

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 Eleventh Avenue West
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

March 2021 Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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LET US KNOW...

If you have a change of address, have a loved one ill 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.

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Pastor's Email: koeppj@hotmail.com

Pastor's Cell: 507-829-3901

All services are live streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages:

(search for Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp)

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelGrinnell/>

<https://www.youtube.com>

Where

To

Find

Us

Podcast Links

(search for Immanuel Grinnell)

Anchor: <https://anchor.fm/ImmanuelGrinnell>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com>

Google: <https://www.google.com/podcasts>

Pocketcast: <https://pca.st/jkhh18k8>

RadioPublic: <https://radiopublic.com>

Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com>

All links are available on our Church Website:

www.immanuelgrinnell.org

“Purell Jesus”

March 2021



With the start of the pandemic almost a year ago, we have had an entire year of being hyper-aware of germs and their effects. One doesn't have to look very far to see a jug of hand sanitizer ready to dispense its liquid warfare and chemical assault seeking to destroy 99.9% of the germs on your hands. It is not necessarily a bad thing to eat with clean hands. I sure enjoy keeping the bad germs out of my mouth, because I don't really like feeling sick. As we begin Lent this year, it got me think about how our culture has “Purell-ed” Jesus.

I think one of the saddest, and truly most horrifying things, we as mankind have ever done is to try and sanitize Jesus. Just what is sanitized Jesus? He is a God. He is deemed as Savior. We say He was human, and tempted as we are, yet we do not teach or comprehend what Jesus, what God as one of us, truly would look like. We have this unrealistic picture of Jesus, that He is a God who only can deal with me, who only wants me, who only loves me, after I get my act together. I have to pick myself up, clean myself off, and get myself back together; then I will come to the church. I will get my life in order, then I will ask for help. Do you realize how odd this is? The Three Articles of the Christian Creed make it abundantly clear that I cannot create, I did not redeem, and I by my own reason or strength cannot believe in Jesus, come to Him, or make myself holy.

Growing up, I was only given the clean-cut pictures of Jesus. Now, to be fair, I'm sure I was told otherwise. I see the nice pictures. I see the clean crucifixes on the cross. Everywhere I look in the church, I see beautiful art, hear good stories, see people acting one way all dressed up; but then I leave the building and it seems as though the veneer wears off quickly. People in the pews act differently, Jesus doesn't seem to be there in the real world, and life is so complicated and messy, that there is no way God would want me out there! I don't see how a God can even exist out there! God must be protected and I am His sentry! Right?

Wrong. This is where I was mistaken. I was not the one keeping God; it is the other way around. By sanitizing Jesus, we miss who He truly is. Early in my ministry, I once said to someone in deep distress, “I know what you're going through.” “No, you don't!” she shouted in her pain. “You couldn't possibly know what I'm going through because you've never been there!” It makes such a difference in our care for one another if we can say, “I have been there,” so that we are truly able to sympathize. When we endure a trial or tragedy in life, we may receive some comfort from well-meaning people who pity us. But when they can honestly say, “I have been there,” we feel a deep sense of kinship which consoles us.

In every trial or temptation we endure, we can say with confidence, “Jesus has already been there.” He can sympathize with us in all our tribulations because He has been tested in every way just like us, except that he never gave in or gave up. He is our caring Brother. Therefore, we can approach His throne of grace with confidence, casting all of our cares and anxieties on Him.

It is not the most fun thing, or the easiest thing, to think about Jesus being tempted in every way that we are. To think of Jesus being tempted to worry about things out of His control, to think of Jesus being tempted with lust and members of the opposite sex, to think of Jesus being tempted to seek power and glory, to think of Jesus being tempted to think of Himself before anyone else, is just not the picture I want of my Savior. That describes me, not Jesus. Yet, what does it mean to say, ***“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”*** Jesus can truly sympathize with us, because He suffered all the trials of being human in a sinful world, though He Himself did not sin.

