

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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***June Newsletter***

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**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](mailto: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.**

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Steve Haase

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Christian Life: Denise Cadwell

### **Altar Guild**

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June Routier

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Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)



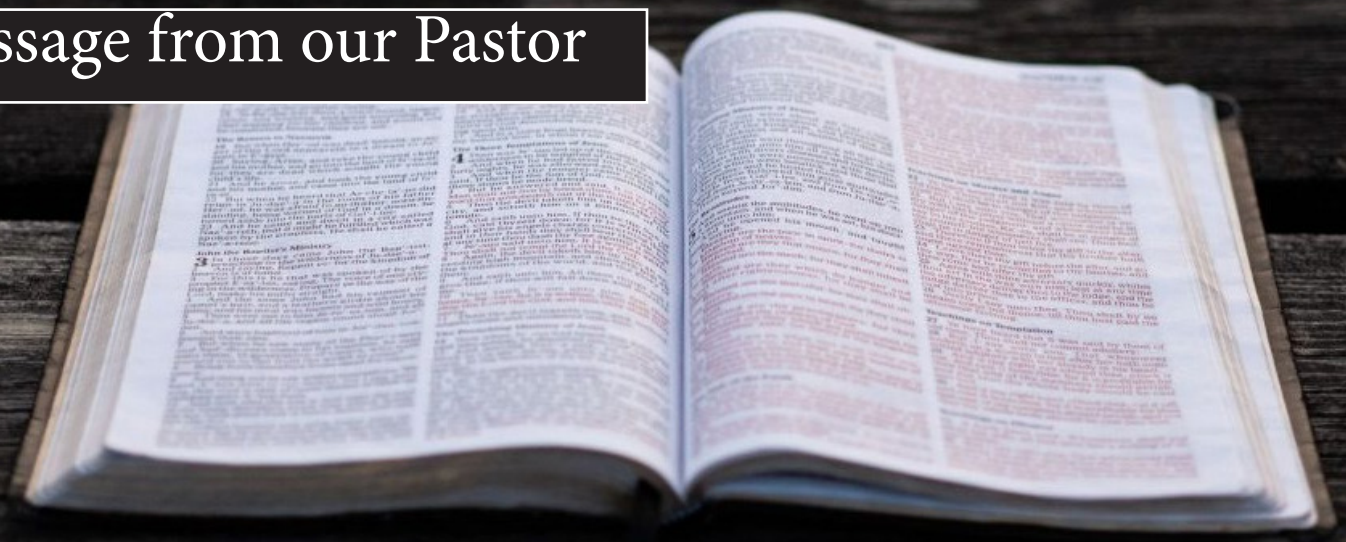


# welcome JUNE

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# A Message from our Pastor



## “The Holy Trinity”

This June we will celebrate Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Throughout this month, I encourage you to read and reflect upon the Triune God from these words in the Large Catechism taken from the Book of Concord. It is a bit longer than I normally include, but it contains all three articles of the Creed. Enjoy!

### Second Part: The Creed

1 Thus far we have heard the first part of Christian doctrine. In it we have seen all that God wishes us to do or not to do. The Creed properly follows, setting forth all that we must expect and receive from God; in brief, it teaches us to know him perfectly.

2 It is given in order to help us do what the Ten Commandments require of us. For, as we said above, they are set on so high a plane that all human ability is far too feeble and weak to keep them. Therefore it is as necessary to learn this part as it is the other so that we may know where and how to obtain strength for this task.

3 If we could by our own strength keep the Ten Commandments as they ought to be kept, we would need neither the Creed nor the Lord’s Prayer.

4 But before we explain the advantage and necessity of the Creed, it is sufficient, as a first step, for very simple persons to learn to understand the Creed itself.

5 In the first place, the Creed used to be divided into twelve articles. Of course, if all the thoughts contained in the Scriptures and belonging to the Creed were gathered together, there would be many more articles, nor could they all be clearly expressed in so few words.

6 But to make it most clear and simple for teaching to children, we shall briefly sum up the entire Creed in three articles, according to the three persons of the Godhead, to whom all that we believe is related. The first article, of God the Father, explains creation; the second, of the Son, redemption; the third, of the Holy Spirit, sanctification.

7 Hence the Creed may be briefly comprised in these few words: “I believe in God the Father, who created me; I believe in God the Son, who redeemed me; I believe in the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies me.” One God and one faith, but three persons, and therefore three articles or confessions.

