

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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*July 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](mailto: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.**



# Hello July

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# Pastor's Message

This July, the kids will be walking through living as a Christian in a non-Christian world reflecting on the temptations of Jesus recorded in Matthew 4. Each day we will zero in on one of the recorded temptations and reflect on how the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh seek to lead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice by getting us to fear, love, and trust in someone or something more than God. For you this month, I encourage you to join them, but on a different level. For your exhortation and edification, I commend Luther's Large Catechism on the temptation through the Sixth Petition.

## The Sixth Petition

99 *"And lead us not into temptation."*

100 We have now heard enough about the trouble and effort required to retain and persevere in all the gifts for which we pray. This, however, is not accomplished without failures and stumbling. Moreover, although we have acquired forgiveness and a good conscience, and have been wholly absolved, yet such is life that one stands today and falls tomorrow. Therefore, even though at present we are upright and stand before God with a good conscience, we must pray again that he will not allow us to fall and yield to trials and temptations.

101 Temptation (or, as the ancient Saxons called it, *Bekörunge*) is of three kinds: of the flesh, the world, and the devil.

102 We live in the flesh and we have the old Adam hanging around our necks; he goes to work and lures us daily into unchastity, laziness, gluttony and drunkenness, greed and deceit, into acts of fraud and deception against our neighbor—in short, into all kinds of evil lusts which by nature cling to us and to which we are incited by the association and example of other people and by things we hear and see. All this often wounds and inflames even an innocent heart.



103 Next comes the world, which assails us by word and deed and drives us to anger and impatience. In short, there is in it nothing but hatred and envy, enmity, violence and injustice, perfidy, vengeance, cursing, reviling, slander, arrogance, and pride, along with fondness for luxury, honor, fame, and power. No one is willing to be the least, but everyone wants to sit in the chief seat and be seen by all.

104 Then comes the devil, who baits and badgers us on all sides, but especially exerts himself where the conscience and spiritual matters are at stake. His purpose is to make us scorn and despise both the Word and the works of God, to tear us away from faith, hope, and love, to draw us into unbelief, false security, and stubbornness, or, on the contrary, to drive us into despair, atheism, blasphemy, and countless other abominable sins. These are snares and nets; indeed, they are the real “flaming darts” which are venomously shot into our hearts, not by flesh and blood but by the devil.

105 These are the great, grievous perils and temptations which every Christian must bear, even if they come one by one. As long as we remain in this vile life in which we are attacked, hunted, and harried on all sides, we are constrained to cry out and pray every hour that God may not allow us to become faint and weary and to fall back into sin, shame, and unbelief. Otherwise it is impossible to overcome even the least temptation.

106 This, then, is “leading us not into temptation” when God gives us power and strength to resist, even though the tribulation is not removed or ended. For no one can escape temptations and allurements as long as we live in the flesh and have the devil prowling about us. We cannot help but suffer tribulations, and even be entangled in them, but we pray here that we may not fall into them and be overwhelmed by them.

107 To feel temptation, therefore, is quite a different thing from consenting and yielding to it. We must all feel it, though not all to the same degree; some have more frequent and severe temptations than others. Youths, for example, are tempted chiefly by the flesh; older people are tempted by the world. Others, who are concerned with spiritual matters (that is, strong Christians) are tempted by the devil.

108 But we cannot be harmed by the mere feeling of temptation as long as it is contrary to our will and we would prefer to be rid of it. If we did not feel it, it could not be called a temptation. But to consent to it is to give it free rein and neither resist it nor pray for help against it.

109 Accordingly we Christians must be armed and prepared for incessant attacks. Then we shall not go about securely and heedlessly as if the devil were far from us but shall at all times expect his blows and parry them. Even if at present I am chaste, patient, kind, and firm in faith, the devil is likely in this very hour to send such a shaft into my heart that I can scarcely stand, for he is an enemy who never stops or becomes weary; when one attack ceases, new ones always arise.

110 At such times your only help or comfort is to take refuge in the Lord's Prayer and to appeal to God from your heart, "Dear Father, Thou hast commanded me to pray; let me not fall because of temptation."

