

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 Eleventh Avenue West
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

September 2020 Newsletter

Immanuel News

Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS

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Office hours

Monday through Thursday 8am to 3pm

Let's Get Social



Website

<http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org>



Facebook

Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS



Podcast

<https://anchor.fm/ImmanuelGrinnell>

Worship with Us!

Sundays at Immanuel

Divine Worship 9:00 a.m.

Christian Education 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays

Weekly Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

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Immanuel News

Reference Information

HAVE YOU...moved? ...changed phone numbers? ...changed email addresses? ...need to update birthday/anniversary dates? Let the office know! Thanks!

LET US KNOW...If you have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if any pastoral need arises.

PRAYER REQUEST...If you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Rev. Dr. Koepp:

Office: 641-236-6691

Email: koeppj@hotmail.com

Cell: 507-829-3901

DO YOU...want to put something in the bulletin or newsletter? Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements? Upcoming events? 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 immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.net.

Deadlines:

Bulletin – 12 noon of each Wednesday

Newsletter – 15th of each month

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR*September 2020*

September is a time when education is on the forefront of many minds. Schools are back in session; this year either on-campus or online. It is also the time when the church begins a new year of Sunday School and Confirmation classes. I think it is important, now more than ever, to reflect upon

what it means to not only be a Christian, but the immense importance of Christian education. What does this mean? That is a largely important question. When Martin Luther visited the parishes around Saxony in the fall of 1528, he was appalled at what he found. Not only did most Christians not know the Ten Commandments, the Creed, or the Lord's Prayer, they also did not know much about Baptism, Confession/Absolution, or the Lord's Supper. On top of this, the priests didn't really know how to teach it. They had been trained to teach more of the Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church and preach on works-righteousness.

Many heads of the households were shirking their duties. They were avoiding the words of God, placing more emphasis on the importance of worldly things like work and leisure, and pawning off their responsibility of teaching the Word of God to their own children.

I argue we are living in much the same conditions today. Many heads of the household either ignore their God-given role and responsibility to their children, or they evade it under the guise of "you worry about that stuff, I will worry about the more important things."

This month, I share with you Luther's preface to the Small Catechism. While it is directed at pastors and preachers, it is readily applicable to the first and foremost teachers of the faith to children, the father and mother. Luther reinforces this Biblical teaching by beginning each section of the Small Catechism with the words, "As the head of the household should teach his family." Please take time to read and pray through the preface to the Small Catechism. As you do, may God send His Holy Spirit to strengthen you as you teach His truth to those for whom Christ as died.

Luther's Preface to the Small Catechism:

Grace, mercy, and peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord, from Martin Luther to all faithful, godly pastors and preachers.

1 The deplorable conditions which I recently encountered when I was a visitor constrained me to prepare this brief and simple catechism or statement of Christian teaching.

2 Good God, what wretchedness I beheld! The common people, especially those who live in the country, have no knowledge whatever of Christian teaching, and unfortunately many pastors are quite incompetent and unfitted for teaching.

3 Although the people are supposed to be Christian, are baptized, and receive the holy sacrament, they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments, they live as if they were pigs and irrational beasts, and now that the Gospel has been restored they have mastered the fine art of abusing liberty.

4 How will you bishops answer for it before Christ that you have so shamefully neglected the people and paid no attention at all to the duties of your office? May you escape punishment for this!

5 You withhold the cup in the Lord's Supper and insist on the observance of human laws, yet you do not take the slightest interest in teaching the people the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, or a single part of the Word of God. Woe to you forever!

6 I therefore beg of you for God's sake, my beloved brethren who are pastors and preachers, that you take the duties of your office seriously, that you have pity on the people who are entrusted to your care, and that you help me to teach the catechism to the people, especially those who are young. Let those who lack the qualifications to do better at least take this booklet and these forms and read them to the people word for word in this manner:

7 In the first place, the preacher should take the utmost care to avoid changes or variations in the text and wording of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the sacraments, etc. On the contrary, he should adopt one form, adhere to it, and use it repeatedly year after year. Young and inexperienced people must be instructed on the basis of a uniform, fixed text and form. They are easily confused if a teacher employs one form now and another form—perhaps with the intention of making improvements—later on. In this way all the time and labor will be lost.

8 This was well understood by our good fathers, who were accustomed to use the same form

in teaching the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. We, too, should teach these things to the young and unlearned in such a way that we do not alter a single syllable or recite the catechism differently from year to year. Choose the form that pleases you, therefore, and adhere to it henceforth.