8 Let us briefly comment on these words.

### **The First Article**

9 “I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

10 These words give us a brief description of God the Father, his nature, his will, and his work. Since the Ten Commandments have explained that we are to have no more than one God, it may be asked: “What kind of being is God? What does he do? How can we praise or portray or describe him in such a way as to make him known?” This is taught here and in the following articles. Thus the Creed is nothing else than a response and confession of Christians based on the First Commandment.

11 If you were to ask a young child, “My boy, what kind of God have you? What do you know about him?” he could say, “First, my God is the Father, who made heaven and earth. Apart from him alone I have no other God, for there is no one else who could create heaven and earth.”

12 For the somewhat more advanced and the educated, however, all three articles can be treated more fully and divided into as many parts as there are words. But for young pupils it is enough to indicate the most necessary points, namely, as we have said, that this article deals with creation. We should emphasize the words, “maker of heaven and earth.”

13 What is meant by these words, “I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker,” etc.? Answer: I hold and believe that I am a creature of God; that is, that he has given and constantly sustains my body, soul, and life, my members great and small, all the faculties of my mind, my reason and understanding, and so forth; my food and drink, clothing, means of support, wife and child, servants, house and home, etc.



14 Besides, he makes all creation help provide the comforts and necessities of life—sun, moon, and stars in the heavens, day and night, air, fire, water, the earth and all that it brings forth, birds and fish, beasts, grain and all kinds of produce.

15 Moreover, he gives all physical and temporal blessings—good government, peace, security.

16 Thus we learn from this article that none of us has his life of himself, or anything else that has been mentioned here or can be mentioned, nor can he by himself preserve any of them, however small and unimportant. All this is comprehended in the word “Creator.”

17 Moreover, we confess that God the Father not only has given us all that we have and see before our eyes, but also daily guards and defends us against every evil and misfortune, warding off all sorts of danger and disaster. All this he does out of pure love and goodness, without our merit, as a kind father who cares for us so that no evil may befall us.

18 But further discussion of this subject belongs in the other two parts of this article, where we say, “Father almighty.”

19 Hence, since everything we possess, and everything in heaven and on earth besides, is daily given and sustained by God, it inevitably follows that we are in duty bound to love, praise, and thank him without ceasing, and, in short, to devote all these things to his service, as he has required and enjoined in the Ten Commandments.

20 Much could be said if we were to describe in detail how few people believe this article. We all pass over it, hear it, and recite it, but we neither see nor consider what the words enjoin on us.

21 For if we believed it with our whole heart, we would also act accordingly, and not swagger about and brag and boast as if we had life, riches, power, honor, and such things of ourselves, as if we ourselves were to be feared and served. This is the way the wretched, perverse world acts, drowned in its blindness, misusing all the blessings and gifts of God solely for its own pride and greed, pleasure and enjoyment, and never once turning to God to thank him or acknowledge him as Lord and Creator.

22 Therefore, this article would humble and terrify us all if we believed it. For we sin daily with eyes and ears, hands, body and soul, money and property, and with all that we have. This is especially true of those who even fight against the Word of God. Yet Christians have this advantage, that they acknowledge themselves in duty bound to serve and obey him for all these things.

23 For this reason we ought daily to study this article and impress it upon our minds. Everything we see, and every blessing that comes our way, should remind us of it. When we escape distress or danger, we should recognize that this is God's doing. He gives us all these things so that we may sense and see in them his fatherly heart and his boundless love toward us. Thus our hearts will be warmed and kindled with gratitude to God and a desire to use all these blessings to his glory and praise.

24 Such, very briefly, is the meaning of this article. It is all that ordinary people need to learn at first, both about what we have and receive from God and about what we owe him in return. This is an excellent knowledge, but an even greater treasure. For here we see how the Father has given himself to us, with all his creatures, has abundantly provided for us in this life, and, further, has showered us with inexpressible eternal treasures through his Son and the Holy Spirit, as we shall hear.

## **The Second Article**

25 *“And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell, the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God, the Father almighty, whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.”*

26 Here we learn to know the second person of the Godhead, and we see what we receive from God over and above the temporal goods mentioned above—that is, how he has completely given himself to us, withholding nothing. This article is very rich and far-reaching, but in order to treat it briefly and simply, we shall take up one phrase which contains the substance of the article; from it we shall learn how we are redeemed. We shall concentrate on these words, “in Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

27 If you are asked, “What do you believe in the Second Article, concerning Jesus Christ?” answer briefly, “I believe that Jesus Christ, true Son of God, has become my Lord.” What is it to “become a Lord”? It means that he has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and from all evil. Before this I had no Lord and King but was captive under the power of the devil. I was condemned to death and entangled in sin and blindness.

