

Blessed is the fruit of
your womb!

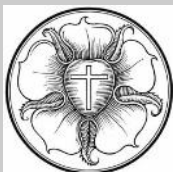
ST. LUKE 1: 42

FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
FOR THE VISITATION



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Esprit

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July/August 2019

A Concordia Summer

by Pastor Sutton

THE *Higher Things* conference theme for 2019 is “Concordia.” The theme verse is “The Word of the Lord endures forever” (1 Peter 1.25). Our youth will be attending at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon (near Milwaukee), one of our nine universities of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, all named “Concordia.”

“Concordia” is Latin for “with one heart.” Our Lutheran forefathers named the book containing the confessions of our Lutheran Church the “Book of Concord” – and often these books have simply the word “Concordia” emblazoned on them. You may check out one from our library and read it if you do not possess a copy. See us in the Church office to check one out.

Ultimately, the Church is unified around the confession of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. To be a Church of many people who confess the Savior as one is to be like a congregation singing together in many different parts but singing the same song together in perfect harmony. This is what the hymn “Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide” pictures, when it prays that we Christians may be “bold, unified in act and song.”

Concordia isn’t just a feeling that we are one. It’s not something that we merely strive to have. We don’t sacrifice what we believe in order to be unified. In these last days of sore distress, it may seem we do not have or cannot possibly have “Concordia” in the Church.

God speaks. We receive His words into our ears. He gives our tongues the words to say to Him and to those around us. We repeat, together, His Words back to Him - which is to confess, to say the same things back we’ve been told from Scripture. We sing, we pray, we confess to each other, our neighbors, our world, all agreeing together, “with one heart and voice” our confession of Jesus. That unity is a gift from heaven, given in and through the saving Word of God, and is very real. True Concordia is always centered upon the confession of Christ and Him crucified, the object of our faith and trust.





Concordia
2019 HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCES


Continued on page 3

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Esprit is the informational and educational newsletter of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Esprit de corps indicates a sense of union and of common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group. Our community of Immanuel is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to us in the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is an historic and centrally located parish—called, gathered, and strengthened by Christ's Word and Sacraments—confessional in doctrine, evangelical in orientation, orthodox in liturgy, cosmopolitan in membership; serving the Terre Haute community and the students of Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and reaching out to the nations since 1858 as a parish of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Convention Reports

by Pastor Sutton

IN our corner of Christendom, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod convenes its sixty-seventh Regular Convention conducted from July 20-25 in Tampa, Florida, under the theme “Joyfully Lutheran.” The pastoral delegate for our Indianapolis West circuit is the Rev. Matthew Schneider of Peace—Greencastle, and our circuit's lay delegate is Mr. Dennis Eickhoff of Prince of Peace—Martinsville. Please keep these men in your prayers for safe travel, and that God's will be done in all things. These men have many hours of motions presented and debated, other presentations, and elections to contemplate and finally make decisions upon.

The LCMS presidential election is conducted electronically by computer ballot one month before the convention. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison is running for re-election and received by far the most nominations, including from Immanuel. Each parish gets one vote for its pastor, and one vote for a designated layman. Our deacons designated Kris Wineinger to vote on our behalf. We will both be voting to re-elect President Harrison.

Going back to last summer, the Indiana District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod met in convention in late June 2018 at the Grand Wayne Center in downtown Fort Wayne. Immanuel was represented by Pastor Sutton as the pastoral delegate, and Kyle Mullins as the lay delegate.

One of the highlights of the two days was the Divine Service for the convention hosted at historic St. Paul's Lutheran Church, just a few blocks away from the convention center. All of you should take the opportunity someday to go to Fort Wayne and visit one of the historic, founding parishes of our Synod. At the service, elected District officers and board members were installed, including Pastor Sutton, who was elected as the circuit visitor for our Indianapolis West circuit.

The other major highlight of that convention was the election of the new District President, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege, a long-serving and faithful pastor from near Fort Wayne. Pastor Brege has been a shining light for our parishes, by solid teaching, preaching, and leadership in his first year on the job. ✘

Vacation Time is upon us and we ask you not to forget the ongoing needs of your parish. Even if you aren't going to be here for a Sunday or two, the obligations of our church go on. You will find addressed envelopes on the table in the Narthex. Please feel free to pick up a few and use them to send in your offering, if you plan to be out of town. Remember our Lord's work while you relax and play this summer. Visit www.lcms.org and use the congregation locator to find a parish to attend worship while you are away. ✘

Continued from page 1 In a world where youth are tempted to compromise, *Higher Things* planned their 2019 conferences centered on the theme of the Church and Unity. The teaching, preaching, and catechesis will be a blessing for our youth and adults attending.

