

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

OCTOBER 2023



Praying the Catechism: Part 2



*"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



In my September Gazette article, I introduced the idea of Luther's to pray the catechism. I began with the example of taking one or two petitions of the Lord's Prayer, reflecting on them, and expanding them into prayers for yourself and others. Since the Lord's Prayer is given by Christ to the Church as a prayer containing all that we need for life and salvation, it makes sense that this would make a good framework for ordering all our prayers and teaching us all the things for which we should seek in the Lord.

Luther does not stop with the Lord's Prayer, a most obvious help for our prayers. He continues to show how the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed can serve our daily meditations and prayers. Luther gives us a template for doing so, which he calls a "garland of four strands." These four strands are: instruction, thanksgiving, confession, and prayer. In this article I will focus on the Ten Commandments.

Instruction: Using Luther's Small Catechism, look more deeply into each commandment. What does this commandment teach me about God's will for my life and the lives of others?

Thanksgiving: I consider how God has used this commandment to benefit me.

Confession: I confess where I have fallen short of this commandment.

Prayer: I consider my needs and the needs of others based on this commandment.

Let's have an example, shall we?

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

Instruction: What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or

possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Here I remember that God cares about my possessions and the possessions of others. He uses them to care for us and others according to His mercy. Therefore, I should not cheat my neighbor out of his money or possessions, but work for my own daily bread. I should also help my neighbor prosper and come to the aid of my neighbor who suffers loss.

Thanksgiving: I thank God that he has mercifully and generously provided for me with all that I need to support this body and life. He has also given me authorities who will help me keep what is mine and protect me from theft. He has given me family and friends who support me and help me if I am in need.

Confession: I confess that I have been ungrateful for what I have. I have envied others. I have been greedy and selfish with what I have and only grudgingly helped others. I have short-changed others in transactions I have made and not always dealt honestly. God be merciful and forgive me!

Prayer: I pray that God would give me grace to acknowledge God's gifts and be content with what I have. I pray that God would grant me a compassionate heart toward the needy. I pray for justice to be done for those who have suffered loss and that the Lord would give us good laws and judges for our protection. Finally, I pray that on the Last Day our Lord would completely end all injustice.

There is an example. One can do this with all the commandments. Give it a try! Next month I'll give examples for using this with the Creed.

Pastor

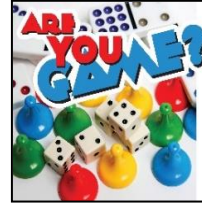
OCTOBER IS . . . **clergy appreciation month** 

This provides a wonderful opportunity for congregation members to recognize and encourage those whom God has called to proclaim His message and lead His people, and to commit to pray for and encourage their pastor.

“Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

-- (1 Thess. 5:12-13)

ADULT FELLOWSHIP GAME NIGHT



The Assimilation Committee is sponsoring an Adult Fellowship Game Night on **October 13, at 6:30 p.m.** We will play games, cards, etc. and snacks will be provided. If you have a

favorite game that you never get to play at home, bring it along! Bring your family and friends 18 years or older! Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE 2024



Stewardship is the expression of our desire as Christians to contribute to the mission and ministry of the church. This year we are having a **Stewardship Pledge Drive 2024**. Pledge drive weekend will be October 7 and 8. The Lord calls us to give cheerfully to Him a portion of what He has given us as a demonstration of our faith and trust in Him and His provision, and our response of thanksgiving for all His blessings to us.

The best way to celebrate God’s gift of His Son to us is to give ourselves back to Him as we worship together each week, honor Him by putting Him first in our lives, and giving Him our gifts of time, talents, praise, and offerings. God can use our gifts to join hands with fellow believers in supporting generously the work of the church in reaching out with the message of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ. How much should we give? Each person/family needs to prayerfully consider what God would lead us to give. Because of what Christ has done, we are called to lives of Christian stewardship—lives that reflect the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 8:9 says, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”* Luke 12:31 says, *“But seek the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added to you.”* Luke 12:34 states, *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

The pledge cards will be collected on pledge weekend (October 7, 8) after the close of the service as you exit the sanctuary. After that weekend, the pledge box will be placed by the offering plate cart for the remainder of the month of October. No signatures are requested. The pledge is between you and God. The total of all pledges received will be used for future budget information only. Remember we are blessed to be a blessing!

Below is a copy of the pledge card which can be used. There will be pledge cards included in the weekly bulletins also. Thank you for your participation.

	Immanuel Lutheran Church	
2024 Stewardship Pledge Drive		
<p>Pledging is easy!!! After prayerfully considering your support for God’s work for the coming year, write your weekly pledge amount in the designated areas of your choice. Then place your pledge in the pledge box . You don’t have to write your name on your pledge, your individual pledge is confidential. Only the total of all pledges received will be used to determine a more accurate budget for the upcoming year.</p>		
Home Operating Fund \$ _____	District/Synod Missions \$ _____	Personal Mission \$ _____
Mortgage Fund \$ _____	Church Improvement \$ _____	Great Commission \$ _____



Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School
Newsletter
October 2023

On Rally Day, August 27, we awarded students with outstanding attendance during the past year. Four students received Highest Honors for 0-4 absences, and 1 student received High Honors for 5-9 absences.



Congratulations to these students! This is a big deal!!



Three 3rd grade students received their own Bible on Rally Day. We pray that these children will dig into God's Word, realize the depth of His love, and apply the Word to their lives.

Sunday School will again sponsor Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child



"Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to

children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S."

Check out the table in the Gathering Place to get a suggestion sheet for the age group you would like to buy for. Take a box if you are completing an entire box, sign your name on the sheet and what child you select. If you choose not to pack a complete box, you may just buy individual items and place them in the box below the card table. Our collection deadline is November 5. You may also help by paying the \$10.00 fee to ship the box. Cash may be given to Lynette Johnston-Martin or Deb Topolski for shipping fees. Last year we packed 67 boxes for this very worthwhile project. Thanks for your help!



Enjoy your FALL!!

Lynette Johnston-Martin
Superintendent



Confirmed in Christ

On Sunday, October 29th, at 8:45 a.m., the congregation is invited to join this year's Confirmation candidates 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!



PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to submit items for the November Gazette is Monday, October 2.