28 When we were created by God the Father, and had received from him all kinds of good things, the devil came and led us into disobedience, sin, death, and all evil. We lay under God's wrath and displeasure, doomed to eternal damnation, as we had deserved.



29 There was no counsel, no help, no comfort for us until this only and eternal Son of God, in his unfathomable goodness, had mercy on our misery and wretchedness and came from heaven to help us.

30 Those tyrants and jailers now have been routed, and their place has been taken by Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and righteousness and every good and blessing. He has snatched us, poor lost creatures, from the jaws of hell, won us, made us free, and restored us to the Father's favor and grace. He has taken us as his own, under his protection, in order that he may rule us by his righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness.

31 Let this be the summary of this article, that the little word "Lord" simply means the same as Redeemer, that is, he who has brought us back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and now keeps us safe there. The remaining parts of this article simply serve to clarify and express how and by what means this redemption was accomplished—that is, how much it cost Christ and what he paid and risked in order to win us and bring us under his dominion. That is to say, he became man, conceived and born without sin, of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin, that he might become Lord over sin; moreover, he suffered, died, and was buried that he might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owed, not with silver and gold but with his own precious blood. All this in order to become my Lord. For he did none of these things for himself, nor had he any need of them. Afterward he rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed dominion at the right hand of the Father. The devil and all powers, therefore, must be subject to him and lie beneath his feet until finally, at the last day, he will completely divide and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc.

32 But the proper place to explain all these different points is not the brief children's sermons, but rather the longer sermons throughout the year, especially at the times appointed for dealing at length with such articles as the birth, passion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.

33 Indeed, the entire Gospel that we preach depends on the proper understanding of this article. Upon it all our salvation and blessedness are based, and it is so rich and broad that we can never learn it fully.

### **The Third Article**

34 *"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."*

35 To this article, as I have said, I cannot give a better title than “Sanctification.” In it is expressed and portrayed the Holy Spirit and his office, which is that he makes us holy. Therefore, we must concentrate on the term “Holy Spirit,” because it is so precise that we can find no substitute for it.

36 Many other kinds of spirits are mentioned in the Scriptures, such as the spirit of man, heavenly spirits,<sup>4</sup> and the evil spirit. But God’s Spirit alone is called Holy Spirit, that is, he who has sanctified and still sanctifies us. As the Father is called Creator and the Son is called Redeemer, so on account of his work the Holy Spirit must be called Sanctifier, the One who makes holy.

37 How does this sanctifying take place? Answer: Just as the Son obtains dominion by purchasing us through his birth, death, and resurrection, etc., so the Holy Spirit effects our sanctification through the following: the communion of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In other words, he first leads us into his holy community, placing us upon the bosom of the church, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ.

38 Neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe in him and take him as our Lord, unless these were first offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit. The work is finished and completed, Christ has acquired and won the treasure for us by his sufferings, death, and resurrection, etc. But if the work remained hidden and no one knew of it, it would have been all in vain, all lost. In order that this treasure might not be buried but put to use and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to be published and proclaimed, in which he has given the Holy Spirit to offer and apply to us this treasure of salvation.

39 Therefore to sanctify is nothing else than to bring us to the Lord Christ to receive this blessing, which we could not obtain by ourselves.

40 Learn this article, then, as clearly as possible. If you are asked, What do you mean by the words, “I believe in the Holy Spirit”? you can answer, “I believe that the Holy Spirit makes me holy, as his name implies.”

41 How does he do this? By what means? Answer: “Through the Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.”

42 In the first place, he has a unique community in the world. It is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God. The Holy Spirit reveals and preaches that Word, and by it he illumines and kindles hearts so that they grasp and accept it, cling to it, and persevere in it.

43 Where he does not cause the Word to be preached and does not awaken understanding in the heart, all is lost. This was the case under the papacy, where faith was entirely shoved under the bench and no one recognized Christ as the Lord, or the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier. That is, no one believed that Christ is our Lord in the sense that he won for us this treasure without our works and merits and made us acceptable to the Father.

44 What was lacking here? There was no Holy Spirit present to reveal this truth and have it preached. Men and evil spirits there were, teaching us to obtain grace and be saved by our works.

