

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

JUNE 2019

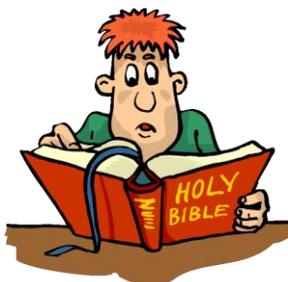


*"Loving, Sharing, Serving
Jesus with you."*

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Being Part of the Story

I can't help but notice how many Christians lack a familiarity with common Biblical narratives, such that their knowledge rarely goes beyond a handful of conflated Sunday school lessons. (That's good for little children, but we need to move on to solid foods.) What is keeping Christians from getting to know the persons and events of the Bible? I have some guesses as to the reasons and I'm sure you could add more:

1. You have no time for reading the Bible.
2. You know the most important stuff (Jesus) and don't need to know more.
3. You don't know how these old stories apply to you.
4. You believe the stories are just myths and therefore unimportant.

Let me give you some reasons to dive in more deeply:

1. If you have time for a smart phone, you have time for the Bible. I know from personal experience how time can be lost in meaningless activity on our portable devices! Make a curfew for your devices so that you can spend a little time praying and reading your Bibles before sleep (you might sleep better too!).
2. Jesus didn't come out of a vacuum. He came from a rich history of patriarchs and prophets who anticipated His coming. Jesus also used them in His earthly ministry to help people know who He is and what He came to do. If you understand the Old Testament narratives, you will better understand and know Jesus.
3. Narratives are Christian teachings being played out in everyday life. Creedal statements are essential to our confessional witness, but the narratives help us to see how the God

we know works judgment and grace in the lives of His people. You also might be surprised to see that some things never change about our human nature and the state of the world! The narratives give us examples of faithfulness, sin, and salvation for the strengthening of our faith when we face the same kind of trials. Because our God never changes, the examples of His grace increase our trust in Him for today.

4. You can't claim to believe Jesus is Lord and not believe His words. Either Jesus is the Christ and truthful in everything He said, or He is the biggest deceiver that ever lived. Jesus Himself referred to Adam, Noah, Jonah, Abraham, Moses, and others as historic persons. Christians should take Him at His word.

The more you read the narratives, the more you will see yourself as a part of the Biblical story. When Christ baptized you, you were grafted into His family tree. Thus, these accounts are your family history! And the same Father in heaven is just as active in your story, giving you life and salvation through His Word. So, Bible narratives aren't dead stories, but tools which the Holy Spirit uses to increase your faith and defend you from sin and the power of the devil.

If you want to dive back into the Biblical narratives, we can help! Join a Bible class, send your children to Sunday School and VBS, use *"The Congregation at Prayer"* devotional, and attend worship services. Enjoy reading Bible narratives with your children and grandchildren. They often come up with some good questions to make you wrestle with the text yourself! May God enrich the lives of your families with His Word!

Pastor

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE . . .



Some disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. Many disciples were going to Jesus instead of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist answers: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. God provides everything we have in body and soul.

We are taught this in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in the *Small Catechism*.

In the First Article of the Creed, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe.

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself by taking the form of a servant.

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

Indeed, "a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven."

But how easy is this for us to forget? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in life is because we have earned it?

How easy is it for us to forget that all our skills – the abilities of our hands and minds, the ethic to work diligently, and the desire to improve – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said?

How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and that none of this is our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing.

But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven. These duties are not earned; they are given in response to what He has accomplished for us.

Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven.

Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

-- taken from the LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter, June 2019

GATHER AT GARDENA

RETURNS THIS SUMMER!



Our "Gather at Gardena" outreach ministry is about to begin. This is a great opportunity for our Immanuel family to reach out in love to the families in our community. We provide a simple lunch, games, and

crafts one Saturday a month at Gardena Park, during the summer months. This year our dates for "Gather" are June 15, July 20, and August 17, 11 AM-2 PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend with your family or help with crafts, food, or games. Please sign up to help on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place; many hands make light work, and we have lots of fun together!

YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFE!



American Red Cross

**The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.**

**BLOOD DRIVE
THURSDAY, JUNE 13**

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
1237 E. Coolspring Ave. – Michigan City

3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Please contact the church at 872-4419, call 1-800-RED CROSS or go to redcrossblood.org to schedule your blood donation appointment.



Immanuel's next
**QUARTERLY
 VOTERS' MEETING**
 will be on
TUESDAY, JUNE 11th
 at 7:00 PM

All members are encouraged to attend.