This might seem like a strange theme for a youth conference and organization, and their Vacation Bible School curriculum this year also centers on the Creed and its confession of Christ.

But not for a Lutheran youth organization like *Higher Things*. *Higher Things* systematically makes its way through the *Small Catechism* of Dr. Martin Luther. We're familiar with that here – that's up our alley, that's what we're about too. That's why we support this organization with our parish's yearly mission dollars. That's why our youth enjoy attending the yearly youth conferences. That's why we have really been pleased with the associated Vacation Bible School curriculum that *Higher Things* has published under similar themes as the conferences.

I am fully confident that our children and young people will be equipped after this busy summer to "tell" their families and neighbors about the Savior whose sacrifice for the salvation of mankind brings true and lasting unity, eternal unity, uniting hearts and voices to sing His praises here in time and one day, in eternity.

This year, eight young people and seven adults are attending the conference in Wisconsin. One of the benefits of *Higher Things* conferences is that our youth get to see different campus settings; we are housed in the dorms and are fed by the campus food systems. We will worship in the large chapel of Concordia University Wisconsin for our services, out of *Lutheran Service Book*. Our young people also make

connections and friendships with Lutherans from around the country, and I get to re-connect with many brother pastors from around the LCMS. Truly, *Higher Things* conferences serve us in countless ways.

LCMS pastors lead all services, and provide all catechesis. Two pastors serve as plenary speakers on the conference theme. Other pastors in attendance offer small, one-hour breakaway teaching sessions on topics of their interest or expertise. Among the many offerings are presentations on biblical apologetics, Christian dating and marriage, overviews of books of the Bible or in-depth looks at Bible stories, Lutheran views on various current issues, and the conference organist offers a workshop for aspiring young organists.

Thank you, members of Immanuel, for your ongoing support of the Gospel, its right teaching and preaching which produces this beautiful "Concordia" among us by the power of the Holy Spirit and God's grace. Without your tithes and offerings, without being supportive of the Ministry and of each other as Christians, we could not take our young people to these conferences, or provide the teaching and ongoing catechesis that we do for Christians of all ages.

Oh, keep us in Thy Word, we pray;
The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may Thy mercy never cease!
Give concord, patience, courage, peace.

A trusty weapon is Thy Word.
Thy Church's buckler, shield, and sword.
Oh, let us in its power confide
That we may seek no other guide!

Oh, grant that in Thy Holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there. ✠

Indoctrination or Catechization?

by Vicar Cornwell

THE word indoctrinate brings with it negative connotations. Typically what comes to mind is something being shoved down someone's throat against their will. In other words, if left up to their choice, the one being indoctrinated would have nothing to do with it.

The world frequently brings the charge of indoctrination against the Church. All we do is take those vulnerable (such as children or the uneducated) and force Christian teaching upon them. At best to make them disciples, but at worst to obtain their money. However, this accusation is nothing new. Because of the great number of poor who converted and others who were maligned by society, Christians from the earliest time have been accused of this "indoctrination" or taking advantage of the weak.

The question then necessarily follows, "Is this what the Church does?" To answer this question, it would be beneficial to use another word that basically means the same thing, yet has far less negative connotations: catechization.

The root of this word is derived from Greek, literally meaning to echo back what has been heard. Despite what the world thinks or says, we all are catechized by someone or something, whether we like it or not. Just think of music's power when you find yourself humming or singing the lyrics to some song you heard either that day or a week earlier.

The only reason the world recognizes catechization, or, as they call it, indoctrination, is because it is different from what they teach their children. We might say that they are simply using another catechism. Another book

containing their beliefs.

Most of these beliefs are based off the creed of tolerance. In other words, let everyone live as they desire. If you teach others not to tolerate groups such as those in the LGBTQ+ crowd, then you're shoving your beliefs down someone else's throat.

So there really is no difference between what we as the Church do and what the world does with its children or anybody else. They're just operating under another belief system that is vehemently opposed to ours, since it is run by Satan instead of God.

Under this system no one sees any problem with teaching children that homosexuality is fine and dandy through television shows. (The show *Arthur* recently had a male teacher "marry" another male.) Or to do the same with a beloved children's movie. (Many suspect that *Frozen 2* will reveal a main character to be a lesbian.) Or to offer *Drag Queen Story Hour* at hundreds of libraries across the country, teaching children that they can choose whether they want to be a man or a woman (<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2019/06/about-drag-queen-story-hour>).

These teachings are permissible only because it allows everyone to live as they truly desire. There are no hindrances. Both the Church and the world catechize; they just have vastly different content.