111 Then you will see the temptation cease and eventually admit defeat. Otherwise, if you attempt to help yourself by your own thoughts and counsels, you will only make the matter worse and give the devil a better opening. For he has a serpent's head; if it finds an opening into which it can slip, the whole body will irresistibly follow. But prayer can resist him and drive him back.

## Hymn 'O God, Forsake Me Not'

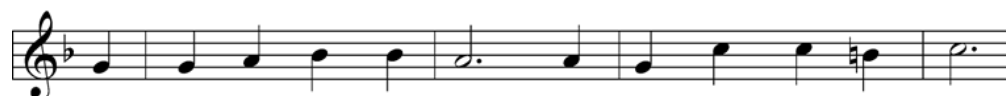
LSB 731



1 O God, for-sake me not! Your gra-cious pres-ence lend me;  
2 O God, for-sake me not! Take not Your Spir - it from me;  
3 O God, for-sake me not! Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion!  
4 O God, for-sake me not! Lord, I am Yours for - ev - er.



Lord, lead Your help-less child; Your Ho - ly Spir - it send me  
Do not per - mit the might Of sin to o - ver-come me.  
In ev - ry e - vil hour Help me re - sist temp - ta - tion;  
O keep me strong in faith That I may leave You nev - er.



That I my course may run. O be my light, my lot,  
In - crease my fee - ble faith, Which You a - lone have wrought.  
And when the prince of hell My con-science seeks to blot,  
Grant me a bless - ed end When my good fight is fought;



My staff, my rock, my shield— O God, for-sake me not!  
O be my strength and pow'r— O God, for-sake me not!  
Be then not far from me— O God, for-sake me not!  
Help me in life and death— O God, for-sake me not!

*Text: Salomo Franck, 1659–1725; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen Text and 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.**





## JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>Zone of the Month - Marshalltown</b>		Trinity of Chariton Rev Nathan Knaus Trinity Lutheran LWML	Foster Care Families - The Knaus Family	Rev. Eric Stinnett & Family - Missionaries to Ethiopia		Immanuel of Grinnell Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lutherans for Life	Immanuel Lutheran Women's Society	Trinity of Knoxville Rev. Joel Picard	Trinity Lutheran LWML	Zone Pastor's wives	St. Paul of Lacona served by Rev. Nathan Knaus	St. Paul Lutheran Ladies-Aid
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Orphan Grain Train, Branch 23 in Clemons, IA	St. John of Melcher-Dallas - Served by Rev. Nathn Knaus	St. John Lutheran LWML	Redeemer of Marshalltown Rev. Alex Post	Reedemer LWML	District-wide LWML leaders	IED Retreat at Io-Dis-E-Ca 18th ad 19th
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Rev. David Preus & Family - Missionary in Romania	Trinity of Dillon Rev. Fred Berry	Trinity Ladies Aid	St. John of Oskaloosa Rev. Samuel Beltz	St. John Lutheran Women's Guild	The Village Closet - supporting expectant mothers, foster parents, grandparents raising grandchildren	Our Savior of Newton Rev. Michael Manz
29	28	29	30	31		
Faith Society	Rev. Adam Lehman & Family - Missionary in Puerto Rico	Trinity of State Center Rev. Robert Ricard	Trinity Ladies Aid	Cody and Aurelia Mock - missionaries to Latvia providing tehnology solutions	<b>LWML Iowa East District Prayer Calendar</b>	

# 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**





# 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

<b>When:</b>	July 29 - August 1, 2025	<b>Included:</b>	Aside from edifying catechesis and distinctly Lutheran worship, participants will spend time in activities such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archery</li> <li>• Canoeing</li> <li>• Rock climbing</li> <li>• Zipping (zip line)</li> <li>• Disc golf</li> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Large-group games</li> <li>• Campfire and s'mores</li> <li>• So much more!</li> </ul>
<b>Where:</b>	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca		
<b>Who:</b>	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.		
<b>Cost:</b>	\$300 per person		



# 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/](http://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/](http://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](mailto: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/](http://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](http://www.campiodiseca.org)

email [office@iodiseca.org](mailto:office@iodiseca.org)



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)**

***Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard***

*“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful”  
(1 Cor. 4:2).*

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as “no big deal.” St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God’s purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.



