

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
229 11TH AVE W
GRINNELL IA 50112-8217

June Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS
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REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP
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ALL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE
SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK

LET US KNOW...

If you have a change in address, phone or email, have a loved one who is or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Pastor Koepp or the church office.

DO YOU...

have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements?

If so, please submit the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin or newsletter by the deadlines listed below to the church secretary at lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com

Deadline for submitting in the weekly bulletin is Thursdays by noon.

Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month.

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



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Pastor's Message

I want to keep with a similar theme from May's Newsletter Article. St. Paul writes, ***"I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every fatherhood in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*** (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Fatherhood is an gift. It is not always easy. Father's are to stand as God's representatives to their families, which carries great burden and great joy. We learn much from our earthly fathers, not all of it good. Earthly fathers too are sinners and are in need of forgiveness. We stumble and fall, and yet, one of the greatest gifts we can hope to teach and instill in our children is to constantly be with them at the feet of our perfect Heavenly Father.

I came across a website recently called, www.Fatherly.com. It has a series of articles called, "Twelve questions to ask your dad about..." Some are about your dad's childhood, or his career, or just about life in general. I thought this would be a great format to spend June with Fathers/as Fathers to reflect on and have conversations around God's Word.

I pray it can be a resource for you and your family ***that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***

Here are some questions to get you started having faith conversations. I share them with you to help start a conversation about faith with your dad or with your children. Make the conversation as formal or casual as you want. The goal is to talk about our lives of faith and pass that story on to our children. If your kids or grandkids are really little, take the list and work through the questions yourself, leaving them either a written journal or a voice or video recording of you answering the questions.

1. Who do you remember first teaching you about Jesus? Was it a family member, Sunday school teacher, or pastor? Is there someone in particular who helped you grow in faith and understand “Jesus loves me” isn’t just a song?
2. Bonus: What is your favorite Bible story? Why
3. When and where were you baptized and confirmed? Do you remember either? What were some of your best/worst memories about that time?
4. What family member, friend, or other individual best modeled God’s grace to you when you were young, a teen, and as an adult?
5. Tell me about your prayer life. How do you pray? How often? What do you pray for? Do you have a favorite place for prayer?
6. Tell about a time when you had to trust the promises of God.
7. Tell about a time when it seemed God was silent, or when you felt distant from Him.
8. Tell about a time when God answered your prayers or a time when He did not answer your prayers like you had hoped.
9. What has been the greatest joy as a child of God? What has been the biggest challenge or struggle?
10. Has there ever been a moment where you thought your faith died? Has there been a moment when your faith grew?

11. Has there been a moment where you particularly felt God's love, grace, mercy, and compassion?
12. Finish this sentence: "I go to church because..."
13. Finish this sentence: "My prayer for you is..."

Hymn 'Children of the Heavenly Father'

LSB 725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, 1873, Sweden

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

Recently the State of Washington passed a law that made clergy mandatory reporters, especially in cases of child-abuse. The actual outcome of the new law is that clergy are now no longer protected by the "seal of the confessional". The Northwest District President was asked by a news outlet how this would affect the ministers in Washington. [His answer is quite good and well worth reading online.](#)

His answer is right in line with the vows we all took at our ordinations and repeated at installations. "Do you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you?" The response is "yes, with the help of God." This is a vow taken before God in the presence of His Church. The seal is the seal. It must remain as such, or the penitent of our congregations will make no use of the Office of the Keys.

What about the cases where felonies are confessed? Here is where I want to give us something to think about. The catechism speaks of Confession/Absolution. These are always together and not separate from one another. Confession is made "for the purpose of receiving the Absolution." Confession is not made for the purpose of hiding one's sins from God. He already knows them full well. Confession is also not made in order to bind the lips of the pastor. Confession is made for the purpose of receiving the Absolution.

The seal is in Absolution. As Jesus said to His Apostles, "the sins you forgive on earth are forgiven in heaven." The word for forgiven in John 20:23 means "to let go" or "to release from." In Matthew 16:19 and 18:18 the word Jesus uses means "to set free from" or "to loosen the bindings."

When sins are forgiven, in the eyes of God, they exist no more. This is what the Office of the Keys does. It releases the penitent from the binding power of sin to hell and unbelief. Forgiveness not only proclaims a blessed Word of freedom from the eternal consequences of sin; it delivers freedom from sin, death and the Devil. Since in the eyes of God the consequences have been paid for on the cross, we have received release from the shackles that we ourselves cannot overcome on our own. The seal is the seal because there is nothing to tell.

