



“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things.”

ST. JOHN 14: 26  
FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL  
FOR PENTECOST



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# Esprit

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## Making Eternal Disciples: Baptism and Teaching the Word of God by Pastor Sutton

**I**N *Lutheran Education From Wittenberg to the Future*, (Concordia Publishing House, 2011), Dr. Thomas Korcok outlines the biblical underpinnings for why Lutherans are so keen on catechizing their children in the Christian faith, and preparing them for a life of service to God and neighbor. Dr. Korcok is a lecturer in Religious Studies at Niagara University in New York, has served as a Lutheran parish pastor, and has taught catechetics at Concordia Theological Seminary – St. Catherines, Canada.

Recently, led by Board of Education deacon Joe Eckardt, our deacons have formed an exploratory research committee to look into the possibility of a Lutheran School here at Immanuel, something our parish supported until 1946, for the first eighty-eight years of her existence. Korcok’s book is a clear and helpful read that teaches us of the “streams of influence” (Korcok’s term) that came to mold the Lutheran understanding of education.

Martin Luther viewed Baptism as a continuing event. Justification of the sinner before God is certainly completely effected in Baptism. In tension with this, the sinful flesh hangs on in each of us, continuing a battle against the “new man” that has been created in the baptized. Daily that “old man” must be drowned. We are simultaneously sinners who need the Law which condemns our sin and drives us to repentance, and saints in God’s sight who live and are revived by the blessed Gospel.


Luther viewed a Christian’s life from his Baptism through to his death as “nothing but the beginning of a blessed death” - a preparation for the day in which God would “make him new altogether.” Until that day arrives, the believer should be prepared for a daily battle with sin and the old self, slaying the old sinful man through contrition and repentance.


At the time of Luther, the humanist Erasmus advocated that the liberal arts education itself could create a spiritually moral child. Some vocations where such an education was received, he taught, such as becoming a monk or a priest, pleased God more and was holier in God’s sight. Thus by becoming educated in the right way, the spark of human perfection Erasmus believed existed in each person would be ignited; the child would imitate the lives of the saints, and would accomplish man’s highest duty - “to reach up to God.”


But Luther taught that original sin held sway in each child. Every child will struggle with sin and the weakness of the flesh. The liberal arts could assist the child to realize his or her limitations under the Law of **Continued on page 2**

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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.

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God – and prepare the child to properly receive and understand the Gospel. Children are to be taught to understand their sinfulness in the mirror of the Law, so that they are consequently driven to Christ's blood and righteousness for forgiveness and strength.

At the same time, the Enthusiasts led by the radical reformers Müntzer, Karlstadt, and the Anabaptists (rebaptizers) rejected infant Baptism, also denying the original sin inherent in each child. They taught that the Christian received immediate revelations from God leading to a conversion experience. In Müntzer's view, "salvation occurred at a moment of subjective ecstasy in which God chose to reveal himself immediately to the individual."

For these fathers of what became today's Baptist and evangelical churches, baptism was merely a human work that confirmed an experience of conversion, and not the divine means through water and the Word by which God bestows salvation and saving faith in Christ.

In the minds of the enthusiasts, a person is a Christian not by the hearing of the Scriptures, but by their experience. Scripture was merely an accurate record of the Spirit's work. So Müntzer would call the Lutheran emphasis on doctrine and the study of the sacred languages "a pretty little golden statue of deity," while Karlstadt taught that there should be no academic requirement for pastors other than the ability to read. These men believed that a thorough education in what they viewed as "worldly" teachings would be an obstacle to the Spirit's immediate working in the person.

The enthusiasts did not care to study the written Word of God in order to understand it properly. They denied the work of the Holy Spirit through the water and the Word in Holy Baptism. What Lutheran could send their child to such a school with such theology behind it? Lutheran theology cannot deny the essential acts of what makes a disciple of Christ. Baptizing and teaching all the things of Christ were inseparable according to our Lord's mandate in St. Matthew 28.19-20:



**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.**

Baptism does not remove the child's inborn desire to sin. Rather, it puts a target on the child, and the devil will work to teach the child every evil so that they forsake the Christian faith. For the Lutherans of Wittenberg, baptismal grace could be lost with no in-

struction in God's Word. The Word of God then could not be properly understood unless one had been trained in the basics of the liberal arts – grammar, the basic building blocks which we all must learn; the logic behind ideas, and rhetoric, to form ideas and adequately express and defend those ideas.

