

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 11th Ave W
Grinnell, IA 50112

April 2022 Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS
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ALL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE
SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK

LET US KNOW...

If you have a change in address, phone or email, have a loved one who is or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Pastor Koepp or the church office.

DO YOU...

want to put something in the bulletin or newsletter?

Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements?

If so, please submit the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin or newsletter by the deadlines listed below to the church secretary at immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net.

Deadline for submitting in the weekly bulletin is Thursdays by noon.

Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month.

For those of you without email access, please call or submit your written request to the church secretary.

2022 Immanuel Officers/Board Members & Contacts

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Vice President/President Elect

Steve Haase

Secretary

Kathy Stanek

Treasurer

Chris Christinson

Elders

Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, Ken Mergen

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Sherry Baker, Danielle McDonough, Markie Koepp

Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe, Pam Sittig, Diane Schultz

Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier, Dianna Kelting, Pam Haase

Organists

Esther Huedepohl & Pam Haase

Pianist

Sophia Loudon

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

LWML Board

President: Pam Haase

Treasurer: June Routier

Secretary: Pam Haase

Christian Life: Denise Cadwell

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)



Hello APRIL

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A Message from our Pastor



“Behold! I Tell You A Mystery!”

As I approach Holy Week and Easter for 2022, I keep coming back to many thoughts in the proclamation of God’s Word at the funeral service for Carmen Wiebold. For those that were not able to be in attendance, this month I share with you the sermon from that day.

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep as Carmen now sleeps, but all of us, those who sleep along with those who are awake, we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound. The dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall all be changed. Those who have perished, whose mortal bodies have gone to rest in the earth will be raised. Their bodies and souls will come back together again. Both their bodies and their souls will be perfected: imperishable and immortal.

Those who are still living at that time will also be changed in their bodies and souls, perfected, imperishable and immortal. Then shall come to pass the saying that is written: *“Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”*

Then shall come to pass the saying, but not quite yet. Now the sting of death is sin. From it comes our sadness and loss. The power of sin is the law. It accuses and exposes us. It hounds and condemns us. We have not been the men and women we were meant to be. We’ve not been the fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, or daughters, and certainly not the husbands and wives that we should have been.

The reality of sin stares in the face today. Many will try to change the language of what is happening today. We try to avoid words like death. We try to shift our thoughts to memories or celebrations, to hang on to the good feelings for as long as we can, to try and find some handle to carry us through, some way to make sense of what is happening. We can try to avert our gaze today, but even among the memories and the flowers and the pictures, the reality of death looms clear.

Death causes us to face not just death, but the words of St. Paul, ***“I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”***¹ Much of the sadness at funerals stems from guilt of things unsaid and actions untaken. We have hurt ourselves. We have hurt those we love. We’ve been hurt by others, on accident, on purpose, with great sorrow and with great nonchalance, by those who loved us and by those who didn’t care, but always we’ve hurt and have been hurt. That is the sting of death. Living with sinners in this living death, no matter how well intentioned they are, is never easy.

We like to pretend as though we’re tough, seasoned warriors. We want to give the impression that we don’t flinch in the face of death. We know life is hard. We expect it and are proud of our ability to endure it and think that we might even thrive. In our arrogance we hold both the naive and idealists in derision. “Life isn’t fair,” we say, as though that were some bit of wisdom. But it isn’t. It isn’t wise or clever at all. It is true in a sense, but it is mostly wrong. The point ought to be that life should be fair. Justice shouldn’t be a privilege. It should be a right. Kindness shouldn’t be a surprise. It should be expected. Dogs shouldn’t bite. Cats shouldn’t scratch. Kids should listen to their parents. Men and women shouldn’t lie. But they do. We do. The saying that is written has not yet come to pass: *“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

Death is still haunting us. It is not, however, part of life. The living shouldn’t die. It is not a circle. It is a line. It shouldn’t end. It always hurts. It is the sting of the Law. If we did not sin, we would not die nor would our lives be full of regret. But they are and we do. We die because we sin. We suffer regret because we know our sins have done damage and caused hurt.