45 Therefore there was no Christian church. For where Christ is not preached, there is no Holy Spirit to create, call, and gather the Christian church, and outside it no one can come to the Lord Christ.

46 Let this suffice concerning the substance of this article. But since various points in it are not quite clear to the common people, we shall run through them also.

47 The Creed calls the holy Christian church a *communio sanctorum*, “a communion of saints.” Both expressions have the same meaning. In early times the latter phrase was missing, and it is unintelligible in our translation. If it is to be rendered idiomatically, we must express it quite differently. The word *ecclesia* properly means an assembly.

48 We, however, are accustomed to the term *Kirche*, “church,” by which simple folk understand not a group of people but a consecrated house or building. But the house should not be called a church except for the single reason that the group of people assembles there. For we who assemble select a special place and give the house its name by virtue of the assembly. Thus the word “church” (*Kirche*) really means nothing else than a common assembly; it is not of German but of Greek origin, like the word *ecclesia*. In that language the word is *kyria*, and in Latin *curia*. In our mother tongue therefore it ought to be called “a Christian congregation or assembly,” or best and most clearly of all, “a holy Christian people.”<sup>9</sup>

49 Likewise the word *communio*, which is appended, should not be translated “communion” but “community.” It is nothing but a comment or interpretation by which someone wished to explain what the Christian church is. But some among us, who understand neither Latin nor German, have rendered this “communion of saints,” although no German would use or understand such an expression. To speak idiomatically, we ought to say “a community of saints,” that is, a community composed only of saints, or, still more clearly, “a holy community.”



50 This I say in order that the expression may be understood; it has become so established in usage that it cannot well be uprooted, and it would be next to heresy to alter a word.

51 This is the sum and substance of this phrase: I believe that there is on earth a little holy flock or community of pure saints under one head, Christ. It is called together by the Holy Spirit in one faith, mind, and understanding. It possesses a variety of gifts, yet is united in love without sect or schism.

52 Of this community I also am a part and member, a participant and co-partner in all the blessings it possesses. I was brought to it by the Holy Spirit and incorporated into it through the fact that I have heard and still hear God's Word, which is the first step in entering it. Before we had advanced this far, we were entirely of the devil, knowing nothing of God and of Christ.

53 Until the last day the Holy Spirit remains with the holy community or Christian people. Through it he gathers us, using it to teach and preach the Word. By it he creates and increases sanctification, causing it daily to grow and become strong in the faith and in the fruits of the Spirit.

54 Further we believe that in this Christian church we have the forgiveness of sins, which is granted through the holy sacraments and absolution as well as through all the comforting words of the entire Gospel. Toward forgiveness is directed everything that is to be preached concerning the sacraments and, in short, the entire Gospel and all the duties of Christianity. Forgiveness is needed constantly, for although God's grace has been won by Christ, and holiness has been wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian church, yet because we are encumbered with our flesh we are never without sin.

55 Therefore everything in the Christian church is so ordered that we may daily obtain full forgiveness of sins through the Word and through signs appointed to comfort and revive our consciences as long as we live. Although we have sin, the Holy Spirit sees to it that it does not harm us because we are in the Christian church, where there is full forgiveness of sin. God forgives us, and we forgive, bear with, and aid one another.

56 But outside the Christian church (that is, where the Gospel is not) there is no forgiveness, and hence no holiness. Therefore, all who seek to merit holiness through their works rather than through the Gospel and the forgiveness of sin have expelled and separated themselves from the church.

57 Meanwhile, since holiness has begun and is growing daily, we await the time when our flesh will be put to death, will be buried with all its uncleanness, and will come forth gloriously and arise to complete and perfect holiness in a new, eternal life.

58 Now we are only halfway pure and holy. The Holy Spirit must continue to work in us through the Word, daily granting forgiveness until we attain to that life where there will be no more forgiveness. In that life are only perfectly pure and holy people, full of goodness and righteousness, completely freed from sin, death, and all evil, living in new, immortal and glorified bodies.

59 All this, then, is the office and work of the Holy Spirit, to begin and daily to increase holiness on earth through these two means, the Christian church and the forgiveness of sins. Then, when we pass from this life, he will instantly perfect our holiness and will eternally preserve us in it by means of the last two parts of this article.

