



## Admission to the Lord's Supper



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

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1237 E. Coolspring Ave.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 872-4419

Email:  
[immanuel Lutheran1237@  
gmail.com](mailto:immanuel Lutheran1237@gmail.com)

Website:  
[www.immanuelmc.com](http://www.immanuelmc.com)



My last article on first communion might've raised some questions about admission to the Lord's Supper in general. If young children can receive communion, why not some adults? Or, if only a simple understanding of the Catechism and communion is needed and a desire for the supper, why doesn't that apply to any visitors who come to our church?

The first and most important concern when it comes to receiving the Lord's Supper, is that all Christians are receiving proper pastoral care. Consider the following Bible passages:

- "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." (John 20:22-23)
- "This is how one should regard us [Paul and his fellow pastors], as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." (1 Corinthians 4:1)
- "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls to the pigs" (Matthew 7:6).
- "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account." (Hebrews 13:17)

It is evident from these and many other passages that Christ intended for His Church to be properly cared for by called and ordained servants who carefully administer God's Word and Sacraments for the salvation of His people. They are to forgive repentant sinners, but withhold forgiveness from those who do not repent, as long as they do not repent (See the Small Catechism, "The Office of the Keys"). Fellowship in the Sacrament only should

happen in the context of such pastoral care, where one's soul is being cared for by God's Word for a true, repentant faith. For the words, "for you," require all hearts to believe before receiving the Supper (see the Small Catechism, "The Sacrament of the Altar").

But what about members of other Christian congregations, who are receiving pastoral care? For those who are members in good standing of an LCMS congregation, I can properly act on behalf of their pastor in communing them. I assume, in good faith, that their pastor has been properly teaching and caring for them with God's Word according to our confession of faith.

Why do I say, "in good standing"? I say that because of the possibility that a person has been released from communion fellowship with their congregation, either because of their unrepentance or their having left the congregation for whatever reason. Leaving the church and/or refusing to listen to God's Word is separating oneself from the preaching and teaching ministry of the Church and from her communion. If the person were to repent, of course, the Church should welcome him or her back joyfully, with open arms.

But, on the other hand, if a person comes from a church body with which we (the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) are not in fellowship, I cannot act on behalf of their pastor. That pastor might even not want me to, since we have different doctrine. I dare not undermine that pastor's care of them by presuming to commune them. The person visiting may indeed have true, repentant faith. That's not mine to judge. My pastoral care represents the teaching of our church body, the LCMS.

*(continued on pg.2)*

# Admission to the Lord's Supper

(continued from pg.1)

Secondarily, this practice helps to protect those who might receive the Supper for the wrong reasons or in unbelief. We would want to protect those who might receive the Supper in an unworthy manner and receive discipline from the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:29-32). It also helps to protect our congregation's unity in doctrine. Allowing those who do not believe what we do to commune is giving the indication that differences concerning God's Word are unimportant. St. Paul warns churches not to have fellowship with those who hold to false doctrines (Roman 16:17; Galatians 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:6). Rather, where there is disunity or division in doctrine, we are to lovingly work toward a fellowship in the truth before a fellowship of the altar.

Are there exceptions? Sure. Pastors must use their discretion. But apart from very exceptional circumstances, this is our practice. It is a desire to remain faithful to Christ and His calling for the care of souls, so that we would all be ready to receive Christ when He returns in His kingdom of glory. He will end all divisions and bring us into one communion with Christ in the eternal heavenly banquet.

*Pastor*



Congregational  
MEETING

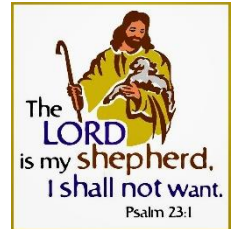
Immanuel's next  
**QUARTERLY  
VOTERS' MEETING**  
will be on  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>**  
at 7:00 PM

All members are encouraged to attend.

## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE. . .

### What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the "Shepherd Psalm." There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.



Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don't know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord's sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.



We will be having another TRIVIA NIGHT here at church on **Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

Cost is \$10 per player.

Doors open @ 6PM, TRIVIA starts @ 7PM.

Teams can bring their own drinks & snacks.

Proceeds to benefit the youth outing to *Higher Things*.

Please come join us to support our youth!



**WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE PARK 2023**

**Sunday, June 25, at 10:00 a.m.**

We will be having an in-the-park worship service with communion, followed by our church picnic, at:

**Creek Ridge County Park, located at 7943 W. 400 N. in Michigan City.**

The service is set for 10:00 a.m., with a picnic at 12 Noon.

There is plenty of space for us to spread out while still enjoying worship and fellowship with each other, so bring your lawn chairs.

We will have burgers and hot dogs on the grill along with a potluck of picnic items. Please bring a salad or dessert to share, your own drinks, and table service.



Creek Ridge County Park is **very accessible** with a flat terrain and plenty of parking.

This park service will be our Sunday service, so there will **NOT** be a service at the church that day. There will also be a worship service with communion on Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the church.

This event is being hosted by Deb Topolski, Mary Hoppe, and Gary & Laurie Rockensuess. Watch the weekly bulletin for any additional information, or contact the church office.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JUNE 26-30**

**8:30-11:30 a.m.**

**For children ages 4-11  
(or just finished 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

This summer at Vacation Bible School, we're covered in Jesus' grace! Our theme for this year, *God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace*, is inspired by 1 Timothy 1:14, which says, "The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." Each of the lessons focuses on biblical accounts that emphasize the Living Water, Jesus Christ. We'll go straight into God's Word and see how He continually offers us grace each day, even when we don't deserve it!

Make plans to attend, and invite a friend!