**The seal is the seal
because there is
nothing to tell.**

Now for the thought provoker! How does this apply when confession reveals breaking the law of the state such as child abuse or any other felony and misdemeanor? Here is where the Holy Spirit's discernment is to be prayed for. It is incumbent upon the hearer of confession, when kingdom of the left law has been broken, to inquire as to why confession is being made. Remember, the seal is in Confession/Absolution, not just in confession.

If the penitent is confessing so that the crime will never be found out and debt to society can be avoided, this is a false confession. False confession does not receive Absolution (the binding Key). Should such a confession be made, counsel to the penitent is that they are also to confess their societal crime to the authorities God has established for addressing felonies and misdemeanors. When the broken and contrite heart of the sinner desires God's forgiveness, bestow the Absolution. When this includes crimes against one's neighbor, it leads the repentant to understand that the fruits of repentance include confessing to the governing authorities (Romans 13).

I am speaking generally here. There may be certain situations which will require counsel from brother clergy, such as "unjust laws" and "laws that command the Christian to sin against The Faith." There may be a goodly number of these situations that clergy could run into. It is impossible to cover all the "what ifs" in a short article. I start by addressing the doctrine of our ordination and installation vows. When you can bestow Absolution, the seal is the seal. Nothing is to break that, even at the risk of being held in contempt by doing so. "We shall obey God rather than men." Failure to do so will ultimately harm the sheep who go to their shepherd for the voice of Christ which points us to the merits of the cross granted in Absolution.

God be with you,

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President



VBS

God or Not God?

*"Be Watchful,
Stand Firm in the Faith,
Be Strong."
1 Corinthians 16:15*

**July 21, 22, 23
9:00am -11:00am**

Please let the Board of Education know if any parents or grandparents plan to have their children and/or grandchildren attending so we can properly prepare. Even if they are only doing one or two of the three days, please sign-up and inform the Board of Education.

Registration forms are available on the entryway table at church and on our website.



JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Good weather for good crops	St. Paul, Alden Rev. Jay Jaeger St. Paul Lutheran Ladies Aid	In what year was the first LWML Convention held?	Phil's Friends	St. Paul, Buckeye Rev. Jay Jaeger	In what years was the LWML Convention held in Iowa?	Lutheran Family Service
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
St. Paul, Edora Rev. Aaron Hambleton St. Paul Lutheran LWML	How many Mission Grant proposals are there for 2025?	Lutheran Early Response Teams	Christ Lutheran, Gladbrook Rev. Fred Berry, Jr	Has the LWML Convention ever been canceled?	Orphan Grain Train	Trinity Lutheran, Hampton Rev. Karl Bollhagen Vicar Jacob Stefanec
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
All church workers	Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch	St. John's, Hubbard Rev. Matthew Rueger St. John Lutheran Mission Circle	Who was the first LWML President?	Peace throughout the world. God's peace in every heart.	Immanuel, Iowa Falls Rev. Paul Beisel Immanuel Lutheran Ladies Aid	What is the theme of the 2025 Convention?
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
All Fathers	St. Paul's, Latimer Rev. Peter Wagner St. Paul's Lutheran Church LWML	St. Paul's Lutheran School, Latimer	The Lutheran Home for the Aged Association - East	St. John's 's, Wellsburg Rev. Bruce Zimmermann St. John's LWML	LWML Convention attendees in Omaha	Iowa District East District Convention in Cedar Rapids
29	30					
LCMS Missionaries throughout the world	All teachers and students	This month's prayer calendar includes LWML Convention Trivia. All answers can be found on lwml.org Please pray for the convention planners, leaders, attendees, mission grants, and officers.			LWML Iowa East District Prayer Calendar	Featuring LWML Eldora Zone

INVITATION TO THE 2025 LWML ~ IED SUMMER RETREAT



Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion
and the God of all comfort,
who comforts us
in all our troubles,
so that we can comfort those
in any trouble with the comfort
we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

The women of the Marshalltown Zone invite you
to join us for the Summer Retreat

Where: Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
[3271 Sandy Beach Rd NE, Solon, IA]

When: July 18-19, 2025

**Retreat Co-Chairs: Tammi Christensen
and Tammy Van Haaften**

Theme verse
for the LWML IED Summer Retreat:

*Praise be to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion
and the God of all comfort, who comforts us
in all our troubles, so that we can comfort
those in any trouble with the comfort we
ourselves have received from God
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4).*



**Please write “LWML Retreat”
on your calendar for July 18-19, 2025
now before your summer fills up!**

*Our committees are working hard to prepare
an inspirational and relaxing retreat for you!!*

*Just imagine ... no cooking, no cleaning,
no dishes, just time to sit and be filled with
God's Word, sing, pray, eat, laugh,
be inspired by our speakers
and participate in a servant event!*

