

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

MAY 2019



Loving the Son While Enjoying the Sun!



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

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*I was glad when they
said to me, "Let us
go to the house of
the Lord.*

- Psalm 122:1

It's been another long winter and, if you are anything like me, you are relishing every warm day God has given us this spring. The family has been pent up and the kids have lots of energy to release outside! The warm weather gets me thinking about projects I want to accomplish this spring and summer and I get an itch to do some hiking and fishing. God has given us such a beautiful country to explore and enjoy!

The only thing I do not look forward to this summer is empty pews and a downward trend in giving. More and more, people are taking vacations for very long periods of time in the summer or are just finding other things to do on the weekends, which leaves the church in a difficult situation. You see, our need for evangelism, teaching, worship, helping the poor, and other Gospel activities does not diminish. In fact, some of our best outreach activities are in the summer. Also, our mortgage and bills don't diminish. By the fall, we are usually in a desperate situation trying to catch up.

Imagine what our church would look like if we all made an extra effort this summer to support it! Think about the people we could reach, the members we could support, and the projects we could accomplish if we all made the church an important part of our summer plans! I would love to see

more visitors in church and children in VBS and Sunday School. I would love to see that we had the funds to finally do something with our courtyard this year. This is all very possible with your help and by the gracious will of God.

Also, don't forget that *your* need doesn't diminish for the Gospel just because the weather is nice! The flesh is still weak; the world is still full of trouble; and the devil is certainly not on vacation. Find a church to attend when you are out of town (if you need help, I can find one for you), or if you aren't near one, take along a Bible and hymnal. Utilize the Congregation at Prayer or something else for daily devotions. And if you are with other family or friends, invite them to participate with you! Use your visits also as opportunities to grow together in Christ.

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). May God, through His heavenly gifts – forgiveness of sins, victory over death and devil, and His eternal kingdom – give you the peace and joy you need to better use and appreciate His gifts of this creation this summer!

Pastor

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE . . .



Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23)

We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us:

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required.

Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us – not one for the other, but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God, and, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9-13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Through this we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

--LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter, May 2019



ZONE 6 OF THE INDIANA LUTHERAN LAYMEN’S LEAGUE is sponsoring a **MAYFEST**

on **Saturday, May 4, 2019, 2-5 p.m.** at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Knox, IN. Planned activities include a puppet show, musicians, food & craft booths (items for purchase), a “pastor’s corner” where visitors can ask questions of a pastor, and an information table for Zone 6 LLL group activities. The afternoon will conclude with outdoor worship at 5:00 led by Pastor Eric Gawura of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Admission for the *MayFest* is an item of non-perishable food for Our Redeemer’s food bank.

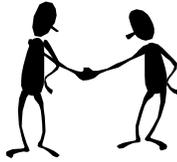
Ladies Aid is looking for crafts to sell at this event. Please see any member of Ladies Aid if you can supply crafts!



**PLAN TO JOIN US
FOR
THE ASCENSION DAY
WORSHIP SERVICE
THURSDAY, MAY 30
7:00 PM**



MEMBER OF THE MONTH
Presented by
the Assimilation Committee



Each month in the *Gabriel's Gazette*, the Assimilation Committee will feature families of our congregation. Featured will be new and established Immanuel families who will share general information about themselves. We hope that this will give you the opportunity for fellowship and allow new friendships to develop along with new growth.

However, in order to be able to share these articles with you, we need to receive the information from the members! If you have received a *Member of the Month* questionnaire, please complete it and return it to the Assimilation Committee. If you would like to receive a questionnaire or need a replacement form, please contact Lori Dobkins or Anita Henn.

GATHER AT GARDENA
RETURNS THIS
SUMMER!



It is time to begin planning for our "Gather at Gardena" outreach ministry. 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. 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!

IMMANUEL'S YOUTH GROUP PRESENTS:

EL TRIVIATA EXTRORDINAIRE



SATURDAY, MAY 11TH

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

START TIME: 7:30 PM (GIVE OR TAKE)

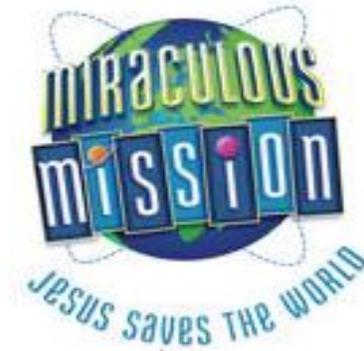
COST: \$10 PER PLAYER – FORM A TEAM

SOME FOOD & REFRESHMENTS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE – COME & FIND OUT WHAT!!!

THERE WILL BE MUSIC & QUESTIONS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES – EXCEPT NEWBORNS.

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE YOUTH TRIP COMING IN JULY!!!