9 When you preach to intelligent and educated people, you are at liberty to exhibit your learning and to discuss these topics from different angles and in such a variety of ways as you may be capable of. But when you are teaching the young, adhere to a fixed and unchanging form and method.

10 Begin by teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, etc., following the text word for word so that the young may repeat these things after you and retain them in their memory.

11 If any refuse to receive your instructions, tell them that they deny Christ and are no Christians. They should not be admitted to the sacrament, be accepted as sponsors in Baptism, or be allowed to participate in any Christian privileges. On the contrary, they should be turned over to the pope and his officials,⁵ and even to the devil himself.

12 In addition, parents and employers should refuse to furnish them with food and drink and should notify them that the prince is disposed to banish such rude people from his land.

13 Although we cannot and should not compel anyone to believe, we should nevertheless insist that the people learn to know how to distinguish between right and wrong according to the standards of those among whom they live and make their living. For anyone who desires to reside in a city is bound to know and observe the laws under whose protection he lives, no matter whether he is a believer or, at heart, a scoundrel or knave.

14 In the second place, after the people have become familiar with the text, teach them what it means. For this purpose, take the explanations in this booklet, or choose any other brief and fixed explanations which you may prefer,

15 and adhere to them without changing a single syllable, as stated above with reference to the text.

16 Moreover, allow yourself ample time, for it is not necessary to take up all the parts at once. They can be presented one at a time. When the learners have a proper understanding of the First Commandment, proceed to the Second Commandment, and so on. Otherwise they will be so overwhelmed that they will hardly remember anything at all.

17 In the third place, after you have thus taught this brief catechism, take up a large catechism so that the people may have a richer and fuller understanding. Expound every commandment, petition, and part, pointing out their respective obligations, benefits, dangers, advantages, and disadvantages, as you will find all of this treated at length in the many books written for this purpose.

18 Lay the greatest weight on those commandments or other parts which seem to require special attention among the people where you are. For example, the Seventh Commandment, which treats of stealing, must be emphasized when instructing laborers and shopkeepers, and even farmers and servants, for many of these are guilty of dishonesty and thievery. So, too, the Fourth Commandment must be stressed when instructing children and the common people in order that they may be encouraged to be orderly, faithful, obedient, and peaceful. Always adduce many examples from the Scriptures to show how God punished and blessed.

19 You should also take pains to urge governing authorities and parents to rule wisely and educate their children. They must be shown that they are obliged to do so, and that they are guilty of damnable sin if they do not do so, for by such neglect they undermine and lay waste both the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world and are the worst enemies of God and man.

20 Make very plain to them the shocking evils they introduce when they refuse their aid in the training of children to become pastors, preachers, notaries, etc., and tell them that God will inflict awful punishments on them for these sins. It is necessary to preach about such things. The extent to which parents and governing authorities sin in this respect is beyond telling. The devil also has a horrible purpose in mind.

21 Finally, now that the people are freed from the tyranny of the pope, they are unwilling to receive the sacrament and they treat it with contempt. Here, too, there is need of exhortation, but with this understanding: No one is to be compelled to believe or to receive the sacrament, no law is to be made concerning it, and no time or place should be appointed for it.

22 We should so preach that, of their own accord and without any law, the people will desire the sacrament and, as it were, compel us pastors to administer it to them. This can be done by telling them: It is to be feared that anyone who does not desire to receive the sacrament at least three or four times a year despises the sacrament and is no Christian, just as he is no Christian who does not hear and believe the Gospel. Christ did not say, "Omit this," or "Despise this," but he said, "Do this, as often as you drink it," etc. Surely he wishes that this be done and not that it be omitted and despised. "Do this," he said.