I bring this up to show the great threats not only against ourselves, but especially against our children. While the threat is greater against the little ones, it is still dangerous to us as well. We too are affected when we willingly subject ourselves to anything that teaches another doctrine other than what Christ has given us.

This includes things like music, television shows, movies, yes, even groups of friends. This does not mean that we should flee this world in order to have no contact with the evils of it (1 Corinthians 5.9-10), but we are called to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves (St. Matthew 10.16). We ought to give thought to everything we do and work to align it with God's Word (Colossians 1.9-10).

When we are catechized in the ways of the world, whether it be sexual immorality, crude talk or joking, slander, or gossip, we simply echo back what we have been taught. I am not saying that everyone who surrounds themselves with these things will be an open adulterer or murderer. Nevertheless, it will form the way we see the world and those in it, which will affect to some degree how we act.

Now, I am not saying that one cannot watch

television or that music is from the devil. But what I am saying is that these good gifts can (and often are) used for evil rather than good. We need to continually hear God's Word and pray that He would give us a mind to discern what is well pleasing to Him.

I guarantee that if you do this, God will give you such a mind and make everything that is opposed to His Word loathsome to you. For He knows the dangers which threaten us and so He over abundantly provides for our need.

He gives us His Word to hear, read, and meditate upon. He promises to hear us whenever we ask anything in Jesus' name (St. John 14.14). He gives us His Son's very Body and Blood to nourish us, His Body, for this difficult journey. Receive these gifts often! For in so doing, God will defend us from these countless evils and bring us at last to our heavenly home. ✠

Farewell from Vicar Cornwell

DEAR saints of Immanuel,

It is hard to believe that a year has already passed. It feels like just yesterday I arrived here at Immanuel. I cannot thank you all enough for your support this past year. I know that you have kept me in your fervent prayers, as I have you.

As we got to know each other over my time here, I frequently was overcome with amazement and thanksgiving that God would bless me to be around such generous, kind, and loving people. It is a rare occurrence, especially in our world, to have this experience and out of His sheer grace, God chose me to receive such a gift. I know that it is a result of faithful pastors who diligently taught and exemplified the love of God, shown us in Jesus Christ. To these I also cannot offer enough thanks for their time and labors.

I know that in Immanuel I will always have a home, filled with dear friends in Christ. I look forward to the day when we all will join around the Lamb to sing His praises in eternity. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I conclude my education at the seminary and serve as a laborer in God's harvest. You are in my prayers as well.

Yours in Christ,

Vicar Cornwell ✠

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord by Kantor Schultz

THE Hymn of the Day for Pentecost is “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” (497). This hymn by Martin Luther is based on a German version of an earlier Latin antiphon for Pentecost Eve, “Veni Sancte Spiritus.”

Luther remarked that the German antiphon “was composed by the Holy Ghost himself, both words and music.” This, however, did not keep Luther from adding two more stanzas of his own to the original medieval German stanza.

Though the Feast of Pentecost is past, continue to draw your attention to this hymn. It is a great hymn. But also, as I prepared the music for Pentecost, I noticed that there are numerous organ settings of this hymn, most of which I have never played before. There is



more organ music on “Come, Holy Ghost,” than could ever fit in one Divine Service.

On the Feast of Pentecost, for the Prelude, we heard Johann Sebastian Bach’s magnificent “fantasia super” (BWV 651) with the melody in the pedal.

In the coming months, I plan to incorporate some additional organ settings of “Come, Holy Ghost” into the Divine Service as the Prelude and Voluntary. As with every organ setting at Divine Service or Vespers, I invite you to turn to the hymn in the hymnal and follow along with the text. Let the organ music provide additional meditation for the text for you.

In addition to adding beauty to the service, the goal of the Prelude and Voluntary is to focus on the hymn text.

In addition to the weekly Hymn of the Day, and our Hymn of the Month included in this newsletter, I encourage you to meditate on “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” in your daily prayer at home. ✠

Board of Finance Report by John Schulz

OVER the last few years, due to generous giving and bequests, and thanks to the foresight of many years of saving money in the Immanuel Fund, Immanuel has been able to successfully maintain and upgrade many needs in our building and grounds. The stained glass windows were refurbished, new air conditioners and furnaces were purchased, our technology systems were upgraded, among other things.

Thanks to Heritage Fund special donations, all of the previously mentioned projects were completed without incurring any debt, by repaying our Immanuel Fund savings.

While these projects are all important, and thanks be to God for these blessings, the Council of Deacons and the Board for Finance need to report to you that there recently has been a shortfall in regular offering plate giving.