To think of God, in this way, is so vile to human disposition, that we search for many ways to Purell Him and destroy 99.9% of who He truly is. In Jesus day, the Epicureans thought God was completely detached from human affairs; this has survived in the teaching of the Deists. God created the world, and now lets it run on its own. God is watching, but is not involved. The benefits include man doing whatever he wants, man being the top-dog and the supreme authority on pretty much everything. The downside includes, God is not directly involved.

Then there are the Stoics. They believed the primary attribute of God was apathy, the absence of feelings or emotions, and they strived to be similar. This has hung on today in groups who stress heavily only the Sovereignty or the Kingliness of God. He is a supreme judge and ruler who operates with computer-like efficiency.

But the message of Scriptures is that God loves us so much He sent his Son down from the glories of heaven into this dark world. Jesus became man in order to endure the full range of our human experiences, though without sin. He was made like his brothers in every other way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest. He learned obedience through his trials, and having been perfected in this manner, He became the source of our eternal salvation.

He was and is flesh of our flesh, and since Jesus has walked in our shoes, he now sympathizes with us. He understands us and feels our pain with us in our times of struggle. And during His earthly life He underwent the severest temptations that have ever come upon any man. It was not merely that the temptation came near Him without really assailing Him.

1 Peter 5:7
Hebrews 4:15
Hebrews 2:17
Hebrews 5:8–9

It was rather so that His entire being, body and soul, was sometimes shaken to the very depths, as when He declared His soul to be exceeding sorrowful unto death, and when He found Himself forsaken of His heavenly Father, not to speak of the attacks of the devil which beset Him time and again.

So He can indeed be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, He can indeed have sympathy with our weaknesses; He knows what it means for weak flesh and blood to battle with dangerous enemies. There is no aspect of human existence except sin of which Jesus does not say to us, “I have been there.” Because he himself has been tempted, he is able to help us in our temptations.

Our great high priest has not only suffered *with us*, he also suffered *for us*, making atonement for our sins. In the Garden of Gethsemane in reverent submission He drank the bitter cup of suffering which contained the sin and shame of all humanity. On the cross of Calvary He showed us the full extent of God’s love. Our great high priest offered himself, the unblemished Lamb of God, as the perfect sacrifice.

After our great high priest, Jesus, the Son of God, finished offering the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people on the first Good Friday, he ascended through the heavens into the heavenly sanctuary. The curtain of the earthly temple was torn in two, allowing all people access to the Holy of Holies. This signified that Christ’s atonement has made it possible for all believers to enter God’s presence directly. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus passed from the sight of His disciples, going through the heavens in triumph to be seated at the right hand of the Father. Now He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

This fact should therefore serve as an inducement to us to place all our trust in Him with all cheerfulness. We have a non-sanitized, human, bloody, sacrificial Jesus who has washed us in the blood of the Lamb in Holy Baptism. It is then we can approach with confidence to the Throne of Grace. Here we approach His altar, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help in time of need. Ordinarily no sinner would dare to come near to the holy and righteous God; however, through the merit of Jesus, we are enabled to enter upon this sacred act, approaching the very throne of the great God Himself, with all cheerfulness and confidence.

We come to Him as dear children ask their dear Father. He hears all prayers and answers them according to His good and gracious will. We can approach God's throne of grace with the confident faith that we will receive compassion and comfort, strength and support for every time of need.

Cf. Matt. 4, 1-11; Luke 4, 1-13; Matt. 16, 21-23; 27, 45. 46; Ps. 22, 2-21

Hebrews 2:18

Hebrews 4:14

Matthew 27:51

Hebrews 7:25

Hebrews 4:16

When we see Jesus in this way, when we hold firmly to the faith we confess, we cannot but help others in their time of need. With the love of Christ, we sympathize with them in their weaknesses, as they experience testing and temptation similar to what we have experienced. We reach out with compassion to all who need the touch of Christ's love. Above all, we help others by leading them to our suffering Savior, Jesus, the Son of God. He is the source of our eternal salvation, our help in every time of need, who gives us the confident hope that one day we too will pass through the heavens to join our great high priest in glory everlasting.