¹ Romans 7:18–19

Carmen knew this reality and confessed it readily. She understood both her sin and where her forgiveness was given. She knew where the victory over death was not only done for her, but given to her. She could be stubborn, or perhaps a nicer way to say it would be “strong-willed,” but our visits were perhaps different than yours. We would talk first about her family and her puppy, and inevitably always about the Cubs or basketball, but there was always a moment where the conversation would bluntly shift. Sometimes it was the first thing we did, sometimes not, but it almost always began this way, “Pastor, did you bring communion. I’ve been waiting for it; it always makes me feel better.”

After the Table of Our Lord was set, the most enduring moments I had with Carmen began. Through the confession of sins, Carmen would be quick to confess both the depth of her sin and, with a tear in her eye, she would eagerly and boldly confess where the hope and surety of forgiveness of sins was found – in the suffering and death of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This wasn’t just the simple, generic dismissal that “everybody makes mistakes” and “nobody is perfect.” Carmen knew more than that. She knew that she had done more than make mistakes. At times, she had let people down. She had failed to be what she was supposed to be. She grieved for that and for the pain that she had caused. But she also hoped for forgiveness. She desired grace and cleansing from Christ. She was renewed and refreshed in the reality of her baptism. She would eat and proclaim the Lord’s death. That His death has destroyed death for her. That victory over death was hers as she feasted with angels, and archangels, and the whole company of heaven. In the presence of her enemies of sin, death, and the devil, the Lord spread a table before her and her cup overflowed.

After the hearing of the Word and the reception of the Supper, Carmen was grateful. It was here she taught me the importance of a great confession. I don’t recall her ever thanking me for coming, but she always thanked me for bringing her the gifts of her Lord. It wasn’t for me she was waiting, she was waiting for the gifts of God; she was waiting with eager anticipation for the grace and mercy of God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I tell you a mystery. God is gracious and merciful. He does not punish us for our sins as we deserve. He allows us to love one another, to forgive one another, to serve one another. It is a great privilege and joy to love and be loved even though we are still imperfect at it.

Here is the irony of your current sorrow: it is the dark-side of love. If we did not love, we would not mourn. We mourn because we love. We do not mourn for all of the thousands of unknown persons who died yesterday all over the world. We may mourn for some in the war or those caught in the net of various diseases in a general way. It is not because we are callous or realistic. It is because we do not have the energy and we did not love them. But Carmen has died, and whether we want to or not, even if we are rightly convinced that it was a blessing that she didn't suffer more, we mourn.

It comes upon us unbidden, sorrow at the loss, regret for the past, hurt that might have been boiling and festering for years. Why? Because we loved an imperfect woman imperfectly and we know that whatever imperfections she may have had, whatever failures or regrets, she loved us back. Surprisingly then, your sorrow is something for which you give thanks, because you know the Lord is at hand.

In the midst of sin and death, brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a good side of mourning. It is not fun or easy. It stings. But not everything good is pleasant. It is good because it comes from love. God has given us the capacity to love and to be loved. This is part of His mercy. If life should be fair, then we should pay for our sins and not enjoy anything good in this life, and no one should love us, even imperfectly.

God actually does love us perfectly. He holds nothing back. He has sent His Son to die for us, to suffer all that should have been done to us. He has been sacrificed in love as our Substitute. He forgives and accepts us, reconciles us to Himself and bestows the peace that passes all understanding. And in that great act, He provides not just for the hereafter but He also provides, perfectly provides, imperfect persons for imperfect persons like us.

He does this not for the sake of justice, but for mercy. He does this because it was not good for man to be alone, because He sees that it is good for us who have been forgiven, been loved, been justified, by Him, to likewise forgive, to mourn, to love, to weep, to pray, to grow, to live and to die in families. In short summarizing words we confess these great realities. It is my prayer for each of you that you may, with Carmen, find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

God has given us people to love and to forgive, as we have been loved and been forgiven, we must then suffer, we must mourn. To say it stings is an understatement of the worst sort. It hurts deeply and for years. But it is not the end. Behold, I tell you another mystery: *"We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet."*

Jesus Christ, killed for our transgressions, lives. Jesus like Carmen died, and rose again; so that like Jesus, Carmen may rise at the resurrection on the Last Day and live forevermore in the light of His loving and gracious presence. He gives us the victory that swallows death and removes its pain. He promises to bring us also out of the grave. In that resurrection He promises perfection, a cleansing and healing.