60 The term “resurrection of the flesh,” however, is not well chosen. When we Germans hear the word *Fleisch* (flesh), we think no farther than the butcher shop. Idiomatically we would say “resurrection of the body.” However, this is not of great importance, as long as the words are rightly understood.

61 This, then, is the article which must always remain in force. Creation is past and redemption is accomplished, but the Holy Spirit carries on his work unceasingly until the last day. For this purpose he has appointed a community on earth, through which he speaks and does all his work.

62 For he has not yet gathered together all his Christian people, nor has he completed the granting of forgiveness. Therefore we believe in him who daily brings us into this community through the Word, and imparts, increases, and strengthens faith through the same Word and the forgiveness of sins. Then when his work has been finished and we abide in it, having died to the world and all evil, he will finally make us perfectly and eternally holy. We now wait in faith for this to be accomplished through the Word.

63 Here in the Creed you have the entire essence of God, his will, and his work exquisitely depicted in very short but rich words. In them consists all our wisdom, which surpasses all the wisdom, understanding, and reason of men. Although the whole world has sought painstakingly to learn what God is and what he thinks and does, yet it has never succeeded in the least. But here you have everything in richest measure.

64 In these three articles God himself has revealed and opened to us the most profound depths of his fatherly heart, his sheer, unutterable love. He created us for this very purpose, to redeem and sanctify us. Moreover, having bestowed upon us everything in heaven and on earth, he has given us his Son and his Holy Spirit, through whom he brings us to himself.

65 As we explained before, we could never come to recognize the Father's favor and grace were it not for the Lord Christ, who is a mirror of the Father's heart. Apart from him we see nothing but an angry and terrible Judge. But neither could we know anything of Christ, had it not been revealed by the Holy Spirit.

66 These articles of the Creed, therefore, divide and distinguish us Christians from all other people on earth. All who are outside the Christian church, whether heathen, Turks, Jews, or false Christians and hypocrites, even though they believe in and worship only the one, true God, nevertheless do not know what his attitude is toward them. They cannot be confident of his love and blessing. Therefore they remain in eternal wrath and damnation, for they do not have the Lord Christ, and, besides, they are not illuminated and blessed by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

67 Now you see that the Creed is a very different teaching from the Ten Commandments. The latter teach us what we ought to do; the Creed tells us what God does for us and gives to us. The Ten Commandments, moreover, are inscribed in the hearts of all men. No human wisdom can comprehend the Creed; it must be taught by the Holy Spirit alone.

68 Therefore the Ten Commandments do not by themselves make us Christians, for God's wrath and displeasure still remain on us because we cannot fulfill his demands. But the Creed brings pure grace and makes us upright and pleasing to God.

69 Through this knowledge we come to love and delight in all the commandments of God because we see that God gives himself completely to us, with all his gifts and his power, to help us keep the Ten Commandments: the Father gives us all creation, Christ all his works, the Holy Spirit all his gifts.

70 For the present this is enough concerning the Creed to lay a foundation for the common people without overburdening them. After they understand the substance of it, they may on their own initiative learn more, relating these teachings of the Catechism all that they learn in the Scriptures, and thus advance and grow richer in understanding. For as long as we live we shall have enough to preach and learn on the subject of faith.

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe



## *President's Piece for Peace*



As I write this article it is Tuesday, April 26th. That may not be a significant day for most of you but it should be. It was on this day, 175 years ago, that a Church body was formed named The Lutheran Church of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. That's right. Our first name was that long. Eventually it was shortened up and is now known by the letters LCMS.

I was supposed to be in St. Louis this week for Council of Presidents meetings and call services, and then later to Ft. Wayne for the same. Unfortunately, a shoulder surgery over 7 weeks ago developed complications with infection under one of the incisions. It led to an abscess that penetrated to the shoulder joint. A second surgery was required with an addition of a PICC in my right arm for antibiotic infusions every day for 4 weeks. For that reason, I could not make the trip to the meetings. I did, however, get to attend via Zoom.

I mention all of this so that I can draw your attention to the 175th anniversary service held at the International Center Chapel. Zoom allowed me to see it as it happened. It was filled with beautiful liturgy that taught the Word of God. The hymns were accompanied by a nicely assembled choir that sang the Faith with clarity and efficacious purpose. The readings were from Acts 4 and John 12. Then, President Harrison preached a truly Lutheran Orthodox message. The message was centered on "Jesus alone." It was in indifference to "Jesus and good works", "Jesus and an emotional experience", "Jesus and a second conversion", "Jesus and manifest miracles." It was so pleasing to the soul, pure Gospel that rescues us with certainty.

