

Immanuel Lutheran Church Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp 229 11th Ave. West

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# THE THIRD LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR November 11, 2018 Divine Setting Three ~ Page 184

As We Gather ~ Faith Comes By Hearing the Word of Christ

"The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed" (Luke 17:20). You must use your ears and not your eyes. For God's kingdom in this world is one of faith, and faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ. The people of Israel, however, wanted to walk not by faith but by sight. When Moses delayed in coming down the mountain, they decided to make a visible god for themselves, the golden calf (Ex. 32:1). Upon such faithless and false worshipers God's judgment comes. Only on the Last Day will our faith be turned to sight. "For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man" (Matt. 24:27). The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, and He will gather His people to Himself, both the living and the dead. In a world in which our days are few and full of trouble (Job 14:1), let us comfort one another with these words of the resurrection and the coming of our Lord Jesus.

#### **Announcements**

(As the Cross, a symbol of our redemption, enters the sanctuary, God's people stand and fix our eyes upon it)

#### **Processional Hymn**

p 579

"The Law of God Is Good and Wise"

## **Confession and Absolution**

p 184

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

#### Introit

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I call upon you.

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me;

incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I call upon you.

<u>Kyrie</u> p 186

Gloria In Excelsis p 187

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

p 189

P Almighty God, we implore You, show Your mercy to Your humble servants that we, who put no trust in our own merits, may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment but according to Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Exodus 32:1-20

1When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." 2So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." 3So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron.

4And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" 5When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD." 6And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. 7And the LORD said to Moses. "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 8They have turned aside guickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" 9And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10Now therefore let me alone. that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you." 11But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. 13Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever." 14And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people. 15Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. 16The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. 17When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." 18But he said, "It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear." 19And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. 20He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### Gradual

Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place; they set up their own signs for signs.

Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

#### **Epistle**

13But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### **Alleluia and Verse**

p 190

Holy Gospel Matthew 24:15–28

15"So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, 18and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. 19And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 20Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. 21For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25See, I have told you beforehand. 26So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed p 191

Hymn of the Day p 614

""As Surely as I Live," God Said"

<u>Sermon</u>	'Anger Mixing in Fear'	Ex. 32:1-20
Offertory		p 192
Offering		
Prayer of the Ch	<u>urch</u>	p 193
	SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT	
<u>Preface</u>		р 194
<u>Sanctus</u>		p 195
Lord's Prayer		p 196
The Words of O	ur Lord	p 197
Pax Domini		p 197
Agnus Dei		p 198
Distribution (Y	ou may kneel or stand to receive commun	ion)
Distribution Hyr	mns "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"	p 461, 490
Nunc Dimittis		p 199
Thanksgiving		p 200
Salutation and E	<u>Benedicamus</u>	p 201
Benediction		p 202
Recessional Hyn	nn "Preserve Your Word, O Savior"	p 658

# The Immanuel Spirit

**Welcome to Immanuel!** Greetings, friends! St. Peter called upon Christians to supplement faith with "brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love" (2 Peter 1:7). Therefore linked together with affection and love, let us boldly approach the throne of grace. Please join us for fellowship after the service.

**Guests:** Please sign our guest book, or a guest card in the pew and place in the offering plate before leaving.

**Scripture Lessons for next Sunday:** Daniel 7:9-14, 2 Peter 3:3-14 and Matthew 25:31-46.

**Stewardship:** 1 Thess. 4:13 – "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope." Christians are different from unbelievers. Our trust in Christ changes us. Our hope in Christ means that we don't grieve in the same way that unbelievers grieve: we know what comes after death. We don't treat our time or money in the same way as unbelievers either. We start each week with a sacrifice of our time as we come to the Lord's House to hear His Word and receive His Sacraments. And we also set aside a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income for the support of the Lord's work in His Church. Our faith changes us and our actions ... we don't do anything as others do who have no hope.

Communion Statement: As we learn from 1 Corinthians, when we commune together we make a confession of our oneness in doctrine and understanding of God's Word. Since those who show publicly that they agree with the teachings believed, taught, and confessed by the Pastor and congregation at which the Sacrament is distributed, we ask that those who are not members in good standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or one of our sister churches to please refrain from partaking of the Sacrament. Instead, if you would like to receive a blessing, you are more than welcome to come to the altar rail and please indicate you would like to receive a blessing by crossing your arms in front of your chest. A list of church bodies with whom we share Altar and Pulpit fellowship is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you would like to visit about this doctrine and practice, please talk to Pastor or an Elder. For further study on this matter see Matthew 5:23ff, 18:15-35, 26:26-39; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Cor. 11:17-34. Thank you.