23 *He who does not highly esteem the sacrament suggests thereby that he has no sin, no flesh, no devil, no world, no death, no hell. That is to say, he believes in none of these, although he is deeply immersed in them and is held captive by the devil. On the other hand, he suggests that he needs no grace, no life, no paradise, no heaven, no Christ, no God, nothing good at all. For if he believed that he was involved in so much that is evil and was in need of so much that is good, he would not neglect the sacrament in which aid is afforded against such evil and in which such good is bestowed. It is not necessary to compel him by any law to receive the sacrament, for he will hasten to it of his own accord, he will feel constrained to receive it, he will insist that you administer it to him.*

24 *Accordingly you are not to make a law of this, as the pope has done. All you need to do is clearly to set forth the advantage and disadvantage, the benefit and loss, the blessing and danger connected with this sacrament. Then the people will come of their own accord and without compulsion on your part. But if they refuse to come, let them be, and tell them that those who do not feel and acknowledge their great need and God's gracious help belong to the devil.*

25 *If you do not give such admonitions, or if you adopt odious laws on the subject, it is your own fault if the people treat the sacrament with contempt. How can they be other than negligent if you fail to do your duty and remain silent. So it is up to you, dear pastor and preacher!*

26 *Our office has become something different from what it was under the pope. It is now a ministry of grace and salvation.*

27 *It subjects us to greater burdens and labors, dangers and temptations, with little reward or gratitude from the world. But Christ himself will be our reward if we labor faithfully. The Father of all grace grant it! To him be praise and thanks forever, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Amid all this pandemic we have experienced challenges that have not presented themselves in any of our lifetimes. We see the effect on our economy, we certainly see the effect upon the Church and public gatherings. There is not one aspect of society that has not needed to adjust. If that were not enough, we are also living in a time up cultural chaos. At present there is a great deal of discussion, and even sometimes intense arguing over racial tensions. It appears as though the racism, sexism, discrimination, etc. are popping out of every corner to attack someone who is not like ourselves.

Recently our own Church body was accused of having racial attitudes in the past and maybe even stemming into the present. When this was levied against the LCMS I inquired as to what evidence there was to make such a statement. The response was that in 1961 we had closed our only seminary for African American students preparing for the ministry. I have done quite a bit of research concerning this statement and want to clear the air as a theological historian.

First of all, in the 1880's and early 1890's there were African American students at the seminary in Springfield, Illinois. By the end of the 19th century there were fewer and fewer enrolled. Efforts were made to find out why African American Lutherans were no longer coming to the seminary. The most frequent three responses were:

1. The cold winters were too difficult to take in central Illinois.
2. The German language was too difficult to learn for the purpose of studying the Lutheran Confessions in their original language.
3. The cost of the education was too expensive.

For that reason the three Confessional Lutheran Church bodies in America (LCMS, WELS, ELS) forming the Synodical Conference banded together to do mission work among the Native Americans and the African Americans. WELS focused on the Native Americans while the LCMS and ELS focused on African American students. As a result the Synodical Conference (not the LCMS alone) purchased land and built a seminary in Greensboro, North Carolina. It officially opened in 1909. This was a good location for much better weather year around, the tuition was 12 dollars a year, yet German was still taught so that the Confessions could be studied in the original language.

It was a quite successful school. So much so that in a few years an undergraduate curriculum was added followed by a high school degree. They were quite progressive in the fact very early on they recruited women to come to the High School and College so as to become Lutheran School Teachers. So what happened to it? Why was it closed?

The seminary was a joint effort by the Synodical Conference which means that is also where the funding came from. In 1961 tensions rose to a level in the Synodical Conference (doctrinal issues) that the Conference broke up. Along with that so did the funding for the school. The school and property was sold in 1961 to North Carolina A&T College. The buildings were in need of major repairs and the Synodical Conference, now broken up, did not have the funds to sustain it. It was not the LCMS who closed the school, it was the Synodical Conference that sold the school. At no time while the Greensboro seminary existed, not before, nor after

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

it was sold was any student denied entrance or education at St. Louis, Springfield, or Ft. Wayne due to their race. Not every student that applies is accepted but that is not based on race.

I do not believe that any of our congregations in the LCMS, and certainly not in IDE, would refuse God's absolution to any repentant heart because of race. Before God we are all beggars of divine mercy. We come before Him in only one way, those who pray "Lord be merciful to me for I am a sinner." That is our common race in the Church. We are those whose knees are dirtied as we kneel in the dust of confession. We are lifted by the Light of Life whose red blood was washed on us in the redemptive waters of Holy Baptism. In the Body of a Jewish man from the Galilee, Jesus the Christ, do we have everlasting life. As children of God we look at no one apart from the Cross of Jesus. We have no opinions about anyone other than the blood of Jesus was shed for them that they may spend eternity with Him in paradise. There is no one Jesus did not love more than His own life. He gave it up to save us all.