As I watched the service on Zoom, in the right-hand column there are messages being posted from various people from various places. There were comments from people in Oregon, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Texas, Colorado and more. All of them appreciative of the service but more appreciative of the Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod. Then I began to see compliments and thanks from people all around the world. They were watching the same service I was. They were from church bodies that were planted by the LCMS or partnered with us and are flourishing in their own lands. Some were from Eastern Europe, one was even from France. Most were from Africa but all of them flowed with love and gratitude for the Confessional and Biblical integrity of the LCMS and her two seminaries.

## ***President's Piece for Peace***

Do we appreciate who we are and why we are who we are? Do we realize what impact we are having on souls around the world? We have been given the Truth in the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. We trust it and proudly say it when installed into our offices. We preach it and teach it without embarrassment even in the face of stiff opposition. We understanding our Calls have sent us to shepherd the sheep and teach the children of those who may not even want to hear what we say. But we say it anyway with a tender heart and loving voice that never sees anyone as the enemy. Our congregations and schools are populated by those whom Christ Jesus has redeemed and loved to death and resurrection.

The Holy Spirit is using this confession, our seminaries and colleges to prepare men to preach the Word. Both men and women are prepared to teach in our schools and in the congregations that which is The Word of Truth from Eternity. We are the LCMS and ought not shy away from it. Even with all her warts and scars, she still has the pure confession of the Faith. Proudly bear that name as you wear that name.

You can view the video of the service at the LCMS's YouTube channel. The excellent sermon was surrounded by beautiful liturgy and hymnody. God bless you in this beloved Church body as long as He will allow her to proclaim the Truth.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President



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

### **What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?**

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (*John 3:27*).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”



In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



# SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28**

**4PM—7PM**

**CENTRAL PARK**

## ALL CHURCH COOK-OUT & FELLOWSHIP NIGHT



**Painting**





## Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

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### Poweshiek County Family Development Center

Dear Friends at Immanuel Lutheran Church,

We are extremely grateful for your donation of 23.6 pounds to Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. (MICA) Poweshiek County Emergency Food Pantry. With your support and assistance, we were able to provide food and other items to 99 households throughout Poweshiek County during the month of April, 2022. We gave a total of 4,299 pounds! Thank you!

With summer coming and school in session for only another month, every donation is so appreciated. Your donations help to keep our shelves stocked. Some of the basics that really help are boxes of mac and cheese, cans of soup, canned fruit and/or fresh fruit, canned and/or fresh vegetables, canned meat, frozen meat, skillet meals, boxes of Kleenex, diapers, feminine products, dish soap, and laundry detergent. Again, thank you for all the donations that you share each month.

We truly appreciate your contribution because every donation helps MICA fulfill its mission: Helping People. Changing Lives. Building Communities.

Sincerely,



Poweshiek County Family Development Center  
Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.







3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333 • 319.848.4187 • [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org) • [office@iodiseca.org](mailto:office@iodiseca.org)

## Summer Staff: The Overlooked Mission of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

*By Daniel Sanchez, Camp Director*

*"There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God. For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy." Ecclesiastes 2:24-26a*

When we talk about the mission of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, we're almost always focused on our campers and guests. Our mission of providing Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration to those who come through our gates is why so many have supported and continue to support Camp's mission to this day. The priority to serve others with our Christian mission comes with the collateral benefit of placing aspiring young adults in roles of leadership, responsibility, and teaching. By working on Camp's summer staff, many current and future leaders of the church found a cultivating experience by which they themselves were able to grow in the Christian faith, learn valuable life skills, make progress on professional goals, and take steps into adulthood.

In the verse here from Ecclesiastes, we could substitute the word "toil" for "work." Now one might think that working at Camp is all just fun and games. To be sure, there is plenty of that to go around. The staff here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca often have a lot of fun on the job. After all, there are an endless amount of fun things to do out here. And on top of that, the people they get to work with just make it better. It's a blessing to serve alongside with at least 15 other people who are driven by the gospel and eager to share it with our campers. It's a positive work environment where young adults can grow healthily in real-world and practical skills that seemingly can't be taken for granted these days.