COME, JOIN US!!!



IMMANUEL'S
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 8 – 12

8:30-11:30 a.m.

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

Lift off for an intergalactic adventure at

MIRACULOUS MISSION:
JESUS SAVES THE WORLD

Students learn about God's plan of salvation from creation to cross and how the stars have been an ever-present part of the salvation story. Register today!

(See registration form on page 5)



Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School Newsletter

May 2019

Thirteen students had Perfect Attendance in March!!



HAPPY SPRING!!

-- Lynette Johnston-Martin
Superintendent



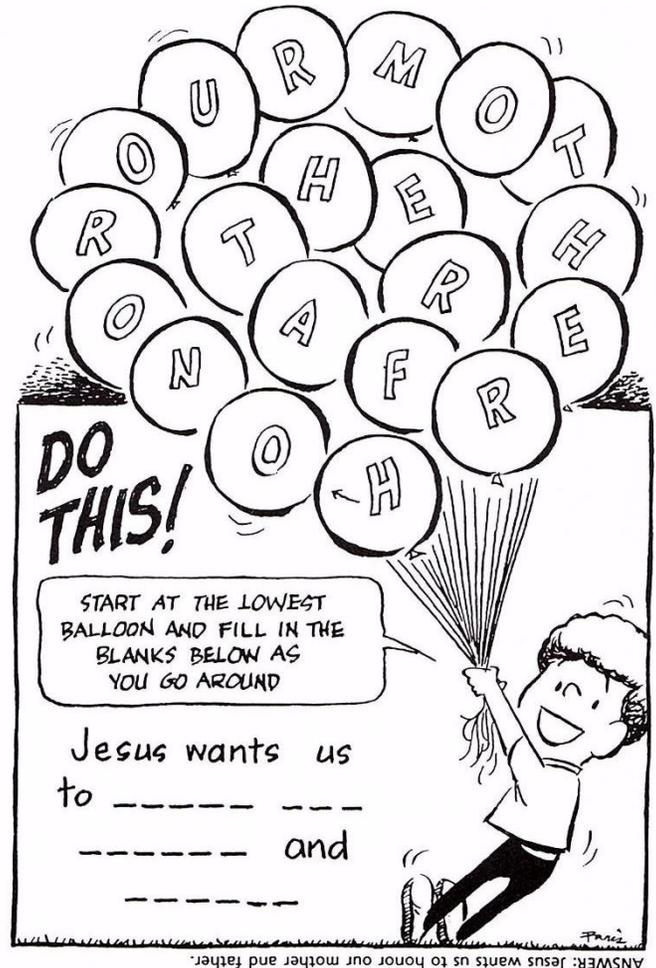
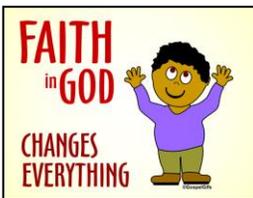
We have concluded the Concordia Publishing Company's 3-year chronological study. Students

experienced the Bible stories starting in Genesis as we worked through the Bible to Revelation. This type of study is a little different than studying lessons from different times of Bible history. We have found that sometimes children got confused because one week's lessons will be out of chronological order from week to week. So, this 3-year study put things in proper order from week to week. We are reviewing several summer lesson options and will have information in the next Gazette.

As children grow from ages 6-12, they experience the world in new ways.

They: learn new skills, develop a sense of independence, wonder about the "how" and "why" of things, explore individual interests and begin to care about what others their age think. Growing up is always eventful, for both children and parents! But God's love can be the source of the strength and peace we need in a complex world. You are your child's most important teacher. Home is the most important place for children to learn about God and feel the power of faith. Children who are surrounded with the love of God, family and other caregivers can build a lifelong relationship with God. These seeds of Christian faith and work are usually planted during childhood. Aren't we all concerned that our children will have Jesus in their heart and lives and be fit for an eternal life in Heaven?

For the next few months, we will be passing along some important information on Faith and your Child. Come back next month to see helps for parents and families.



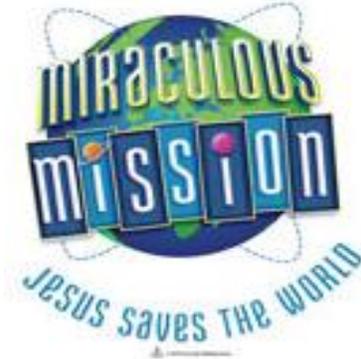
A big THANK YOU to Jill Palmer and Chelsea Romero for taking over the leadership of Sunday School in my absence this winter. Once again, an excellent job done!! We are surely blessed to have them in our Sunday School leadership!

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to submit items for the June Gazette is **Monday, May 6.**



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

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 5

