



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

229 11th Ave. West

Grinnell, IA 50112

Office: 641-236-6691

Pastor Koepp's Cell: 507-829-3901

Pastor Koepp's Email: koeppj@hotmail.com

Church Office Email: immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net

Website: <http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org>

+ NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY +

Service of Prayer and Preaching

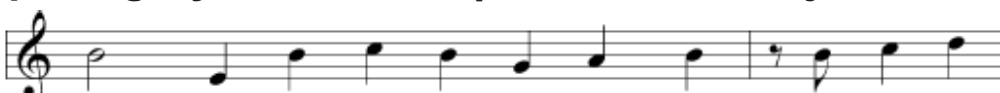
October 10, 2021

As We Gather ~ *Jesus' Incarnation Secures for Us Life, Forgiveness, and Healing*

The Lord does not require us to ascend to Him; in mercy He descends to us (Gen. 28:10–17). The ladder in Jacob's dream was not for climbing; it was the means by which the Lord came to bless Jacob. This event finds its fulfillment in Christ who descended from His throne to save and bless us. By His incarnation He is the eternal bridge between heaven and earth. "The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (Matt. 9:1–8). The Lord was present in the flesh to absolve the paralytic. Jesus also healed and restored this man's body. "For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation" (Small Catechism). The Lord still has power on earth to forgive sins. In holy absolution He raises up the new man (Eph. 4:22–28) and bestows the healing medicine which will bring about our resurrection on the Last Day. Thus we say with Jacob, "This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" (Gen. 28:17)

Opening Hymn 'From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee'

LSB 607



1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and
2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
4 And though it tar - ry through the night And till the
5 Though great our sins, yet great - er still Is God's a -



trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious
my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest
mine own mer - it; It rests up - on His
morn - ing wak - en, My heart shall nev - er
bun - dant fa - vor; His hand of mer - cy

ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.
deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.
faith - ful Word To them of con - trite spir - it
doubt His might Nor count it - self for - sak - en.
nev - er will A - ban - don us, nor wa - ver.

If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en
Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy
That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort
O Is - rael, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spir - it
Our shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His

ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?
strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
and the Word, Now wait for His ap - pear - ing.
Is - rael free From all their sin and sor - row.

Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Versicles: Common

LSB 260

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C Teach me Your paths.
- L Sanctify us in Your truth.
C Your Word is truth.
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C 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.**

Old Testament Canticle

LSB

Refrain

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo and meter are indicated by a common time signature (C) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear refrain. The lyrics are in a traditional, biblical style, using hyphens to indicate syllables across measures. The score is divided into two main sections, each beginning with a 'Refrain' label. The first section contains 10 lines of music, and the second section contains 8 lines. The lyrics are: 'The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has be - come my sal - va - tion. With joy will you draw wa - ter from the wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name, make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro - claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."' The second section begins with the same refrain: 'The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has be - come my sal - va - tion.' and continues with: 'Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the'.

■ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."
Refrain
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the



Reading

Genesis 1:1—2:3

1In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was brooding over the face of the waters.

3And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, day one.

6And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. 8And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. 10God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. 12The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, 15and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." 21So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. 25And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

26Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

28And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

31And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

1Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Introit

Psalm 119:1, 38–40; antiphon: Liturgical Text



The whole world is | in your power;*

O Lord, King Almighty, no one can | gainsay you.

For you have made | heaven and earth;*

you are | Lord of all!

Blessèd are those whose way is | blameless,*

who walk in the law | of the LÖRD!

Confirm to your servant your | promise,*

that you | may be feared.

Turn away the reproach | that I dread,*

for your just de- | crees are good.

Behold, I long for your | precepts;*

in your righteousness | give me life!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The whole world is | in your power;*

O Lord, King Almighty, no one can | gainsay you.

For you have made | heaven and earth;*

you are | Lord of all!

Reading

Ephesians 6:10–17

10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

John 4:46–54

46[Jesus] came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. 47When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.” 49The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” 50Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. 51As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. 52So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” 53The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, and all his household. 54This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory: Common

LSB 263

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

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, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.