We don't make ourselves right, and then come to God. We see our sin. We see our need for a great High Priest. We seek His forgiveness. We don't sanitize Jesus; He sanitizes us! He does not just destroy 99.9% of sin, death, and the devil; He cleanses us 100%!

“Love's example, hope's attraction,
Faith's beginning and its end,
Pioneer of our salvation,
Mighty advocate and friend;
Jesus, high in glory raised,
Our ascended Lord be praised! Amen.

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe

LSB 529 Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus: stanza 4

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

The Good News from eternity is that God has reconciled us to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This benefit is received through faith alone in Jesus Christ. That is good news now and forever. There is also good news arising day by day in our current context. The COVID pandemic contraction cases are falling exponentially. I have been watching the figures of new cases and also related deaths. Both figures are dropping by the day. Whether this means we are achieving herd immunity or if the vaccination is truly preventing new cases I don't know, but it is encouraging. We may be on the back side of this pandemic and the light at the end of the tunnel is visible.

I pray all of which I hope for is indeed the case. Should it be so we are now set to reenter the realm of normalcy again when it comes to Divine Services. A return to worshipping together in person, singing and praying together is a long awaited desire. To get there is going to take some extra effort on our part to visit with folks and talk about the meaning of Church.

Article VII of the Augsburg Confession defines Church with these words: "This is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel." I want to point out something that is often overlooked in this article. It is the fact that the Church is an "assembly." That means it gathers together around the Word of God and the Sacraments. While the pandemic has seen many who have been staying home and viewing worship via streaming or logging on at a more convenient time, Church is those who gather. I want to say upfront that hearing the Gospel is the full Gospel. At the same time there is a fullness of the Gospel that includes the Holy Supper as well.

Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession is a statement that God has sent each congregation a shepherd who is "bound" to the Word and Sacraments for the sake of feeding the Lord's flock. That is why the flock gathers together, so they can be fed from the hand God has sent them. God sent that man through the Divine Call. AC XIV emphasizes the importance of the Call in the relationship a member has with the Church. It is through that Call, sent by God via the congregation that the pastor is able to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments to those he is responsible for. This is verified in Augsburg Confession article XXVIII when it says "This power of the keys or of bishops is used and exercised only by teaching and preaching the Word of God and by administering the sacraments...These gifts cannot be obtained except through the office of preaching and of administering the holy sacraments." It is interesting that the German word for administering is *Handreichung*, which means "to hand out."

The shepherd fulfills his Call by speaking and by handing out the sacrament. This requires the parishioner and the pastor to be in the same physical place at the same time. That is why we "gather" in Divine Service. That is what Church does. It gathers at the table to receive the heavenly food God has provided. The Church eats what the hand of the pastor hands out and drinks what he pours out. This along with singing, praying, and confessing together is what the community of Faith desires.

I pray we are soon done with this pandemic. I pray we are able to blow away the smoke of phobia that has enshrouded us. I pray for the Church that she can see her way clearly back to the sanctuary and demonstrates to the world what a bold confession we have in the Good News from eternity. God has reconciled us to himself through His Son Jesus. This benefit is received by faith alone in Christ alone. God bless you and give you all His strength and courage. Good News is here today and every day.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – March 2021

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

From the Mouth of the Enemies of Christ

Sermon Series for the Season of Lent

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

The Eighth Commandment instructs, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” The updated translation reads, “give false testimony,” but I prefer bearing false witness. Why? It is more biblical in language. To bear means to carry. To “give false testimony” implies that once you speak a falsity about your neighbor, it is no longer your problem. This is not what the commandment means. There is more than just speaking. To bear one another burdens in love includes fellow reputations; hence to bear is to carry your neighbor’s reputation, and they carry your own.