The first duty of Christian parents is to see that their children are baptized, and to teach them the Christian faith in the home, and to bring them to hear and receive the Gospel in the Divine Service. Their second duty is to see to it that their children are educated properly. As it needs fighting today, the Wittenberg Lutherans fought the notion that education was merely to reach occupational goals – which leads to idolatry of material wealth. The essential goal and purpose of all education is to prepare children for the eternal life they are given in their baptism – and so education must lead the child to that which is eternal and transcendent.

Johannes Bugenhagen, Luther's pastor in Wit-

tenberg, wrote of raising children in this way:

**We should... teach them when we can and baptize them when we can. We can baptize them when they are born and teach them as they grow. Both are commanded us. Nothing shall we miss... This is supposed to be a constant work for Christians under the Holy Spirit, to teach and make them believers as we ask in the Our Father. We should not neglect or forget to raise them in the knowledge of Christ and God's Word.**

For our Lutheran fathers, only a confessional Lutheran liberal arts program would be capable of fulfilling that requirement. More on this and Luther's doctrine of vocation in the next issue.

How can Immanuel once again join hands together to give our children an education rooted in the Lutheran understanding of original sin, Justification, Holy Baptism, and the Word of God? Let us pray for God's wisdom and for His will to be done. ✠



**Little Lambs** met for dinner and an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 10, using Resurrection Eggs, telling the story of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation.

## The Joyful Way

by Vicar Harris

WE have all endured much this past year. As repeated *ad nauseam*, this past year has gone down as one of the worst in recent memory. However you may choose look at it, we can all agree that the times are strange and much fear, sorrow, and depression has been sown amongst us. Thankfully, our nation seems to be rising up from its slumber and shaking off the woes of the past year and returning—at least to some degree—to life as before.

But life will never be exactly the same. Our society has been encouraged to turn inward on itself, to avoid seeing friends and family, to keep to yourself and internalize everything. Sure, you can message people on Facebook and talk on the phone, but it is not the same. It is merely a shadow of human touch and interaction. The fact of the matter is many people are still cut off and feeling lonely and degraded. Many people have been robbed of the normalcy of an entire year of their lives which they would have otherwise enjoyed with their friends at school, their family members, or with their family at church. Perhaps it is the youngest and the oldest among us who are the most neglected, starved of much needed companionship at a crucial time in their development or even in their final days.

So what can we do? How can we work to correct this worldwide lull? We have been given a command: The Apostle tells us in Philippians 4.4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” The Christian Way is not walked merely by sackcloth and ashes. Yes, we repent of our sins and fight against them, but I ask you: how does one fight sin? Is it only by being serious and sober, as if a glum look on your face can dispel the lusts of the devil? By no means! The devil hates a joyful heart fueled by Christ’s love. We live in the year of our Lord, we live in the days of the Resurrection of Jesus; we live in perpetual Easter even when the calendar passes the season by.

The blessed Martin Luther was known to oscillate dramatically between moods: sometimes mirthful and gregarious, bursting at the seams with the love of Christ; other times suffering severely from melancholy, and his self-esteem and decisive power—which made him so magnetizing to others—would disappear. Because of this, his advice to others became treasured and sought after because he so masterfully understood the art of pastoral care, the art of discerning law and gospel, in comforting those who suffer from loneliness and depression, being an expert himself.

Luther displays this in a letter from 1534 to Joachim, the prince of Anhalt, next to his native Saxony. Joachim similarly had his bouts of happiness and sorrow, but had become ill with serious depression. To console the prince, Luther writes:

“God has commanded us to be joyful in his presence; he does not desire a gloomy sacrifice. This is frequently asserted by Moses, and in Ecclesiastes, we read, ‘Rejoice, O young man, in your youth; and let your heart cheer you.’ No one realizes how much harm it does a young person to avoid pleasure and cultivate solitude and sadness...For gladness and good cheer, when decent and proper, are the best medicine for a young person—indeed, for all people” (Luther: *Letters of Spiritual Counsel*, trans. and ed. by Theodore Tappert [Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 2003], 92-3).

If our understanding of Christianity is only shaved heads and pilgrimages, if it is all self-flagellation (literally and/or spiritually), then Luther’s words will seem radical indeed. Luther commends not penance, but joy. And no, this is not Luther saying “sin boldly.” He commends a healthy joy, as he explains further on: “It is my opinion that Your Grace [Joachim] is reluctant to be merry, as if this were sinful. This has often been my case, and sometimes still is. To be sure, to have pleasure in sins is of the devil, but participation in proper and honorable pleasures with good and God-fearing people is pleasing to God, even if one may at times carry playfulness too far.”

