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Mission:

In response to God, who first reached down to us—the mission of First Immanuel Lutheran Church is to reach up to God, reach into each other and reach out to the world.



NO MORE SURPRISES

I'm a planner. I don't like surprises. The sound system dies in the middle of a worship service. I want to print a copy of my sermon and the printer refuses to cooperate. I wake to find 6-inches of snow in my drive and the snow blower won't start. I set time aside for a meeting and it is cancelled at the last minute. Frustration!

Over the last six months we have been inundated with surprises. In March the country was closed down for two weeks to "level the COVID curve." Things came to a sudden and complete halt. Schools, churches, businesses came to an absolute stop. Then, we were called to be "Safer At Home" for six weeks. School became virtual. Worship was online. Business meetings were "ZOOMed." Suddenly, the "Safer At Home" order was overturned.

I'm not going to argue the right or wrong concerning these decisions. I just don't like surprises. Surprises make it difficult at best and impossible at worst, to plan. As I write this I wonder whether we can make it through the entire school year in-person or will we be told to go virtual. Can we bring more people into our sanctuary for worship? Will we need to be masked? I'd really like the answers so I can plan.

I give thanks to the Lord that He has made it easy for us to plan. Here's what we can definitely plan on because of the faithfulness of our gracious God:

- When surprises come into our lives, we can count on the Lord, who promises to be with us always and to use all things for good, drawing us closer to Him in faith and to one another in love.
- When I sin I can go to the foot of the cross and hear Jesus announce forgiveness. I can plan on a new and right spirit to live out my faith in joy.
- When I find stresses and strains in my relationships I can share the forgiveness Jesus gives to me and find healing with others.
- When I close my eyes in death I will live forever with Jesus and all the faithful in the joy and peace of heaven.

No surprises with Jesus. What you see is what you get—forgiveness, life and salvation. Count on it!

Your servant-leader,

Pastor Raasch

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Devastating explosion in Lebanon (LWR lost over \$600,000 of aide materials in the explosion, including quilts made by Lutheran sewing groups). Providing food to starving people around the globe. Helping restore people's lives in Iraq. These are some of the places and issues that LWR is currently involved with, reaching out in the name of Jesus to help those in need.

The mission of LWR is to affirm God's love for ALL people, working with Lutherans and partners around the world to end **poverty**, **injustice** and **human suffering**. LWR, empowered by God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ, envisions a world in which each person, community and generation lives in Justice, dignity and peace. **Please go to lwr.org to find out more. It is an excellent website and is worth visiting!**

Please use online giving, or a green Mission of the Month envelope located in the church lobby, and label it LWR. Thank you, and please keep LWR and the people they serve in your prayers.



Almost 90% of our mission of the month offerings will go directly to aid those in need, while the remainder goes to administrative and fundraising expenses. Charity Navigator rates LWR 4 out of 4 stars!



Help keep Cedarburg
BEAUTIFUL!

ROADSIDE CLEANUP! (Final one of 2020)

Saturday, September 26th
9 – 11 a.m.
Meet in the West
church parking lot.
Email kroeske@fils.org

THIS MONTH, PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- Ways GOD can use YOU to impact other people's lives in the name of Jesus.
- For GOD to open doors for YOU to walk through and make that impact.
- For GOD to be glorified in all that YOU do to serve others.

MILWAUKEE RESCUE MISSION MEAL SERVE

Big thanks to the volunteers who have helped serve meals at the MRM over the past fourteen years! We will be serving meals on September 1 and 15, and October 6 and 20. We leave FIL at 3 pm and return by 6:30 pm.

Since the onset of Covid19, many volunteer groups have yet to come back to help serve the evening meal. The kitchen staff needs help serving and cleaning the cafeteria each day! If you, your family, or Bible study group would be willing to help on a different day, it will be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to participate, please contact Outreach/Missions Director Karl Roeske at kroeske@fils.org, or call the church office at 377 -6610. Thank you.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Single Parent? Separated? Divorced?



Mondays, Sept 14 - Dec 7

6 - 7:30PM | River of Life Lutheran Church 598 Hillcrest Rd, Saukville

More info at filministries.org or call First Immanuel 262-377-6610



Building Project Update

September 2020

WE ARE ALMOST DONE! Time to move in and get organized!









