



GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

MAY 2025



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

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The 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea

This summer marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea! I can just hear some of you thinking, "Okay...." This is a really big deal!! It is so big, our Sunday creed is named after it. The formulation of our current creed began at this council and was mostly formed the way we have it today at the First Council of Constantinople in 381 A.D. That we believe that Jesus is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and that we celebrated Easter on the Sunday after the Passover is a result of the decisions of the Council of Nicaea. Not that the Scriptures themselves don't teach that Jesus is true God, but that there was a heretic named Arius who taught that Christ was created by the Father and that He was not equal to and one God with the Father. Arius gathered a large and powerful following, who nearly took over the whole Christian Church. They exiled Christian pastors who taught that Jesus is eternal and one God with the Father. But Emperor Constantine intervened. He wanted a united Christianity and wanted to hear what both sides had to say. On about May 20, 325 until August 25 of the same year, bishops from all over the world met and debated this important issue and finally agreed that Jesus is one substance with the Father and condemned the Arian teachings. Here is the confession of the Council:

We believe in one God the Father
Almighty, Maker of all things visible

and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, only-begotten, that is, from the substance of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father, through Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down and became incarnate, and was made man, suffered and rose on the third day, and ascended into heaven, and is come with glory to judge living and dead, and in the Holy Spirit.

But those who say, There was when the Son of God was not, and before he was begotten he was not, and that he came into being from things that are not, or that he is of a different hypostasis or substance, or that he is mutable or alterable – the Catholic and Apostolic Church anathematizes.

[hypostasis or substance: that is, that Jesus is of a different being or thing than what God the Father is]
[anathematize: to denounce or condemn]

Help us celebrate this momentous occasion! We will be having a special service on Thursday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor

PLAN TO JOIN US
FOR
THE ASCENSION DAY
WORSHIP SERVICE
THURSDAY, MAY 29
7:00 PM



**FUNDRAISERS FOR YOUTH
HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCE . . .**



**Flowers purchased from
our Spring Flower Sale
may be picked up on
Tuesday, May 6.**

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**Mother's Day  
Cookie Flower  
Bouquets**



The youth are preparing Mother's Day cookie bouquets to support their fundraising goals for the Higher Things Conference. You can find samples and order forms on the round table and Coffee Hour Bar in the Gathering Place. Each bouquet costs \$8.00, and freshly baked and decorated bouquets will be available for pick-up starting with our Saturday, May 10 service. These cookies are sure to bring a smile to your mom, daughter, or friends! Be sure to place your order by Sunday, May 4. For more information, please see Janet Solum or Sherri Kempf.



**Shepherds & Lambs  
The Sunday School  
Newsletter  
May 2025**

**Remember the kid's game MOTHER, MAY I?**

I do!! The child playing the mother would give permission for the other kids to move ahead in a certain task! She also would have the child stay in the same position or perhaps take a step backwards. In real life our Moms don't just give her children permission to move ahead all the time. Moms, and also Dads, guide their children to follow their desires safely and in a God-pleasing way. Mom may allow her children to mature somewhat in their own way and move ahead. Sometimes children have to think over what they plan and things may have to wait. They stay in the same place. Or, they may have to take a step back and rethink their plans. Things may not turn out how they want it to. Moms play a very important part in the lives of their children. They console the children if things don't work out. Parenting will require encouragement too. God has given us the awesome responsibility to raise our children to love God and follow a life pleasing to Him. May God bless each of you Moms and Grandmothers and give you strength, understanding, and guidance in this most important task.

THIS MOTHER'S DAY--WE CELEBRATE YOU!!  
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!

**God's Blessings to one of our students** who received her first communion on Maundy Thursday. May you always feel the love of your Savior.

*Lynette Johnston-Martin*  
Superintendent

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**ZIMBLESTERN**



This year is the 40th anniversary of our organ! In thanksgiving to God for such a beautiful instrument to enhance our services, we will be having an organ concert and hymn sing at the end of the year. We are also going to install a "zimblestern," German for "cimbel star." It is an ornamental stop on the organ to be played on special verses for special occasions. Google it and check it out. We are also asking the congregation for donations toward it. See the poster in the Gathering Place. Mark "zimblestern" on your checks or envelopes.

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## Stewardship in the Body of Christ

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”* This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”* In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”* Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

**- LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article  
May 2025**



**VACATION  
BIBLE SCHOOL  
JUNE 23-27  
8:30-11:30 a.m.**

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

There's no greater joy than to praise the name of the Lord all day long. But how can your kids do that if they don't know who Jesus is or what he's done for them? Here at *Wonder Junction*, we travel through the Old West while marveling at Jesus' birth, childhood, ministry, death and resurrection, and coming return.

So, grab your bandana and dust off your boots! We are headed west to *Wonder Junction* where kids will discover the wonder of who Jesus is.

**Register Today!**

You can use the registration form on page 5 or register online at [immanuelmc.com](http://immanuelmc.com) and click on the VBS box. One form is needed for EACH child.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Throughout 2025, we will be gathering items for the Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child boxes. Each month, we will focus on collecting a different type of item for these boxes. A collection box is in the Gathering Place.



In May we will collect  
"Baby it's Cold (or Hot) Outside"  
items like:

- clothing items
- undergarment items
- flip-flops
- winter boots
- shoes
- wristwatch
- hats
- sunglasses
- bags/backpacks
- flashlights
- socks
- cold weather items

Each item must fit inside a shoebox. For more information, please see Kelli Kalvaitis or contact the office.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The deadline to submit items for the June *Gazette* is **Monday, May 5.**



There will **not** be July or August issues of *Gabriel's Gazette*, so be sure to get all your summer news in now.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**2025 WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE PARK**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 10:00 a.m.**  
**at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. 400 N.,**  
**Michigan City**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JUNE 23-27, 2025**  
**8:30-11:30 a.m.**

**For Ages 4 – 11**  
**(or just completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade)**



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1237 E. COOLSPRING AVE.**  
**MICHIGAN CITY, IN 46360**  
**(219) 872-4419**



## **Registration Form**

(one form for each child, please)

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade just completed \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Siblings Attending VBS \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Church Home \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Allergies or Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

People who may pick up the child \_\_\_\_\_

I permit my child's name and food allergy to be posted for VBS staff to see. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ NA \_\_\_\_

VBS leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor(s) designated above in any manner or form for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

By signing, I agree that my child has my permission to attend and participate in the *Wonder Junction* VBS program, June 23-27, 2025.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

You can also register online at [immanuelmc.com](http://immanuelmc.com) and click on the VBS box.