In a time when people are more isolated than ever, despite our increasing technological communication abilities, we need this advice. Do not cut yourself off: we are a Church of many, catholic and universal. "No man is an island," in the words of John Donne. We are a family, a brotherhood that stretches from sea to shining sea. So great is this cloud of witnesses; past, present, and future. You may find yourself alone, here at home or abroad in the furthest off land; and yet to your joy, if you but look, you will find brothers, and in their midst you will find Christ. "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1.9).

Luther concludes: "Be merry then, both inwardly in Christ himself and outwardly in his gifts and the good things of life. He will have it so. It is for this that he is with us. It is for this that he provides his gifts – that we may use them and be glad, and that we may praise, love, and thank him forever and ever." Let us run our race in joy, not neglecting ourselves or our brothers. Let us run together, encouraging one another by the Word of God and racing each other to receive the Sacrament, that we may receive our precious Lord with joy and fellowship.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found. (LSB 387 stanza 3). ✠

## School Research Committee

by Emily Eckardt

**H**OW do you build a school? Where do you even start? Teachers? Curriculum? Classrooms? Insurance? The questions are as endless as the answers that could be found.

The School Research Committee held its first meeting on Tuesday, February 16 to begin the task of sorting through these. The group viewed the Circe Institute's webinar "How to Build a Classical School, Co-op, Homeschool, etc," which offers guidance as to which questions should be tackled first. They may not be the ones that immediately rush to mind, but should include core issues about the purpose: What do you love? What do you believe? What do you want to pass on? Those, says Circe Institute director Andrew Kern, are the questions that will set you up to answer all the rest in the right way.

These questions are perhaps more recognizable in another form: what is our mission? Our vision? What are our values and goals? The idea is that we at Immanuel Lutheran Church need to discern what type of school we *should* build, before we can determine *how* we need to build it, or even if we

can build it. Ultimately, the goal of this committee is not to start a school, though we hope that may come should the Lord will it. Rather, this initial group aims to create a roadmap for beginning a school at Immanuel Lutheran Church, asking: What does that final destination look like? How can we get there? Are we capable of taking the steps necessary to reach it?

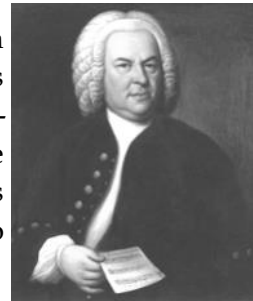
As the research committee begins to find answers to these questions that are appropriate for Immanuel we will need your help. We ask you for your prayers, your support, and your input. We invite anyone to attend a meeting of the School Research Committee, even if you only care to listen. Meetings are announced in the *Parish News*.

The committee has also begun a reading discussion group open to all so that we can cultivate a love of learning amongst ourselves. Selections will include great books as well as writings on education, theology, and philosophy. Readings change monthly, so look to the *Parish News* or the Weekly Digest for updates each month.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [enroyer@gmail.com](mailto:enroyer@gmail.com). ✠

## Bach and Roll: The Church Year in Music

THE great Lutheran composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) wrote a series of cantatas for each Sunday and festival of the liturgical year. Bach's cantatas are multi-movement compositions based on the theme of each Sunday proclaimed in the Scripture lessons of the day. These compositions are musical masterpieces that express Christian teaching through the church's calendar. Join us **Friday evenings at 7pm** in the Parish Center as we listen to selected Bach cantatas for the Easter season. ✂



## Financial Update

by John Schulz

WE have finished the first quarter of 2021. We have seen a consistent increase in giving, with January having the lowest amount and March the largest. Overall, our first quarter giving is slightly ahead of what we saw last year. We are still running a little behind our budgeted income, but we are on the right track. Remember that offerings can be given either in person, by mail, or electronic using simply giving. As our in-person attendance continues to increase, let us continue our work in caring for God's people here at Immanuel. ✂

## Save the Siberian Lutheran Seminary Mission Presentation



IMMANUEL will receive the Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill, professor emeritus of Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne, and guest presenter from the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society. He will present to Bible Class on **Sunday, May 30** about the effort to save and preserve the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia. The presentation will be an engaging description of the rebuilding of the Lutheran Church in Russia following the attempted destruction of the Church under the communist Soviet Union. It will highlight the establishment of a Russian Lutheran Seminary, the training of new pastors to replace those killed and exiled by the atheist Marxist government, and the robust evangelism and thorough catechetical efforts of the young Russian Lutherans in the post-Soviet era. ✂

## Immanuel Book Club

JOIN us on the second Monday of each month from 10am to noon in the Parish Center. In May we will read "Olive Again" by Elizabeth Strout. In June, we will read "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" by Alexander McCall Smith. ✂

## Vacation Bible School: June 14-18

THIS year's VBS theme is "Te Deum Laudamus," which means, "We Praise You, O God." Mark your calendar and invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Volunteers are needed. Please let Vicar Harris know how you can help. ✂



## Council of Deacons Report by Richard Monday

WHILE the March meeting was conducted by Zoom, the April meeting of the Deacons was convened in the Martin P. Braunschweiger Memorial Library and Conference Room.