While Carmen's body is here, and will be laid to rest to await that great and awesome day of the Lord, by faith all who die in the Lord like Carmen, their souls are in a better place. That is not just a cliché. By faith in Jesus Christ, they are free from sin and death, and know peace and rest. They are free of sorrow and regret, free of sin and shame, free of pain. But they have not yet come to the best place, to their end and reward. While they are at peace and enjoy heavenly bliss, they too wait for the full consummation that will come on the Last Day; when the Holy Spirit will raise all the dead and give eternal life to all who believe- in Christ. Then the saying that is written will come to pass, death will be swallowed up in victory and there will be a great reunion.

Carmen and all those who have died in the faith won't be merely a faceless saint, indistinguishable from all the rest. They will be themselves, more than they ever were on earth, and everything that you loved in and about them will be magnified and nothing that interfered will be left.

As we mourn, we mourn with hope. Knowing death is swallowed up in victory, we sing as Carmen did imperfectly on this earth, but now perfectly in the heavenly courts,

“Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.

And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.” ² Amen.

² O God, My Faithful God LSB 696:5-6

It is my prayer that these words strengthen your faith as you walk through Holy Week and the Easter Season.

Hymn “O God, My Faithful God”

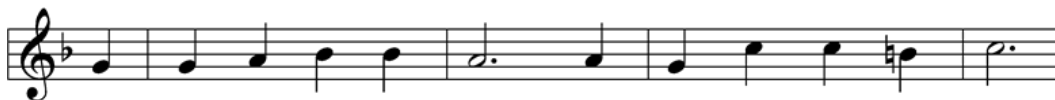
LSB 696



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

5 Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.

6 And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp



IDE THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

The Life of the
Church in the
"New" North
America

May 18-20, 2022

Registration Cost:

(Lay People Welcome)

3 Day Fee: \$45

(Includes 2 Nights Lodging and Meals Thursday/Friday)

2 Day Fee: \$35

(Includes 1 Night Lodging and Meals Thursday/Friday)

Location:

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

3271 Sandy Beach Rd NE

Solon, IA 52333

Daniel Sanchez: dsanchez@lcmiside.org

Questions?

Contact Rev. Sam Beltz: 870-476-0028

Presentation A:

Location is Alpha Lodge (Orange Building)

Presentation O:

Location is Omega Lodge (Blue Building)

LIST OF TOPICS AND PRESENTERS:

Equity and Patriarchy: Reclaiming these Terms (Rev. Andrew Preus)

Nietzsche was Right: Normal Nihilism in Western Religiousness

(Rev. Samuel Beltz)

Taking our Kids out of Public School

(Rev. Kevin Johnson)

Minds, Brains, Hearts, Souls: The Destruction of Body and Soul with False Teaching

(Rev. Dr. Kris Kincaid)

Should Our Children Serve in the Military?

(Rev. Brian Flamme)

Should Pastors Carry a Weapon and When? The Vocation of Shepherding and Protecting the Sheep. (Rev. Christopher Neuendorf)

Why Dichotomous (Republican/Democrat)

Voting Helps Nothing. (Rev. Alex Post)

Obeying the Government in a "New" American Context: Lutheran Ruminations on Romans 13

(Rev. Michael Holmen)

The Great Awakening 2013-2017: Contours of a New Woke American Horizon

(Rev. David Ramirez)

Law-Gospel vs. Fivefold Use? The Contribution of R. Pieper's Homiletics

(Rev. Isaac Johnson)

Cohabitation Kills: Reasserting the Sanctity of Marriage (Rev. Matt Wurm, Brookings SD)

Closed Communion is Good For You

(Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, IDE District President)

Lutheran Education and the American Constitution

(Rev. Dr. Greg Schultz, Professor, Concordia Mequon)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 18:

5:30 P.M. – Early Arrival and Registration
6:15 P.M. – Dinner and Drinks (on Your Own) or
at Shuey's in Shueyville
9:00 P.M. – Campfire

Thursday, May 19:

