



## Praying the Catechism



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

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When I mentioned the idea of praying the catechism to a young person recently, she gave me a confused and weird look. I suppose it sounded to her as crazy as if I'd asked her to pray her math textbook! It is too ingrained in our heads, I'm guessing, that the catechism is only a classroom textbook for learning the fundamentals of Christian doctrine. It certainly serves that purpose, but Martin Luther intended it to be used for much more than that. I highly recommend that you read a short pamphlet called *A Simple Way to Pray: for Peter, The Master Barber* by Martin Luther (Concordia Publishing House, 2012). In it, Luther gives advice regarding daily devotions to his friend, Peter the barber. Here is a summary of what he says:

"I begin by saying the Ten Commandments out loud to myself, then the Creed, and if I have time, I like to repeat certain sayings of Christ, or of Paul, or the Psalms, as the children do." Notice how Luther puts himself in the place of a child, even as our Lord said, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it" (Mark 10:15). We never grow too old for the catechism, that is, the Commandments, Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. While we should also delve deeply into the Scriptures and make them our solid food, our meat for a strong faith and Christian living, we must also recognize that we do not outgrow what is simple. For we still are weak and sin much and need to remain humble before the Lord and cling to the simple gift of forgiveness which Jesus won for us.

Luther continues, "Say the Lord's Prayer completely, word for word, and then do the following..." Then Luther continues with

instructions on praying the catechism. He begins by saying we should take one or two petitions of the Lord's Prayer and focus on them. How often do we rattle through the Lord's Prayer without thinking of each petition? Let's take the First Petition, for example:

Hallowed be Thy name. Here it would be helpful to read, if you don't know it by heart, Martin Luther's explanation of the First Petition in Luther's Small Catechism. There you will learn that we are praying for God's name to be kept holy through good preaching and teaching, and that we would believe God's Word and lead holy lives according to it. What then should we pray for? How about our pastors or our Synod or our seminaries or missionaries or Sunday school teachers? Who are those who are trying to hinder God's name from being kept holy? - The devil, false teachers, unbelievers, and my own sinful flesh. Who else could we pray for? A person struggling with doubt, unbelievers, or our children and grandchildren who need continued growth in God's Word...of course, the list is endless.

How about an example? *Hallowed be Thy name. Dear Lord, yes let Your name be holy among us also. Help me to set a good example for others by living according to Your Word. Protect me from doubting Your Word and help me to recognize the deceits of the devil. Protect Your Church from false teachers and if it is Your will, convert them to the truth or else restrain their work from harming Your people. Be with my friend or family member, (so-and-so), who does not believe Your Word. Send him Christians to share the faith with him and draw him into Your Church. Help me*

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## Praying the Catechism

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to be a good witness to him. Send your Spirit to give him a true, repentant heart. Bless Your Church with faithful pastors, bless and protect the work of missionaries, that Your Church would give a strong witness of the Gospel to the world. In Jesus' name, amen.

Each day you can choose another petition or two, reflect upon them, and use them for prayer. Luther also gives advice for turning the Ten Commandments and Creed into prayer. In next month's Gazette article, I'll give you his instructions for that.

*Pastor*

### YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFE!



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

### **BLOOD DRIVE - Thursday, August 24 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!



**Immanuel's next  
QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING  
will be on  
TUESDAY, SEPT. 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 PM**

**All members of the congregation  
are encouraged to attend.**

*Officers, please be present to report to the congregation  
on the plans and activities of your committees.*



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

### **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE AT TRINITY LUTHERAN**

On **Sunday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**, at **4:00 p.m.**,  
the Executive Director for Lutherans for Life  
will be speaking at

**Trinity Lutheran Church and School at  
250 S. Indiana Ave. in Crown Point, IN.**

He will speak on life issues in our culture under the heading "*Standing Out in the Life Field: How to be a Life-Minded Congregation and Community.*" Following his presentation, a sandwich/salad meal will be served for all who attend. There is no cost for the event, but you're asked to please register through the QR code on the Posters (located on the bulletin board), email at [ketcher@trinitycp.org](mailto:ketcher@trinitycp.org), or by calling (219) 663-1578.

**Deadline for registration is  
Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.**



**Tuesdays at 10 a.m.  
beginning Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>**

**A free music class for  
children 0-4 & caregiver**

**Call to Register 219-872-4419  
1237 E. Coolspring Ave., Michigan City**

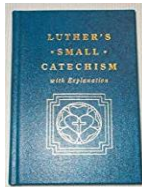


## September is Christian Education Month

During the month of September, Immanuel is celebrating *Christian Education Month*. At this "back to school" time of year, we may think of children in Sunday School and Catechism Class when we hear Christian Education. But Christian Education is for all of us, a **life-long** process of learning, believing, growing, and serving.

### CATECHISM CLASS

We will kick off the new year of Catechism with our **Parent Meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** (*note change of time*). If you are the parent, grandparent, or guardian of a catechism student please plan to attend this meeting. We will discuss what is expected of your child, and you, for this coming catechism year. **Catechism will begin on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** (*note change of time*) **for the children.** Class will end at 7:00 p.m.



### FAMILY CATECHISM TIME



**All members and their families are invited to a monthly "Family Catechism Time" on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning on September 20<sup>th</sup>.**

At 5:30 p.m. we'll share a meal together and hear from Pastor and parents about a particular part of the catechism. Learn what the catechism has to do with your everyday lives and how it can enhance your prayer life. Then, at 6:30 p.m., we will have a short Vespers service revolving around that part of the catechism. If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how much food to prepare.