Now, back to the Ecclesiastes. For our staff, summer camp is work. In fact, it can be a lot of work. It can often be the kind of work that you might call "toil", meaning the job of being on summer staff requires putting in long and hard hours. But this verse encourages us to see that God blesses those who see such toil as something that produces wisdom and knowledge and joy, and that we can even find enjoyment or fulfillment in our toil. I cannot recall the amount of times a staff person has had a challenging week, only to bring out the best in them towards serving their campers in Christian love. Was it always pleasant for that staff person? NO! But does that staff person see that it was worth it for them to toil through the challenges? ABSOLUTELY! Summer camp is an incredible experience for many because they often see the value of their hard work (toils!)







rewarded with not just their own character growth and faith development, but also in the growth experienced by their campers during their time at Camp. Camp is a great place for young adult to toil and work hard, not necessary because summer camp is always fun, but because such toiling is done in the name of Christ and in service to the Church. And again, in this toiling, God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy.

There is a lot of depth to the summer staff experience, perhaps no better evidenced than in the bond summer staff often make with each other. Life-long friendships and bonds are produced on every staff! Our staff grow together in their summer camp endeavors and those journeys extend beyond the camp season. Speaking personally, though I am 16 years removed from having served on a summer staff, some of my dearest friends are from my good old camp days and we make intentional efforts to meet as families at least a few times each year, though we are hundreds of miles away.

In 2018, two summer former summer staff members were married (Janelle and Matt, pictured above), and at the wedding there were around 30 staff present from 8 different summer staffs (2011-2018). It was a special time to see so many people share their camp connection. Now despite how well dressed they all were, I could remember all of the toiling they did while on staff. I'd seen them in their highs and in their lows. I'd even seen many of them go through blood, sweat, and tears! But despite the toils, to see them embracing their common connection of this joy that is Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca is one of my favorite memories of all time. To see them "grown up," whatever that means. I am so proud and thankful for those who have served Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca by TOILING on summer staff. Through those very toils, our staff grow in Christian "wisdom and knowledge and joy." More importantly, of course, is that our mission of providing a safe Christian learning environment and outdoor recreational experience is achieved through their work.

Today, I invite those who could serve for summer staff to apply today at [www.nloma.org](http://www.nloma.org)! That means if you're exiting high school or in college, I'm talking about you! Plus there is a little wiggle room in those ages. If you don't think you're cut out for it, don't worry. Many of the people at that wedding didn't either. They went through training they had to toil, and in-so-doing they became fantastic Lutheran role models who served God through their time at Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**May 2 - Registration Discount Deadline #2**

**May 7 - Spring Cleanup**

**June 15 - First Day of Summer Camp**

**July 30 - Auction Fundraiser**

**August 2-5 - Higher Things Confirmation Camp**

# That's a Wrap

*For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." - 2 Corinthians 6:2 NIV*

That's a wrap. Merriam Webster defines that phrase like this: "used to say that the filming of a movie or television show or one of its scenes is finished." In this situation, I'm not talking about filming a movie or television show. I'm thinking about what's taking place in our early child ministries and schools in Iowa District East. Our administrators and teaching staff are preparing to "wrap up" the 2021-2022 school year, unless of course, your program is year around.

What does "wrapping up" look and sound like in our IDE Lutheran school ministries? There are musical programs that share the talents and abilities of students. Field trips and final assessments are taking place. Boards and administrators have already been thinking about next year's enrollment and deciding on tuition and fees. Teachers are filling out report cards and updating permanent records. Lockers are being cleaned out (how old is that peanut butter sandwich??!?!). Inventories are completed and faded bulletin boards come down. Oh, yes! Don't forget! There's graduation and saying good-bye to the students and families who won't be back next year.

As you wrap up this school year and reflect on the hours and days you spent working on school stuff, I'm sure you are reminding yourself that you didn't solve all of life's problems for your students, nor did you have to. Nor could you! You weren't able to take the load of trying to figure out everything or know all the answers even though you tried. At this time of the year you might be tired and weary, regretful, and maybe even a little angry. Despite your struggles let today be the day of salvation for you. Let today be the day to receive God's sweet gift of grace in your life. Have faith in Jesus, the One who can handle the load, who's solved life's problems, and promises to be with you always. It's the right time.

The story is told of a group of women who were doing a Bible study on Malachi. They came across the verse in chapter three which said, "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." That was a puzzling verse to the women and they wondered how this statement applied to the character and nature of God. One of the women volunteered to do some work on the process of refining silver and report back the next time they met.

