

See Purpose Better

from WELS Transformed Teen Devotions

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

(Ephesians 2:10)

There's something admirable about wrestlers. Not WWE style wrestling, but wrestling with the mats, the protective headgear, and the singlets (that's the tightfitting uniform).

The strength and stamina of wrestlers in competition is amazing. They are willing to do nearly anything within reason and wisdom to make weight. For the sake of the team, for the sake of personal performance, and for the sake of their success in the sport, these wrestlers go to great lengths to achieve their purpose.

Here's the point: When you know your purpose, you will do just about anything to achieve it.

The flip side is also true. If you lack purpose, you struggle to do just about everything. Ever had a morning where you didn't really want to get out of bed? Ever had a day when you wondered why you were here? It's tough to get moving if you don't know your why—your purpose.

This is why Paul's words are so powerful for our lives even when we're not sure of our purpose or why we're here. Paul makes some powerful declarations about our life; more powerful than any other positive affirmation. This is God's affirmation of you.

You are God's handiwork. This is a statement about your identity. You are a creative work of your holy, mighty, and merciful God. He made you and shaped you just as you are. Then he perfected you in Christ by canceling your sin on his cross and changing your status as his son/daughter at your baptism!

You are created for good works. You don't have to go looking for them. God is going to put them right in front of you. God has a purpose for your life. In fact, he has already prepared opportunities for you to live for him today, this week, and this year.

A new challenge for this week: Take note of your day. At the end of each day, pay attention to all the opportunities to do good that your God gives you. Write down the opportunities you have to share an encouraging word. Take notes about the opportunities God gave you to help someone in need. Pay careful attention to the simple ways you get to do good works in your home, school, and community.

When you know your purpose, you will do almost anything. There is no higher purpose than the purpose given by your God who called you.

Prayer: *Lord God, give me eyes to see the good works you have prepared for me to do, and give me strength to carry it out. Amen.*

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Bible Information Class – All NEW Format!

An ALL-NEW Bible Information Class has started. It is every Wednesday at 4:30 pm. This new lesson plan is called *Growing in Hope*. Bible Information Class is for everyone! A chance for long time members to refresh previous knowledge and learn something new, and for anyone interested in membership to learn what we believe and why. Please, join us! (Another session may be starting soon at a later evening time.)

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class are Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Adults meet in the sanctuary, children meet in the east side of the lower level. If you happen to worship on Thursday, come just for the fellowship and growth on Sunday.

New Beginnings “Change for Life”

We are so pleased to announce that the God-inspired generosity of our members led us to raise \$900 in the baby bottle campaign for New Beginnings-A Home for Mothers. Thank you to everyone who participated!



2020 Year End Statements

Year-end giving statements are finished and can be picked up from the box in the main hallway.

Annual Voters' Meeting Highlights

- Sign Committee will choose a sign design from the current options and have a representative from the company present to the congregation and answer questions.
- Midweek Lent services will return to Wednesday evenings. The Catechism students will have an abbreviated class before the service. There will be no meals due to COVID restrictions.
- A new Sunday School Director and Music Director will be needed for next year. More teachers are needed as well.
- Discussed benefits of new hymnal resources and raising funds to purchase when they become available.
- Parking lot repairs and maintenance are necessary, we will begin researching options.

Snow Removal Help

When there is a large snowfall, we need some willing and able volunteers to clear the sidewalks, stairs, and ramp at church. If you would like to be part of this crew, please contact Mark Snyder at 920-253-9364 or Dale Naatz at 920-297-0329. A text will be sent out to the group when snow removal is needed. Thank you!



Cancellation Text Alerts

Immanuel's church database system now allows us to send group text messages. This is a great benefit for times when events are cancelled on short notice due to severe weather, pandemic, etc. If you have not already signed up, email Carla at immanuelinfarmington@gmail.com and she will send you an invitation. You must opt-in if you want to be part of this group.

2021 Offering Envelopes

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2021 have been available for pick up since November. On February 7, any boxes left will be removed and put in storage. Please pick up your envelopes before this date. Assigning new envelopes is not a perfect process, if you do not see a box with your name on it please let Dale, Jackie, Carla, or Pastor know and we will be happy to get a box for you. Thank you to everyone who continues to give, your offerings are what keeps the ministry of Immanuel running and spreading the message of the Gospel to our members, our community, and to the *ends of the earth!!*

Masks in Church

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. **Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*** (Phil. 2:3-4) The official mask mandate issued by our governor has been extended and this pandemic is far from over. For this reason, we ask that, out of Christian love and concern, everyone continues to wear masks while in the church building. Thank you for helping work together to protect each other in Christ's love!

Worship Service Videos

During this pandemic, 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 are being posted to our website regularly and DVDs are being delivered, upon request, to those without internet.

Start the New Year with the WELS App

Why should you put the WELS App on your smartphone? Daily devotions, daily Bible readings, *Forward in Christ* articles, verse of the day, worship helps, the list goes on! Go to <https://wels.app>. Tap on the pop-up "add to home screen" or tap on your browser menu and select "install app" or "add to home screen."

Lakeside News - Grand Event X: Denim & Diamonds:

On Saturday, **April 10** from 2-6 p.m. Lakeside will be holding an open-house style Grand Event. Normally lots of businesses are able to provide donations for the Grand Event auction, but not this year. Most are barely hanging on due to challenges from COVID. To help with that, the auction committee is asking all Federation churches and schools to donate an item or basket for the auction. Linda Buxa is spearheading the basket for Immanuel and calling it the "*Homegrown Basket.*" We are looking for donations of home-canned goods, honey, a coupon for eggs or other perishables, knitted washcloths, or any homemade item.

