

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 2023



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

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Praying the Catechism: The Creed

Last month I introduced the "Garland of Four Strands," Luther's method of praying the Catechism. These four strands are: Instruction, Thanksgiving, Confession, and Prayer. This month we will look at how one can use them for the Creed.

Before we do, it is important to remind ourselves what God gives us in the three articles of the Creed.

The First Article: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

God's First Article gifts are those which support the needs of this body and life. They include the body and soul, talents and abilities; family, friends, job, house, food, and all necessities for sustaining this life; our possessions, and all those who help protect us from losing what we have. This God does only out of mercy and love, without any merit or worthiness in me. In response to this, I will happily thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

The Second Article: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...etc.

God's Second Article gift is His very Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, rose, and ascended to the Father, so that we would belong to God and "live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness."

The Third Article: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church...etc.

God's Third Article gifts are those things the Holy Spirit gives us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. He calls us to faith in Jesus Christ and gathers us into the Holy Christian church, where He delivers to us,

through Word and Sacraments, all the heavenly rewards which Christ has won for us by His death on the cross. These gifts sustain me in faith until the Last Day, when the Spirit raises me from the grave and gives eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

Let's use the Second Article of the Creed for an example:

The Second Article: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...etc.

Instruction: *What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord...etc. (read aloud and reflect upon the meaning as it is given in Luther's Small Catechism).

Thanksgiving: Oh how can we be thankful enough for what God the Father has given us, even His only dear Son? I thank God for giving His most beloved and precious treasure to me. Not only so, but the Son of God became a weak and mortal human, to live a perfect life and shed His innocent blood for me on the cross. He loved me when I was still in my sins. He loved me though I am only dust and ashes. God traded His eternal and glorious Son for a wretch like me! "He purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil." And Christ is risen and lives and reigns for all eternity as my brother, friend, advocate, mediator, defender, redeemer, and Lord. Because of Him I have peace and contentment, joy even in suffering, and every heavenly blessing so that I might be saved from the evil world and live forever with Him in glory. Thanks be to God!

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Praying the Catechism: The Creed

(continued from pg.1)

Confession: No thanks could indeed be enough for what God has given me, and yet how often am I downright ungrateful, greedy, selfish, and prideful? How often do I consider myself good and worthy by my own works and abilities and not by the blood of Christ? How often do I mistreat or judge others who also have been purchased with the blood of Christ? Christ gave up everything for me, but sometimes I won't even lift a finger for him.

Prayer: I pray that God would forgive me and so clothe me with Christ that I would praise and serve Him always. I pray that I would have a peaceful conscience in the forgiveness of sins. I pray that I would take up my cross and follow my Lord, no matter where He leads, and testify to the grace of God so that others would know Him and praise Him.

There is much more that could be said, but this is just an example to help you learn to pray the Creed. Try it this month! In this way you will make the Creed near and dear to your heart.

Pastor



**COME JOIN US
in a
WORSHIP SERVICE
of
THANKSGIVING & PRAISE
on
THANKSGIVING DAY
Thursday, November 23
at 9:00 AM**

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Build a support system with people who understand.

Immanuel hosts a monthly Alzheimer's Caregiver support group. Please join us at 1:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. Visit alz.org/Indiana to learn more about caregiver programs and resources.



Daylight Savings Time ends
on
Sunday, November 5.
Don't forget to turn your
clocks back one hour!



You are invited to
Immanuel Lutheran Church's
Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday, November 19th, at noon.

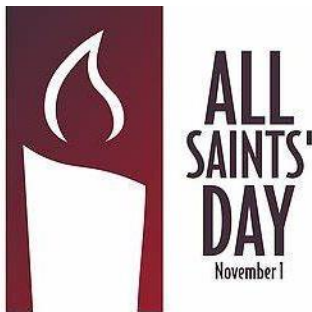
Please RSVP to the church office
at (219) 872-4419
or immanuel.lutheran1237@gmail.com,
or on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.
Carry outs are available by calling the church office,
for those unable to attend in person.



Confirmed in Christ

This year, we have two confirmands to be confirmed. In October, Pastor Solum met with each confirmand and their family for their examination in preparation for their Confirmation. On **Sunday, October 29th at 8:45 a.m.**, the congregation is invited to join them in the sanctuary to pray for them and listen to them recite selections from the Small Catechism. They will be confirmed at the **10:00 a.m.** Divine Service the same day.

