

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

APRIL 2024



Ask the Pastor

Here are two more questions asked at Family Catechism Time related to the resurrection:

1. How does Jesus' resurrection compare to our future resurrection?
2. Is the resurrection at the time of our death or at Jesus' Second Coming?

I'll answer the second question first. Our resurrection will happen at Jesus' Second Coming. On this day all the dead will be raised, believers and unbelievers, and will stand before Jesus Christ for the Judgment. St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:22-23, "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ." He also says in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven...and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."

But then, what happens to us in the meantime when we die? Our soul goes to be with the Lord to wait for the Last Day, as it says in Ecclesiastes 12:7, "The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it" and again in 2 Corinthians 5:8, "We would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

How does Jesus' resurrection compare to ours? Like Jesus we will be raised in the body, immortal and perfect, full of the Spirit. As St. John writes in 1 John 3:2, "When He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is." And St. Paul writes, "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body....Just as we have born the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Man of heaven" (1 Corinthians 15:44, 49). Unlike us, Jesus still bears the marks of His crucifixion as a constant reminder and promise that we were redeemed by His blood (John 20:27). Or, as the Lord says in Isaiah 49:15b-16, "I will not forget you. I have engraved you in the palms of my hands." Like Him, we will run and never grow weary or faint, but be full of youthful vigor (Isaiah 40:28, 31) and of knowledge (1 Corinthians 13:12) and even reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:11-12). In short, we will be made perfectly in God's image and share in His life and love and glory, only, of course, we won't be God Himself. He will still receive all the glory and praise forever and ever, for it was only God who created us, redeemed us, and sanctified us by His power and love and grace.

Pastor



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

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**BAKE SALE
& CAPPUCCINO BAR
FUNDRAISER**

APRIL 13 & 14

**before & after the
worship services**

**Saturday - Bake Sale
Sunday - Bake Sale & Cappuccino Bar**

Several of Immanuel's youth will be attending the Higher Things Conference in June. To help cover expenses, they will host several fundraising activities in the coming months. Enjoy the Bake Sale & Cappuccino Bar and watch for details of the coming events:

*May 17 - Spaghetti Dinner
June 8 - Car Wash*

Please support their efforts while enjoying good fellowship!



It takes a lot of helping hands to offer a quality Vacation Bible School program to our community.

There will be a
VBS General Information Meeting
Thursday, April 26
6:30 p.m.

for all those interested in finding out where their time and talents can best be used to assist Immanuel's Vacation Bible School ministry. We need help during the planning stages, during VBS week, and during the follow-up time after it's over. Plan to attend for more information, or contact Peggy Elser.



Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a "title search." Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you'll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, "That's mine: I had it first."

You can't understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. 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.

Your neighbor's possessions are his: you don't have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God's leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.



Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School
Newsletter
April 2024

Students will carry palms and sing a song on Palm Sunday.



CHRIST IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!

There will be no SUNDAY SCHOOL on Easter. We will gather students to take the Alleluia banner out again. They will also put up white crosses in the Courtyard and by the church entrance.



Praying together as a family is a MUST to bring God into the lives of the family whether it be praying for each other, for others, praising God, or asking for help. I

listened to a mother who spent 7 minutes a day praying for the different parts of her child's body. For instance, the eyes, that your child would be careful to view things that are pleasing to God. Or their hands, that they may be used to help others. Sharon Jaynes authored *Praying For Your Child From Head to Toe*. I found the concept interesting. Personally, I've done something a little differently. I started with my grandchildren. Each week, I choose a different grandchild and text them that I am praying for them this week. I will include in this text Bible verses appropriate to this child. I also include a word of encouragement just for them. Then I will include them in my daily prayers. You may not have grandchildren, so start with a child each week. Let them know you are praying for them!

We have received several Thank You's

from persons who received Valentine cards and a little "Thinking of You" box that the children made. Makes for some warm, fuzzy feelings as we made each of these people know we are thinking of them!!



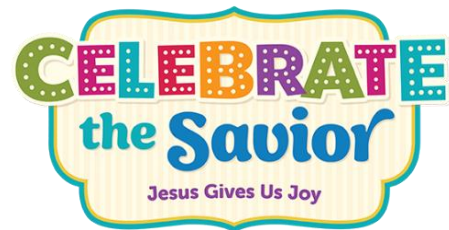
Sunday School is having a Family Pajama/Movie Night Friday, April 26, at 6 p.m.

in Fellowship Hall. We'll have a pizza dinner at 6 p.m., with the movie and popcorn to follow. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board! SO, Come on, get your PJs on and join us!!

Lynette Johnston-Martin
Superintendent



THE EASTER BUNNY NEVER DIED FOR ANYONE!!

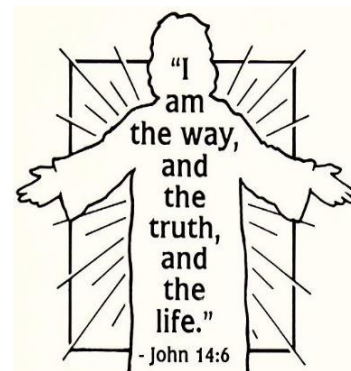


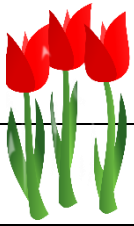
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 17-21
8:30-11:30 a.m.

For children ages 4-11
(or just finished 5th grade)

At *Celebrate the Savior* VBS, children look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and discover that Jesus gives us the joy of eternal life with Him! Our loving God has given us so much to celebrate—family, friends, food, and especially forgiveness through faith in Jesus, our Savior. As kids explore five key events in the life of Jesus, they will discover how the love of Jesus fills us with joy.

Watch for registration information in the May issue of Gabriel's Gazette!





PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to submit items for the *May Gazette* is Monday, **April 1**.

Alleluia
He is
Risen

A large, grey, stylized cross graphic that serves as a background for the text 'He is Risen'. The cross is composed of a vertical bar and a horizontal bar, both with a slight shadow effect.