None of this work would be possible without the generosity of the faithful people of First Immanuel. In May of 2018, our **BOLD Enough** capital campaign received 643 commitments for a total of \$3.9 million. As of July 31, 2020, we have received **\$3,250,672.64** toward these pledges. The money we receive through this capital campaign will allow us to begin paying our construction bills without being burdened by interest.

Please pray for favorable weather, continued congregational support and safety of our construction workers.

			-262-377-661 0			September 2020	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
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6 7:30am Traditional Worship Service (FIL) 8:00am Traditional Worship Service (ROL) 9:00am Traditional Worship Service (FIL) 9:30am Café Contemporary Worship Service (ROL) 10:35am Contemporary Worship Service (FIL) 10:45am Café Contemporary Worship Service (ROL)	7 10:00am & 7:00pm Stephen Ministry OFFICE CLOSED— LABOR DAY	8 First Day of School	9 9:00am & 7:00pm Adult Bible Study (FIL) 11:30am Safer at Church Service (FIL) 12:00pm-1:00pm Private Communion (FIL) (Call office to sign up)	10 10:00am Mom to Mom (online— Zoom)	11 12:05pm Bible Study Live (online)	5:00pm Traditional Worship Service (FIL)	
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27 7:30am Traditional Worship Service (FIL) 3:00am Traditional Worship Service ROL) 0:00am Traditional Worship Service FIL) 0:30am Café Contemporary Worship Service (ROL) 0:35am Contemporary Worship Service (FIL) 0:45am Café Contemporary Worship Service (ROL)	28 6:00pm DC4K & Divorce Care (ROL)	29	30 9:00am & 7:00pm Adult Bible Study (FIL) 11:30am Safer at Church Service (FIL) 12:00pm-1:00pm Private Communion (FIL) (Call office to sign up)				

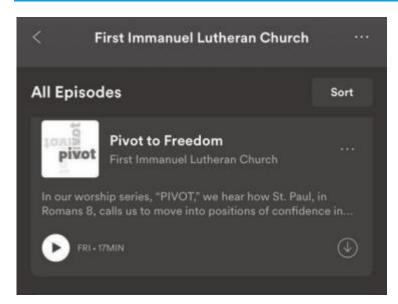
New Additions Church Library DEWEY FORMAT COPIES TITLE

September 2020

AUTHOR

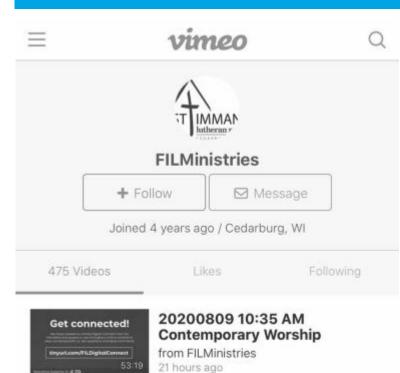
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book	1	Adult Bible Studies: New Testament 8	R.
book	1	Adult Bible Studies: New Testament 9	Doyle, Thomas J.
book	1	Mourning into Dancing	Wangerin, Walter Jr.
book	1	Simple Church: Returning to God's process for making disciples	Rainer, Thom S. & Geiger, Eric
book	1	Intrepid: Heroes of the Faith	Doyle, Jonathan & Lori
book	1	Jesus That I Never Knew, The	Yancy, Philip
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book	1	Astoria: Astor's and Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire	Stark, Peter
book	1	Faith in Practice: Bible study series for women in the workplace	Mitchell, Patricia R.
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Sermons now on Spotify!



We have been publishing sermon audio for a few years now online (you can find them at www.filministries.org/sermon-audio), but we recently made it easier for you to find. Just search "FIL Ministries" wherever you listen to podcasts, and you will find our sermons there. Whether you listen on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or Anchor podcasts. Make sure to subscribe so you stay up to date!

Video Resources



Bible Study Live at 12:05 from FILMinistries Starts soon

Video resources available at www.vimeo.com/filministries

We want to make sure you are equipped to reach up to God, reach in to each other, and reach out to the world with the love of Jesus. In 2020, that means having resources available online.

Utilizing Vimeo, we have created kids resources, Bible studies, sermon videos, and more to help you grow in your faith and connect with others. Our livestream worship is also moving to vimeo.com/filministries.

It is easy and straightforward to use, and we hope the resources there are a blessing to you!



Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment. They meet with their care-giver on a regular basis to support and listen, really listen, as they discuss their issues or problems. Listening is so vital to the Stephen Ministry relationship. As a Stephen Minister, if we listen long enough, people will finally be able to hear themselves and then hear us when we have earned the right to speak. But what *is* real listening?

