

The Guide

from WELS Teen Devotions

Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.” “Which ones?” he inquired. Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’” “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. (Matthew 19:16-22)

People love a good “how to” guide. We want to know how to fix a phone that got dropped in the toilet. We want to know how to run a little bit faster. We want to know how to do all sorts of things. We even want to know how to get into heaven. This week we consider the guide that we have from our God, the “how to” of getting to heaven.

In Matthew 19, a man came up to Jesus to ask, “What good thing must I do to get eternal life?” He had the idea that if he did the right “good thing” he could get heaven. He was looking for a “how to” guide from Jesus. Jesus did give him a guide, but he couldn’t follow it, so he went away sad.

Take a moment to evaluate yourself and your relationship with God. How close to God are you on a scale of 1-10? Rate yourself closer to 1 if you feel like you’ve got a long way to go. Rate yourself closer to a 10 if you feel like you’re doing a good job in your relationship with God. After you’ve evaluated your relationship with God, read on.

I would be willing to guess that you didn’t rate yourself a 10. You looked at your relationship with God and felt like you weren’t quite where God wants it to be. You’re not a “10.” By doing this, you’re evaluating yourself the way this man did. You’re looking for a “how to” list from God to be good enough. If you can do all the right things, you’d be a 10. But if you keep evaluating yourself this way, you’ll always walk away sad because you’ll never be a 10.

Jesus wanted this man to completely give up on his own ability to be good and find his goodness in Jesus. This man walked away before Jesus could tell him the only way to be good. Jesus would have told him, "I am your goodness. I am your righteousness. I am your perfection."

We are perfect because Jesus declares us so. We are good because Jesus declares us to be good. We are righteous because Jesus makes us so. The apostle Paul says it like this: "It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30). So you see, you already are a "10" in God's sight.

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. If you worship on Thursday, come just for the fellowship and growth on Sunday.

Pre-Call Meeting

All members are invited to attend and contribute to the discussion at a pre-call meeting on **March 3** right after the worship service.

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.

NEW Bible Information Class

A new class is starting up **March 5** at 7 pm. Please sign-up now before the class is full. Thank you!



Immanuel Picture Directory

The new picture directories are here! Each family may pick up one directory from the shelf in the main hallway. If you did not receive your free 8x10, please call Lifetouch Customer Service at 1-800-521-4611. You will need to provide your name, our church name, and our church account #325399.

Organization of WELS Seniors

Our OWLS chapter will have its next gathering at St. John Lutheran Church in Ixonia on **March 19** starting 1:30 pm. Rev. David & Ruth Haeuser will present *Missionaries for the ELS to Peru*. 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!

Save & Change Lives!

God can save lives through you at WELS Lutherans for Life! Our organization is seeking volunteers to help in our pregnancy clinic! Through this opportunity, you can make a difference for families in your community! Those interested can attend our New Volunteer Training on **March 2** from 9 am until 4 pm. This training will provide you with the resources you need to be successful. During the day, you will learn more about connecting with clients, our pregnancy services, including the fathers, and using your unique gifts to serve! If you would like to come, please RSVP to contact@alife2.com by February 27. Lunch will be provided. We hope to see you there!

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 sign-up sheet in the entryway.

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.

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 directing your Choice Dollars to Immanuel.

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!

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 their new arrival, Ella Mae. 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!

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.

LLHS Grand Event

The Lakeside Lutheran High School 8th annual "Grand Event" fundraising auction and dinner has a USO theme this year inspired by Paul's encouragement to the Galatian Christians, "After all, brothers, you were called to freedom...serve one another through love." (5:13) It's **April 13**, on the Lakeside campus, beginning at 4:30 pm. Cost to attend this night of delicious food and memorable entertainment is \$50/person. Table and other sponsorships are also available. The link for registering to attend, for sponsoring part of the night, for donating an item for auction and more is llhs.org/grandevent or call Bari at 920-648-2321 x2223. Thank you for your support of Christian education!

Germany Trip

Retired WELS pastor, James Humann, invites you to join him in 2020 as he hosts his sixth tour to the world-famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. The Oberammergau Passion Play depicts the

life of Christ from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This afternoon and evening long performance is presented only once every ten years, in keeping with a promise the people of Oberammergau made in 1634 AD during the Black Plague. Two different opportunities to see the Oberammergau Passion Play will be offered. The first tour is an eleven day tour, June 12 - 22, 2020. The second tour is an eleven day tour, September 23 - October 3, 2020. The Passion Play in Oberammergau is very popular and sells out quickly. For the price and daily itinerary, e-mail Pastor Humann at Jhumann383@aol.com. If you would prefer a hard copy, be sure to include your name and mailing address.

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!

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. 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!!

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.

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!

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.

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.

My Bible Bags

These are activity bags for children to use during the worship service. They have a Children's Bulletin for the kids to work on as well as other fun items for them to use. When the service is done, please return the items to the bag and hang it back on the rack on your way out. We hope these bags will be a blessing to you and your children!

Offerings vs. Budget as of 1/31/2019

Offerings: \$27,360.32 Budget: \$27,658.67 Difference: - \$298.35

Sunday Usher Teams

March 3	Kruesel/Klausch
March 6	Joseph Family
March 10	Braunschweig Family
March 13	Burk Family
March 17	Gaulke Family
March 20	Bartsch/Emrath
March 24	Altreuter Family
March 27	Stauder/Snyder
March 31	Jerry Schultz Family





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Tyler Stade 3/1
Troy Maier 3/2
Daniel Christian 3/3
Derek Olszewski 3/4
Evelyn Fischer 3/5
Matt Olszewski 3/5
Vicki Sukow 3/5
Brad Pitzner 3/6
Amanda Zimmerman 3/6
Elyse Lauersdorf 3/7
Emberlynn Zimmerman 3/7
Hadley Kjer 3/9
Tyler Frey 3/11
Amy Olszewski 3/11
James Reichert 3/11
Karen Marti 3/12
John Genz 3/13
Virginia Vogel 3/13
Theresa Klug 3/15
Elmer Stout 3/15
Micaela Kjer 3/17
Kelsey Stade 3/17
Michelle Bainbridge 3/18
Debbie Fink 3/18
Paul Fink 3/18

Ashley Burk 3/19
Jackie Naatz 3/19
Kevin Emrath 3/20
Chris Radloff 3/21
Nolan Schultz 3/21
Seth Davis 3/22
Hunter Killips 3/22
Brittney Kruesel 3/22
Kay Schultz 3/22
Lorraine Buege 3/24
Terry DeBlare 3/24
Clark Schultz 3/25
Sierra Cole 3/26
Shari Sukow 3/26
Shaun Brunk-Sellnow 3/27
Gail Woolley 3/28
Cohen Schmidt 3/29
Nikki Wright 3/30
Kurt Altreuter 3/31
Kirsten Bankert 3/31

march

ANNIVERSARIES

Couple	Date	Years
James & Barbara Buglass	3/3	40
Thomas & Stephanie Schulze	3/9	34
Mark & Dona Snyder	3/7	32
Kevin & Rhonda Emrath	3/5	31
Gordon & Rhonda Butzine	3/4	30
John & Amy Hartwig	3/30	23
Greg & Laura Knaack	3/8	5



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