7:30–8:45 A.M. – Coffee & Breakfast
8:45–9:00 A.M. – Morning Prayer
9:00–10:00 A.M.
• Presentation A: Taking our Kids out of Public School (Rev. Kevin Johnson)
• Presentation O: Nietzsche was Right: Normal Nihilism in Western Religiousness (Rev. Samuel Beltz)
10:00–11:00 A.M.
• Presentation A: Minds, Brains, Hearts, Souls: The Destruction of Body and Soul with False Teaching (Rev. Dr. Kris Kincaid)
• Presentation O: Should Our Children Serve in the Military? (Rev. Brian Flamme)
11:00–1:00 P.M. – Presentation Discussion & Lunch
1:00–2:00 P.M.
• Presentation A: Why Dichotomous (Republican/Democrat) Voting Helps Nothing. (Rev. Alex Post)
• Presentation O: Law-Gospel vs. Fivefold Use? The Contribution of R. Pieper's Homiletics (Rev. Isaac Johnson)
2:00–3:00 P.M.
• Presentation A: Should Pastors Carry a Weapon and When? The Vocation of Shepherding and Protecting the Sheep. (Rev. Christopher Neuendorf)
• Presentation O: Equity and Patriarchy: Reclaiming these Terms- (Rev. Andrew Preus)
3:00–4:00 P.M.
• Lutheran Education and the American Constitution (Rev. Dr. Greg Schultz, Professor, Concordia Mequon)

4:00–5:00 P.M.

- The Great Awakening 2013–2017: Contours of a New Woke American Horizon (Rev. David Ramirez)

5:00–6:00 P.M.

- Obeying the Government in a "New" American Context: Lutheran Ruminations on Romans 13 (Rev. Michael Holmen)

6:00–6:20 P.M. – Evening Prayer

6:20–8:00 P.M. – Dinner at Camp and Presentation Discussion

8:00 P.M.–?? Whiskey Share in the Fireside Room

****Whiskey Share:** Bring a bottle of Whiskey (Irish, American, Scotch, Japanese) to Share with the attendees. Preferably one you like and want to share. Continue discussing the presentations of the day and their import. ******

9:00 P.M. Gemütlichkeit Campfire Discussions

Friday, May 20:

7:30–8:45 A.M. – Coffee and Breakfast

8:45–9:00 A.M. – Morning Prayer

9:00–10:00 A.M.

- Closed Communion is Good For You and Your Congregation (Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, IDE District President)

10:00–11:00 A.M.

- Cohabitation Destroys and Divides: Reasserting the Sanctity of Marriage-(Rev. Matt Wurm, Brookings SD)

11:00–11:15 A.M. – Concluding Prayer

11:15 A.M. – Departure from Camp

****If you have lodged at the Camp please make sure to have your room vacated earlier in the morning. The Camp Staff have another event in the early afternoon. They need to reset the camp quickly after we are finished. ********

11:30 A.M. – Lunch on your own (at Shuey's Patio) for continued discussion.

President's Piece for Peace

Last month I wrote about the theme of Lent. It is a time for reflection and repentance. It is also a time for sacrifice and relenting. Some Christians during Lent will make a vow to give up something that is quite near and dear to them for the 40 days of this season. It is a practice that does not merit forgiveness. It merely reminds us that this is not our eternal home. As the ancient hymn says: "We are but strangers here, heaven is our home." We are reminded on a daily basis just how much we needed Jesus to take on our flesh so that He could bear the burden of our sins.

With that I want to talk a little about the blessed absolution bestowed upon the repentant. How miserable would life be if Lent was solely about that which comes from our mouths in confession? Lent is also about that which comes to our ears from the mouth of God. It is His joy and authority to speak to our confession with Good News. It is by the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, that we are cleansed from all our sins. The very sins we confess and the sins we can't even remember are targeted by the bloody sacrifice of Jesus' atonement from the cross.

The blood of the cross is carried through the voice of the absolver. It actually gives what it says. The absolution is not simply a conversation of response to a sullen statement. The absolution is life giving, the pure power of the Most High granted to the broken and contrite heart. It is, without doubt, Good News. The Good News is that God is not against us because of our weakness of the flesh. He is *for us* in His Son Jesus Christ.