This past election year highlighted problems that have been stewing for quite a long time. Not only has it been deemed ok on all sides of the aisle to speak falsely, it is also been widely disseminated that it is ok to hate and decriminalize those who disagree with you. For many years, there has been a movement away from a right and a wrong, and heavy use of anger lodged at those with whom you deem as your enemies. Many don’t just think or speak of “disagreeing;” instead, we talk of adversaries, foes, and enemies. What is often forgotten is these are the very terms used to describe Satan. What is also forgotten is the Eighth Commandment, or it is twisted. Either we are told not to judge, or the best construction is not used.

Paul addresses both these problems, ***“If anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*** (Galatians 6:1-2)

This is a reality of the baptismal identity that is given to you as a gift through the Font of water joined to God’s Word. This year there are Lenten Devotions for your use that dive more deeply in the reality of baptism. As we bear one another’s burdens in love, “We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.” Again, this contains better biblical imagery as we read, ***“As you come to [Jesus], a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”***

In our Lenten preparation this year, we are going to take Paul's admonition to Timothy, ***"Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe."***

We are going to practice the Eighth Commandment by looking at the words spoken by the enemies of Christ. Just who are these enemies? We will hear from Caiaphas, Pilate, those gathered at Jesus' trial and at His cross. We will begin on Ash Wednesday by looking at His enemy that we don't like to talk about.

As we walk through Lent, may the Lord keep ever in our hearts, minds, and lips, ***"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*** (Matthew 5:44-48)

Then when we see our imperfection, may we hear God's Word to, ***"return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."*** (Joel 2:12-13)

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe

Rescued and Restored

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6: 16

I have a plant story about surviving and thriving to share with you. This story begins back at Christmas in 2019. When Jerry and I placed an order at church for a poinsettia in memory of our parents and grandparents, our intended purpose was to beautify the sanctuary during the 2019 Christmas season. I originally hadn't given any thought to transplanting it the following spring in my backyard flower garden. Though the plant looked to be barely surviving, I decided to give it try. With some additional attention, especially fertilizer, our Christmas plant was making a comeback.

By August, I'm proud to say, my flower garden was lush, including Ms. Poinsettia. Green leaves. Strong stems. Five inches taller. My attempt at transplanting a poinsettia was a success. I was beginning to think that maybe this rescue project could make it through the fall. Maybe I might even be able to bring it back in the house for the winter! All good...until August 10! We all know what happened to our yards and fields that day. Mine was no exception. But wait. Yes, there was an exception. Ms Poinsettia did survive the derecho. She was a little worse for the wear, but with some TLC she might possibly start to thrive.

As the fall days went by I started to think about trying to make her a houseplant for the winter. In fact, I started to think maybe I could see if we could get her to bloom in time for Christmas. Time to do some research. I contacted the Linn County Master Gardeners for their advice. Temperature, water, and the right amount of sunlight are critical for the bracts (modified leaves) to turn red. If poinsettias are going to produce colors, they need to spend 12 hours in total darkness for a month. Equipped with a paper shopping bag, lined with black construction paper to keep the light out, I covered Ms. Poinsettia every night from 5:00 pm until at least 5 am from October 15 to November 15.

It's now late November, and I'm checking every day, hoping to see those red bracts start to form as new grow. By golly! In early December, it was happening! Success! I did it....well... I mean THE Master Gardener did it. This plant rescue and renewal project has been a real blessing to enjoy during the long days of 2020. What's next? I might even be looking ahead for another cycle for the coming growing season. It hasn't been perfect, but it has taught me a lot about surviving and thriving.



Every time I look at this poinsettia I am reminded not only of what this plant has gone through in 2020, but what each of you has experienced in 2020 and now into the beginnings of 2021. Each of you has been running hard. Your story has been about surviving those school challenges and difficulties and personal ones as well. You may not have lost any leaves, but it's likely your bucket has been on the bottom side of empty for some time now. You have experienced loss, grief, and exhaustion.