First, listening is not taking responsibility for other people's lives while they are experiencing a difficult situation. A person loses their sense of identity when all responsibility is taken away from them. A person needs to feel some semblance of control over his or her life during times of difficulty. We, as Stephen Ministers and active listeners, come alongside and *accompany* the person on their difficult journey. To help them see that with God's love they will be okay.

Secondly, listening is not giving advice when advice is not asked for. The question, "Why?" is not a cry for us to give answers. Rather, it is a deep, spiritual cry of pain and protest to that which they cannot understand because they feel that their lives are out of control. They do not really want an answer; they want someone to hear their cry, someone who will not condemn them for asking, "Why?", but will stay with them in their struggle.

Thirdly, listening is not doing the problem-solving for them. The journey through pain and suffering means going through a deep valley where despair and bitterness are brewed or where soulsearching occurs. This journey takes time. It is a process and we need to allow that process to take place. And through this process, God touches their life and brings a spiritual healing to them.

Listening is a very active and extremely alert form of caring. Listening is tuning in to another person even when he or she cannot properly verbalize their pain. This type of listening is neither critical nor judgmental; instead, it accepts people as they are—reckless, ill-tempered, joyful, or pensive—and it explores these feelings with them. When we really listen to people who are hurting, healing of emotional pain can take place.

If you or someone you know needs someone to be there to listen to them as they go through a difficult time, please consider contacting Pastor Reichmann at 377-6610 to explore the possibility of having a Stephen Minister. All referrals and discussions with a Stephen Minister are kept in the strictest confidence. A Stephen Minister will be there to listen as long as they are needed; throughout the entire journey.

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV)



Be Still and Know

Author/Publisher: BroadStreet Reviewed by Audrey A. Stockey

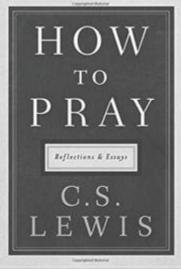
This small, hand-held daily devotional is a lovely companion book for C. S. Lewis' **How to Pray** because it contains some of the same bible quotations. It is based on Psalm 46-10—"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." It provides 365 devotions by the day of the year, but not the year so it can be used at any time.

Each month begins with a theme that is followed through on a daily basis. For example, January has Isaiah 41-10. "So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God…" June has the 23rd Psalm as its theme. Each day of the month starts with a title topic, followed by another Bible verse in red. Then two paragraphs usually follow in black describing how the verse applies to that day's living and establishes a relationship with the reader. Next in red is a suggested prayer for the day which can be used to develop your own prayer. The book is laid out much like our weekly passage and prayers are and provide "food for thought" as we go about our lives.

Along with Lewis' idea that God answers our prayers based on His plans for us, is a quotation from Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

This 366-page book is easy to read and understand, with an Introduction setting the stage for the year ahead. Each day focuses on a quiet start and channels our attention on the Lord before all other activities.





How to Pray

Author: C.S. Lewis Reviewed by Audrey A. Stockey

How to Pray is a collection of essays taken from the complete works of Lewis. The editors have also changed the original titles to questions readers are likely to ask regarding prayer but are philosophical in nature. Lewis' deep faith

permeated his writing. This helps guide readers through prayer and explains its significance as well as reminding us **prayer is central to faith**.

These essays involve using the scientific method of analysis, looking at cause and effect relationships to analyze his thoughts on prayer. This involves seeking what caused an event, then if the cause could be manipulated, the event could sometimes be controlled. With this method he felt he could determine the truth. However, in the end, he knew that only through faith could one understand prayer and God's promises.

In asking if prayer can work, Lewis reminds us God always hears our prayers but we are not always granted them. Sometimes His answers are not what we expected and other times, he has others answering them. These things happen because God knows what is best for us and we are reminded while God has planned the universe, not everything is preprogrammed. Prayer allows us to find God and express our heartfelt feelings and ideas. It is our **communication and relationship with** Him.

This closeness to God should always be honest, never concealing things from Him, and expressing what is important to us. Sometimes when prayers are not answered it is because they don't fit God's overall plan for us. That same prayer might fit a future event in our lives and be granted at that time. Prayer is also a time for us to confess our sins and our flaws and, just as important, repent of them. But it also means asking for forgiveness. Part of this "spirituality" is freely using our own words and not memorizing our prayers the way we did when we were children.