You are invited to be there on Oct. 29th to witness the confession of faith given by these young people, renew your own confession of faith with them, and give them the benefit of your blessing and prayers that our Loving Lord will always keep them strong in the Faith they will profess! Encourage them as they continue to grow in this Faith and live out God's plan for their lives!



MEALS ON WHEELS needs additional volunteers to deliver meals.

Immanuel covers a route every Monday, but there are additional days and routes where volunteers are needed. Meals on Wheels LaPorte County relies on people just like you to lend your time and talent to help them deliver hot meals to seniors, disabled individuals, and citizens unable to prepare meals for themselves.

Without volunteers to deliver the meals, some people are unable to receive this service. The average time for a route is one hour.

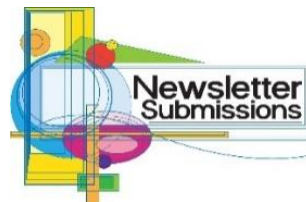
To become a Meals On Wheels volunteer or for more information, call 219-872-9117 or e-mail lpcomow@laportecountymealsonwheels.org

FAMILY CATECHISM TIME



All members and their families are invited to our monthly "Family Catechism Time" on the third Wednesday of the month – this month on Nov. 15.

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.



We do not publish a January issue of *Gabriel's Gazette*, so please plan ahead and submit January news items along with your December issue items on the next deadline: **Monday, November 6.**



Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School Newsletter November 2023

Congratulations to our Confirmands.

We pray that God will bless you as you are confirmed and send you every blessing from above. May His happiness surround you and may God walk with you through your life.



We welcome five new students to our Sunday School!

Three are in our 4 yrs.-Kdg. class, one is in our 1st-2nd Grade class, and one is in our 3rd-5th Grade class. We are so happy

to be able to share the love of Jesus with them as we all learn how much God has given us through His Son, Jesus.

We also rejoice in the baptisms

of three of our students in October. We welcome you into God's family!



We've selected a Christmas service, **STAR OF LOVE**.

The children will present this service on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. Practices will be Dec. 9, 10AM-12 (Christmas party/lunch 12PM-2) and Dec. 16, 10AM-12. Speaking parts will be

distributed in the beginning of November. We look forward to 100% participation in sharing the amazing story of our Savior's birth. So please put this on your calendar.

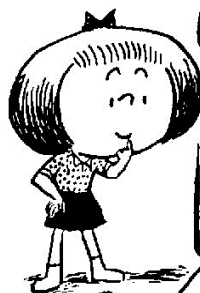
We will conclude our Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box collection on Nov. 5.

Check the table in the Gathering Place to search for a list of suggested gifts to purchase. You may pack an entire box, just some items, or cash donations to cover the \$10 shipping/box. We would like to have the kids join us for a Packing Party on Saturday, Nov. 11, 10AM-12, to assemble the boxes.



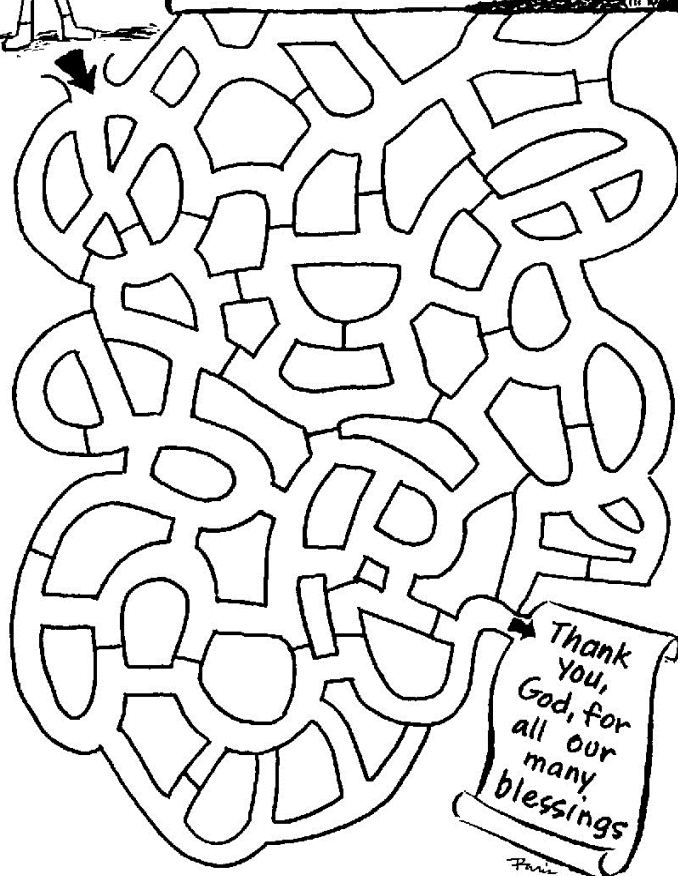
May you have a Blessed Thanksgiving as you share time and food with families and remembering all the things our God has blessed us with.

