

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 2017



Praying the Catechism - Part 2



*"Loving, Sharing, Serving
Jesus with you."*

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In my last newsletter article (for June), I wrote of the importance of praying the Catechism for all ages. It is a timeless treasure because it contains what every Christian should know and take to heart. We know that daily the devil and world try to lead us into false belief, despair, or other great shame and vice. The Catechism leads us to take refuge in our Heavenly Father, whose Son has conquered the devil and this world. When we recite the 10 Commandments, for example, we will realize what needs we and our neighbors have. We will recognize where we have fallen short of God's expectations and will learn how we should best serve God and our neighbor. This will prompt our prayer, for we cannot find forgiveness without God nor can we love our neighbor without Him giving us the ability.

For this reason, Martin Luther recommends beginning your prayers with a recitation of the 10 Commandments because they will reveal the things for which you need to pray. Having recognized your sins and needs from the Commandments, humbly come before God and pray the Lord's Prayer, firmly believing that God has commanded you to pray, promised to hear you, and even taught you the words to say.

Then take one part of the Lord's Prayer and meditate upon its meaning in the Small Catechism. Think about what you and others need according to that petition and pray for them. For example, you might look at the introduction to the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven." The Small Catechism says, "With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and

that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father." You might consider in what ways have you not come to God as your dear Father. Perhaps you have been lazy in your prayer life. Maybe you have doubted God's ability to help you. Or you think about all the people in the world that don't know God as their Father. Consider what a blessing it is to be able to call God Father and to what lengths God went to become your Father, even giving up His own Son. Then pray accordingly.

Luther was greatly concerned that the Lord's Prayer, the greatest of all prayers, had been sorely abused. So many people rattle it off without even thinking about what they are saying. It becomes almost like a good luck charm, as though it worked without faith. Luther called the Lord's Prayer (along with God's name and Word) "the greatest martyr on earth." But when one focuses on one or two parts and really meditates upon them, it becomes evident how rich the words are. One begins to believe and understand their meaning and use them in true devotion to God.

By the time you receive this article, I should have released my new devotional plan for our congregation that will help our families to use the Small Catechism and God's Word in daily meditations. It will be available Sunday mornings in printed form and will be able to be emailed to those who request it.

May God richly bless you through His Word so that more and more, you find hope and joy and deliverance in your dear heavenly Father!

Pastor

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE . . .

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord's Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil—those who live contrary to God's will—and to reward those

who do good—those whose lives are lived in conformity with God's will. Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God's temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God's own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God's will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are to support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God places a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence, our prayers, and on our time, talents, and treasures. So, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, for your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.



**GATHER AT GARDENA
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

As an outreach to our community, Immanuel has been hosting a family activity event at Gardena Park on the third Saturday of each month since May. We invite families to join us to play games, participate in crafts, and have a bite to eat. Our last event will be Sept. 16, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., so you still have a chance to be a part of this great outreach event. Please sign up on the poster on the bulletin board for the areas in which you can help. Please note that we have organizers—we just need helpers! Questions? Talk to Janet Solum, Lori Dobkins, Jill Palmer, Anita Henn, or Marlyn Martz.

Immanuel's next
QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING
will be on
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th
at **7:00 PM**

All members of the congregation
are encouraged to attend.

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*Officers of the congregation,
please be present to report to the congregation
on the activities of your committee.*



Do You Have a Song?

In considering how to approach members of our congregation to join choir this fall, I researched the mountain of evidence in the scientific community so that I might tout the benefits of singing. There have been books written on the topic which could be summed up as "people who sing are happier, live longer, and are generally healthier." The physiological benefits of improving circulation, breathing, muscle tone, balance, memory, mood, relaxation, etc. are well-documented. In addition, corporate (group) singing, such as in a choir or even in a congregational setting, can actually *synchronize our heart rate with others*, so that group singing seems to have the most dramatic effect on people's lives.

Most research ends there, but those of us who have a relationship with our Creator and Savior know that He who made us created us to sing. He took what is concrete (His Word, our vocal chords) and gives us what is not concrete (the language of music) so that we could praise God in a unique and powerful way and so that the word of Christ could be implanted in our hearts and benefit our mind and body in so many ways.