1 Zi - on mourns in fear and an - guish, Zi - on, cit - y
 2 "Once," she mourns, "He prom - ised plain - ly That His help should
 3 "Zi - on, sure - ly I do love thee," Thus to her the
 4 "Let not Sa - tan make thee cra - ven; He can threat - en
 of our God. "Ah," she says, "how sore I lan - guish, Bowed be -
 e'er be near; Yet I now must seek Him vain - ly In my
 Sav - ior saith, "Tho' with man - y woes I prove thee And thy
 but not harm. On My hands thy name is grav - en, And thy
 - neath the chast'n-ing rod! For my God for - sook me quite
 days of woe and fear. Will His an - ger nev - er cease?
 soul is sad to death. For my troth is pledged to thee;
 shield is my strong arm. How, then, could it ev - er be
 And for - got my sor - ry plight Mid these trou - bles
 Will He not re - new His peace? Will He not show
 Zi - on, thou art dear to Me. Deep with - in My
 I should not re - mem - ber thee, Fail to build thy
 now dis - tress - ing, Count - less woes my soul op - press - ing.
 forth com - pas - sion And a - gain for - give trans - gres - sion?
 heart I've set thee, That I nev - er can for - get thee.
 walls, My cit - y, And look down on thee with pit - y?

- 5 "Ever shall Mine eyes behold thee;
 On My bosom thou art laid.
 Ever shall My love enfold thee;
 Never shalt thou lack Mine aid.
 Neither Satan, war, nor stress
 Then shall mar thy happiness:
 With this blessed consolation
 Be thou firm in tribulation."

Text and tune and tune: Public domain

Offering

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

- L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Collect of the Day

- L O Lord, keep Your household, the Church, in continual godliness that through Your protection she may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Collect for the Word

- L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Morning Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

LSB 582



Benedicamus

LSB 267

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 267

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn ‘Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing’

LSB 737

1 Re - joice, my heart, be glad and sing, A
 2 He is your trea - sure, He your joy, Your
 3 Why spend the day in blank de - spair, In
 4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard
 cheer - ful trust main - tain; For God, the source of
 life and light and Lord, Your coun - sel - or when
 rest - less thought the night? On your Cre - a - tor
 ev - 'ry child - hood day? And did He not in
 ev - 'ry - thing, Your por - tion shall re - main.
 doubts an - noy, Your shield and great re - ward.
 cast your care; He makes your bur - dens light.
 threat - ning hour Turn dread - ed ills a - way?

- 5 He only will with patience chide,
 His rod falls gently down;
 And all your sins He casts aside
 In ocean depths to drown.
- 6 His wisdom never plans in vain
 Nor falters nor mistakes.
 All that His counsels may ordain
 A blessed ending makes.
- 7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
 And trust His guiding love;
 Then like a rock your peace shall stand
 Here and in heav'n above.

Tune and text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.



IMMANUEL SPIRIT

Scripture Lessons for next Sunday: Micah 6:6-8, Psalm 116:12-19, Philippians 1:3-11 and Matthew 18:21-35.

Stewardship: Ephesians 4:24 – “Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” The battle between the old self in Adam and the new self in Christ is fought in the heart and mind of every Christian. Paul encourages us to put on the new man, which is created in the image of God. Our sanctification – our growth in godliness – is a growth into God’s image. We do this by keeping our eyes on Christ and imitating Him in everything with love, kindness, and self-giving generosity.

Sunday School: “A Promising Dream” is the title of this week’s lesson. Jacob undeservedly receives his father’s blessing-he and his offspring will dwell in the land of Canaan. As the days of Isaac’s life approach their end, Jacob rightly fears for his life. Following the urging of Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob sets out for the house of his uncle Laban. Along the way, Jacob dreams of a ladder reaching to heaven, with the Lord Himself standing at the top. The preincarnate Christ repeats God’s promise to give this land to Jacob and his descendants. As a family, consider discussing how God can use even sinful people to fulfill His plans.