See you there!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

**Tammi Christensen at (641) 203-7522
or email her at dctrooper268@gmail.com**



APOSTLE'S CREED AND LORD'S PRAYER

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
July 29 - August 1, 2025

Sometimes the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed can seem like a chore or some motion we go through, something we memorize and spew back out without thinking too much about it. It can seem like some fantasy wish list for God that never comes true. I mean, "Thy kingdom come?" Come on! But when we compare the Lord's Prayer and the Creed, we can see not just a fantasy, but a promise. His promise to us, not based on us, but based on who He is as we confess Him and pray to Him, we will see how it's all connected.

Things to Know

When:	July 29 - August 1, 2025	Included:	Aside from edifying catechesis and distinctly Lutheran worship, participants will spend time in activities such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archery • Canoeing • Rock climbing • Zipping (zip line) • Disc golf • Swimming • Large-group games • Campfire and s'mores • So much more!
Where:	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca		
Who:	Registration is open to both groups and individuals. Confirmants can come with their classmates and a chaperone or register individually and be chaperoned by one of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's camp counselors. This event is open to all youth going into grades 5-8.		
Cost:	\$300 per person		

APOSTLE'S CREED AND LORD'S PRAYER

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
July 29 - August 1, 2025

Rev. Brett Simek - Trinity Lutheran Church Rantoul, Hilbert, WI

After being convinced to be a Lutheran pastor by his Jesuit (Catholic) high school, Pastor Simek has been involved with HT in a number of ways including CCV, housing coordinator, and assistant chaplain, before being ordained in 2015. He served as the catechesis coordinator for HT for 8 years! He now serves Trinity Lutheran Church Rantoul, Hilbert, WI, and is the husband of Nicole and father of Joel, Elijah, and Jude. As a husband, father, pastor, and student, he has seen and felt the great influence of distinctively Lutheran teaching and the comfort and confidence it gives.



*The Camper Profile, Health Form, Health Screening Form, and Release of Liability must be completed for each camper. To register a group please follow the registration instructions located on the website as well as the informational packet. Groups and individuals should **register online or by mailing the Camp Registration Packet to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca by July 22nd.***

Higher Things is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. Its mission is to make the Gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. HT accomplishes this through conferences, retreats, and various print and online content.

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is a mission of the Iowa District East of the LCMS. Leveraging a best-in-class outdoor recreational and camping environment, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca exists to promote and provide Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration for individuals and groups of all ages. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca offers year-round, Christ-centered programs that support the ministries of local congregations, nurture the faith of individuals and families, and motivate people toward congregational involvement and living in their God-given vocations.

Contacts

Alec Deppe
Director of Programs and Retreats
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
(319) 848-4187

Tana McKenna
Retreat Coordinator
Higher Things
(888) 482-6630 ext. 4
retreats@higherthings.org

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



June/ July 2025

Summer Has Arrived! Register for Camp Today!

General Programming

It's not too late to register! Most of our programs still have openings, and we have lots of program options to choose from. We offer standard on-site programming which includes our Explorer, Discovery, Pathfinder, Trailblazer, and Day Camps. We also offer specialty on-site programming through our Beginner, Horse, Projectile, and Higher Things Confirmation Camps. Last but not least are our specialty off-site programs which include Adventure, Wilderness, Sports, and Challenge Camps. Program offerings and availability vary by grade, so don't delay! More information about each program can be found by going to campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/. Additional information and the link to register for summer camp can be found by going to campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/registration/ or by scanning the QR Code!



Summer Camp
Registration

Junior Counselors

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca also needs **Junior Counselors** (JC's) to assist with the summer program. Applicants should be at least **15 years old**. JCs spend the week with a cabin group, enjoying the many camp activities and serving as a positive role model and motivator for younger campers while helping the cabin counselors supervise younger campers. It's a great experience for only \$100 per week. Please contact Program Director Alec Deppe by emailing programdirector@iodiseca.org for more information or to receive an application. Applications can also be found by scanning the QR Code above.



New Horse Programming!

Our summer horse program has been thriving over the past decade and even more so in recent years! We have increased our Horse Camp capacities and still have kids on the waitlists! This has led us to expand our horse programming to include riding lessons and weekend trail rides throughout the **fall of 2025!** This fall will be our trial run to continuing to offer these new programs in the spring and fall of 2026 and beyond! With your support, we hope to make this new programming a success! For more information, go to campiodiseca.org/new-horse-programming/, or scan the QR Code. **Registration for these programs will open in August!**



New Horse
Programming



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship**

Rooted in Christ, Growing in Stewardship

The heartland is now awash in various hues of green. The doldrums of winter give way to the colors of spring. Now, the promise of spring gives way to the growth of summer. Fields are planted and sprouted. Gardens are planted. Flowers adorn the beds of neighborhood homes and roadside ditches. Green is the shade of life!

