

Immanuel Lutheran News

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Visit our web site at www.immanuelaltamont.org

September 2021

From the Pastor

We are beginning a new Bible study on Sunday mornings about the Holy Spirit. Here are some "Lutheran facts" from that Bible study.

- All who worship the holy Trinity and trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins are regarded by Lutherans as fellow Christians, despite denominational differences.
- Lutheran churches first described themselves as *evangelische* or evangelical churches. Opponents of these churches called them *Lutheran* after Dr. Martin Luther, the sixteenth-century German church reformer.
- Lutherans are not disciples of Dr. Martin Luther but disciples of Jesus Christ. They proudly accept the name Lutheran because they agree with Dr. Luther's teaching from the Bible, as summarized in Luther's Small Catechism.
- Lutherans focus most specifically on the works of the Holy Spirit on particular holidays: Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter (Quasimodogeniti), and Pentecost.
- During the service of confirmation, Lutherans publically confirm the work of the Spirit in a person's life. The service commemorates the work of the Spirit through Baptism and the Word, leading a person to publicly confess faith in Jesus.
- During the service of confirmation, the pastor lays his hand on the confirmand's head and prays for the sevenfold gift of the Spirit as described in Isaiah 11:2.
- During the ordination and installation of pastors, Lutherans call especially on the works and guidance of the Holy Spirit, who appoints men to the pastoral office (John 20:21-23; Acts 20:28).
- During the 1970s Lutheran churches, like most churches, were affected by the charismatic movement. A small percentage of Lutherans claim special

gifts of the Spirit. Most Lutherans emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God rather than through specially anointed individuals.

- Lutherans worship and pray to the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Holy Trinity. (from *The Holy Spirit* by Corey Maas, Concordia Publishing, 2009, p 9.)

God's Spirit speaks to us through the written and spoken Word of God contained in the Christian Bible. We have church services so that God may speak to us in this way, and we may speak to God together in prayers and songs. God also comes to us in the Lord's Supper.

Learning the importance of hearing the Word of God regularly is one of the purposes of a congregational Sunday school for children. In these classes the story of the Bible is taught so that children can better understand what is being proclaimed in the Sunday services. With so many adults leaving the church today and the cultural shift in America moving away from biblical faith, it is crucial that we have an excellent Sunday school experience for children of the congregation.

You are encouraged to support Immanuel's Sunday school by teaching, supervising, providing safety services, serving snacks, helping with crafts, directing music, and by your fervent prayers for the children and staff. We are especially seeking male teachers. Jesus loves the little children and invites them to come to him through contact with his Word. Our Sunday school begins on September 12.

We are praying to God for an end to Covid-19 and its variant strains. Vaccinations, masks, disinfection and social distancing are means the medical community offers to fight the virus in certain situations. We encourage the use of these according to your own good judgment. Don't think you have to shake the pastor's hand after service. Stay as safe as

possible and live your life the best you can. Don't forget to take care of your mental health. Humans need interaction with one another and with God. God bless everyone.
Pastor Wright

New Member Class at Immanuel will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM with Pastor Wright in the church conference room (by the office) starting September 7. Let him know if you are interested.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2021

As the school year has started we are preparing to start Sunday School on September 12th.

Sunday school is a vital ministry within our church because it allows us to teach children the foundation of our faith. Sunday school is a ministry for the entire church, not just the parents.

We can NOT have Sunday school without our members' help.

We understand that committing for a whole semester can be intimidating. So, we want **you** to tell us when you can help. It can be every other month, only the month of October, the second Sunday of every month, etc. Whatever works for you!

Our goal is to have 2 teachers for each grade, with an emphasis on getting MALE teachers, which is important for the faith formation of young boys. Having 2 teachers in each classroom will give teachers support and help to ease the burden of "doing it all myself."

We have also revised the Sunday school schedule within each class, providing creative ways for children to learn and engaging them throughout the hour. We also may have a use for people to help with crafts, music, games, etc. See Sunday School Teacher sign up to indicate you would like to help in an alternate way.

We will have a meeting on September 1st at 7:30pm to give you guidance on how to best teach, show you the lessons, and assign you your grade. There is a QR code to scan on the bulletin, please sign up using the QR code as soon as possible.

Sunday School will start September 12th and run through December 12th from 9:45-10:45

am. **If we don't have enough Sunday School teachers, we will not have Sunday School.**

Ladies Aid Meeting Thursday, September 2, 7:00 p.m. Devotion by Deb Winter. Hostesses are Freda Beccue, Loretta Pfenninger, Helen Zeigler. Mite box collection.