The woman did some research and found a silversmith in the area and made an appointment to watch him do his work. She made no mention of the reason for the observation beyond curiosity of the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith work, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire, where the flames are the hottest so as to burn away the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in a hot spot for what seemed like entirely too much time; then she thought again about the verse, “He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.”

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the entire time the silver was being refined. The man said yes, that not only did he have to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eye on it the entire time it was in the fire. Too short a time, still full of impurities. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman sat silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, “But how do you know when the silver is fully refined?”

He smiled at her and answered, “Oh, that’s easy – when I see my image in it.”

Like the silversmith has a stake in the silver’s refinement, God Himself has a stake in your life. Over two thousand years ago, God’s Son was born to Mary and Joseph and wrapped in swaddling clothes. It was all they had and He would soon outgrow them. Some thirty years later, after Jesus hung on the cross to complete the work His Father would have Him do, He was wrapped in burial cloths and placed in the tomb. Neither the wrap of the cloths, the stone, or death could contain Him for as we know, He rose triumphantly three days later. However, His “wrap” of saving us from our sins was complete. The work was done. The sins of the whole world was forgiven. God literally wants you to be “recreated in His image again” as His dearly loved son and daughter.

None of these end-of-year events mentions the many obstacles and challenges you faced all year. But now is a good time to be reminded that despite the chaos you went through, you are His precious piece of silver. Putting our white-knuckle fears and disappointments in the hand of our loving Father isn’t denying the reality of the year’s ups and downs. Placing our hope in Jesus is entrusting them to Him, knowing that He is the Refiner and Purifier. He calmed your anxiousness throughout the entire year. Martin Luther said, “You cannot keep birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.” Don’t get wrapped up in your 2021-2022 anxieties, and all those from previous years and all those to come in the future. We don’t have to let our fears and worries create a nest. Instead we allow ourselves to get wrapped up in what God wants us to think about because in His time He has found favor with you and heard you. “Now is the day of salvation.” Right on time, just when you need God’s grace for life today and forever!



Jan Doellinger  
Assistant to the President, Schools





**Higher Things** and **Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca** are pleased to announce the fifth annual Higher Things Confirmation Camp! This year's camp will be held August 2-5, 2022.

It's time to give those catechisms some summer attention! With the busyness of summer, many confirmands go months without picking up their catechism, let alone even thinking on the content they learned in confirmation and catechesis class the year before. Before confirmands know it, they'll be thrust right back into the swing of their confirmation studies in the fall, scrambling to recover and remember what they already went through last year. Higher Things Confirmation Camp is here to give confirmands a refresher and new insight into their Lutheran catechesis life. Over the course of the 4-day camp, Rev. Sam Beltz (St. John Lutheran Church, Oskaloosa, IA) will lead confirmands in their catechism study of the Creed and The Lord's Prayer. This will be a week filled with edifying catechesis, distinctively Lutheran worship, and tons of outdoor fun that you won't want to miss!

At Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, campers will enjoy numerous outdoor activities along with their worship and learning! Participants will spend time in activities such as archery, canoeing, horseback riding, rock climbing, zipping (zip line), disc golf, swimming, large-group games, campfire and s'mores, and many more! Registration is open to both groups and individuals, meaning confirmands can come with their classmates and a chaperone or register individually and be chaperoned by one of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's camp counselors. This event is open to all youth.

Registration for each camper is \$295. The registration fee includes all meals throughout the duration of camp as well as all activities, classes, and lodging at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. You may contact Andrew Folkmann, Director of Programs and Retreats at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca at (319) 848-4187 or [programdirector@iodiseca.org](mailto:programdirector@iodiseca.org) to email you an information packet. The Camper Profile, Health Form, Health Screening Form, and Release of Liability must be completed for each camper. To register a group please follow the registration instructions located on the website as well as the informational packet. Groups and individuals should register online or by mailing the Camp Registration Packet to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca by July 22nd.

Higher Things is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. Its mission is to make the gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. Higher Things accomplishes this through conferences, retreats, and various print and online media. For more information about Higher Things, please visit [www.higherthings.org](http://www.higherthings.org) or contact Tana McKenna, Retreat Coordinator. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is a mission of the Iowa District East of the LCMS. Leveraging a best-in-class outdoor recreational and camping environment, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca exists to promote and provide Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration for individuals and groups of all ages. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca offers year-round, Christ-centered programs that support the ministries of local congregations, nurture the faith of individuals and families, and motivate people toward congregational involvement and living in their God-given vocations.

#### Retreat Contacts:

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