This article is not addressing racial issues in the country. There are plenty of pundits who are thrashing that topic back and forth. I am only addressing the answer to my question about the LCMS and the history of our seminaries. I hope it is been informative and also helpful. This is a time when the Church can give the strongest witness in the world and testimony amidst darkness as to who Christ Jesus is for everyone.

President Saunders



Iowa District East

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

OFFICIAL DISTRICT CONVENTION NOTICE

The **41st Convention** of the Iowa District East will be held June 25-26, 2021 at the Cedar Rapids Marriott. Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer will present on the convention theme *"Persecution and Passion: Faithfulness Under the Cross."*

Each voting parish (an individual congregation or multiple congregations served by one called and ordained pastor) is entitled to have one pastoral delegate and one lay delegate. A congregation that is part of a multi-congregation parish, other than the congregation supplying the voting lay delegate, may elect and depute an advisory lay delegate with voice but no vote. The delegates' names (as well as the alternates and advisory) should be selected and submitted prior to the January 31, 2021 deadline. The business of the Convention will include elections and actions on overtures. The following offices will be filled by the Convention:

President (3-year term)*

First Vice-President (3-year term)*

Second Vice President (3-year term)*

Secretary (3-year term)

Treasurer (3-year term)

Board of Directors - One ordained minister (6-year term)*

- Two laypersons (6-year term)*

Constitution Review Committee - One ordained (6-year term)*

- One Layperson (6-year term)

District Nominations Committee

- Two ordained (3-year term)

- Two laypersons (3-year term)

- One commissioned (3-year term)

*Incumbents are eligible for re-election.

Each congregation may nominate individuals for these various positions, submit overtures concerning district or Synod business and ideas for Synod mission and ministry emphases for consideration at the convention.

The District Convention packet to be mailed by October 1, 2020 will contain information, deadlines, forms and pertinent information. This information will also be made available on the Convention page of the IDE website.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark H. Brase

Secretary, Iowa District East – LCMS



The request for federal approval to lift the 10 day reporting deadline to replace spoiled food has been approved.

If you receive food assistance from DHS and have experienced food loss from the derecho on August 10, you now have until September 17, 2020 to request replacement food assistance.

Please visit our website for eligibility information and application

https://dhs.iowa.gov/DHS-Derecho_Resources

Monetary donations for Derecho relief efforts for individuals and businesses are being accepted at the following organizations: Grinnell Food Coalition, Grinnell Small Business Relief Fund, Grinnell United Way, Grinnell Area Mental Health Consortium-JPK Fund, NonProfit Emergency Relief Fund, and the Poweshiek Housing Assistance Fund.

MICA has reopened. They have forms for Replacement of Spoiled Food and Individual Disaster Assistance grant forms for individuals needing to complete those. In addition, they are in need of donations. Specifically personal hygiene items (body soap, bar soap, shampoo/conditioner, tooth paste, ect.), shelf stable items (ramen, soups, pork & beans, peanut butter and jelly, bread, other things that can be eaten cold) and monetary donations.

If you or someone you know needs financial assistance to repair electrical boxes on homes to be able to reconnect to power, please call the City of Grinnell (236-2600) and inquire about the Campbell Fund or reach out to MICA (236-3923) for more information.

Jesus said to His disciples, ***“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*** (Mark 16:15-16) Paul wrote to Timothy, ***“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”*** (1 Tim. 4:16)

In effort to preach the Gospel to the members of Immanuel, the Pastor and elder's are tasked with keeping close watch on both the teaching and its hearers. There are several members of Immanuel for whom we have either no contact information, or not the correct contact information. If you do, we are asking you to pass it along to either Pastor or the Board of Elders (Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, and Ken Mergen), so that we can, ***“consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”*** (Hebrew 10:24-25)

Christine Carstensen

Clinton Hagedon
Dennis Hagedorn

Patrick Harms

Kiara Petersen
Travis Puls
Tyler Puls

Hannah Smith
Matthew Smith
Nathan Smith
Samantha Smith

Jenna Tanner
Lydia Tanner

CONFIRMATION SCHEUDLE FOR SEPTEMBER

5th/6th Grades

September 2

Orientation with Parents
T.V. Evaluation Paper Given

September 9

MEMORY WORK: Books of the New Testament
LESSON TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS: How to Listen to a Sermon and Take Sermon Notes; Crucifer and Acolyte Procedures/Practice; Lesson 1
BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 1-2