Lutherans For Life Meet Sunday, Sept 26 at 1:30PM. Important meeting to distribute money and election of officers.

Thank you to Pastor Wright for his prayers and concerns during my hospitalization and since returning to my daughter's home.

Lucille Schroeder

The Family of Deb Pagel would like to thank Pastor Wright for his many prayers and visits, the Ladies Aid for the wonderful lunch after the service. To everyone who brought food and gifts to the family all these many months of Deb's illness. For the memorials and cards and phone calls. Your lovingkindness meant so much to us. God Bless you all.

We would like to thank Pastor Wright, Immanuel Ladies Aid, Lynn Kull and Kenny Mercier in easing our sorrow from Candy's passing. The support from our families, friends and neighbors was heartwarming. Memorials, flowers, food and prayers were overwhelming. Everyone's love for Candy was very evident as we looked though the cards and talked to those attending her service.

With Love From All of Us,

The family of Candy Stuemke

Prayer Corner

- For healing: Carl Becker, Debi Bernahl, Barb Busby, Tiffany Dunaway, Gloria Fortkamp, Abbey Franzen, Betty Heiden, Pam Kepley, JR Newby, Dale Nowlan, Cheryl Ragon, Evelyn Shumaker, Norma Siebert, Irene Spilker, Lynn Winter, Craig Wolff, Lilly Wright and others.
- Comfort to the family and friends of Deb Pagel, Candy Stuemke, Shirley Muchow
- Church staff, ALIS school staff and families.
- For Lutheran missionary Ted Krey Family
- For our government for protection of unborn children and elderly.

- For peace in the world, For Afghanistan, an end to violence in the name of God, and for harmony among nations.
- For those persecuted for their faith in Jesus.
- For police, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel, and those who serve in our military and their families, for flood victims in Tennessee and survivors of the Haiti Earthquake.

Information from Andy and the LYF

Immanuel Youth Group is starting to prepare for the 2022 LCMS Gathering in Houston, TX. I have participated in three youth Gatherings, two as a youth and one as a volunteer. I am excited that my fourth gathering will be as a leader to an awesome group of youth! I have seen first hand the impact the Gathering has on youth who embrace the faith lessons and are shown the love of God through intimate relationship building and care from their congregation. It is important for the congregation to be involved in the Gathering, not just financially, but to also learn about what it is and why it is important. Please read on the next page to learn more about what the Gathering is. If you have any questions, please contact me or come to one of our meetings!

In Christ,
Andy Wendling, Director of Youth and Family

WHAT IS THE LCMS GATHERING? The LCMS Gathering is a week long event where 25,000 LCMS youth come together to strengthen their faith and worship God! The event happens every three years and is for youth entering and in high school.

Why are we going? The Gathering is an awesome opportunity for young people to be encouraged in their faith, realizing that there are thousands of people their age that believe in the same awesome God!

What happens when we are there? While at the gathering participants will go to sessions where speakers will talk about numerous topics, such as, Broken: The Collateral Damage of Divorce, Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in the Age of Confusion, How to Survive and Thrive in the Military as a Christian, From Gay Bars to Jesus: A Clear Voice in the a Gender Confused

Generation, and Next Steps: Preparing for Life after High School. We will also have daily Bible studies, do service projects, and go to Mass Event, a huge worship service!

What is the theme of the Gathering? The theme for the 2022 Gathering is In All Things base on Colossians 1:15-20. Before and during the Gathering youth attending will study Colossians and learn what it looks like to have Christ be a part of their life in all things. This is an awesome lesson as our world makes it seem more and more okay to make Christianity be something we only take part in on Sunday. In All Things is about having Christ be a part of your life, at all times, in all places, to embrace our faith and shout it from the roof tops!

How can we be involved? Congregation members are welcomed to come to any of our 6 pre-event meetings where we will take time at the beginning to study the book of Colossians and what it means to focus on Christ In All Things. We will also be having fundraisers for the next year to help us raise funds to go to the gathering (see more on this below).

What fundraisers are happening now? Our first Gathering fundraiser is called the Houston Contribution and start on September 26th. How it works: In the Narthex there will be a wall of envelopes numbered sequentially from 1 to 144. This fundraiser will allow you to contribute to our trip to Houston by filling an envelope with the dollar value corresponding to the number on the envelope: \$1 goes in the envelope marked 1, \$50 goes into the envelope marked 50 and so on, all the way up to 144. You can pick whatever number you want, fill the envelope, and return it to the bucket by the envelope wall or in the offering! Our youth participants will be by the wall to answer questions you have about the Gathering, such as, why they decided to go and what they are hoping to get out of their trip!