### ADULT INFORMATION CLASS

Has it been a while since your Catechism days? Or do you have a spouse or child or friend - high school and older - whom you would like to see learn the basics of Biblical Christianity? Invite them to our Adult Information Class (AIC) and offer to come with them! Enjoy good conversation and hearing answers to your tough questions as we learn about the Christian faith in a non-threatening environment. Pick up a flyer in the Gathering Place.

**AIC begins Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Contact the church office or sign up on our bulletin board if you are interested.

### 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 **8:45 AM:**

**Pastor Solum** leads a study of *Every One His Witness*, beginning Sept. 3. This class meets in Fellowship Hall.

**A Women's Bible Class** meeting in the Office Conference Room is studying *Be Still And Know*.

### MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES

**Tuesday, (time to be announced)**

**Pastor Solum** leads a study on *Sects and World Religions*. This class meets at Simeon Square.

### MONTHLY BIBLE STUDIES

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, 8:00 AM** – The Men's Network meets in Fellowship Hall and is studying material from *Lutheran Hour Ministries*.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month, 8:30 AM** – Ladies Bible Study & Tea meets in Fellowship Hall and is studying material from the *LWML Lutheran Women's Quarterly*.





# Shepherds & Lambs

## The Sunday School Newsletter

### September 2023

**We hope you had a pleasant summer,** are well refreshed with great activities and memories, and are ready to begin a new fall Sunday School season!!



### RALLY DAY is August 27.

Students who are going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will receive their own Bible on that weekend. This year we have Lexie Minnick and Thomas Summerlin receiving their Bibles. Our Staff will also be installed for this new season. Our yearly attendance awards

will be given out. Students will hear Pastor Solum give his presentation of his trip to The Holy Land during the Sunday School hour. The students, I'm sure, will be able to see the connections between what they have been studying and the actual pictures of the area in Jesus' time. The congregation is invited to join us for this presentation in Fellowship Hall at 8:45 a.m.

**Students had their backpacks blessed on August 13-14.** May God bless and protect our students this year!



### Students finished a summer study of the 10 Commandments.

On Rally Day, they would like to share a song during the church service that they have learned to help them remember the Commandments.



### Fall studies will be starting in September with CPH's Enduring Faith series.

We will start at the beginning in Genesis with the fall of Adam and Eve and work our way in the Old Testament with Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and the Israelites going to the Promised Land.

### We want to thank

**Rebecca Klimek** for filling in with our Nursery class this summer.



We'll have attendance award winners and our Staff in our October issue.

*Lynette Johnston-Martin*  
Superintendent



**It is with sadness that we announce that our beloved elementary teacher, Chris Glick, is retiring this year.** She has faithfully been our K-1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher for 43+ years in the classroom and also as our music accompanist. The many little lives she's touched is beyond counting! She's been a gem for the Sunday School and we appreciate the many hours dedicated to increasing the faith of her students. We thank God for you, Chris! "Well done good and faithful servant"!! **We love you!!**

We'd like to honor Chris with a little cake and ice cream reception after church on Rally Day Sunday. When you see her, thank her for her service to our students!!



## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE . . .

### Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.



– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

**Immanuel Lutheran Church has a new way to connect** with our members and the community through our new public Facebook page! This is in addition to the private group “Immanuel Lutheran Church Friends” and will not replace it. More details coming in next month’s *Gazette*.



For content and post suggestions please contact Hiedi Pavolka, [hlbrooks88@gmail.com](mailto:hlbrooks88@gmail.com).



## 2023 VBS

*"The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."*

--1 Timothy 1:14

We had a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School in June! There were 37 children enrolled and our daily attendance averaged 34. Half the children were from Immanuel and half from our community. In their Bible lesson each day the children learned how God used water in the Bible as an important piece of His plan for salvation, and how Jesus covers us with His grace.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School! Thank you for your prayers, financial support, and donations of decorating items, supplies, and craft items. This effort of outreach and evangelism is the work of the whole congregation. Without your support, we would be unable to provide a quality VBS program for the children of our community. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers who used their God-given gifts to share the Good News! Thanks be to God who is the giver of all good things. We are blessed indeed!

Thanks are also extended to Thrivent for the \$250 Action Team grant they provided in support of our VBS outreach ministry.

## Do You Know Your Hymns?

- Dentist's Hymn . . . . Crown Him with Many Crowns.
- Weatherman's Hymn . . . There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
- Contractor's Hymn . . . . The Church's One Foundation.
- Tailor's Hymn . . . . Holy, Holy, Holy.
- Golfer's Hymn . . . . There's a Green Hill Far Away.
- Politician's Hymn . . . . Standing on the Promises!
- Optometrist's Hymn. . . . Open My Eyes That I Might See.
- IRS Agent's Hymn . . . . I Surrender All.
- Gossip's Hymn . . . . Pass It On.
- Electrician's Hymn . . . . Send The Light..
- Shopper's Hymn . . . . Sweet Bye and Bye.
- Realtor's Hymn . . . . I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
- Massage Therapist's Hymn. He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

- 55 mph . . . . God Will Take Care of You
- 75 mph . . . . Nearer My God To Thee
- 85 mph . . . . This World Is Not My Home
- 95 mph . . . . Lord, I'm Coming Home
- 100 mph . . . . Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.



## Back to School Story Time!

Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>  
10:00—Noon

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Michigan City, Indiana

**Children and Parents/Caregivers are invited to join us as we explore two classic stories: "A Bad Case of Stripes" and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." Children of all ages will enjoy this fun story-themed event!**

After hearing a story, children can explore literacy-based activities, games, and crafts. We will also have a "bring-a-book take-a-book table, so any parents that attend can leave with a new or slightly "loved" children's book.

**To register call Immanuel Lutheran Church at (219) 872-4419 or email [vthompson@rsschool.net](mailto:vthompson@rsschool.net).**



**Please provide your name and phone number, as well as the number and ages of children attending.**



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