We are asking that all members prayerfully consider their giving for the sake of the Gospel for the rest of this year, as well as for the upcoming years. Giving is part of the Christian life; we give from what we have first been given from God’s gracious hand. Stewardship is just that – we are entrusted with what belongs to God in the first place, and we are to use it wisely and to His glory. Please prayerfully give as you are able so that your neighbor can continue to hear the Gospel and receive the forgiveness of sins from this place. ✠

Council of Deacons Report

by Richard Monday

THE June 1 meeting opened with meditation on the Word of God, in which Pastor led a prayer for the parish, followed by the study of the Lutheran Confessions, the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article VII on the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Sutton reported membership changes since the last meeting, including one peaceful release granted, and two funerals of members. The Deacons approved the transfer in/profession of faith of Jim and Linda Haas, Marshall Rector, and the Jarrod Gibbens family (after adult catechesis). Pastor discussed upcoming events in the congregation's calendar. The Deacons discussed possible re-arranging of their assigned areas of responsibility.

Board Reports:

Education: Vacation Bible School is June 24-28, with a teachers' meeting on June 11. Vicar

Cornwell is teaching the Sunday adult Bible class for the summer.

Finance: Offering receipts continue to be lower than needed for expenses. The deacons encouraged John Schulz to write a letter/newsletter article addressing low offering receipts.

Property and Grounds: The new shelter house will begin construction in mid-July. Anyone wishing to volunteer with the project should speak to Daryl Harris. Funding for the project is coming fully from memorial donations.

Outreach/Fellowship: Brad Cress reported on the Brat Trot.

Worship: Rick Todd reported on finding volunteers for ushering.

The next regular meeting of the Council of Deacons is Saturday, July 13 at 7am in the Parish Center. Other communicant members who wish to meet with the Council of Deacons to discuss special concerns, needs, or requests should make arrangements with the Chairman of the Council of Deacons prior to a scheduled meeting. ✕

Immanuel Parish Membership

Youth Confirmation: Noah Schulz
(May 5) Juniper Stephens

Funeral: Loeva Mae Piepenbrink—died May 16; Christian Burial: May 24
Marilyn Dorothea Schaible—died May 30; Christian Burial: June 3

Farewell Reception for Vicar Cornwell

Join us after Divine Service on Sunday, July 28 for a reception to say goodbye to Vicar Cornwell.

Welcome Reception for Vicar Keller

On Sunday, August 4, after Divine Service we will have a reception and pantry shower to welcome Vicar Andrew Keller and his wife, Maggie.

The Immanuel Parish is invited to the
Wedding of
Emily Royer and Joseph Eckardt

Saturday, July 13, 2019
3pm
at Immanuel

On Sunday, July 14,
following Divine Service,
a reception with light refreshments will be held
in the Parish Center.

DIVINE SERVICE is celebrated every Sunday at 10:30am and on Feast Days as announced.

DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS (MORNING PRAYER) is prayed at 9:30am Tuesday–Thursday, and Feast Days as announced; **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) is prayed as announced.

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is offered the third Thursday of the month (*July 25; August 15*) from 5-6pm, or anytime by appointment. Vespers is prayed at 4:30pm prior to Confession.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY are at 9am. The Bible Study is studying the book of Ephesians.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT BIBLE STUDY with dinner resumes in the fall.

ADULT CHOIR resumes rehearsal in the fall.

“WORSHIP ANEW,” produced by Lutheran Media Ministries of Fort Wayne and supported by Immanuel’s special gift collection, airs every Sunday morning on WTWO at 8am.

WESTMINSTER BIBLE STUDY meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:30pm except when there is a holiday at the end of the month. All members are invited to attend. The next meetings will be July 26 and August 23.

ESPRIT DEADLINE for September is Thursday, August 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing. Watch the *Parish News* for the date.

Serving in July and August at Divine Service

Altar Guild – *July:* Stacy Gibbens; Kathy Danielsen
August: Stacy Gibbens; Bev Christopher

Tellers – *July:* John Voigt; Brian & Heidi Dougherty
August: Scot & Stacy Mullins; Chuck & Nancy Roush

Ushers – *July:* John Voigt; Brad Cress; Larry Hayne; Jeff Baumgard
August: Jerry Mueller; Brian Dougherty; John Schlegel

Acolytes – Schedule Upcoming

Schedule of Divine Liturgies for July and August

July 2	(<i>Tues</i>) The Visitation, 10:30am	Divine Service
July 7	Third Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
July 14	Fourth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
July 21	Fifth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
July 28	Sixth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
August 4	Seventh Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
August 11	Eighth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
August 15	(<i>Thurs</i>) Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 10:30am	Divine Service
August 18	Ninth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
August 25	Tenth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
August 29	(<i>Thurs</i>) Martyrdom of St. John the Baptizer, 10:30am	Divine Service