LWML Fall Rally (Lutheran Women’s Missionary League) Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at St. Peter Lutheran School Gym, 605 E Third St. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and Dinner serves at 6:00PM. Ingathering for Lighthouse Pregnancy, Vand. and LCC, Alt. “All Things are Possible With Faith”, Mark 9:23. *The gym is wheelchair and handicap accessible.*

ALIS 1st ANNUAL BBQ COOK-OFF EVENT

A BBQ Cook-Off fundraiser for ALIS being sponsored by Bethlehem, St. Paul "Blue Point", Immanuel, and Zion Lutheran Churches will be held at the Altamont Fair Grounds on Sat. Sept. 11, 2021 starting at 1pm.

Volleyball Tournaments sign-up 1pm (\$40.00 per team) play starts at 2pm

Bag Toss Tournament sign-up 1pm (\$10.00 per team) play starts at 2pm.

Snacks and drinks sold from 1- 7pm
Kids play area will be open from 2-7pm; Beer Garden from 1pm - 8pm

Bake sale and Cookie sales 2- 7pm or when items run out. Cookies will be made/decorated by our ALIS students!

BBQ Meal goes from 4-7pm or when food runs out (free will offering) BBQ teams may sign-up by calling or texting Matt Putnam @ 217-240-0545. BBQ teams will meet at the Fairgrounds on Thursday, Sept 9 from 6-7 pm. Meat will be handed out, rules and safety will be gone over at that time. They will be happy to take teams the day of, but if you can let them know sooner it would help!

Final Victory Workshop – Sunday, September 19, 2021

– Our funeral service is a worship service of the Holy Trinity, who brought us from death to life by the death of Jesus and who has now delivered us from this veil of tears to Himself in heaven. In thanks to God for His gift of eternal life, in planning our funeral we have one final opportunity to make the good confession of our Lord Jesus to men.

-- Bethlehem Church has planned this workshop inspired by the book "Final Victory:

Contemplating the Death & Funeral of a Christian" by Bryan Wolfmueller

-- Lunch will be provided at noon.

-- Followed by Making the Case for Lutheran Funerals by Rev. Marcus Manley; Gift Planning by Rev. Ken Schurb; Wills, Trusts, and Estate Plans by Mr. Dale Wolff/Mrs. Kirsten Osteen; Burial Basics by Mr. Wayne Yagow; "Ars moriendi" The Art of Dying by Rev. Michael Mohr

-- Funeral Hymn Sing

-- Workshop will be held at the Bethlehem Church Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Register for free workshop by Mon. Sept. 13, email: bethlehem@altamont.net or call 618-483-6756.

Ramsey+ The Stewardship Board would like to share some information about the Ramsey Plus program. The program is part of a grant from the Central Illinois District that allows us to offer a free 1 year membership to the Ramsey+ program for each family in the congregation. The cost of this would normally be \$129 per family, if you signed up on your own. Check immanuelaltamont.org for a link.

Church Attendance The Immanuel attendance policy for ALIS families from our congregation resumed July 1. The congregation expects all members, especially enrolled students and parents, to attend a minimum of 7 of 13 weeks during a school quarter. If you are unable to attend services, contact the Immanuel appeals committee.

Help needed for Altamont history display: We will have an exhibition room downtown at the former State Farm office on Main St. for the display of historical memorabilia during the Altamont Sesquicentennial celebration which is Sept. 2-5. We need people to greet visitors and watch the hall in 1 ½ to 2 hour shifts so nothing goes missing. Please message Pastor Wright or reply with your availability to help out.

Lutheran Laymen's League Retreat Saturday September 11th at Camp CILCA – 4124 Camp CILCA Road, Cantrall, IL. 9:00 am- 2:00 pm
Doors Open at 8:00 am

Topic is How Critical Race Theory and Wokism Are Their Own Religion by Dr. Russell Dawn – President Concordia University –Chicago.

\$15.00 per person includes Lunch (children are free) For Registration Information: (deloriblessman@yahoo.com) or 309.361.1461.

Camp CILCA News

Camp CILCA Chicken Fry and Auction Sunday, September 5. Dinner is 11:30-2:30. Contact Amy at weseloamy@yahoo.com for more details.

Camp CILCA Scramble Golf Outing, Friday, September 24 at Hickory Point, Forsythe. Shotgun start at 1:00 PM Lutheran Legacy Foundation has prepaid for Golf and dinner so the sponsorships and money you give will go right to CILCA and the CILCA Endowment. \$60 will cover your costs. Email Pastor Daniel Smith at revdms@gmail.com or CILCA.ORG