Last December, with the financial support of Soldiers of the Cross, your IDE school ministry leadership was able to provide you all with virtual a zoom meeting with Brenda Jank from Run Hard. Rest Well. Our goal was to empower you and your fellow staff members to navigate seasons of crisis and recovery by creating a pace and plan that is God-honoring, transformative, and sustainable. I pray you have been able to make use of the resources we have provided for you,

Rescued and Restored

and that you have been able to keep the conversation going with your co-workers. I pray that you have been able to find times to work and rest.

I am planning on transplanting my derecho poinsettia this spring. I can work to make sure Ms. Poinsettia continues to get what she needs, but I don't know how successful I will be. However, our heavenly Father, THE Master Gardener, knows your needs and He does the providing. He knows you intimately and is providing all that you need, too. Brenda puts it this way: "The real question behind needs and wants in modern society is: Am I willing to pay the price? There is a price to be paid for our exhaustion. There is a price to be paid for our restoration. Rest does not come free. It's painful to face the reality of our own limits. It's brutal to disappoint others and perhaps, even harder to disappoint ourselves. When I choose to rest, I am participating in what God calls holy. The rewards are beyond our comprehension."

Whatever your back story is for 2020 and 2021, God has placed you where you are right now for such a time as this. It's not an accident. How about your future story? You may get roughed up and tossed around some again, but you can be assured He will renew you when you seek Him in prayer, Bible study, worship, devotions, and restful times, He will hear and answer your prayers with all that is necessary according to His good and gracious will. If God can provide rescue for a Christmas plant, He surely is providing rescue and renewal for you, His servant. *This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16*

May you find rest and hope in God alone!

Jan Doellinger

Assistant to the President, Schools

SPRING 2021 LLL VIRTUAL EVENT



WHEN & WHERE

MARCH 13, 2021

Join us from your home
using your computer or internet device

Virtual Event begins at 11:00 a.m.
and concludes at 2:00 p.m.

Register today!

Due to circumstances created by COVID-19, all registered participants will receive a link to attend the conference via Livestream from their own homes. Options for attending from home or in-person at the venue are available when registering.

AGENDA



DEVOTION

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Speaker of The Lutheran Hour®



MINISTRY MESSAGE

Kurt Buchholz
LHM President & CEO



SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT HOME TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Rev. Dr. Jason Broge
LHM Director, Design & Development
and



Deaconess Ashley Bayless
Curriculum Development Manager,
LHM Global Ministries



HOST AND MC

Jennifer Prophete
Director, Community Programming,
LHM Global Ministries

Register at [LHM.ORG/LLL2021](https://lhm.org/LLL2021)

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



Summer Camp 2021: Believe and Confess

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we preach); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Romans 10:8-10

In a time when we're told to be distant from other people and not gather, the temptation to close ourselves off from God's Word, worship, and prayer might be riding high. We might become convinced that the perfect reason to stay away from God might just be for our own good, but nothing could be further from the truth. When we're away from the Word of God we won't know what to believe and what to confess about God.



But through God's Word, we learn who He is and what to say about him. As we stay near the Word of God we learn that He is the giver of all good things that support our lives, that he sustains his creation and still takes care of it each day. But on top of the day-to-day concerns of getting through life, we're regularly confronted with our own sin and failure. We also learn from His Word that, in sending Jesus, God redeems sinners to be his own children through His life, death, and resurrection. Jesus lives a life we are incapable of living and purchases us from sin and death with his innocent, precious blood. Finally, through the Holy Spirit, we are cleansed and forgiven, given faith, and are called and gathered into the Christian church.