**Sunday School Lesson:** The account of God giving "The Ten Commandments" to Moses is today's Sunday School lesson. The children will learn that the law was given through Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Talk about God's laws and how they guide us and show us our sin when we cannot keep them. Ask your children, "Who kept the Law perfectly for us?" Though we sin much, daily we have God's forgiveness because of Christ, His Son.

**Building Healthy Families for Nov. 11th:** Soldiers returning from deployment suffer major depression and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) at rates much higher than the general population. Families, as well as service members' lives are forever changed. Who has served our country and now lives in your community? This week find a way to show them and their family your appreciation, respect and love. One small act of kindness can make a big difference! ~ **Lutheran Family Service of Iowa: Des Moines (515) 251-4900.** 

Life Quote for Nov. 11th: "God adopts. The Gospel is about adoption. Salvation's story can't be told apart from adoption. Christianity can't happen without it ... Pharaoh's daughter adopting Moses leads to the Hebrews ending up liberated ... Joseph adopting Jesus sets in motion sinners getting forgiven. Father Almighty offers His Son and adopts human beings for us to have a faith relationship with the Lord God and the hope of resurrection to everlasting life in His heavenly kingdom. No wonder early Christians opened the world's first orphanages." Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life ~ A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org

Lutheran Hour for Nov. 18th: Hear "Once And For All" based on Hebrews 10:11-19 by Rev. Dr. Anthony Cook. Rev. Cook shares God's message of forgiveness--"In Jesus, our Great High Priest, we have found the perfect and permanent solution to our separation and sin." ~ Listen next Sunday on 600 WMT at 6:30 a.m., 1190 KFJB at 8:30 a.m., WHO-1040 at 7:30 a.m., & 1410 KGRN at 7:30 a.m.

**YOU CAN TEACH LAYPEOPLE THEOLOGY...Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show and podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's topics include: An Introduction to the Koran, Hallowed Be Thy Name, Worship in the Tabernacle, The Abomination of Desolation and more. You can listen on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

Cleaning: Household(s) responsible for the week of Nov. 11th through Nov. 17th is Madren/Marcinik. Household(s) responsible for the week of Nov. 18th through Nov. 24th is McDonough. If it is your week to clean church & you have other obligations or prefer to write a check rather than cleaning, the cost is \$50. Please contact Amber Carnine (641-990-5985) ASAP & no later than the Thursday of the week before it is your week to clean.

**Calendars:** The Board of Education is selling calendars again. If interested, please see Sherry Baker.

**Snowbirds:** Please provide the church office with your contact information if you are heading for warmer weather in the next coming months. Thank you!

**Please join us for our Thanksgiving Service** this Wednesday, Nov. 14th for a meal at 5:30pm and service at 6:30pm. Bring a guest!

**Caroling at Windsor Manor:** December 9 after Sunday School/Bible Study.

**Soloists/Instruments:** If anyone is interested in singing or playing an instrument in the Christmas Program on December 16th, please speak with Pastor.

# CONFIRMATION MEMORY WORK

**FOR** 

NEXT SUNDAY, NOV 18th

5th & 6th Grade 9th & 10th Commandments & Meanings

> 7th & 8th Grade 8th Commandment

# **Upcoming Services**

# Midweek Advent Evening Prayer Services

Wednesday, December 5th 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 12th 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 19th 6:30 p.m.

# A meal will be served before each service at 5:30 p.m.

A sign-up sheet is on the entryway
table for any individuals or group who would
like to volunteer to coordinate the meals
(meal preparations, donations, serving and clean-up)

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve Prayer Service Monday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day Service Tuesday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

# UPDATED SCHEDULE FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AT 10:30 A.M.

A cookie reception will follow

# **PRACTICE DATES**

Sunday, November 25 at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 2 at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 15 9:00–10:30 a.m.



# **TODAY**

IODAY			
Organist	Esther Huedepohl		
3	Verne Cadwell		
	Roberts		
	Terry Stanek & Marvin Honold		
	Marrina Kaloupek & Sue Ford		
	Sophia Louden & Alex Eichenberger		
WED	NESDAY, NOV 14TH		
	Esther Huedepohl		
Elder	Joel McDonough		
	Routier		
Ushers	Chris & Caden Christinson		
	Emily Louden & Tammy Smith		
	,		
	NEXT SUNDAY		
Organist	Esther Huedepohl		
	Joel McDonough		
Greeter	Schoen		
Ushers	Troy Johnson & Arnie Heimsoth		
Servers	Cheryl Christinson & Robin Marcinik		
Acolyte/Crucifier	Ellie Mintle & Oliver Louden		
Our Gifts	to God (given at Immanuel)		
	November 4, 2018		
Attendance	47		
Holy Communion	32		
- <b>,</b>	<u>-</u>		