Pastor Koepp will be having surgery on Tuesday, October 12th. If a need arises, please contact an elder or Pastor Daniel Provost at 641-792-1084.

LWML: The total amount of money received in the Noisy Bucket from October 3 is **\$120.06!!** Thank you from the LWML for the congregation’s generosity in the support of the Mission Grants.

Building Healthy Families for Oct 10th: Did You Know: Today is World Mental Health Day. Trauma, emotional distress, or mental illness negatively impact many people, including those within our church fellowship. When it does, we are often left searching for answers without knowing where to find help. Lutheran Family Service offers professional mental health counseling from master's prepared and licensed therapists, now available to all regardless of location through telehealth. ~ **Lutheran Family Service of Iowa: Des Moines (515) 251-4900.** www.LutheranFamilyService.org

Life Quote for Oct 10th: "We ask for the ability to welcome and love and embrace and care for all children—our own included. We open our arms to the orphans, whether they are frozen embryos, babies with mental or physical challenges, or those placed for adoption by a young mother. We trust that the life God gives, in whatever stage and condition, is a blessing from Him." Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota ~ **A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org**

Lutheran Hour Ministries for Oct. 17th: Hear "Dead Man, Walking" based on 1 Samuel 3:18 by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The Old Testament books of Samuel tell the story of Israel's King David and share the promise of the greater King to come. ~ **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.**

Life Thoughts in the Church Year: Trinity XIX – The horror of abortion happening over 3,000 times each day in the U.S. should make Christians angry. The silence of the Church and the indifference of fellow congregational members should make Christians angry. But anger must not lead us to sin (Ephesians 4:26). Screaming and yelling and returning evil for evil is not the way of the body of Christ. The truth needs to be proclaimed but without "bitterness and wrath" (4:31).

Snowbirds: To those of you that "fly" south for the winter and would like your monthly newsletter mailed to you, please submit your address, date departing and date returning, to the church office. Even those that have submitted their address in the past, please do so again to make sure we have the correct address. The newsletter can also be read online at www.immanuelgrinnell.org.

EQUIPPING THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Christians & Governing Authorities in the Lutheran Confessions; What I Wish My Non-Lutheran Family Members Knew about Classical Christian Creeds; Pastoral Leadership; Old Testament Matriarch Esther and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Study Ezekiel 19-21 on Sharper Iron's "The Faithful Watchman" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), hear Mental Health Monday on The Coffee Hour (10/11 at 9:00 a.m. CT), finish studying Leviticus on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and worship with us in Daily Chapel at 10:00 a.m. CT. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or on the KFUE Radio App.

Cleaning: Household(s) responsible for the week of 10/10--10/16 is **Mintle**. Household(s) responsible for the week of 10/17--10/23 is **Murken/Roberts**. If you cannot clean the week you have been assigned, it is your responsibility to trade with others on the list. If it is your week to clean church and you have other obligations or you prefer to write a check rather than cleaning, a substitute is available for \$50. Please contact Amber Carnine (641-990-5985 or immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.net) ASAP or at least by the Thursday before the week you are scheduled to clean. Make payment to Amber Carnine and leave in a sealed envelope under her office door, or mail payment to the church.



Please keep the Brandt family in your thoughts & prayers.

***Martin L. Brandt, brother of Pastor Brandt
was called home to heaven on Saturday, October 2nd.***

Memorial Services are yet to be scheduled.

***Martin was an active member of
St. James' Lutheran Church, Imperial Beach, California.***

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."



Our Lord welcomes into His kingdom of grace through the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism Isaac Alan Mahaffey.

Parents are Patrick & Richelle.

Sponsors are Robert Long & Steven Johnson.

We look forward to receiving and growing in God's grace with the Mahaffey's.

Immanuel is invited to a...



Hosted by St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Stams Greenhouse Harvest Orchard "Autumn Acres", Oskaloosa

Tuesday, October 19 ~ 5:30pm-7:30pm

Come free of charge & enjoy a host of pleasant Fall Activities!