September 16

MEMORY WORK: First and Second Commandments and meanings
LESSON TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS: Lesson 1-2
BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 1-3

September 23

MEMORY WORK: Third & Fourth Commandment and meanings
LESSON TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS: Lesson 2-3
BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 4

September 30

MEMORY WORK: Fifth and Sixth Commandment and meanings
LESSON TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS: Lesson 4
BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 5
T.V. Evaluation Paper Due

7th/8th Grades

September 2

Orientation with Parents
T.V. Evaluation Paper Given

September 9

MEMORY WORK: Books of the Bible – Old & New Testaments
READING ASSIGNMENT DUE BEFORE CLASS: Prefaces in Book of Concord: Small Catechism – 307-315;
Large Catechism – 351-357
LESSON IN CLASS: SCQ 1-14

September 16

MEMORY WORK: 1st Commandment
READING ASSIGNMENT DUE BEFORE CLASS: Large Catechism 359-363
LESSON IN CLASS: SCQ 15-41

September 23

MEMORY WORK: 2nd Commandment
READING ASSIGNMENT DUE BEFORE CLASS: Large Catechism 363-367
LESSON IN CLASS: SCQ 42-47

September 30

MEMORY WORK: 3rd Commandment
READING ASSIGNMENT DUE BEFORE CLASS: Large Catechism 367-370
LESSON IN CLASS: SCQ 48-53
T.V. Evaluation Paper Due

The Privilege to Serve

"But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matt. 20:25-28. Jesus is speaking these words in response to the request of the mother of the sons of Zebedee to have one son sit on the right of Jesus and one to sit on the left. Our sinful nature often has desires which are not in accordance to God's will or Word.

Matt. 20:24 says that the other 10 were indignant. That comparative attitude also reflects an inflated view of one's piety. We don't win or do well in either scenario. The servant heart which Jesus is looking for does not come through with such attitudes and actions. Henceforth, Jesus has to model what servanthood is all about.

Jesus life and actions demonstrates what being a servant entails. St. Paul says of Christ Jesus: **"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Phil. 2:5-8.**

The obedience and humility of Christ Jesus led Him ultimately to His death upon the cross. He shed His blood, gave up His life in place of ours. Our sins are paid for completely in that death and His resurrection proclaims the Father's acceptance of that sacrifice on behalf of all people. That is the cup from which Christ Jesus was willing to drink! That is servanthood by the Servant!

Jesus now serves His Church through the Pastoral Office. The Pastor is the under shepherd and serves Christ's people by bringing the gifts of God to the people. People need to know that they have been ransomed from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Good preaching kills with the Law and resurrects with the Gospel. In the midst of the pandemic, Pastors must be preaching a message of hope, restoration, and victory in Christ Jesus. People need Jesus!

Thanks be to God that we are a "real presence" Church. Jesus is present with His body and blood in the bread and wine and brings to us what we need and cherish, forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. What a privilege our Pastors have of bringing those gifts to God's people each week. We have been served by the "Servant" so that we can serve His people. That truly is a privilege. As Paul says: **"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me." Gal. 2:20.**

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild
Assistant to the President

IDE Schools - Game-Changer!

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16 ESV



You may be a regular listener to *The Lutheran Hour*. If you are, you will remember the story Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler, Lutheran Hour speaker, shared about a young inventor from Canada. Ann Makosinski, pictured on the left, entered the Google Science Fair in 2013 and won! Ann was 15 years old at the time.

Ann's invention was a hollow flashlight that is battery free, and generates light by the touch of the human hand. She put it together with little thermoelectric tiles that convert heat into electricity. Her Google award winning prototype lights up the moment you touch it. Game-changer! Since then, Ann has gone on to win other awards including being named 2016 *Popular Science* Young Inventor of the Year. Of course, the internet is a source of more information on her other projects and inventions if you are interested.

You have heard of the English proverb "necessity is the mother of invention" – yes? While visiting with Ann's mother's family in the Philippines, she noticed that her friends were failing high school because they didn't have enough light to study at night. It was this concern for friends that led Ann to create the hollow flashlight. She decided to do something to help. She made a light that could be powered by touch. Game-changer!!!!