# **Week Ahead**

<b>TODAY</b>
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102/11	
Council Meeting	8:00 a.m.
Third Last Sunday of the Church Year	
Christian Education	
	10.13 a.111.
Fall Yard Clean-Up	
<u>MONDAY</u>	
LWML	11:30 a.m.
TUESDAY	
	0.00
Winkle in Newton	
Board of Evangelism & Missions	4:15 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	
Windsor Manor Service	10:30 a.m.
Grinnell Ministerial Association	
Potluck	•
Thanksgiving Evening Prayer Service	
Thanksgiving Evening Frayer Service	0.30 p.111.
<u>THURSDAY</u>	
Bible Study	11:00 a.m.
,	

# FRIDAY/SATURDAY

IDE Sr. High Retreat at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

# **NEXT SUNDAY**

Second Last Sunday of the Church Year	9:00 a.m.
Christian Education/Popcorn Sunday	10:15 a.m.
7th/8th Confirmation	1:00-2:30 p.m.
5th/6th Pre-Confirmation	3:00-4:30 p.m.

# **BIRTHDAYS**Esther Huedepohl.....Friday

May God bless you today and each day that follows. May you hear His voice, follow His footsteps, be comforted by His care, and live in His grace now and forever.



Our church website has the info. you need right at your fingertips! Get access to weekly bulletins, sermons, calendars, upcoming events, pictures and more!

www.immanuelgrinnell.org

Follow us on Facebook!
Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS

Subscribe to Pastor's YouTube channel to listen to sermons! Rev Dr. Joel Koepp or Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

# Prayer Chain/Prayer Requests.... Who do I contact?

Prayer Chain Email/Bulletin -->> Church Secretary
Please email Amber at immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.net for
requests to be sent out on the church prayer email chain and/or
included in the bulletin.

Special Prayer request during Church Service -->> Rev. Koepp If you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Rev. Koepp: Email: koeppj@hotmail.com Cell: 507-829-3901 Home: 641-260-8394 Office: 641-236-6691 Office Hours: Monday--Thursday 8am--3pm

**Deadline for any bulletin announcements** (prayer requests, meetings, calendar items, ect.) are <u>Thursdays by 5:00 p.m.</u>

# 2019 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

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Joel McDonough

**Vice President** 

Steve Haase

**Secretary** 

Kathy Stanek

**Treasurer** 

Chris Christinson

Elders

Steve Haase Darlo Kelting Joel McDonough

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Sherry Baker Megan Schutt

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**LWML Secretary** 

Pam Haase

**LWML Christian Life** 

Denise Cadwell

**Altar Guild** 

Helen Thorpe Susan Schoen

Iune Routier

Carol Stone

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)

# The Divine Service Introduction Our Lutheran Heritage of Worship

### **Pastor David Miller**

Trinity Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

## The Lord's Prayer

Why is it that we ALWAYS pray the Lord's Prayer before the Words of Our Lord, even if we prayed it at a Baptism earlier in the service? It is because the answer to the Lord's Prayer is right under our nose—or more property understood—right on top of the altar. This is made clear when we look carefully at the structure of the Lord's Prayer.

First, the fourth petition, Give us this day our daily bread, and the fifth petition, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, are connected by a coordinating conjunction, which signifies that two clauses go together and explain each other. That is, the daily bread for which we pray is bread that is to forgive us our trespasses. The only bread that can do that is Christ, "the living bread that came down from heaven." He promises, "If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh" (John 6:51).

Second, note that the most central petition of the Lord's Prayer is the fourth, "Give us this day our daily bread," making it the very heart of the prayer. Just look at this:

Introduction: Our Father who art in heaven.

First Petition: Hallowed be Thy name.

Second Petition: Thy Kingdom come.

Third Petition: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Fourth Petition: Give us this day our daily bread.

<u>Fifth Petition:</u> And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

<u>Sixth Petition:</u> And lead us not into temptation.

Seventh Petition: But deliver us from evil.

<u>Conclusion:</u> For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Third, the request for our daily bread emphasizes bread that is not for you or me alone, but it is corporate bread, something that we all eat together. One name for the Sacrament of the Altar is Holy Communion, because we all commune with one another and partake in this shared bread.