Prayers for the Summer

The summer months can often bring thought of rest and relaxation to mind. Summer can also be a time for new and exciting vacations and adventures, exploring new places and trying new things. But summer can also bring additional stress. Schedules often change, unexpected delays and mishaps can cause even the best laid plans to fall apart. It is important to not forget about prayer during the busy summer months. We do not want our prayer habits to go on vacation too! Keeping prayer on your daily to do list will help us maintain solid prayer habits throughout all months of the year. Having the same time set aside daily is a good way to keep your prayers on track.

Let us also remember to pray for the precious ones on our weekly and on-going prayer lists who are especially in need of His comfort and/or intervention, and still wait for their prayers to be fully answered. We include their caregivers and families, as the suffering of each individual affects many. Please contact Jaime Caldwell at jaimecaldwell27@gmail.com or (219) 229-4590, or the church office at immanuelutheran1237@gmail.com or 872-4419 for updates or suggestions, or to join the prayer chain. Let us pray for others as we would like them to pray for us when we are in need.

--Jaime Caldwell for the Prayer Chain

✧✧ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ✧✧

WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE PARK 2019

Sunday, July 14, at 10:00 a.m.



We will be having an in-the-park worship service with communion, followed by our church picnic, at:

**Creek Ridge County Park, located at
 7943 W. 400 N. in Michigan City.**

The service is set for 10:00 a.m.,
 With a picnic at 12 Noon.

We will have burgers and hot dogs on the grill along with a potluck of picnic items. Please bring a salad or dessert to share, your own drinks, table service, and lawn chairs.



As you know, Creek Ridge is **very accessible** with a flat terrain and plenty of parking.

This park service will be our Sunday service, so there will **NOT** be a service at the church that day. There will also be a worship service with communion on Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the church.

This event is being hosted by Deb Topolski, Mary Hoppe, and Gary & Laurie Rockensuess. Watch the weekly bulletin for any additional information, or contact the church office.





Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School

Newsletter

June 2019

Our Summer Sunday School

curriculum has been chosen. Our theme is *JOURNEY WITH JESUS* as we travel through the Bible with some Old and New Testament stories. Children will receive a passport to travel on some new adventures. We know summer is vacation and travel time, but we hope to have the children here also to TRAVEL WITH JESUS!!

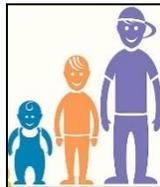


Our Nursery class has a new

student. She's 3 yrs. old and has two older brothers. Glad to have you with us!

Last month we introduced *About Faith and Your Child.*

We'll continue this month with the next aspect of children's growth - ages 6-12. Children grow in four different ways: Physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. At this age, children have growth spurts and start to reach puberty. Their emotions go from "highs" to "lows" as they try to fit in with their peers. Friends become very important and you may notice that they would rather be with friends than family. As they develop their reading, writing and math skills, they begin to understand more complicated concepts and values. They understand more than one viewpoint, and may question adults' explanations. They are beginning to become more honest and responsible and develop a sharper view of right and wrong. They are starting to develop a concern for others and an appreciation of how their actions affect others. These all have an effect on how peers, parents and the world influence your child and their faith. We will investigate more next month!



We've been missing our Primary Sunday School Teacher following her

surgery. We hope she'll be able to return to the classroom in June!



I've enjoyed filling in for her. This is the age group that I started getting involved in teaching Sunday School when my son, Jeff, didn't want to stay without his Mom. So, I helped Jan Werner in the Nursery class for a year. The next year, there was an opening in the Primary class and I started teaching then. *Wow!* That was 42 years ago! Thanks, Chris, for sharing your class with me!! It was nice getting back into the classroom.



Have a safe and enjoyable Summer.

Don't forget, we'll still be here all Summer, so we're counting on your children going with us on our *JOURNEY WITH JESUS!*

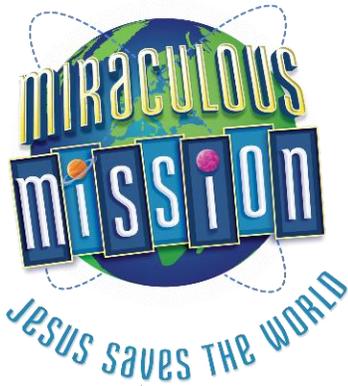
--Lynette Johnston-Martin,
Superintendent

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



Eleven students had Perfect Attendance for April. Great Job Students!