**The Words of Jesus
are what absolves.
The heart of the
contrite is what is
comforted.**

To be given the right to speak the absolution is an honor and a privilege. We bestow it within two aspects. One: an event. When someone sins against you or you have sinned against someone else, when confession is spoken and heard, the response is to speak the Words of Jesus that forgive. You say those Words, or hear those Words, with confidence and direct application. The other aspect by which we bestow absolution is according to our vocations. Husbands forgive as husbands because that is what they are. Wives do the same as wife. Neighbor to neighbor likewise. The vocation of pastor has a public nature to it. When confession is brought to the Office of the Pastor he forgives with the proviso "By the command and in the stead of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Both aspects are equally effective. The Words of Jesus are what absolves. The heart of the contrite is what is comforted. It is good for us to remember these two aspects so that we honor the Office of the Holy Ministry (the ordained) as well as the Office of Royal Priesthood (the baptized). In honoring them we exercise the privilege of forgiveness that recognizes what authority baptism has given us and at the same time the Office that Christ established for the sake of the congregation.

Blessed Lententide to you all. As we enter each day with the looming knowledge of our need for a Savior, may we rejoice that Jesus is He. That He has come and accomplished what we need the most. He absolves us now and forever.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President



Read Like a Lutheran!

Read the **Book of Concord** for Lent
A Forty-Day Reading Plan for 2022

Have you always given something up for Lent? Consider giving up your time every day to dig into the Lutheran Confessions!

**Page numbers, given in parentheses, reference Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, second edition, published by Concordia Publishing House.*

- ☐ March 25: Apology XXIII (210–218)
- ☐ March 26: Apology XXIV (220–236)
- ☐ March 28: Apology XXVII–XXVIII (237–251)
- ☐ March 29: Smalcald Articles: Preface–Part III, Art. II (259–272)
- ☐ March 30: Smalcald Articles: Part III, Art. III–XV (272–285)
- ☐ March 31: Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope (294–306)
- ☐ April 1: Preface to the Christian Book of Concord (3–12); Formula: Epitome Summary–I (473–477)
- ☐ April 2: Formula of Concord: Epitome II–VII (477–491)
- ☐ April 4: Formula of Concord: Epitome VIII–XII (491–502)
- ☐ April 5: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration Introduction–Summary, Rule, and Norm (505–511)
- ☐ April 6: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration I (511–519)
- ☐ April 7: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration II, para. 1–56 (520–530)
- ☐ April 8: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration II, para. 57–III, para. 25 (530–540)
- ☐ April 9: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration III, para. 26–IV, para. 40 (540–552)
- ☐ April 11: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration V–VI (552–561)
- ☐ April 12: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration VII, para. 1–62 (561–573)
- ☐ April 13: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration VII, para. 63–128 (573–581)
- ☐ April 14: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration VIII (581–596)
- ☐ April 15: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration IX–XI, para. 47 (596–609)
- ☐ April 16: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration XI, para. 48–XII, Conclusion (609–619)

Too Much Prayer?

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:6-7

Johnny, a very bright five-year-old, told his daddy he'd like to have a baby brother and, along with his request, offered to do whatever he could to help. His dad, a very bright thirty-five-year-old, paused for a moment and then replied, "I'll tell you what, Johnny. If you pray every day for two months for a baby brother, I guarantee that God will give you one!" Johnny responded eagerly to his dad's challenge and went to his bedroom early that night to start praying for a baby brother.

He prayed every night for a whole month, but after that time, he began to get skeptical. He checked around the neighborhood and found out that what he thought was going to happen had never occurred in the history of the neighborhood. You just don't pray for two months and then, whammo – a new baby brother. So, Johnny quit praying. After another month, Johnny's mother went to the hospital. When she came back home, Johnny's parents called him into the bedroom. He cautiously walked into the room, not expecting to find anything, and there was a little bundle lying right next to his mother. His dad pulled back the blanket and there was – not one baby brother – but two! His mother had twins! Johnny's dad looked down at him and said, "Now aren't you glad you prayed?" Johnny hesitated a little and then looked up at this dad and said, "Yes, but aren't you glad I quit when I did?"