Before hearing about Ann's work with light, I had been thinking about what to write about for this month's Professional Packet article. In a "normal" school year, I'd be talking with you about the activities to get a school year underway. But this is not a "normal" August. Never before have we had to consider the use of face masks, hand washing, social distancing, mitigation, taking temperatures, being in the "over 60 – at risk" age group, virtual learning, a hybrid variety of learning, and on and on. We have been listening to the Center for Disease Control, Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Public Education, the Governor's office, and our local public school district for guidance. The changes in how we do things has brought uncertainties, but now the information we've been receiving and complying with are being challenged. What to do?

I watched and listened with concern about what you all have been through since March to finish the school year. Now your attention is turned toward being ready to go in August. What can I say that will be an encouragement? What can I write that will turn the anxiousness of your hearts and minds into hope and peace and joy?

Ann's award-winning prototype lights up the moment you touch it. She invented it based on what she thought was a necessity. Yes, indeed – it was a game-changer! Now think about what you hold in your own hands. You, too, have the power to generate light. You are the necessity that your future students need. As a follower of Jesus, *"You are the light of the world. So let your light shine."* Jesus says that we are the light of

IDE Schools - Game-Changer!

the world because of the relationship Jesus has with each of us – instantly! YOU are the light in the darkness of sin that surrounds your students in which God has placed you in your classroom this school year. Game-changer!

Your life is filled with difficulties, uncertainties, and danger. Your 2020-2021 class is coming to you with their own set of darkneses, and He has put you in this place for such a time as this. You are going to be their light. Just as the Holy Spirit is working in you to solidify the relationship you have with in Him in Christ, so He, too, is using you to grow and model that relationship in your students.

You won't find the answers on how to do this by relying on guidance from the CDC or the IDOE or the Governor. You will, however, find direction in His Word. *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Ps. 119:105 Your light will keep out the darkness of doubt, fears, and anxieties through the working of the Holy Spirit in you by being in the Word.

God sent His Son to become a human, not to condemn you, but to reach out to you, and by His touch...you shine! Be that touch and light to your students this year. The relationship you establish with your kiddos, through the work of the Holy Spirit, is wayyyy more important than anything else you will do this year. Make this a year like no other by relying on and sharing the endless light of Christ!

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest #498
Lutheran Service Book

Parish Nurse—Trusting Our Lord is in Control

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected each one of us in some big or small way. Remembering that Our Lord is in control at all times and in all situations will help bring peace into our lives.

I found this article interesting and realized maybe not everything that has sprung forth from the pandemic is so bad. This from a July 9, 2020 New York Post article titled, "People are cherishing more time with their families during coronavirus pandemic" stated sixty-six percent of those surveyed said the pandemic has brought them closer to their family than ever before. Seventy-seven percent of parents said their children have become more open to learning new things around the house and trying new activities. Forty-one percent of those polled said they have added more priority to eating meals as a family during their time in isolation.

Something positive in my life while I worked from home for eleven weeks, was a greater commitment to getting frequent walks into my schedule. I started listening to the Lectionary readings on my Bible app as I walked most days. I enjoyed the flexibility of getting outside to walk in the morning, noon and afternoon, casually dressing, not driving to get to work, some days not wearing any make up, and my cat nearby! Having my computer, cell phone and a legal pad I was able to make many phone, text and email contacts. I listened to multiple webinars, taught others how to use Zoom video conferencing and have hosted multiple Zoom meetings. Do not get me wrong- I love working at the church. I have great coworkers and a comfortable office, but I really did enjoy that time at home.

There have been many affected by COVID-19 in ways they would not choose. Isolation from friends and family, maybe a loved one has died, job loss or loss of income, health concerns for ourselves and others, increased anxiety. The list goes on...

Hear Jesus' words in John: ***"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*** John 16:33

God is with us, Immanuel, in the highs, lows and middle ground of our lives. I sometimes get focused on this world and forget the Lord's promises. Remembering that He is with me at all times brings me peace. He is in control. Isn't it interesting that God promises we will have trouble? He knew that sin would separate us from Him. But thanks be to God for sending His son, Jesus to redeem us and for the gift of the resurrection. As we look forward to and wait patiently for Christ's second coming, may we trust Him, His word, and the work He is doing in and through each of us.

"But as for me, I trust in you." Psalm 55: 23b

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Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



August 2020

SUMMER 2020 RECAP - Teach Us To Pray

Despite all that is going on in the world, our campers this summer went through the words of Jesus in Luke 11 when he gave us The Lord's Prayer. We all know the words, but to go through this incredible prayer petition by petition gave us the opportunity to pause and realize, even in the midst of a pandemic, the blessings God has for his children and the gifts he bestows on us regularly.