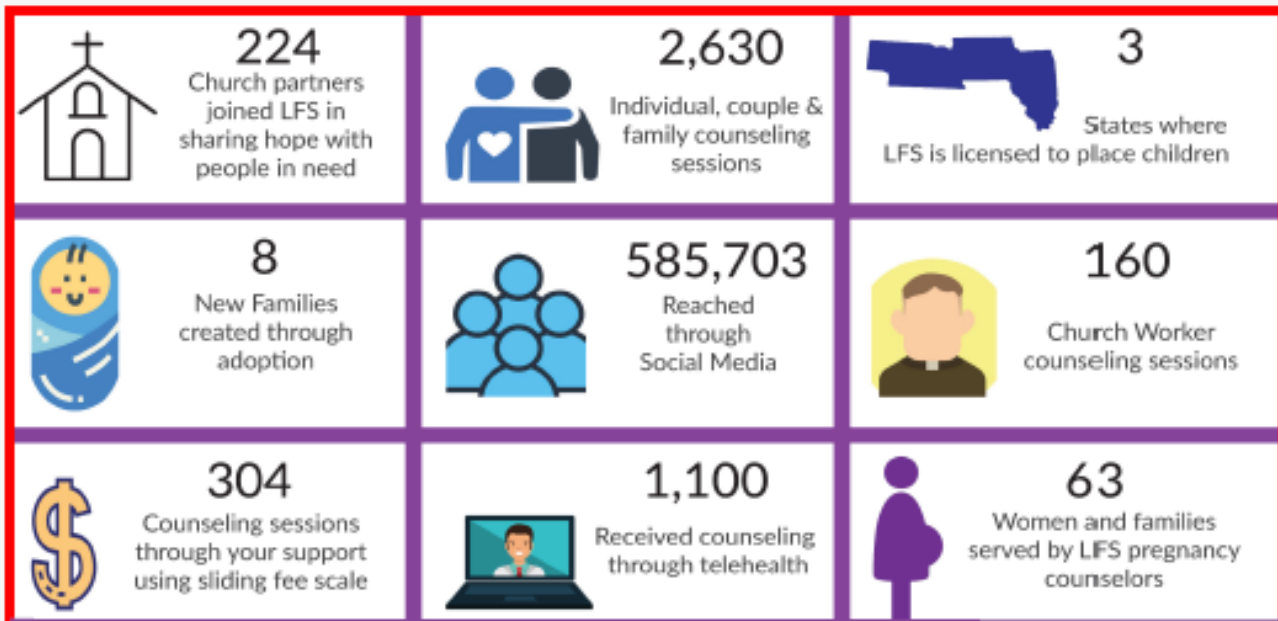
This is what Christians believe with our hearts. In believing, we trust that our sins are paid for with the assurance that we will not be put to shame. This is what Christians confess to be true with our words and actions. In confessing, we proclaim ourselves as God's own children pointing others to the promises of God in Jesus as we go to Him ourselves. We can't wait for the summer of 2021 as our campers **BELIEVE AND CONFESS** the truth of God while having amazing fun at camp with their friends. We look forward to having you **BACK** at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca this summer!

Registration has now opened, so head over to www.campiodiseca.org for more information and to register online or download and mail in a registration form with your deposit. You can also see a preview of our safety procedures by going to the Summer Camp and COVID-19 under the **SUMMER CAMP** menu tab.

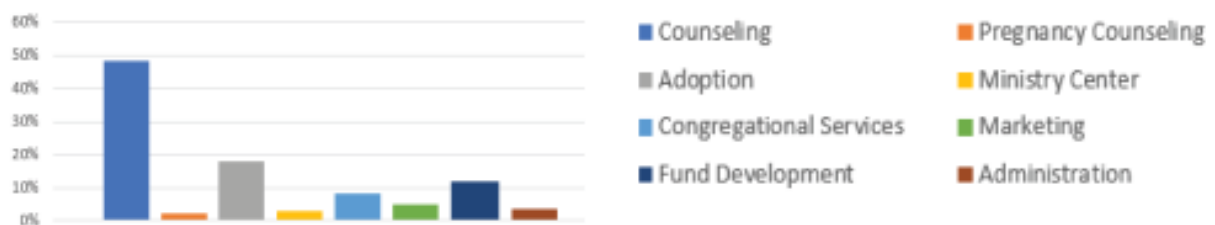


Iowa District East, together, we are making a difference for many!