Martin Luther understood this when he said "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." In this regard (and others) he stood in sharp contrast to other radical reformers of the Christian church. Through his composing and implementation of music in the church, he freed music for use by the entire congregation. In our music we proclaim our faith, teach the Scripture, and give thanks for the salvation given us through Christ's death and resurrection.

It is not a question of whether or not you have a voice. The question is, do you have a song?

We hope you will consider joining the choir this fall. But whether you are a member of the choir or a member of the congregation, when the time comes for singing, sing out with all your heart! The benefits to body and soul do not depend on your musical talent but are there for all who participate.



CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 at 7:00! No experience necessary. God has given you a voice; I will help you learn to use it. I will be in the choir room from 6:30 – 7:00 every Wednesday to offer any extra help you may need in vocal technique, learning your

part, etc. We especially want to encourage singers to join us in preparing for the Hymn Festival taking place at Immanuel on October 15th. It will be a combined choir event with our wonderful instrumentalists participating as well.

A kick-off potluck for all Immanuel's singers and musicians (and their families) will take place on Sunday, Sept. 10 at Bob and Janet Solum's home following the church service. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, or you can call or text Janet Solum at (425)749-9585 or email me at bsolfam@frontier.com. I would love to hear from you!



Tunefully yours, **Janet Solum**



CHILDREN AGES 3 AND UP ARE INVITED TO JOIN IMMANUEL'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

Children under Kindergarten age are asked to have an adult stay with them during practice. We will rehearse Sundays, 11:30-12:15 starting **September 3rd**. We plan on singing for Immanuel's Hymn Festival on October 15th. Call Lisa Solum with questions 219-873-6420.



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TODDLIN' TO JESUS, our church's music class for children 0-3, will resume classes Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m., starting on **September 5th**.

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Our **INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE** will rehearse on Wednesdays, **September 6-November 1**, 5-6:15 p.m.



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HANDBELLS will meet **September 6-October 11**, 6:15-6:45 p.m.



Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School Newsletter

September 2017

I hope that you had a refreshing, enjoyable and safe summer.

It's Rally Day time now as we start the new Sunday School year. Rally Day activities will be on August 27 beginning at 8:45 a.m.

We will also have a pre-Rally Day family picnic at Lynette Johnston's home on Aug 26, 12:00-3:30 p.m. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Those wishing to swim, bring your swim gear and enjoy the water. Bring your chairs if you have some. We'll have a fun time of food, swimming, games and social time!



On Rally Day Sunday, our 3rd grade students will receive their Bibles.

Those students are Lily and Teylor Boothe, Mallory Hoppe, Lilly Leffler, and Nathanael Palmer. Pray for these students that they

use this book to guide their lives. Attendance awards for the year will be presented also. Names of those students will be in the Oct. Gazette. Rally Day will also include installation of the Sunday School Staff. Please pray for our staff and students as we teach and study His Word.

Our summer lessons were focused on the animals of the Bible. Continuation of our chronological walk through the Bible will resume in September starting with lessons on Solomon. Regular lessons will continue through September, but in October we will focus on the Reformation and resume regular lessons in November. More information on our special October activities will be shared with you in the October Gazette. Watch for it!!



Eleven students had perfect attendance for May.

Perfect attendance for June went to eleven students also.

July perfect attendance included ten students.

Way to Go students!!



Questions to ask yourself each day!



1. How much time did I spend one-on-one with my child today?
2. Was I really engaged or distracted with calls, texts, and emails when I was with my child?
3. Did I hug my child and say "I love you"?
4. Did I compliment or criticize my child?
5. Was I calm and firm or mean and harsh when I disciplined my child?
6. Did I have a meal together with my child?
7. Did I help my child with their schoolwork?
8. Did I pray with and for my child?
9. Did I tuck my child into bed?
10. Did I read to my child?
11. Did I listen more or lecture more?
12. Did I monitor my child's television and computer time?
13. Did I share something about God today with my child?



**HAPPY FALL
Y'ALL!**
Enjoy God's colorful
workmanship!!

-- Lynette Johnston, Superintendent

SEPTEMBER IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MONTH



During the month of September, Immanuel is celebrating Christian Education Month. We seek to encourage and nurture the life-long process of faith formation.

Christian education is not simply education for education's sake. It equips us to impact the world around us, confident in our understanding of God's truths and how to apply them to every situation in life. It is not something we do once as children then when we get older we've simply got it. Christian education does not happen quickly. No, Christian education is a lifelong, cradle to old age, process of learning, believing, growing, and serving.