Lynette Johnston-Martin
Sunday School Superintendent



A Thanksgiving Thought

Let your pencil help you find a Thanksgiving prayer. Don't cross any lines!





STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE 2024

New 2024 **Giving Envelopes** will be available for pickup at the end of November. Members are assigned new numbers as in the past. This is a good time to review the various category options on the envelopes and to remind you to **please mark** specifically which category you wish to direct your funds. **If no category is indicated, the offering amount is split 80% to the Home Fund and 20% to the IN District/Synod.**

1. **Home Operating Fund:** Offerings here are used to cover the expenses generated in the day-to-day operation of Immanuel Church. These include salaries, taxes, insurance, supplies, minor maintenance, utilities, etc.
2. **IN District/Synod Support:** Offerings here are sent to Indiana District Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. We send the full amount that is indicated.
3. **Personal Mission Support:** Offerings here, unless specifically marked, are divided equally between Gloria Dei Mission, Valparaiso, IN; Ascension Lutheran Christian School in Gary, IN; and the Russian Siberian Mission Society.
4. **Mortgage Fund:** Offerings here go to pay down our existing mortgage.
5. **Church Improvement:** This fund is intended to be used for any big expenses arising in maintaining our building and replacement of equipment. However, if enough money is not contributed to cover our expenses in Home and Mortgage Funds, cash from this fund has been and will continue to be used to keep Immanuel solvent. A record of the monies contributed to this fund is maintained.
6. **Great Commission:** This fund is to promote publicity about Immanuel and Jesus through media. Contributions here help to support the Home Operating Fund items of Outreach and also radio and TV ministry. "By the Way" Daily Devotions on WEFM 95.9 is broadcast daily following 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. news and weekends at 6:55 a.m.
7. **Other:** In addition to the printed boxes, miscellaneous specially marked offerings and memorials are recorded under those particular areas.

God's blessings to you and remember that we are blessed to be a blessing to others. Don't forget to tell others about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and share the Good News with others. Let your light shine brightly and share the love of Christ.



ADVENT BEGINS DECEMBER 3RD



Advent Midweek Services

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIMES

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

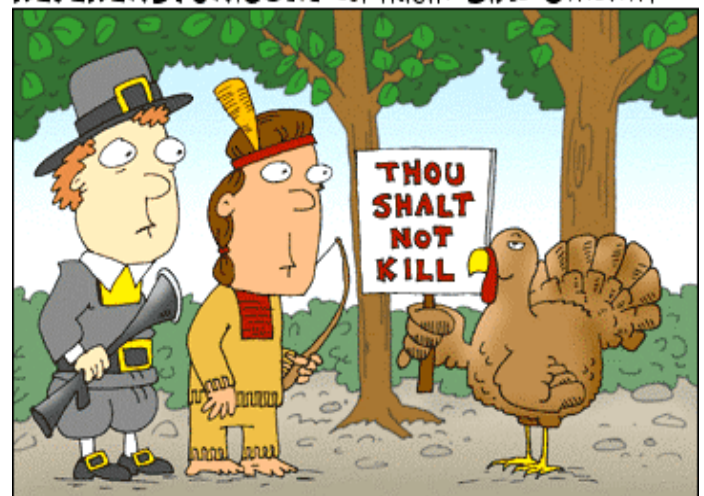
Dec. 6 & Dec. 13

Come early for supper at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

6:30 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service

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Thanks to Jay Benfield (See Exodus 20:1-21)

11-25-2004