

# I am the Good Shepherd

from WELS Transformed Teen Devotions

**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.** (John 10:11)

Sheep are not very intelligent animals. In 2005, shepherds in Turkey watched 1,500 sheep walk off a cliff because the neighboring shepherds were not paying attention for a few minutes. Sheep are also defenseless. They don't have horns, stripes, or speed to use as protection or for disguise. Sheep need a shepherd, because without one, they are an easy target for whatever predator gets to them first.

You also need a shepherd to guide you through life on the path to heaven. Trying to find your own path will lead to a terrible place. By nature, you won't wander toward God but away from him. Following the crowd is dangerous too. Unless they know the true God, they are as lost as you are. You are also defenseless against the attacks of Satan. He is like a roaring lion looking to devour you. Temptation is always lurking for you, waiting to pounce like a tiger in the tall grass. Like sheep you are dumb and defenseless. Like sheep, you need a shepherd.

Thank God you don't have an ordinary shepherd, but the Good Shepherd, Jesus. He said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." You would have ended up in hell on your own, but Jesus laid down his life for you, his sheep, to lead you into heaven. Satan had his sharp teeth and piercing claws ready to pounce on you, but Jesus destroyed the devil on the cross. He has no power over you. He is no longer a threat to you because of Jesus.

Rest secure. Each day when you wake up ready to face everything the world is going to throw at you, remember that you have the Good Shepherd watching over you. He will lead you in paths of righteousness. He will not let any harm come to you that he will not work out for your good. Yes, Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He is YOUR good shepherd.

**Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, my victorious Savior, I pray that your will be done. Destroy the work of the devil and his demons. Stop all of those who oppose your Gospel. As the Good Shepherd, guide and guard me, and bring me to glory everlasting. Amen.*

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### **A Message from Pastor Fricke:**

*Galatians 1:3-5 "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

Grace and peace to you! Paul often uses these words when he wrote to fellow believers. He offers God's grace and the peace that goes with it. I want to do the same. In fact, I want to do the same often. Why? Because God's grace has rescued us from the evil of our day and the evil we ourselves commit. The love of our Savior that sent Jesus to this earth to suffer hell in our place is the most important thing in our lives. When someone is facing death; more things, better pay, more vacation time doesn't help. When there is no cure, the only thing that saves us from death is the death and resurrection of Jesus.

That brings peace to us. Peace between us and our holy Lord and peace of mind knowing that we have a place reserved for us in heaven. We have peace knowing that we will see our Savior face to face and see our beloved fellow Christians in heaven.

My family and I are very excited to be here, though they will be arriving over the next few months. I am looking forward to meeting everyone one of you, serving as your pastor, and proclaiming the grace and peace the Lord has given us!

*Pastor Joseph Fricke*

(608) 548-4998 | [revfricke@gmail.com](mailto:revfricke@gmail.com)



## Meals for Pastor Fricke

We rejoice that Pastor Fricke has started his ministry at Immanuel! However, his wife will not be joining him in the parsonage until Christmas at the earliest. Becky is a kindergarten teacher and intends to finish the first semester. Starting October 19 through the end of December, we are asking for members to prepare meals (freezer friendly would be great), or ingredients for quick and easy meals for Pastor. These meals can be dropped off in the church refrigerator, freezer, or the kitchen counter (if non-perishable) please label them clearly with Pastor's name and any needed instructions. Gift cards for restaurants and gas stations are also welcome. Thank you!

## Catechism Class Starting!

Catechism classes will be starting **November 4** at 6:30 pm. I am looking forward to having our 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders in class and studying the Word of God together. My goal is to make sure that you are in heaven in 100 years. The forgiveness of sins is the only thing that you have right now that will last forever. Catechism is one step in your lifelong study of God's Word. The Lord encourages us in 2 Peter 3:18, **"...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."** The Lord will bless our work discovering the truths of God's Word together and growing in our faith. Students new to the class can contact Carla or myself about purchasing the necessary materials.

## Special Mission Offering

The first two weeks of October we collected a special offering for Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Roscoe, Il who is struggling. They were displaced from their rented worship space due to COVID. Our mission board is encouraged every church in our district to take a special offering to help this mission church. We are pleased to report that the members of Immanuel gave a total of \$500.00 in special offerings to help this mission church impacted by the pandemic. Thank you!



## Twice is Nice News

Many customers have expressed their appreciation that we now accept debit and credit cards, and we're pleased to be able to satisfy

payment preferences this way! Twice is Nice will have extended shopping hours until 6 pm on Fridays and Saturdays during October and November 2020. See you soon! Call the store at 920-674-6868 and ask for the day manager when you're ready to hear about the great opportunities we have for you as a volunteer! Remember, Twice is Nice proceeds support Lakeside Lutheran High School.

### **New Sign Committee**

A committee has been formed to consider design proposals for our new church sign. If you would like to lend your ideas and input to this group, please contact Dale Naatz (920) 297-0329 or any of the church council members.

### **New Beginnings "Change for Life"**

We are excited to re-launch our Change for Life program this year! The Change for Life program is a group effort to help support *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*, which is a WELS-based home for single mothers. This program supports the well-being, continuing education, spiritual growth, and personal progress of generationally-poor mothers and babies. Starting in November, baby bottles will be placed out for anyone to take home and fill with change. Return them to church once you have them filled. Thank you!