Green growth is also the hue of the faithful steward. The seed of faith planted in human hearts in the waters of Holy Baptism grows as it is nurtured in the Word proclaimed and ingested in the Holy Supper. This faith does indeed save. But our stewardship of the Gospel is also designed to bear fruit for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor.

To consider this, let us look at the hymn, "Fruitful Trees, the Spirits Sowing" (LSB 691). It is very much a stewardship hymn!

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase, Fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love and joy and peace.

- The tree of faith is not planted in us by us. It is the Spirit's work! We do not claim the title "steward." Rather, we are created for it (Gen. 1:26–28).
- He is the One who makes it grow in us. The fruits of the Spirit are borne out because we, by grace through faith, are connected to the vine that is Jesus (John 15).

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

- Our stewardship is NOT about what we do. It is about what the Holy Spirit does in and through us. That is the fruit that we bear. His fruit for His purposes.
- But that fruit is lived out through us. The world sees the fruit of our stewardship of the Gospel in lives lived connected to Word and Sacrament.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.

- Stewards have been created and redeemed to reflect the image of Jesus in the world. He is the pattern. We reflect to others around us the Light of the Gospel He has shone on us.
- This reflection comes when Christ's goodness flows from us to others.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease; Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.

- Just as the Spirit has created us for stewardship of the Gospel, so also does He cause our faithfulness! He calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and KEEPS us in this faithful stewardship of the Gospel.
- The ultimate goal of our faithful stewardship is eternity. For us. For our neighbor. All worked out by the Spirit.

Green is the color of the world right now. It is also the color of our stewardship and it is growing in us as we are connected to the vine, Jesus! God grant our growth in Him!

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

Hosted by St. John Lutheran Church
2370 Merino Ave | Oskaloosa, IA
641-673-6546



**Lutheran
Family Service**

All presentations will be held from 9 am to 12 pm (with a break and time for questions), with registration and breakfast from 8:30 to 9 am, and lunch to follow at 12 pm.

JULY 19 | ON BECOMING SCREEN WISE

"The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom..." (Proverbs 15:33). Through the practice of fearing the Lord (i.e., honoring the Lord as Creator, meditating on His Word, and appreciating our status as His creatures), Lutheran Family Service seeks to bring instruction in wisdom into Christians' lives both as a means by which to promote human flourishing and so as to equip them to be positive witnesses for Christ. In this series Pastor Jonathan Conner brings wisdom to bear on the question of individualized screens (especially internet connected screens), emphasizing our created purpose beyond the pixel. After grounding participants in God's three-dimensional grace given in Christ's Church, Pastor Conner exposes the tactics tech developers use to monopolize and monetize our attention (and influence our imaginations), the way screens are affecting our beliefs about life, our relationships, and our religion, and how we can chart a wise way forward that moves us beyond the pixel into the joys and purpose-filled three-dimensions of life in the Lord's creation. In brief, Pastor Conner communicates Biblical wisdom for life in today's technology driven world.

SEPT 6 | END OF LIFE CARE AND CONSIDERATIONS

How can we prepare to depart this life in peace and meet our Lord Jesus? Advanced directives and funeral service planning are good ways to prepare. Faith and trust in Jesus and His Word with beautiful hymns and prayer are even better. Come join Rev. Alex Post, and the saints at St. John's in Oskaloosa as we discuss the infinite God-given value of every human life especially at its end before our joyful resurrection.

NOV 8 | MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM: CREATION & IDENTITY

Lutheran Family Service walks with the hurting, confused, discouraged, and broken. Through their counseling, teaching, caring, and advocacy, LFS teachers and caregivers confess Christ as they bring Scripture to bear in all things. In this series – Male and Female He Created Them: Creation and Identity – Pastor Jonathan Conner and Mrs. Cassie Beltz (LMHC) address the issue of identity from a Lutheran perspective (incorporating the simple and profound truths confessed in the catechism), giving special attention to the question of gender identity (its provenance, prevalence, and promulgation), as they equip hearers to respond to its false claims and then to appreciate and celebrate God's gift of identity in creation.

Te Deum

Hymn Festival

**July 27th,
2025**

3:00 PM

**Join us for an afternoon of hymnody
and fellowship**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
1600 South Center St.
Marshalltown IA 50158
(641-753-9565)**

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