A sign-up sheet is on the entryway table. Please sign up by Oct. 13.

*Rev. Samuel G. Beltz
Pastor, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church*

Voters' Assembly October 17th

If you are not a member and desire to become one:

4.3.1 Definition: Voting members are communicants who have reached the age of 18 years and who have been received by the Voters' Assembly.

4.3.2 Reception: Applicants for voting membership shall have received a copy of the constitution and be given time to review it. They shall be received as voting members by presenting themselves at a meeting of the Voters' Assembly and signing the constitution

POWESHIEK COUNTY CHRISTMAS SHARE SIGN-UP!

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 25 THROUGH
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021**



**10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON Mon-Fri
DRAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY
930 PARK STREET, GRINNELL, IA**

Required Documents for Sign-Up:

- 1. Photo ID**
- 2. Utility Bill (proof of residency)**
- 3. One of the following:**
 - Subsidized Rent Receipt**
 - LIHEAP Approval/Appointment**
 - Current SNAP Notice of Decision**
 - Current DHS Notice of Decision**

To avoid long lines and extended wait times, we suggest you sign up using the schedule below. Use first letter of last name:

Monday, October 25 - Last Names A-E
Tuesday, October 26 - Last Names F-J
Wednesday, October 27 - Last Names K-O
Thursday, October 28 - Last Names P-U
Friday, October 29 - Last Names V-Z
Saturday, October 30 - By Appointment ONLY

FOR SATURDAY APPOINTMENTS ONLY: Call Christmas Share at (641) 990-1490 between 9 am and 4 pm to schedule and get location details. Call to schedule before October 22. Saturday Sign-up now allowed with appointment.

The Christmas Share Program is completely confidential, and we are trying to reach as many families in need in Poweshiek County as we can. We can schedule appointments outside the listed sign-up times, if anyone is uncomfortable asking for help through the normal sign-up process. The Christmas Share phone number is 641-990-1490. Covid did keep many from signing up last year but we were still able to help 118 families. We will be masking up and taking precautions this year and ask that you keep our volunteers in your prayers as we work from sign-up through distribution. ~Pam Montgomery, Chair

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
MELCHER-DALLAS, IOWA**

**INVITES YOU
To Celebrate Our
100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
On
Sunday, October 24th**

At 3 PM

**Please join us in our worship Service of Thanksgiving
and Praise led by:**

Pastor Gregory Hyatt

With Guest Speaker:

Pastor Jim Johnson,

*(A Retired Missionary, past Member of St. John
And 1957 Graduate from Dallas High School)*

**Please stay after the service
For Fellowship, Refreshments and a
Journey back the last 100 years!**

709 SW Main St.
Melcher-Dallas, IA



**October 30, 2021- LWML Marshalltown Zone Rally
at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lacona.**

Please register by TODAY

**Gary Thies will be the guest speaker.
A sign-up sheet is on the entryway table.
Everyone is welcome!**

Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays This Week

Nina Kadera, Elijah Kadera...Today
Alivia Landuyt...Today
Major Wyatt...Today
Kaitlynn Koepp...Saturday

Celebrating Birthdays This Week

Chris Korth...Monday
Cheryl Christinson...Saturday

Celebrating Anniversaries This Week

No Anniversaries

We pray God's blessings upon you in the coming year.

5th/6th Grade Confirmation Memory Work for Oct 13

Baptism: What benefits does Baptism give?