**Register Today!**

You can pick up a registration form in the Gathering Place or register online at [immanuelmc.com](http://immanuelmc.com) and click on the VBS box. One form is needed for EACH child.





## Shepherds & Lambs

### The Sunday School Newsletter

#### June 2023

#### Our summer Sunday School

will use the *FEAR, LOVE & TRUST, Following God's Commands* curriculum. We will be studying the 10 Commandments shown in various Bible stories. We will also be learning how these commandments have a catechism connection. These lessons will take us to Rally Day on August 27.



**Last month I started with some suggestions of things we should teach our children before they are 12 years old.** If you missed last month's three suggestions, go back and review them. Here's the next two items:

#### Number 4: TEACH THEM TO LOVE OTHERS.

Your kids are old enough to learn that love is a choice, not a feeling. Loving someone often means putting others first before yourself.

#### Number 5: TEACH THEM TO HAVE PATIENCE.

Oh Boy! This is a difficult one for many children. Patience will help your child buy the time he or she needs to make good choices. Patience is the foundation of delayed gratification, and it's also the foundation for accepting others as they are. These ideas will help you teach your child how to be patient.

##### A. Start small and start short.

Start requiring small doses of patience from your child at a very early age—even as toddlers. Of course, you may only be asking them to calm down and wait quietly for one or two minutes before you'll put more milk in the sippy cup, but it's a start. As kids get older, you can stretch the time to ask them to wait for longer periods until they get what they want.

##### B. Teach self-control.

For kids, learning patience includes understanding that they can and should control their emotions and actions, even when they are anxious, eager, or tired. Much easier said than done! Try to help your kids regain self-control before you fulfill their requests. For example, if there's only one video game controller and your son is whining that he wants his

turn, wait to give it to him until he changes his tone of voice. This will help instill the idea that acting out impatiently isn't the way to get what you want.

##### C. Use purposeful delays.

In a world where instant gratification is everywhere, parents may need to purposefully delay some things for no other reason than to teach patience. If your daughter wants a new puppy, there may be no real reason for her not to have it right now. But waiting four months for her birthday might teach her that she can wait for things that matter and have it all turn out OK in the end. Research shows that kids who are able to delay gratification have higher SAT scores, lower BMIs, and appeared to be more successful overall.

##### D. Find more opportunities to practice taking turns.

When thinking about how to teach patience, nothing is better for a child than having to wait his or her turn for something fun. The only way to get better at this is to practice. If your child struggles with waiting for his or her turn on the swings, make more frequent trips to the park—not fewer—to reinforce the need to be courteous and patient. The repetition will help your child learn to cope with the wait.

##### E. Teach your older kids to be wise consumers.

One area where our culture has become increasingly impatient is consumer habits. Train your older children to manage their buying and to wait until they can truly afford an item before making a purchase. Resist the urge to loan them the last \$20 until they've truly earned it—unless you want to keep loaning to them for the rest of their lives.

I hope some of these suggestions will help in your everyday life with your child!!



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

*Lynette Johnston-Martin*  
Superintendent

Your motto for the Summer is from this Hymn:

LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS!  
FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE PURE...  
SAVIOR LEAD I FOLLOW THEE. AMEN

*This was my confirmation hymn from many years ago and it has always had a special place in my heart.*







## VBS NEEDS LIST – CAN YOU HELP?

**PLEASE VISIT THE VBS TABLE IN THE GATHERING PLACE TO LET US KNOW.**

Our VBS plans are under way and here is an updated list of items needed. Donated items can be placed in the box under the VBS table in the Gathering Place. If you can lend us an item, please put your name on it and we will return it when VBS is over. Watch the bulletin or check the VBS table for weekly updates. For more information, contact a member of the Board of Parish Education: Peggy Elser, Sherri Kempf, Chris Glick, and Lynette Johnston-Martin. Thank you!

### **CRAFTS**

- 3 dz. small (8 oz.) empty water bottles & caps
- packages of mini pom poms, assorted colors
- assorted light colors card stock sheets
- 6 dz. mini clay pots (*approx. 1.75-2" high*)
- 3 dz. small clay saucers (*approx. 3.5" dia.*)
- 3 dz. 1/4" x 12" wood dowels
- clear craft glue
- wax paper
- 12 sheets 9"x12" felt: dark (*royal*) blue
- 7 sheets 9"x12" felt: lt. gray
- 6 sheets 9"x12" felt: orange
- 6 sheets 9"x12" felt: white
- 5 sheets 9"x12" felt: lt. blue
- 2 sheets 9"x12" felt: red

### **DECORATING – Our decorating theme is various WATER scenes.**

- light blue crepe paper streamer rolls
- clear cellophane roll
- bulletin board paper roll – brick or stone print
- kraft paper roll – natural/tan color
- 2 wood palettes
- wishing-well yard ornament to borrow

### **GENERAL SUPPLIES**

- small paper plates
- quart-size Zip-Loc bags
- lemonade mix
- cookies
- tape
- baby wipes

## **YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFE!**



**American Red Cross**

**The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.**

### **BLOOD DRIVE - Thursday, June 8 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall  
1237 E. Coolspring Ave. – Michigan City

The American Red Cross is struggling to keep hospital blood bank shelves full and hospitals are being forced to make difficult decisions every day about who should receive a transfusion. Every unit collected is critical!

**Please register online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment.**

For each unit donated, three lives can be saved!  
See Pat Potratz for more information.



**PLEASE NOTE:** There will **NOT** be a newsletter in July or August. The next regular issue of *Gabriel's Gazette*, the September issue, will be mailed out at the end of August. The deadline to submit your articles will be **Monday, August 7.**

