Ave., Hartford. This evening of wine and craft beer paired with delicious appetizers and desserts, as well as a silent auction will benefit the CLR ministry. Cost is \$40 per person. Go to www.christianliferesources.com to purchase tickets.

Employment Opportunity

St. John Lutheran in Watertown is blessed to have a year round child care center that serves families with children ranging from six weeks old through 8th grade. Our goal is to provide high quality, Christ-centered care and education in a loving, learning, and nurturing environment. There are various opportunities to help with this program including teachers or teaching assistants to work part time or up to 40 hours per week. St. John offers competitive wages for all staff, and vacation benefits for full time workers. If you or someone you know is interested and would like more information on the responsibilities or hours, please contact Kelsey Hensler at 920-261-3756 or email childcare@stjohnswatertown.org.

Men's Christian Conference

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17). The men of our congregation are invited to attend the Ironmen of God conference on **March 23** from 9 am to 2 pm at St. Paul Lutheran School in Ixonia. Hear God's word aimed straight at men, enjoy a delicious catered lunch, and worship with your brothers in Christ. Register today at ironmenofgodwi.org.

MLC Matching

Every year we have the opportunity to take advantage of MLC's matching grant program, where MLC matches gifts we give to support our students preparing for the public ministry there. We currently have two students attending. If you'd like to give a gift of support, please indicate "MLC Matching" on your check. Thank you!

Offerings vs. Budget as of 12/31/2018

Offerings: \$345,733.64 Budget: \$315,608.00 Difference: \$30,125.64

Sunday Usher Teams

Feb. 3 Guenterberg, Metzger, Marti
Feb. 10 Naatz Family
Feb. 17 Morris-Robinson Family
Feb. 24 Maron/Morris



february anniversaries

The word "february" is in a bold, dark red font, and "anniversaries" is in a grey, lowercase serif font. The text is surrounded by several pink hearts of various sizes. Below the word "anniversaries" are two interlocking wedding rings.

Couple	Date	Years
James & Cheryl Reichert	2/17	46
Dennis & Pam Staude	2/24	40





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cynthia Braunschweig 2/1

Kristin Schultz 2/1

Matt Woolley 2/1

Matthew Reichert 2/2

Collin Hartwig 2/4

Betty Matzinger 2/4

Brad Jr. Pitzner 2/5

Vickie Mueller 2/6

Cindy Mueggenburg 2/6

Logan Keller 2/7

William Kruesel 2/8

Darlyn Oschmann 2/8

Richard Wrensch 2/8

Marlene Schultz 2/9

Steven Pfeifer 2/10

Lyssa Lauersdorf 2/13

Dean Miller 2/13

Zaida Zehren 2/13

Brandon Guenterberg 2/14

James Buglass 2/15

Andrew Heald 2/15

Kristin Zehren 2/15

Lucille Zimmerman 2/15

Sandra Anderson 2/16

Gerald Erdmann 2/16

Derek Genz 2/16

Lisa Maass-Earle 2/16

Bailey Bruce 2/17

Thomas Schulze 2/17

Kim Zimmerman 2/17

Lydia Buxa 2/18

Stephanie Burk 2/19

Terry Frey 2/19

John Sr Hartwig 2/20

Emilie Schmidt 2/22

Floyd Sukow 2/24

Amy Dettmann 2/25

Cade Olszewski 2/25

Joe Dach 2/26

Teagan Guenterberg 2/26

Alexis Mueller 2/26

Danielle Hartwig 2/28

Cheryl Reichert 2/28

Bryan Mueller 2/29



Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is Sunday, **January 27, 2019**, right after the worship service. Food and beverage will be provided. Please come so you can offer your input on things you might be interested in, like: the new budget, the election of a replacement council member, worship times, the Lord's Prayer, building renovations, pew spacing, etc. Even though only our 18-year-old and older male members vote, they will surely benefit from hearing from all of our



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