### **Donate Menards Rebates**

The Immanuel Outdoor Decorating Team has big plans for making the outside of our church building beautiful and meaningful for some of the major holidays. Would you be willing to donate your Menards rebate cards to help cover the cost for these projects?

### **Online Worship**

We understand that just because we are again gathering together for worship, this virus has not gone away. Anyone who is considered high risk, who is feeling sick, or who is just not comfortable with gatherings yet is encouraged to continue to worship at home. Videos of our worship services will still be posted to our website regularly.



## Meeting Notes Available

The minutes from Immanuel's church council meetings will be put out on the shelf in the main hallway as soon as they are available. Please pick up a copy if you would like to see what was discussed and what decisions were made at the meeting.

## Giving Options

What a blessing to have members who continue their regular offerings during this uncertain time. Thank you so much for making the support of God's work a priority in your life! Immanuel must continue to meet our financial obligations. Physical (check) offerings can be mailed to the church address. We are very happy to now offer online giving through our church website. Click on the orange button that says ONLINE GIVING and follow the easy steps to set up offerings. Thank you!



## New Organ Fund

Please consider giving a special offering toward the fund to replace our organ when the time comes. Our current organ has been with us a while and we would like to be prepared for the day when it is beyond repair. Thank you to our members who have already given generously to this future need.

## College Students

WELS Campus Ministry, a ministry of WELS Home Missions, provides resources, support, and encouragement to WELS congregations that serve college students around the United States and Canada. Go to the Campus Ministry section of the WELS website to learn more and to sign up for faith-building materials for your college students.

## COVID-19 Notice

Enhanced health and safety measures are still in place to keep our church open. You must follow written guidelines and the directions given by the ushers and pastor. Everyone in our church building is required to wear masks while the state mandate is in effect. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death.



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and people with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19. Let's help keep each other healthy!

**Offerings vs. Budget as of 9/30/2020**

Offerings: \$233,512.31 Budget: \$258,015.00 Difference: -\$24,502.69

**November Usher Teams**

11/1	Sun	8:00 am	Klausch Family
11/1	Sun	10:00 am	Mike & Gail Maron
11/5	Thurs	6:30 pm	Lee & Toni Braatz
11/8	Sun	8:00 am	Morris-Robinson Family
11/8	Sun	10:00 am	Jerry & Kay Schultz
11/12	Thurs	6:30 pm	Jody & Monica Gehrke
11/15	Sun	8:00 am	Naatz Family
11/15	Sun	10:00 am	Eric & Jody Shuppe
11/19	Thurs	6:30 pm	Lee Braatz & Mary Schultz
11/22	Sun	8:00 am	Royce Schultz & Rick Wrench
11/22	Sun	10:00 am	Mark & Donna Snyder
11/25	Wed	6:30 pm	Dale & Jackie Naatz
11/26	Thurs	6:30 pm	Heald Family
11/29	Sun	8:00 am	Altreuter Family
11/29	Sun	10:00 am	Mark & Rita Bartsch





# NOVEMBER

## Birthdays

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Michael Stade, 11/2    | Alan Mares, 11/17          |
| Gabriel Maier, 11/4    | Suellen Busalacchi, 11/18  |
| Bernice Sukow, 11/4    | May Swenson, 11/18         |
| Irene Kugler, 11/6     | John Jr Hartwig, 11/19     |
| Sara Staude, 11/6      | Herbert Vogel, 11/19       |
| Jerold Eckhardt, 11/7  | Suzanne Clouse, 11/21      |
| Violet Hall, 11/7      | Jane Schmidt, 11/21        |
| Mark Wright, 11/7      | Antoinette Fenner, 11/23   |
| Donna Hartwig, 11/8    | Laura Christian, 11/24     |
| Taylor Joseph, 11/9    | Carter Dach, 11/24         |
| Jessica Dach, 11/10    | Kiara Dach, 11/25          |
| Joey Schultz, 11/10    | Trevor Kleinsteiber, 11/25 |
| Lorraine Knaack, 11/11 | Amber Fink, 11/26          |
| Amy Junker, 11/12      | Timothy Frey, 11/26        |
| Mike Schumacher, 11/12 | Lisa Lotz, 11/26           |
| Betty Stout, 11/12     | Rachelanne Dobson, 11/27   |
| Hannah Baum, 11/13     | Mary Rummeler, 11/29       |
| Jake Frey, 11/15       | Finnegan DeBlare, 11/30    |
| John Morris, 11/16     | Kyle Maron, 11/30          |



# November

ANNIVERSARIES

Couple	Years	Date
David & Marlene Schultz	65	11/19
Terry & Debra Frey	47	11/3
Robert & Cynthia Buss	41	11/10
Daryl & Maria Melcher	33	11/7
Dennis & Kristen Brown	23	11/1
Jameison & Melissa Guld	23	11/29
Troy & Angela Heald	21	11/5
Greg & Linda Buxa	21	11/12



### WELS

W4095 County Rd B • Johnson Creek • WI • 53038

Pastor Joseph Fricke

**website**

[www.immanuelinfarmington.com](http://www.immanuelinfarmington.com)

**email**

[immanuelinfarmington@gmail.com](mailto:immanuelinfarmington@gmail.com)

**phone**

(920) 699-2283