

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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August Newsletter

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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

As kids get ready to back to school and Sunday School and Confirmation classes are nearing a new year, I encourage you to read and reflect on Luther's Preface to the Small Catechism with me:

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.

Hymn 'Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain'

LSB 865



1 Lord, help us ev - er to re - tain The Cat - e -
2 Help us Your ho - ly Law to learn, To mourn our
3 Hear us, dear Fa - ther, when we pray For need - ed
4 Lord, when we fall or go a - stray, Ab - solve and

chism's — doc - trine plain As Lu - ther taught the
sin and from it turn In faith to You and
help from day to day That as Your chil - dren
lift us up, we pray; And through the Sac - ra -

Word of truth In sim - ple style to ten - der youth.
to Your Son And Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One.
we may live, Whom You bap - tized and so re - ceived.
ment in - crease Our faith till we de - part in peace.

Text: Ludwig Helmbold, 1532–98; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.

Tune: As hymnodus sacer, 1625, Leipzig Text and tune: Public domain

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

President's Piece for Peace

August 25

The Iowa District East Convention gathered June 27-28, a wonderful gathering to say the least. A big thank you to our Lord who was present in Word as it was taught with such clear and precise expertise. I learned a goodly amount from Dr. Biermann on the authority of the Word. I also appreciated the way he guided us through his essay with easy-to-follow technology. I pray all were as edified as I was and can take that study back to their congregations with fruitful lives of faith.

The district worship committee prepared very Gospel-centered orders of worship and devotions. The hymnody was magnificent, hearing all the voices proudly proclaiming what we believe in stanza after stanza. The organist who played and the assembly who sang were all a "joyful noise to the Lord."

I especially appreciated the way our delegation addressed President Harrison during his question-and-answer hour. Everyone presented themselves with respect and courtesy. The questions and request for clarifications were fair and honest. President Harrison told me himself how much he enjoyed the churchmanship and professionalism of the assembly.

Hearing from the missions of our district was refreshing and optimistic. To find out how the Lord of the Church is using the offerings and generosity of our congregations is a delight to the soul. The hard work of all who carry out the missions of IDE is a blessing to the Church local and abroad. So many for whom Christ died to save are now hearing that Good News and coming into the Kingdom. Praise God from on High.

The volunteers from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Marion were there and ready to help from early Friday morning to the finish on Saturday afternoon. Such helping hands are simply a manifestation of the loving hearts from that flock. Conventions could not be carried off with precision and efficiency without capable and caring volunteers.

One final word: Many, if not most, of the exhibitors mentioned to me how courteous and enjoyable the delegates that came to their tables were. They remarked repeatedly how interested the delegates were with the desire to take helpful information back to their congregations. (I know, the candy bars were an added benefit).

Thank you one and all for a blessed and fruitful convention. To our congregations, pastors, lay delegates and advisory members I give thanks and praise that I am allowed by God's grace to continue to serve in the office of District President. Our future is bright because it is in the hands of He who is the Light and Life of the world. "Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever."

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

**Our future is bright
because it is in the hands
of He who is the Light
and Life of the world.**



AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Zone of the Month Mt. Pleasant					IED Leaders	Faith in Mt. Pleasant Pastor Michael Scudder
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Missionary Rev. Michael Paul serving in Taiwan	Missionary Jordan Andreasen	LCMS Disaster Relief	Zion in Wilton Pastor Daniel Ognoskie	Seminarians	Thanksgiving for 540 campers at Io-Dis-E-Ca this season.	LCMS Leaders
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Concordia in Burlington Pastor Chris Roepke	4kenyaskids	Missionaries Dennis and Lorna Meeker serving in Kenya	Missionary Pastor Micah Wildauer in Belize	Our Savior in Fort Madison Pastor Chris Roepke	Lutheran Hour Ministries	Students and Educators returning to school.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Paul in Wapello Pastor Mark Kluzek	IDE Education Workshop 2025 Zion Luthera in Hiawatha	Hospital Chaplaincy at University of Iowa Hospitals	Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT)	KFUO Radio	Immanuel in Fairfield Pastor Chris Hinkle (vacancy Pastor)	Thanksgiving for Pastor Mark Brase (Recently retired)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
LCMS Seminaries	IDE Schools, Pre- Schools and Daycares	Our Savior in Muscatine Pastor Jeffrey Pautz	Rev. Carl Grulke and family - Lutheran Bible Translators in Botswana	Campus Ministries	Orphan Grain Train	IED Mission Grant projects
31						
Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf					LWML Iowa East District Prayer Calendar	



August 2025

Summer Camp 2025: With Open Arms

"Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today..." - Exodus 14:13a

Well that went by quickly! Summer has once again come and gone here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Though we will miss the kids that came to camp this summer, we are grateful to have had the opportunity to share God's word with them! This summer's theme explored the imagery of open arms in Scripture. We see this imagery in the accounts of Israel crossing the Red Sea, Samson destroying the Philistine temple, the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and ultimately Jesus' crucifixion. Though different attributes of God are highlighted in these accounts, we can see the common thread of God working for the good of His people.

In the account of Israel crossing the Red Sea, God uses Moses' open arms to part the waters and then return the waters, bringing God's people through safely and using the same waters to destroy the Egyptian army which sought to destroy the Israelites. The imagery of open arms here emphasizes the saving nature of God. When reading about Samson destroying the Philistine temple, the saving nature of God is also noticeable as He uses Samson this time to once again save the Israelites from a people that would destroy them. We also see God's strength on display here as Samson stretches out his arms to bring down the temple's pillars. Next, we see the loving, welcoming, and forgiving nature of God in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The younger son leaves his father and squanders his property before realizing all of the good things he had when he was with his father. Upon his return home, his father runs to greet him and embraces him. He forgives his son and welcomes him back with open arms.