I hope this little story brought a smile to your face. Of course, Johnny's dad knew in advance his son's prayers were going to be answered, barring any unforeseen circumstances. But kudos to Dad for encouraging Johnny in his prayer life. In an even more powerful way our heavenly Father knows in advance how, when, and if our prayers will be answered. You and I know that no matter what, there will be an answer – yes, no, or maybe. Scripture tells us that He knows our wants and needs, even before we ask.

Prayer is such a crucial part of life. In Luther's Small Catechism the first question dealing with the Lord's Prayer is "What is prayer?" He replies, "Prayer is an act of worship, wherein we bring our petitions before God with our hearts and lips and offer up praise and thanksgiving." In this act of worship, the Holy Spirit is interceding for us on our behalf, at all times, no matter how dedicated we are to prayer. Our prayers this year, like every other year rise to the throne of God where He hears every prayer. This God, our Creator reigns over all of history, over 2021, and over 2022. He holds your future and the future of each person in His hands. Here you can be assured that all of God's promises are valid and true.

What do you teach your children to say when they receive a gift? You might have to whisper in their ear and remind them, “WHAT DO YOU SAY?” And they respond with “Thank you!” (at least that’s the idea) It’s a good reminder for our prayer life as well. In our theme passage, Paul is teaching us to put thanksgiving before the answer comes! He’s suggesting that when we pray to find things to thank God for before you ask Him anything. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*” Philippians 4:7

I’m absolutely certain that you have experienced the impact prayer has had on your life and heart. We have learned through our catechism instruction, theology classes in college or through colloquy, conferences, etc. whom we should pray for,



where should we pray, when we should pray, and how should we pray. We’ve passed this knowledge and instruction on to our students. We know this in our heads, but when we’re faced with a sick child, troubled parent, or angry colleague, this is when it really cuts to the chase. We sometimes get caught up in the emotions of the moment or situation and forget what St. Paul wrote, “*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus.*” Prayer is coupled

with God’s peace. It covers you. It guards your heart and mind in Jesus. We can lay our burdens down in thankfulness knowing He will take them up. You can put your complete and total trust in Him to make the right decision, and you can finally rest because the pressure is off you.

God wants to hear from you. He wants to hear your groanings, your lament, your praises, and thank yous! I know you are still running hard in 2022. You can stay healthy and rest well when you talk to Him in your prayers. “Under the foundation of your life is a spring of living water that never runs out. When you pray, you can’t help but remember that His promises are down there for you all the time. As you pray in thankfulness, a settled peace will guard your heart and mind – because your heart and mind are anchored in Christ. Anxiety may come and go, but His peace transcends in the midst of it, like that ever-present spring of living water for our spiritual houses. Praise be to Christ, who guards our hearts and minds.”

(Rev. Mark Matzke, Building Up the Body)

Jan Doellinger

Assistant to the President, Schools



Our LWML here at Immanuel is excited about all the activities that are available in the coming months:

Our Zone (Marshalltown) is having its Spring Rally on April 9th beginning at 9:00 at Trinity Lutheran Church in State Center. All women are invited to attend.

Pastor Ricard, of Trinity Lutheran, State Center will lead the Bible study and Rev. Dr. Lamb will depict Pontius Pilate. There will be a skit and lunch will be served.

April 24 we are doing the NOISY BUCKET. If you wish to contribute, the NOISY BUCKET will be next to the offering plate that Sunday. Thank you for supporting the LWML and its mission grants!

In May, the District LWML is planning a bus trip to Orphan Grain Train in Clemons and Mission Central in Mapleton. They plan to stay overnight in Carroll, after visiting Orphan Grain Train on May 13th, and then go on to Mapleton on May 14th. If you have never been to either of these sites, you will be amazed at how Iowa supports missionaries and people in need around the world.

June 10th - 11th are the dates for the District LWML Convention which will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Falls. The Theme of the Convention is Anchored in Christ, based on Hebrews 6:19 NIV — *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."* We need two women to attend as delegates – if you are interested, please let Pam Haase know. We will be choosing new Mission Grants for 2022-2024 and some new officers. For more details on the Convention, see the poster and registration forms on the bulletin board in the church entryway.