Anything that our members have made, canned, processed or grown would be a great fit. If we get enough donations, we can make two baskets. This



is all flexible. Lakeside needs the items by March 5, so please have them to Immanuel by **March 1**. Contact Linda at glbuxa@mac.com or 301-643-2330 about donating.

OWLS

Fellow OWLS members: We want to get in touch with all of you amid this pandemic. You should have received newsletters from the national office with updates. God-willing, our national convention can be held as planned at Martin Luther College during October 2021. Several local chapters have reported some meetings these past months with others waiting for things to settle down, as it is with our chapter. In Waterloo at St John we are able to attend worship services with necessary precautions. We hear that a vaccine will soon be available for seniors as well - thank the Lord! We pray for your safety and would like to hear how you are doing as we try to make future plans. **MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP everyone!**

Twice is Nice 2020 Recap

Gifts to Lakeside were \$367,232 compared to \$357,200 in 2019. In addition, we donated \$5,000 to WELS Lutherans for Life. We paid off our mortgage loan for the 2015 addition in February 2020, just weeks before COVID-19 set in, which allowed us to stay and even increase our giving for the year after being closed for almost 2 months in spring. When we re-opened in May, store hours became 10 am-4 pm Monday-Saturday. Lastly, we wish to thank our loyal customers and donors of resale items who keep us so busy. Keep on visiting us on the west side of Jefferson in 2021!

Blue Butterfly Thrift Store

Blue Butterfly is a new Thrift Store located in

Oconomowoc. The Alpha Resource Center, Christian Family Solutions (WLCFS) and Tomorrow's Choice are working together to raise funds and support primary ministry areas that relate to the sanctity of life, mental health counseling, and senior care services. We are asking for the support of our area congregations and community to help us with the need for volunteers to help us with getting started and to also be part of the ongoing need for volunteers and donations.

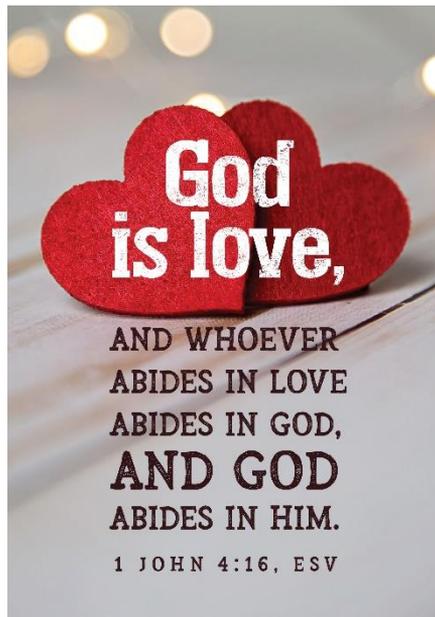


Offerings vs. Budget as of 12/31/2020

Offerings: \$352,445.86 Budget: \$344,020.00 Difference: \$8,425.86

February 2021 Usher Teams

2/4	Thurs	6:30 pm	Jerry & Kay Schultz
2/7	Sun	8:00 am	Joey & Mary Schultz
2/7	Sun	10:00 am	Joseph Family
2/11	Thurs	6:30 pm	Jim & Gail Will
2/14	Sun	8:00 am	Rick Wrensch/Pat Kleinsteiber
2/14	Sun	10:00 am	Mark & Donna Snyder
2/17	Wed	6:30 pm	Lee & Toni Braatz
2/18	Thurs	6:30 pm	Jim and Barb Buglass
2/21	Sun	8:00 am	Naatz Family
2/21	Sun	10:00 am	Eric & Jody Shuppe
2/24	Wed	6:30 pm	Jody & Monica Gehrke
2/25	Thurs	6:30 pm	Heald Family
2/28	Sun	8:00 am	Morris-Robinson Family
2/28	Sun	10:00 am	Kruesel Family/Kathleen Crawford



A red banner with a white heart icon on the left and the word "FEBRUARY" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the right. The banner has a subtle pattern of overlapping hearts in the background.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Cyndi Braunschweig, 2/1

Matt Woolley, 2/1

Matthew Reichert, 2/2

Collin Hartwig, 2/4

Brad Jr. Pitzner, 2/5

Taylor Schumacher, 2/5

Cindy Bourassa, 2/6

Vickie Mueller, 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

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

Ethan Olszewski, 2/16

Thomas Schulze, 2/17

Kim Zimmerman, 2/17

Lydia Buxa, 2/18

Terry Frey, 2/19

John Sr Hartwig, 2/20

Katherine Baum, 2/21

Emilie Schmidt, 2/22

Danielle Hartwig, 2/23

Floyd Sukow, 2/24

Amy Dettmann, 2/25

Cade Olszewski, 2/25

Joe Dach, 2/26

Alexis Mueller, 2/26

Brenna Baneck, 2/28

Cheryl Reichert, 2/28

Bryan Mueller, 2/29



February
anniversaries

Couple	Years	Date
James & Cheryl Reichert	48	2/17



WELS

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***KNOW** the love of Jesus. **GROW** in the love of Jesus. **GO** with the love of Jesus.*