We are also reminded we have free will which the devil takes advantage of—if we allow it. He can keep us from praying, detour us from God's plan for us, and allow for us to think God isn't listening to us when we pray and has abandoned us. This can happen when we are ill, threatened, or grieving and God doesn't give an immediate response. Here we are reminded God responds in His time, not ours, and God does all things for our good.

We need to pray on a daily basis, pray for others, and remember that all we have is a gift from God, and He loves us no matter what. He is the creator, director of our lives, and He watches over us. This daily praying brings joy to our lives and creates a closeness with God. But we need to remember, "Thy will be done." He grants us peace, understanding, and blesses us. No matter what darkness covers our life, there is always light ahead and a promise that will not be broken. Through prayer we can fulfill God's role for us.

This 157-page book provides important reminders for praying but at times can be difficult reading because of Lewis' analysis of ideas and his philosophical approach to them. But he always provides the theological framework for interpreting the questions he raises. The book contains a Preface and a Source Listing showing where all chapters were taken from the original writings. It can be helpful to all of us, but especially to the Stephen Ministers.

Rejoice, Vigilant Ranks

Written by Pastor Tim Seban

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. - Romans 12:12

One morning I woke up and started to read through the morning news. I could feel myself getting uptight with the tension of a global pandemic, political and civil unrest, and natural disasters. As I immersed myself into these situations I also added my own personal burdens and challenges. Within 30 minutes of waking up my body was tense with anxiety and frustration.

Then I read Romans chapter 12, a section titled "Marks of a Christian." It was what I needed at that very moment. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." A simple, memorizable sentence that supplies basic instructions for faithful living in almost every situation.

Rejoice in hope: Our hope is the sure and certain confidence that Jesus Christ has set us free from sin, gives eternal life to all who believe, and prepares a special room for you in his kingdom. This news gives us true hope, and with that hope we rejoice. When we are able to rejoice in the hope we have through Christ, it helps us with these next two instructions.

Be patient in tribulation: Each day there will be people or circumstances out of our control that will agitate us. Rejoicing in the hope you have in Jesus I encourage you to consider these simple ideas to work on patience. Pause before you speak. Consider what your body language is saying to those around you. Try to look at things from a different perspective.

Be in constant prayer: Those situations that you're worried about take them to God in prayer. It doesn't have to be at your programmed time of the day to pray. Paul reminds us to be constant in prayer. In your prayers, you can rejoice, give thanks and celebrate, as well as raise your trials and tribulations to the Lord.

What troubles or anxieties are weighing you down? Pause and take some time to reconnect with your almighty God who gives you life and hope. "In all circumstances, rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer."

Senior Choir Update

At this unsettled time Senior Choir will not be starting rehearsals in September. It would be risky and irresponsible to do so while we are trying to do the right thing for others and ourselves. We will wait until the virus has subsided so we can safely gather and sing together again. Watch for another announcement in October. ~ Choir Director, Ellen Tolzman

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33



Page 10 Reaching You - First Immanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter



This month I'm going to share some favorite tools that I have found helpful in my personal faith walk. First, let me note that I am over 70 years old and am not terribly techy, but I have found some online resources that are easy to use and have had deep benefit in my daily devotions. Lest you be side-tracked by my *antiquity*, you young techy folks will find plenty of blessings in these resources as well.

Encounter - www.encounteringpeace.org

I was delighted to discover these Bible-based meditation podcasts a couple of months ago. Each daily podcast focuses on a specific Bible passage and theme. They utilize ancient and early Christian meditation techniques in a safe, Biblical context. I find them equally valuable at the start or the end of my day. This 15-minute retreat is healing and comforting.

They are easy to use—just go to the website and subscribe. A link to a new podcast will arrive in your email each day. I usually use my iPad or phone so I can be outside or while traveling, but you can also listen on your computer.

You Version Bible - www.Bible.com

This is a tremendously versatile resource.

I use the app on my phone and iPad all the time. Multiple versions of the Bible are readily available. You can even download versions to be available off-line—I learned how handy that was when I was unable to get cell reception during a Bible study recently. This resource is also available on your computer.

My favorite part of this resource is its HUGE collection of Reading Plans on a vast variety of topics. I have completed over 100 of these plans over the last several years. Some reading plans are brief—only a few days—others are expanded to cover a whole season or are devoted to a more detailed exploration of a specific topic. Each day's devotion is compact and doable in my daily schedule, and it is accompanied by relevant Bible passages that take me into Scripture. I have found most of these plans to be solidly Biblical in nature, but, as always, we need to read with a Lutheran eye and ear to make sure the content fits our beliefs.