Going through different Bible stories in conjunction with The Lord's Prayer, we learned first that we are God's children, and that we belong to the family of God, that he bestows His holy name upon us and makes us his own dear children. We learned about His will and His kingdom, and also how he provides for us all the things that we need to support our bodies and life. We also learned about temptation and how we want use the blessings God has given us for wrong. More than this, we learned about God's forgiveness and that He still hears our prayers and gives us good gifts to us all by grace. It has been great to look at The Lord's Prayer not just to see what we ask for, but to recognize that God actually gives us those very blessings we ask for. In the midst of these unprecedented times, we all face many challenges, but our campers now know that we have a God who hears and answers our prayers.

Nearly 100 campers attended our 5 sessions of Day Camp, and about 150 people attended our Family Day Pass program, where campers whose deposits (or more!) were donated became eligible to bring their whole family out for a day of camp fun! We're so thankful to have served those people this summer, even if it was a departure from the full and immersive experience of a week of overnight summer camp. Thank you to everyone who supported Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in 2020. Your support enabled us to accomplish our mission of Christian education, recreation, and inspiration to the extent it was possible. It allowed for our summer staff to have meaningful jobs and for many children and families to have a much needed break from the worries of the world, a break where they could have a safe camp experience where they can say, "Lord, teach us to pray."

In Christ,
Daniel Sanchez, Camp Director



Lutheran Bible Translators - For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free

Did you hear about the violence over Fourth of July weekend? Rioting. People unhappy with the government seemed to be rising up all over the nation. The oppressed were used by outside influencers to foment trouble. They made demands in the name of freedom. People died.

The first paragraph could depict a number of places in the world on that date but this one was in Ethiopia. Some from the Oromo ethnic group feel oppressed. The Oromo Liberation Front, encouraged by outside influencers, chose the weekend to rise up. They judged this their time. They rebelled. Over 150 died, probably more.

You may or may not have heard this particular story. But it is a common story. It is easy to talk about what freedom should be. Injustice is occurring and freedom is something to fight for in our outrage. And yet even when we win freedom, it often seems a pseudo-freedom. We earn freedom until someone or something comes along and claims it wasn't quite what we thought. We still feel injustice. We still need more. The world's idea of freedom is always just a little bit outside our grasp.

But God's Word tells of a different kind of freedom. Paul writes in Galatians 5:1, "For freedom, Christ has set us free." God gives us a freedom that we do not earn through bloodshed or rioting – rather He gives us free freedom through Jesus.

Freely given freedom? There is nothing we must do, nothing we must first accomplish to be approved as a member of the Kingdom of God. In fact, in the second part of Galatians 5:1, Paul warns us to not fall again into the trap of slavery – thinking there is something that we must first do or not do to earn His freedom. No. God gives salvation. It is free, ours only to enter into the story of His salvation through Jesus, that others might also know as the Word goes forth into the world through its many languages.

What a wonderful place to be. God uses us as His people that the world might know true freedom, not pseudo-freedom earned through our own doing but real freedom in relationship with Him through Jesus. He calls each of us into His story of salvation. It's a big story. It changes the world. There is no better place to be – truly free.

"For freedom Christ has set us free... (Gal. 5:1a)."

by Mike Rodewald
Lutheran Bible Translators

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – September 2020*

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

Calendar of Events

September

12 IED LWML Convention Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

October

5-6 IDE Fall Pastors' Conference Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

9-10 IDE Confirmation Retreat Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

26-27 Iowa Teachers' Conference Des Moines

November

6-7 IDE Pastors' Wives Retreat Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

20-21 IDE Sr. High Retreat Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

These events are subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please stay tuned to www.lcmside.org for more information on these events as they approach.

ANNOUNCEMENT

If you know any high school graduates who will be attending the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, or Wartburg College this fall, please help them get connected to LCMS campus ministry by sending names and contact information to:

University of Iowa
St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel
Rev. W. Max Mons
ph. 319-337-3652
email: stpaulschapel.iowacity@gmail.com

University of Northern Iowa
College Hill Lutheran Church
Rev. John Wegener
ph. 319-266-1274
email: chlc.lcms@cfu.net

Wartburg College - Waverly, IA
St. John Lutheran Church
Rev. Jon M. Ellingworth
Ph. 845-216-3300
Email: pastorellingworth@gmail.com

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Sandy Koch