Immanuel's Christian education ministry helps to prepare us to fulfill the Great Commission, sharing our faith and seeking to bring others to Christ. We offer many opportunities, for all ages, to study and grow in faith: Sunday School, Catechism Class, Bible Study Classes, Adult Instruction Class, devotional materials for family and personal use. All are invited and encouraged to take part in this ministry!

**GOD SPEAKS TO US AND TEACHES US CONSTANTLY
THROUGH HIS WORD**

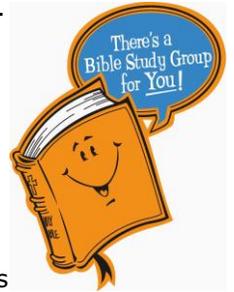
LET'S LEARN TOGETHER!

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES . . .

Do you attend a weekly Bible study?

We offer many opportunities and a variety of topics—check out the ones below, and watch for updates in the weekly bulletin.

All are invited to attend and are always welcome at any of these sessions.



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES

On Sunday mornings these classes are offered at **9:30 AM:**

Pastor Solum leads a study of The Reformation. This class meets in the Fellowship Hall.

A Women's Bible Class meeting in the Office Conference Room is studying the book of Acts.

Teen Bible Class meets in the Teen Room and is led by Kristen Swanson. They are following the Sunday School lesson schedule beginning in the Old Testament.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday, 6:30 PM – Pastor Solum leads a study of *Jeremiah*. This class meets at Simeon Square.

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDIES

1st Saturday of each month, 8:00 AM – The Men's Network meets in the Fellowship Hall and is studying "*Joseph: Carpenter of Steel*."

2nd & 4th Saturday of each month, 8:30 AM – Ladies Bible Study & Tea meets in the Fellowship Hall and is studying "*Living a Chocolate Life*."

3rd Wednesday of each month, 4:00 PM – Bible Class for the Deaf meets.

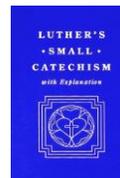
Adult Information Class



On **September 7**, Pastor Solum will begin a new Adult Information Class. Anyone who is interested in joining Immanuel or just learning more about our faith and

why we believe what we believe is welcome to join us. Class will meet on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.**

So that we will have enough materials, please sign-up on our bulletin board or contact the church office to register.



CATECHISM CLASS BEGINNING SOON!

The youth catechism classes will begin on **Wednesday, August 30, at 5:00 p.m.**

Do you have a child or grandchild in 5th grade through middle school who has not been confirmed? Talk to Pastor about registering your child for class.



Praying During Times of Grief

Almost everyone at some point in their life has endured grief over the loss of a loved one, or known someone who is grieving over the loss of loved one. Knowing how to use prayer to help cope with this grief can be challenging to those in that moment. It is important to understand that loss will always produce grief and that is not something that is avoidable. If you do not acknowledge and accept the grief, it will only become more crippling to you as you try to suppress it. This is one reason prayer can be a comforting resource for those who grieve. Meaningful prayer may seem impossible in the initial stages of grief. The following Bible verses can help you pour out your grief, ask for comfort, healing, peace and hope.

"Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief."
(Psalm 31:9)

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."
(Matthew 5:4)

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."
(Psalm 147:3)

"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

Let us also remember to pray for the precious ones on our weekly and on-going prayer lists who are especially in need of His comfort and/or intervention, and still wait for their prayers to be fully answered. We include their caregivers and families, as the suffering of each individual affects many. Please contact Jaime Caldwell at jaimecaldwell27@gmail.com or (219) 229-4590, or the church office at immanuel1237@comcast.net or 872-4419 for updates or suggestions, or to join the prayer chain. Let us pray for others as we would like them to pray for us when we are in need.

--Jaime Caldwell for the Prayer Chain



NEW MEMBER POTLUCK! SUNDAY, SEPT. 24, 11:30 AM

Come join us as we welcome
our newest members!

We will have a potluck luncheon after the worship service on September 24 to welcome those members that joined us in August. Please bring a dish or two to share. Meat and beverages will be provided.



PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for submitting news for the October issue is **Tuesday, September 5.**



The Great Commission

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 28:16-20



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OB EY	DISCIPLES	EARTH	AUTHORITY
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