Bible Study "Pick of the Month" – *The Vine Speaks* – *Eleven Lessons from John 15* by Cindy Steinbeck (Concordia Publishing House – <u>www.cph.org</u>)



Cindy Steinbeck's unique perspective as a vintner and president of Steinbeck Vineyards and Winery in California adds detail and dimension to this exploration of the vine and branches section of John 15. Each chapter draws "lessons from the seasons of the vineyard, from the lives of the apostles, from the author's experiences, and from our own circumstances." This is one of my personal favorites and has profoundly impacted my commitment to remaining connected to the Vine through study of God's Word. Ms. Steinbeck's deep Biblical knowledge, her lifetime of insights from the vineyard, along with drawings and photographs from the fields have added layers to my understanding of the text.

To God be the glory!

Bold Enough to SHARE ~ Sermon Series



Do not neglect to do good and to **SHARE** what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God

HEBREWS 13:16

"MINE!" A child wants to make sure everyone knows whose toy it is. And what do we do as adults in these situations? We tell the child, "Share, please." While it is important for a child to know what is yours, mine, and ours, it is vitally important for children to learn the art of sharing.

Even if we learn it as children, we forget quickly once we start having my time, my money, my schedule, my

needs. Adults can be worse than children when it comes to sharing.

In the third year of our "**Bold Enough**" campaign, we are talking about being "Bold Enough to Share." In our three-week sermon series, we are going to be intentional about being:

- Bold Enough to Share Our Heart
 - * We share our heart with the God who first shared His with us through creation, salvation and sanctification
- Bold Enough to Share Our Home
 - * Our personal homes and our church home is an important place for us to share in life together. Family devotions and small groups are places God uses to foster faith.
- Bold Enough to Share Our Hope
 - * God has given us hope, and we don't keep that to ourselves. We will be bold enough to share the confidence we have in the cross to others.

Join us this September, and let's be BOLD ENOUGH TO SHARE!

Worship Online or In-Person with us!





If you plan to attend a traditional or contemporary worship service in person, please sign-up at filministries.org.

Special Note About Communion

Communion will be the 1st & 3rd weekends of the month for all worship services. Private Communion For Members Wednesday Noon - 1:00 pm At First Immanuel Registration Required For Private Communion Call (262) 377-6610



Growing Together

by Linda Anderson

Please join us for Mom to Mom Starting September 10, 2020 Discussion time: 10:00-10:45 Using ZOOM

Our Mission....Is to educate, encourage and equip women for the most important job in the world, parenting. Through practical and biblically based teaching on parenting, and through supportive interaction. It is led by experienced moms, called "Titus 2" moms after the Titus 2:4 model in the New Testament.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic Mom2Mom will look a little different when we start in September. We would like to send all the moms a link to watch Linda Anderson's message. Then we will have a "Zoom" discussion. We know this is not ideal, but with not being able to have our childcare helpers we feel this is the best way to include all our moms. lopefully, we can re-evaluate at the end of the year.

Growing Together Topics

*When You're Running on Empty *Three Gifts I'd Like to Give Every Mom *Taming the Top 10 Marriage Monsters *Who's the Parent Here? *The Parent Trap *Sibling Sanity:Oxymoron or Opportunity * What's Constant in This Changing World *Problems, Problems: A Look at Abigail *Our Father's Eyes: Seeing Our Children as He Sees Us

If you have any questions, please call or email. Cheri @ 262-377-9093 or Jane @ 262-377-7970 To register please email: FILmom2mom@yahoo.com



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After School Care Team Members



Contact Mrs. Dummann (262) 377-6610 KDummann@fils.org

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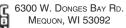
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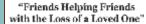
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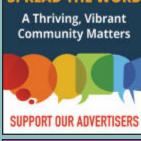


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First Immanuel Lutheran School (FILS) is blessed to have over 350 students for the 2020-2021 academic year! This year we have over 75 new students! The expansion of our Early Childhood Programs has made it possible for our teachers to minister to over 100 students in 2K – 4K and over 61% of those students are enrolled in our school/full-day class. Lastly, we celebrate and thank God for the 282 students we are welcoming back for another year; a great testament to the level of student satisfaction the FILS community provides. What an exciting opportunity to share this year's theme with all of them!



SHARE what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God

HEBREWS 13:16