# 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)**

**Image © 2014, Higher Things Inc. Used by permission.**

# God's Work in Eurasia

## A Mock Family Newsletter

### Connection to Mission



Mission Education Team – Dinner at our Place!

In March, we were honored to open our home to a short-term team comprised of college students from the U.S. Our fellow missionaries Ben Helge and Chelsea Irwin lead the group through the LCMS missionary locations within the Czech Republic to get a small taste of mission work and to see if it might be a good fit for them in the future.

*“The goal of this trip is for the students to learn about God’s mission in the Czech Republic, church history, what missionary life is like, and to serve in various ways.”*

*- Ben Helge, Shared Ministries Manager, Eurasia*

Outside of opening our home, it was great to be able to share how my role as a missionary and IT professional, as well as other vocations are crucial to the planting of Lutheran churches, spreading the Gospel, and showing mercy (and that includes you!).



## **Local Students and Visitors Seeking Church**

These past few months we have had an uptick in students and visitors who have attended St. Michael. Many of these newcomers are seeking a conservative and confessional church to be a part of. Though not always from a Lutheran background, many come already having read The Small Catechism, The Augsburg Confession, and other important Lutheran theological writings. The common refrain is an appreciation for the theology of the cross and for the purity of the Gospel as it stands in distinction from the Law, as delivered through the Divine Service. It is humbling and encouraging to see such young people excited and passionate about preserving this precious theology that is central to Jesus and His Gospel. It is also a reminder that God is at work as He continues to gather His church. I look forward to strengthening these relationships as we walk together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **Tech Tools: Helping Facilitate Communication and Collaboration**

When it comes to how we are utilizing technology on the field, suffice it to say that there are growing needs beyond what we are currently doing—not only within Eurasia but also across regional boundaries. New opportunities are on the horizon to collaborate with additional local church bodies while at the same time strengthening existing relationships in the mission field.

There is a lot of mission work that is spread across not only different countries but continents, languages, and technology stacks, too! The needs and work quickly outpace what we are able to do as independent missionaries or church bodies, which makes collaborating as a team—and subsequently leveraging technology to assist in this effort—all the more important.

In regional news, the recent ordination of two students from Luther Academy (Riga, Latvia) took place in Rome, Italy on May 31st. These two men are the first pastors of a new Confessional Lutheran Church in Italy. What a joy to be a part of their formation as pastors!



## **Family Update**

Aurélie has been enjoying getting to know the women at our church better through their monthly Women's Group where they are able to fellowship and study the Bible together. Eva and Moriah are growing like weeds. They just finished another year of school and really enjoy Prague (Eva recently told me that she would like to stay here for "at least 12 years").



Thank you so much for your prayers as we continue in the work that God has set before us, that the Gospel of Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world may be proclaimed.

– Cody, Aurélie, Eva and Moriah

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Cody and Aurélie Mock.  
Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR  
Mission Central  
40718 Highway E 16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo include Mock-Czech Republic

Give securely from any device: [lcms.org/givenow/mock](https://lcms.org/givenow/mock)  
Call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438



## **Texas Flood Relief**

**Over the 4th of July, Central Texas experienced devastating flooding that has claimed more than 100 lives, with more than 150 people still missing. As they become available, resources for supporting relief and recovery efforts will be shared to the IDE-LCMS.**

**7/9/2025 update from the Texas District LCMS:**

**At this time, we are being informed that the affected areas are still in the search and recovery stage. Volunteer teams are not allowed in the regions. The best way to help is to donate at <https://txlcms.org/congregations/disaster-relief/>**

**Your generosity makes a huge difference!**

**It provides the following:**

- Church Workers – direct aid to pastors, teachers, and staff who have been personally affected by the flooding. This includes help with temporary housing, basic living expenses, and home repairs.**
- Congregations – help cover the costs of cleanup, repairs, and replacement of essentials, allowing these ministries to continue serving their communities.**
- As funds allow, assistance is provided to members of LCMS congregations who are working to recover from this disaster.**

**Do not lose hope! God provides strength and healing.**