7th/8th Grade Confirmation Memory Work for Oct 13

Lord's Prayer: 3rd Petition & Meaning

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

For the week of October 3, 2021

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Attendance | 43 |
| Communion | 30 |
| General Fund | \$3820.00 |
| Missions | \$70.00 |

WEEK AHEAD

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Today | 8:00am | Council Meeting |
| | 9:00am | 19th Sunday after Trinity |
| | 10:30am | Sunday School/Bible Study |
| | 11:30am | Board of Education Meeting |
| | | Greeter: Kracht |
| | | Usher: Terry Stanek |
| | | Servers: Robin M./Miriam S. |
| | | Acolyte/Crucifier: Kaitlynn/Lauren |
| | | Elder: Joel McDonough |
| Mon. | 11:30am | LWML |
| | 1:00pm | Board of Evangelism/Missions |
| Wed. | 4:00-5:30pm | 5th/6th Grades Confirmation |
| | | 8th Grade No Confirmation |
| Thurs. | | No Bible Study |
| Next Sun. | 9:00am | Twentieth Sunday after Trinity |
| | 10:30am | Voters' Assembly |
| | 10:30am | Sunday School/Bible Study |
| | | Greeter: Krumm |
| | | Usher: Hutch Kracht |
| | | Servers: Cheryl C./Cayli C. |
| | | Acolyte/Crucifier: Elizabeth/Cole |
| | | Elder: Darlo Kelting |



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

Office of the President

The Reverend Doctor Matthew C. Harrison
President of the Synod

Dear People of the LCMS,

We live in disturbing times. Jesus' words on the night of His betrayal are ever true: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

The resources that follow this note are mostly self-explanatory, but I want to make a few somewhat personal remarks to you before you read on. This COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the world, as well as us as Christians individually and corporately as a Synod. LCMS individuals, congregations and districts have taken different attitudes and approaches to the challenge. This is due to a variety of factors: the intensity of the disease; cultural and political contexts; and our own varying views on the medical, social, political and — to some extent — religious issues involved. Government intrusion into churches through various regulations — attempted by states and municipalities across the nation — has even resulted in attempts to regulate our sacred practice of Holy Communion (the holy of holies where government has no place). This has been troubling. In many cases, we have seen governments treating churches unfairly, even closing churches while leaving theaters or clubs open. Local and state governments have taken advantage of COVID-19 to push regulations into our parochial schools, where such state regulation has not existed before. I, for one, am deeply concerned about increasing government overreach into areas of the First Amendment. "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). And I aim to resist this increasing encroachment wherever and whenever I can.

The vaccine issue is challenging from a legal perspective. Those most interested have deep personal, medical and religious concerns about government mandates. Unfortunately, constitutional case law has for a century upheld the government's ability to mandate vaccinations. Some legal experts have not wanted to challenge this because of what appears to be an impossibility of legal success. Expected presidential mandates that force companies and nonprofits to release or terminate unvaccinated employees will be challenged legally from various directions. I believe — and so do others — that such mandates for churches violate the "free exercise" clause of the First Amendment, because they would force the termination of pastors and called workers in larger church institutions who refuse vaccination. Our military chaplains are increasingly pressured by the LGBTQ agenda of the U.S. military. In addition, those chaplains who have conscientious objections to the vaccine mandate are now faced with the question of continuing to serve or leaving the military. Thus far, free speech protections still remain, thank God.

The LCMS has no official position on vaccines in general or the COVID-19 vaccines in particular. We are not "anti-vaxxers." I'd venture that the majority of LCMS clergy are vaccinated. I am. I've been saddened many times at the loss of personal friends, including a number of pastors. I know that the majority of those hospitalized are unvaccinated. I know that the death rate for COVID-19 increases dramatically for those unvaccinated. But still, death occurs mainly among those with other health conditions. I also know that the risk of death overall is very small. I know that healthy young people rarely die, and that

for the vast majority the symptoms are fairly insignificant. My two sons and their spouses have all had COVID-19. Thankfully, they recovered well. Many have not been so fortunate.

As the following resources note, the vaccines, in various ways (development or testing), made use of stem cells from aborted babies. This is limited to two lines from two babies from 36 and 48 years ago. I was able to obtain the vaccine that is less morally problematic, but it is still problematic. I was present in the White House when President George W. Bush limited research to such lines and ensured that no others would be taken from later or current abortions. We gave thanks for that. But this remains an ethical quandary that has to be judged by each Christian conscience. I respect that. So does your church. And we want to be as helpful as we can. Please give charitable attention to these documents.

“Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:23).

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is an update to my Jan. 21, 2021, letter. As OSHA prepares to announce the vaccine mandate that President Biden called for on Sept. 9, we have received many inquiries about what this mandate means for Christians. As before, these questions come from deep personal convictions about the sanctity of life and concern for religious freedoms. After consulting with our district presidents, many competent theologians and our own legal counsel, we are providing the following resources to help you navigate these complex issues.

As I said in January, this is neither legal nor medical advice, and it should not be treated as such. This is pastoral counsel to help you make the personal decisions that align with your conscience. In addition to this letter, please read the updated COVID-19 fact sheet (produced in collaboration with the staff of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations), the Q&A document produced in consultation with Synod legal counsel, the essays and video provided by the LCMS Office of National Mission's Life Ministry, and the link to the resources provided by our friends at Alliance Defending Freedom.

The questions you were asking in January are similar to those we are hearing today.

1. Are COVID-19 vaccines related to abortion? The science regarding this is complex. All three of the vaccines currently available in the United States have used fetal stem cells derived from abortion in some way. The Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine used the PER.C6 line of embryonic stem cells in development and production. Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna developed and produced their vaccines without using cell lines derived from aborted human fetal tissue, but they used the HEK293T line of embryonic stem cells derived from a 1972 abortion to confirm the final vaccine quality (perhaps surprisingly, so do many other commonly used medications and vaccines). For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines relate to abortion, I encourage you to consult the website of the pro-life bioethicists at the Charlotte Lozier Institute and the list they maintain there: lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/. Neither the Pfizer/BioNTech nor Moderna vaccine contains any substance derived from aborted human fetal cells.

2. Does the Synod have a position on the reception of vaccines developed using human fetal tissue? The Synod does not have an official position on such vaccines at this time. Official decisions of this nature come through the Synod acting in convention, and no convention action has yet been taken. However, our church body remains firmly committed to the sanctity of life, and we continually advocate for pro-life positions in the public square.

3. Can I obtain a religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine? Religious or personal belief exemptions are based on conscientious objection and do not require official support from the denomination. The absence of an official Synod stance does not impact your ability to seek an

exemption. In fact, most requests for religious exemption must be for personal, deeply held religious convictions, and not for the position of a church body or church official. Please consult your employer, local lawmakers or public health officials for more information on how to proceed should the need arise.

4. Should I take the COVID-19 vaccine? This is a question only you can answer. Some may choose not to receive the vaccine because of concerns over its relation to abortion or because of other health complications. Others may be vaccinated despite such reservations out of concern for their own health or that of their neighbor. Since neither Scripture nor the Synod has explicitly addressed this issue, it remains a matter of Christian freedom, which you must decide according to your individual conscience.

5. How should I talk about the vaccine with others who disagree with my view? In a sensitive issue of this nature, we remember the words of St. James: "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19). Listen carefully and openly to others' points. Consider them. Share your positions patiently and objectively. Reflect upon your own penchant for error. Forgive others where they sin against you and ask for forgiveness where you wrong them.

In this contentious issue, we must respect the consciences of fellow believers who share our same commitment to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as our life together as a Synod. As St. Paul urges regarding matters of conscience, "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor" (1 Cor. 10:24), and "let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother" (Rom. 14:13). At a time of cultural upheaval, I would encourage you not to allow disagreement even over undoubtedly important matters such as this to take precedence over the faith that unites us in Christ. In all things, we should heed the call to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

Please study this collection of resources, which provides a summary of what we know about the COVID-19 vaccines, their relation to the issue of abortion, and what we can (and cannot) say about these matters from the Synod's perspective. I hope it proves useful to you as you wrestle with how to bear Christian witness in this world through your love of both God and neighbor.

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen" (Rom. 15:5-6).

In Christ,

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

more resources can be found at:

www.lcms.org/resources/covid19/vaccine-mandate