The placement of the Lord's Prayer before the Words of Institution in the Divine Service testifies to the fact that this prayer is fulfilled in the Sacrament of the Altar. One book entitled, Worshiping with Angels and Archangels: An Introduction to the Divine Service, has this to say about its placement prior to the Words of Our Lord:

The Lord's Prayer is the chief prayer of the Christian Church, and it is prayed here at the chief event of the Divine Service. As children of God, we call upon"our Father" as we prepare to encounter Jesus in His Supper, acknowledging that in the Sacrament He will answer our petitions. The congregation prays, "Thy kingdom come," then receives the kingdom of God in the coming of Christ in His body and blood. We pray, "Thy will be done," then witness salvation being distributed. We pray for forgiveness of sins and hear Christ's own Word proclaiming that in His death He has accomplished everything needed to "forgive us our trespasses."

The Lord's Prayer is truly the Eucharistic Prayer as each petition is answered in the Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper. Through Christ's holy body and most precious blood our heavenly Father's name is hallowed, His kingdom comes to us, His will is done to us on earth as it is in heaven, we receive our daily bread and forgiven our trespasses, we are led out of temptation, and delivered from all evil. What a blessing to see this prayer answered right before our very eyes!

<sup>1</sup> Scot A. Kinnaman, Worshiping with Angels and Archangels: An Introduction to the Divine Service, (CPH 2006), p.35.

# MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

# YOUR GENEROSITY WILL:

- >> HELP SUPPORT THE RECRUITING, TRAINING AND ENDORSING of our LCMS military chaplains. We have numerous chaplains who serve on active duty, the Reserve component, the National Guard, the Civil Air Patrol and the Coast Guard auxiliary. Your gift will ensure they receive valuable Lutheran resources, training, support and religious-liberty protection that they desperately need during these challenging times.
- >> HELP SUSTAIN OPERATION BARNABAS a network of care that trains and equips LCMS congregations and individuals to assist all military-connected people within our congregations and communities in getting the support and assistance they need. Learn how you can get involved by visiting operationbarnabas.org.
- >> HELP ENABLE THE MINISTRY-BY-MAIL PROGRAM TO CONTINUE as we send Lutheran devotional materials and resources (including *Portals of Prayer*) to all Lutheran military personnel and their families stationed around the world. Please email military contact information to *Icmschaps@lcms.org*.
- ➤ HELP FUND THE TRAVEL EXPENSES for chaplains and their wives to attend annual training seminars. These seminars allow them to reconnect, network and receive pastoral care and support from their church — things they need and deserve.
- >> HELP GROW A SPECIAL ENDOWMENT FUND that enables our chaplains to complete a Doctor of Ministry degree to sharpen their skills.

PLEASE USE MY GIFT TO HEL	P STRENGTHEN THE M	EN AND WOMEN OF	OUR MILITARY:	
\$50 \$85 \$150	Other \$			
Payment Method:  Check enclosed				
☐ Charge to my credit card. ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard	d Discover	American Expres	s	
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My name as it appears on card.				
PRINT		SIGNATURE		
Please make your check payable and return to: P.O. Box 66861, St.		e Armed Forces		
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Telephone:				
Congregation				
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## To Eat and to Drink

# If the Lord's Supper is God's gift, why is it connected to confirmation education?

The Lord's Supper is a gift to Christians, as we teach our children in the Small Catechism: "given for us Christians to eat and to drink." Confirmation is not commanded by God. The Church in her liberty has been using confirmation to make sure that children are instructed in the Christian faith.

We need to know what the gift is that we are receiving (1 Cor. 11:29). This means not only knowing that the bread and wine are Christ's body and blood, but that they are received in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sins. Luther's Small Catechism teaches this well.

Notice what parts of the catechism are at play in teaching someone to know the gifts he is receiving in the Lord's Supper in repentance and faith. Desiring the forgiveness of sins requires knowledge of repentance (Ten Commandments, Confession). The desire for the forgiveness of sins is faith in Christ and what He has done (the Creed, or who God is and what He has done).

When we repent, thank God for the Lord's Supper and use the Lord's Supper for strength in temptation, we pray as Jesus taught us to (Lord's Prayer). When we have confidence that the Lord's Supper is for God's children, we base this confidence on God's Word to us in Baptism. And obviously we should know what the Lord's Supper is, its benefits and how we receive it properly (Sacrament of the Altar).

Additionally, we need to be able to examine ourselves (1 Cor. 11:28). We examine ourselves in the light of the Ten Commandments (the Law), but also in the light of who God is and what He has done for us in Christ (the Gospel). We are only able to do this if we are taught the Word of God. The Small Catechism does a wonderful job of instructing us.

The Lord's Supper is not a gift to be given to just anyone. It is for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness and desire God's Word (Acts 2:42;1 Peter 2:2). Confirmation is not necessary, but instruction is. Confirmation is a good tradition that helps us instruct people for properly receiving the Lord's Supper.

The Lutheran Witness August 2017 by Mark Preus