Pastor Sutton resumed the study of the Book of Concord, Formula of Concord Article VIII, The Person of Christ.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor reported on the visitation status of homebound members, the progress of the youth catechesis; and the membership changes summarized in the Parish Membership below.

### Council Board Reports:

- ✘ **Education:** Joe Eckardt reported on the first school research committee meeting February 23 with twelve members attending. The next meeting is April 20. Vacation Bible School will be June 14-18. Work on computerized cataloging of the library is proceeding, with re-shelving and setup to happen this spring.
- ✘ **Finance:** John Schulz reported that receipts for February and March were healthy due to generous giving during Lent. John reported on renewal of the church's liability insurance.
- ✘ **Property and Grounds:** Rich Bucy reported on the board meeting conducted on April 7, including status of ongoing small projects. Kleptz Glass replaced the broken window in the library. Plans are being made to finish the shelter house. Kris Wineinger is working on a plan to makeover the front landscaping along Poplar Street, thanks to generous memorial

donations. Kris is researching a plan to light the exterior and steeple.

- ✘ **Outreach/Fellowship:** Matt Mathias reported that a board meeting will be held soon to plan for the future, including the September Church Picnic. Volunteers successfully conducted midweek Lent meals. The YPI hosted the Easter breakfast.
- ✘ **Worship Support:** Divine Service attendance is beginning to strengthen. For now, communion distribution will continue to be spread out, and the offering will continue to be collected in the Narthex.

### New Business:

Pastor Sutton discussed the microphone receivers. He will be in touch with sound expert Curt Hall, who installed our new soundboard system, to obtain a quote for new receivers and lapel microphones. The Deacons approved a motion to purchase new equipment.

Pastor discussed preparing a new twice per year church directory. Consensus was to proceed but to offer a letter sent to members explaining what we are doing, giving members the opportunity to opt out some or all of their information.

Pastor reported a generous donation toward the purchase of a new, larger podium for the Parish Center. The Deacons approved a motion to cover additional costs.

The next regular meeting of the Council of Deacons is Saturday, May 1, at 7am. 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

Baptism	April 3	Ruby Haas
Adult Confirmation	April 3	James and Rebecca Wiesneth; Jon Haas
Funeral	March 17	Vivian Walker – died March 12
Transfer Out	February 15	Rigo Barrozo to St. Peter's – Indianapolis

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

**DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS** (MORNING PRAYER) and **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) are prayed as announced in the weekly *Parish News*.

**PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** is offered the fourth Thursday of the month from 5-6pm (May 27; June 24), or anytime by appointment.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY** are Sunday at 9am.

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT BIBLE STUDY** will resume in the fall.

**ADULT CHOIR** rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7-8:30pm, and Sundays from 9:45-10:20am in the east end of the Parish Center.

**"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.

**COFFEE BREAK BIBLE STUDY** is Wednesday at 9am with Matins at 8:30am.

**ESPRIT DEADLINE** for July/August is Tuesday, June 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing. Watch the *Parish News* for the date.

### Serving in May and June at Divine Service

Altar Guild – May: Stacy Gibbens; Nancy Roush | June: Sara Latta; Leslie Bilyeu

Tellers – May: Jim & Marsha Stewart; Brian & Georgianna Milner  
June: Joanne Beleslin; Beth Beel; Jamie Thomas

Ushers – May: John Voigt; Jim Latta; Jim Haas; Mike Latta  
June: Kris Bilyeu; Scot Mullins; Jared Gibbens; Joe Eckardt

### Schedule of Divine Liturgies for May and June

May 2	Cantate – Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 9	Rogate – Sixth Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 13	(Thursday) Ascension of Our Lord, 7pm	Divine Service
May 16	Exaudi – Sunday after Ascension, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 23	Feast of Pentecost, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 30	Feast of the Holy Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 6	First Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 13	Second Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 20	Third Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 24	(Thursday) Nativity of St. John the Baptizer, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 27	Fourth Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 29	(Tuesday) St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles, 10:30am	Divine Service