Ultimately, Jesus crucifixion displays all of these attributes of God. His open arms on the cross are what we look to as our salvation. His open arms are our salvation because with them, He defeats sin, death, and the devil, displaying His true strength for us. For us, He also uses those open arms to bring about forgiveness. He desires to forgive us and welcome us into His kingdom. This is the purpose of Jesus' open arms on the cross, and He did it because He loves us. Therefore, let us praise God for His death on the cross and that through His open arms, He uses His strength to bring us salvation and welcomes us into eternal life with Him all out of His great love for us.

We pray that all who attended camp this summer get to go back into a congregation where the same gospel is preached: that God uses His open arms and death on the cross to gather a people as He says in John 3:15.



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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.

Contact Lutheran Family Service today to schedule a presentation like one of these at your congregation, circuit pastors' winkle, LWML rally, or conference! Qualified speakers from LFS love to teach on Scriptural, compassionate and practical topics like grief counseling after miscarriage, adoption, mental health issues, transgender identity, screens / technology, and end of life comfort, including yours truly.

- District Life Coordinator Pastor Alex Post

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.



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

Jesus' transforming presence

“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost’” (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus! Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

Wake Up! A New School Year on God's Schedule

August 25

¹¹ And **do** this, knowing the time, that now **it is** high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation **is** nearer than when we **first** believed. Romans 13:11 (NKJV)

A casual look at one's calendar reminds us that we are in the month of August. As Lutheran teachers and administrators we know what that means. The long days of summer are beginning to shorten. Slowly, the calendar starts to fill, school supply aisles buzz, and we begin to feel the unmistakable pull of August: it's almost time. Time to wake up. Yet there is something inside us that wants to resist August because we all know what is coming.



Think back to your high school years. For the most part you had little responsibility. Think of the warm summer mornings you slept in – or did you? Then sooner or later you would hear the voice of one of your parents say, “Time to get up”. You protested the only way you could. “Just five more minutes – puhlease!” Deep down inside you didn’t want five more minutes, but 30 or 45 more minutes.

Yes! It’s time to wake up! Not just from slower rhythms and summer relaxation, but to the calling God has placed on our lives. A new school year approaches – not by accident, not merely by tradition, but by divine design. God has a purpose and a schedule. Just as He sent His Son, “when the set time had fully come,” so too, He has

placed *this* time before us, inviting us to walk into it with joyful anticipation and a holy purpose.

Yes! It’s time to wake up! But really! It’s August already. “Just two more weeks, Lord...no wait...can you make it three?” It’s time for faculty meetings and getting our rooms in top notch shape. “I knew I should have put more time in cleaning up my room at the end of the year. Where did I put that?” “Why are there so many bulletin boards in my classroom? And, there’s an all-day workshop for teachers on August 18! Does the Doellinger and my principal think I have time to go to that AND get ready for a school year?” “Good grief – I’m exhausted already!”

Time...it keeps moving on. Time...it keeps rushing on. There are a few passages in Scripture that remind us that it is *time*. Take a look at Galatians 4:4 “*But when the fullness of the **time** had come, God sent forth His Son, born^[a] of a woman, born under the law.* You see, God has a *time* schedule. He knew when it was *time* to bring about our salvation. 1 Peter 5 reminds us if we get up and get at ‘em now and live out our faith at the proper *time* God will lift us up.

In Colossians 4:5 the apostle Paul writes to “make the best use of the *time*.” The school year ahead won’t be measured simply by lesson plans, test scores, or parent emails. It will be measured by how we make use of the *time* entrusted to us – to teach, to encourage, to pray, to love. (meaning...to build relationships) Each day is a moment in God’s unfolding story. Each child, a soul deeply loved by the Father. Each co-worker, a companion in the mission field. We are reminded to make the best use of our *time* (opportunities) so that at the proper *time* we will be rewarded.

These are just a few verses, but the entire New Testament reminds the redeemed people of God to wake up and serve Him by service to others. That goes for us, too folks!

So we humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand, as 1 Peter reminds us. We cast our anxieties – over changing curriculums, classroom dynamics, and the long to-do list – on Him. Because He *cares* for us. He’s already in our classrooms, already working in the hearts of our students and staff, and already preparing a year that will be filled with challenges and rewards.

Wake Up! A New School Year on God's Schedule

August 25

Wake up, my dear teachers and leaders in Lutheran education. You've been called to serve the Lord for another year. Not by your own strength, but by His Spirit. Not for your own glory, but for His kingdom. God has chosen this *time* – His perfect *time* – for you to shine the light of Christ in your school, in your classroom, with your colleagues, and with your students and their families.

Yes, it is August. Yes, the days of your summer vacation are winding down. Now you are given the privilege to serve the Lord another year. Serve the Lord in all you do. Let's be fully awake to that calling. The *time* is now.

¹¹ *And **do** this, knowing the time, that now **it is** high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation **is** nearer than when we **first** believed.* Romans 13:11

Jan Doellinger
Assistant to the President, Schools



*Hot Dogs / Brats Provided

Kids & Adults Welcome

- *Games
- * Prizes
- * Dartball
- * Couples Bags Tournament
- *Crafts
- *Sign up for Potluck: Hot Dish, Salad, Dessert at Lobby Table*
- *Bring your own serving ware - some will be provided as well*