If you are interested in attending any of these activities, please let Pam Haase know. Carpools and going with friends make the event even better. Remember ALL women in our congregation are part of LWML, and the above activities would be an ideal way to get acquainted with LWML, what it is all about and make some new friends! As always, we will continue to have LWML meetings on the 2nd Monday of every month from 11:30am-1:00pm. Please join us as we grow together in God's Word doing Bible studies led by Pastor Koepp and fellowshiping with our friends.

PALM SUNDAY
HOLY WEEK
EASTER
SERVICE SCHEDULE



April 10 ▪ 9:00am Palm Sunday & Confirmation

12:00pm Prayer Service

Monday, April 11

Tuesday, April 12

Wednesday, April 13

April 14 ▪ 6:30pm Holy Thursday Divine Service with Communion

April 15 ▪ 6:30pm Good Friday Divine Service with Communion

April 16

Holy Saturday Prayer Service ▪ 12:00pm

Easter Vigil Service with Communion ▪ Our Savior in Newton ▪ 6:30pm

April 17

Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Dawn Divine Service ▪ 6:30am

Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day Divine Service ▪ 9:00am



***The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS
Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article***

Blessed Shall You Be

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.” (Deuteronomy 28:3-6)

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and “walk in his ways” (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Confirmation

Preparation

5th & 6th Grades Confirmation

***Classtime 4:00--5:00pm**

April 6: LSB 633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" stanzas 1-8

8th Grade Confirmation

***Classtime 5:00--6:00pm**

April 6: Questioning Books

April 10: Confirmation Sunday

IDE LHM District Convention—April 9, 2022



Iowa District East Lutheran Hour Ministries annual convention is **Saturday, April 9, 2022** at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, 3271 Sandy Beach Rd. NE, Solon, IA 52333.

Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, the Lutheran Hour speaker. **All are invited to attend.**

Registration: Registration open at 9:00AM

Convention starts at 10:00 AM and conclude at 4:00 PM.

Registration is \$14 (\$17 at the door), includes a noon meal and snacks. Please register by April 2 to allow time for meal planning. You may also contact Dick Hoelz at 319-363-1214 or email rahoelz@imonmail.com for reservations. (Extra restrooms available.)

Directions: Take I-380 until exit 10 (Swisher, Shueyville) and head east on 120th St. [F12] until stop sign. Turn right onto NE Curtis Bridge Rd. and follow it until Sandy Beach Rd. Turn left onto Sandy Beach Rd. and follow it to the Camp. Watch for Camp signs.

To register, complete this form, enclose check and mail to:
Dick Hoelz, 3519 Heatheridge Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-7624.

Make checks payable to: IDE LLL

Phone number _____

Number attending _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Congregation _____

Email _____



www.lhm.org



The Rite of Confirmation will
be held on April 10, 2022 for

Lauren M. Loudon

and

Joel R. Koepp

Please join us in celebrating
this time with them in the
Divine Service at 9:30 with a
meal to follow.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, January 9th, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on January 9th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Joel McDonough, Chris Christin-son, Keith Thorpe, Darlo Kelting, Kevin Schultz, Diane Schultz, Sherry Baker and June Routier. President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. December council minutes will be presented at the February meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

- Nothing new, the Elders will have their meeting later today.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christin-son

- Written reports attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.
- Chris presented the 2022 budget that will be gone over at the January 17th Voter's meeting.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Kevin reported some shingles have blown off the roof and the insurance adjuster has been contacted to review and submit an estimate.
- Kevin presented a report with quotes on painting the entryway, fellowship hall, and sanctuary. A motion was made and approved to present it to the voters.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- June reported the Christmas tree at the library has been taken down and the project to help a family at Christmas was a great success. Thanks to all who participated. They will have the same mission projects in 2022 as they did in 2021.

Board of Education: Sherry Baker

- Sherry reported the children's Christmas program went off as planned and Sunday school classes will resume this week.

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe

- Keith reported the giving is still steady, and that the yearend giving statements will be out soon.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

- Pastor presented a written report for December and 4th quarter listing official acts and Pastoral Duties.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

With no other business to discuss Steve adjourned the meeting.
Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Council Meeting: February 13th, 2022 – 8:00 AM

Voters Meeting: January 16th, 2022 - 10:30 AM