PLEASE NOTE: There will **NOT** be a newsletter in July or August. The next regular issue of *Gabriel's Gazette*, the September issue, will be mailed out at the end of August. The deadline to submit your articles will be **Monday, August 5.**



“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16

**Our Vacation Bible School program,
Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World,
begins in just 5 weeks!**

JULY 8 - 12

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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

At VBS this summer, we will lift off for an intergalactic adventure with *Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World!* The Bible says that the heavens declare the glory of God, and in *Miraculous Mission*, students will learn how the stars have been an ever-present part of the salvation story from creation to cross.

Invitation letters & registration forms have been mailed out this week to children who have attended in the past and to the children of Immanuel. If you know of a family that might be interested, please stop by the table in the Gathering Place to pick up a form to pass on, or contact the church office to have one mailed out. You can also choose to sponsor a child. We do not charge a fee for children to attend Immanuel’s VBS, but our program cost is approximately \$20 per child. On the next page is a list of needed items for this year’s VBS program. If you can help provide any of these items, or if you have any questions, just visit our VBS table or contact the church office to let us know and we will provide additional information.

Thank you, and please keep our VBS ministry
in your prayers!



VBS NEEDS LIST – CAN YOU HELP?

PLEASE VISIT THE VBS TABLE TO LET US KNOW

Plans are still in development, but here is our current list of needed items. If you can lend us an item, please put your name on it and we will return it when VBS is over. To purchase items to donate, you can check out Hobby Lobby, Dollar Tree, Walmart, etc. (Hobby Lobby coupons are available on their website or at the VBS table.)

PROPS & DECORATING NEEDS

Our decorating theme is the heavens – planets & stars

- ◆ Large pictures or 3D figures of stars, planets, & constellations
- ◆ Telescope
- ◆ Globe
- ◆ Glow-in-the-dark stars or planets (Hobby Lobby \$4.99/\$2.99 after 40% coupon)
- ◆ Glow sticks
- ◆ Planet cutouts (Hobby Lobby \$4.99/\$2.99 after 40% coupon)
- ◆ Night Sky 4'x12' bulletin board paper roll (Hobby Lobby \$9.99/\$5.99 after 40% coupon)
- ◆ Galaxy 4'x12' bulletin board paper roll (Hobby Lobby \$9.99/\$5.99 after 40% coupon)
- ◆ Scotch tape, masking tape, duct tape

CRAFT NEEDS

- ◆ Tipped yarn laces (72 needed) (Hobby Lobby pkg. of 12 - \$1.99/\$1.19 after 40% coupon)
- ◆ Suncatcher paints 8-color-pot strips (12 strips needed) (Hobby Lobby \$3.99/\$2.39 after 40% coupon)
- ◆ Craft sand – blue, yellow, beige (1 jar each color needed) (Hobby Lobby \$2.99/\$1.79 after 40% coupon)
- ◆ Colored tissue paper pre-cut small squares (1 pkg. needed) (Hobby Lobby \$2.99/\$1.79 after 40% coupon)
- ◆ Battery-powered votive/tea lights (72 needed)
- ◆ Small suction cup hooks (72 needed)
- ◆ Assorted color **permanent** markers
- ◆ Small stars and planets stickers (paper or foam)
- ◆ Glue sticks
- ◆ Wax paper (3 rolls needed)
- ◆ Baby wipes

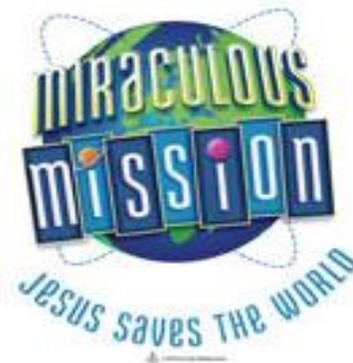
ADDITIONAL NEEDS

- ◆ Ziploc sandwich bags (200 needed)
- ◆ Napkins (500 needed)
- ◆ Paper lunch bags (300 needed)
- ◆ Paper Cups 9 oz. size (400 needed)
- ◆ Lemonade mix (80 quarts needed)



Watch the weekly bulletin for updates, or check the VBS table in the Gathering Place.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 8-12, 2019
8:30-11:30 a.m.



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

For Ages 4 – 11
(or just completed 5th grade)



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 _____

Family Doctor _____ Doctor's Phone _____

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 *Miraculous Mission* VBS program, July 8-12, 2019. Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Teachers, mark daily attendance here: 1 2 3 4