For the 119th consecutive year, LCMS men, women, teens, children, couples, families, congregations, districts, LWML groups, Youth groups, Bible Study groups, Fellowship clubs, Sunday Schools, pastors, teachers, counselors, social workers, volunteers, and many other partners worked together to share the love of Jesus with many thousands through the ministry of Lutheran Family Service. On behalf of each one whose life was saved or changed for good through your partnership—thank you! Alone, we can do some things, but together we can accomplish so much more! We're trusting God to lead us to serve many more according to His good and perfect will in the New Year ahead!



Use of Funds



Source of Funds



Profit & Loss*



Connect



Keep up with our ministry in 2021 through our web site and Facebook page!

www.LutheranFamilyService.org

*FY 2019-2020 Audited Figures



Lutherans For Life

2021 Iowa

Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

For students in Grades 6 through 12

Any Lutheran student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation e.g. confirmation class, youth group when validated by a pastor or teacher.

Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: God Chose You with the bible verse: *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit".* (John 15:16)

1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but not limited to: abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
3. Essays should include student's name, grade (Identify school or church) and email address. All entries submitted by a teacher or pastor, should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.
4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to revjustinkane@gracewaterloo.org by April 1, 2021.

5. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email revjustinkane@gracewaterloo.org with any questions.
6. Grand Prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to a 2021 Regional Conference and one night stay at the conference hotel.
7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.
8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see: lutheransforlife.org



Rubric for Assessment of the Life Essay

(maximum of 21 points for each essay)

	3	2	1	0
ORGANIZATION Structure Transitions	Logical progression of ideas with a clear structure that enhances the thesis. Transitions are mature and graceful. The essay has a nice smooth flow between ideas.	Logical progression of ideas. Transitions are present equally throughout essay. The essay has a flow of ideas.	Organization is clear. Transitions are present in some places but may be missing in others. In places flow is interrupted or doesn't exist.	No discernable organization. Transitions are not present. Connections between ideas seem confusing or incomplete.
INTRODUCTION Background/History Thesis Statement CONCLUSION	Well-developed introduction engages the reader-creates interest. Contains detailed background information. Thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position or belief. Conclusion effectively wraps up & goes beyond restating the thesis.	Introduction creates interest. Sufficient background information is provided. Thesis clearly states the position or belief. Conclusion effectively summarizes topics.	Introduction adequately explains the background, but may lack detail. Thesis states the position or belief. Conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all loose ends.	Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Thesis is vague or unclear. Conclusion does not summarize main points.
MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs, Bibliography	The main idea or thesis statement is clearly defined. There may be more than one key point. Appropriate relevant information and details are shared from a variety of sources including personal experiences, observations, feelings and prior knowledge. Supporting details are accurate, relevant, and helpful in clarifying the main idea(s). Statistics or research are used effectively. A simple bibliography gives the references for the resources used.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares relevant information, facts and experiences. There is a clear distinction between general observations and specifics. Supporting details are relevant and explain the main idea. Research is evident and statistics are used. Missing information in bibliography.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares some information, facts and experiences, but may express feelings without much to substantiate it. There may be problems going from general observations to specifics. Stronger support and greater attention to details would strengthen this paper. Statistics and research do little to help support the main idea. Incomplete bibliography.	More than one of the following problems may be evident: The main idea is not identifiable. The writer shares some information, but it is limited or unclear. Details are missing or repetitious. Statistics are missing. No bibliography.
FOCUS LFL Mission, Conference theme verse	The paper is in complete agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper is in agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and somewhat focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper doesn't completely agree with the mission of Lutherans For Life and touches on the conference theme verse.	Little or no effort has been made to address the mission of Lutherans For Life and doesn't focus on the conference theme verse.
BIBLICAL ACCURACY	Several Biblical references give strong support for the main idea and are a natural part of the essay. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	Biblical references are used to support the main idea. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	There are places where a Biblical reference would have helped support the main idea. There are some problems with interpretation of the verses used. Citations are accurate.	Little effort is given to use Biblical references to support the main idea. Problems exist in the interpretation of the verses and their citations.
STYLE Writer's Voice, Audience Awareness	The paper is honest and enthusiastic. The language is natural yet thought-provoking. It brings the topic to life. The reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words. Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure.	Writer's voice is consistent and strong. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed and remains engaged. Sentences have varied structure.	Writer's voice may emerge strongly on occasion, then retreat behind general, vague, tentative, or abstract language. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed, but must work at remaining engaged. Sentence structure shows some variety.	Writing is confusing, hard to follow. Language is vague. No audience awareness. No variety in sentence structure.
MECHANICS Spelling, punctuation, capitalization	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are correct. No errors.	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are generally correct, with few errors. (1-2)	A few errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization. (3-4)	Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization

	POINTS
ORGANIZATION	
INTRODUCTION/CONCLUSION	
MAIN POINTS	
FOCUS	
BIBLICAL ACCURACY	
STYLE	
MECHANICS	
TOTAL POINTS	

Students Name _____
 Church/School _____ Grade _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Student Email Address _____
 Phone Number _____
 Teacher/Pastor _____ Email _____

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES

Wednesday, February 24

Potluck Supper • 5:15pm

St. Matthias, Apostle/Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm

“Let Another Take His Office”

Wednesday, March 3

Potluck Supper • 5:15pm

Midweek Lent Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm

“It Is Better That One Man Die Than The Whole Nation Perish!”

Wednesday, March 10

Potluck Supper • 5:15pm

Midweek Lent Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm

“This One Was With Jesus of Nazareth”

Wednesday, March 17

Potluck Supper • 5:15pm

Midweek Lent Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm

“What Is Truth?”

Wednesday, March 24

Potluck Supper • 5:15pm

Midweek Lent Evening Prayer Service • 6:30pm

“I Find No Guilt In This Man...Take Him and Kill Him”

Services are livestreamed on our Facebook page & Youtube channel.

All links are on our Church Website

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



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 28 • 9:00am

Monday, March 29 • Noon Prayer Service

Tuesday, March 30 • Noon Prayer Service

Wednesday, March 31 • Noon Prayer Service

Holy Thursday w/ Holy Communion, April 1 • 6:30pm

"His Blood Be On Us And Our Children!"

Good Friday w/ Holy Communion, April 2 • 6:30pm

"He Saved Others: He Cannot Save Himself!"

Holy Saturday, April 3 • Noon Prayer Service

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil w/ Holy Communion, April 3 • 6:30pm



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

He is Risen

The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Dawn

with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 4 • 6:30am

The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 4 • 9:00am

Services are livestreamed on our Facebook page & Youtube channel.

All links are on our Church Website
<http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org/>

Confirmation Schedule for March

5th Grade (all classes are 4:00pm to 5:00pm)

March 3rd

Lord's Prayer: 5th Petition & Meaning

March 10th

Lord's Prayer: 6th & 7th Petitions & Meaning

March 17th

Lord's Prayer: 7th Petition & Meaning

March 24th

Lord's Prayer: The Conclusion & Meaning

March 31st

LSB 454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

7th Grade (all classes are 5:00pm to 6:00pm)

March 3rd

3rd Article & Meaning

March 10th

Lord's Supper: *What is the Sacrament of the Altar?*
Where is this written?

March 17th

Lord's Supper: *What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?*
How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

March 24th

Lord's Supper: *Who receives this sacrament worthily?*

2021 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

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Steve Haase

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Joel McDonough

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Chris Christinson

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Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe

Pamela Sittig

Diane Schultz

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June Routier~Chairman

Dianna Kelting

Pam Haase

LWML President

Pam Haase

LWML Treasurer

June Routier

LWML Secretary

Pam Haase

LWML Christian Life

Denise Cadwell

Organist

Pam Haase

Esther Huedepohl

Pianist

Sophia Loudon

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)