

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

OCTOBER 2019



The Congregation at Prayer - A Review



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

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As Catechism classes have begun again, I've been explaining the use of *"The Congregation at Prayer"* to families and found that many had questions about it. I thought that it is about time to have a review of its purpose and structure and a brief how-to-use-it, especially since I have made small changes to it since its publication first began. – Not that you *have* to utilize this for your devotions at home, but so that you can make use of it if you wish. It is necessary for you to set aside times for prayer and God's Word, but you have Christian freedom to do what works best for your family.

The Congregation at Prayer is a guide for prayer and teaching in the home including Catechism selections and Bible readings and printed on a half sheet insert in each week's bulletin and also sent out as an email in a mobile friendly format (you can sign up here: immanuelmc.com/christian-education/congregation-at-prayer). The order is as follows: Invocation, Hymn, Bible verse, Catechism portions, Bible readings, Creed, and various prayers. You can use as much as your time and setting will allow. In the summer months the "Bible Stories for the Family" go through the narratives of the Old and New Testaments, generally in chronological order. Each summer we pick up where we left off. And the selections of the catechism will match the theme of the Bible narratives. The Bible verse and hymn will generally be selected from the previous Sunday's service. During the academic year, the Catechism selections will follow the lessons being taught in Catechism class each week and the Bible Stories for the Family and Verse will be selected to illustrate the lesson. The exception is on special church festivals, when the readings will be chosen to fit the

holiday. For those interested in reading more of the Bible, the Daily Lectionary does not relate to the lessons, but goes through almost the entire Bible in a year.

The purpose of *"The Congregation at Prayer"* is threefold:

- To encourage increased devotion in every household to God's Word and prayer, and to increase the use of the Small Catechism as a part of our prayers.
- To help children to grow in their knowledge of Bible narratives and the Small Catechism before, during, and after they are enrolled in Catechism class.
- To assist our Catechism students in keeping with their studies and memory work for each week and encourage conversation and prayers in the home on each topic.

Read the Bible and Catechism selections out loud (this is better for learning, memorization, and helping your mind focus). Memorize the Catechism selections starting with "Level 1" and continuing on to the next levels as you master them. Make sure to add personal prayers for yourself and others and ask your family members for prayer requests. Do not be afraid about using all the correct words or about stumbling in your speech. God knows your heart and your need. You don't need to impress Him. He answers all who ask in Jesus' name according to His loving, gracious will.

Whatever you use for your prayers and devotion, may God's Word enrich you and your families so that you are bonded to him and to one another!

Pastor

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE . . .

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words:

"We are all beggars. This is true."

And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free. Ironic, isn't it? That, in order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas or birthday present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't much like being in someone's debt.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

And, if we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything – forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but it is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace.

On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. And you receive. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the life-blood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther would point us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled "We are all beggars. This is true." We are beggars. But we are

beggars of the God who does not ignore us, who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion – that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

- LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter, October 2019





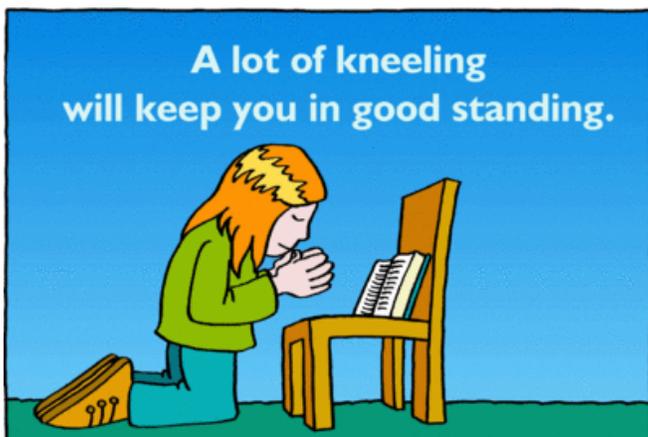
The Power of Prayer

Many of us at times do not fully understand the power of prayer. Prayer can at times feel burdensome or ineffective. In time of stress or despair, it is easy to dismiss or devalue the importance of prayer. Sometimes we may think that prayer is a good idea in theory, but it doesn't really make a difference. If we think in that way, and underestimate the power of prayer, we are then choosing to believe that God won't answer our prayers and isn't listening. This way of thinking will only leave us defeated and incomplete. This is the vehicle God has chosen to allow us to be in personal contact with Him. Prayer is the gateway that brings the power of heaven down to earth. Prayer is the fuel that drives everything.

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." (Ephesians 6:18)

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 immanuellutheran1237@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



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY . . .

*The more you give,
the more you get.*

*The more you laugh,
the less you fret.*

*The more you do unselfishly,
the more you live abundantly.*

*The more of everything you share,
the more you will have to spare.*

*The more you love, the more you'll find
that life is good and friends are kind.*

*For only what we give away
enriches us from day to day.*

OCTOBER IS . . .



**clergy
appreciation
month**

This provides a wonderful opportunity for congregation members to recognize and encourage those whom God has called to proclaim His message and lead His people, and to commit to pray for and encourage their pastor.

"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other."

(1 Thess. 5:12-13)



Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School

Newsletter

October 2019

On Recognition Sunday, Sept. 8, we awarded eleven students with outstanding attendance the past year.

GOOD JOB STUDENTS!! That's quite an accomplishment! Keep up the good work!



Nine students had perfect attendance for August.

Awesome!



Continuing our message about FAITH AND YOUR CHILD, we will learn that

children learn about faith as they learn about the world. They learn through:

YOUR EXAMPLE - For children, parents' actions speak louder than words. You send a powerful message about faith in the way you act and react toward children; other family members; events at home, work, church and in society. Something to think about-- "What is heard by little ears should not be said by big mouths."

FAMILY ACTIVITIES - Family worship, healthy recreation, and activities with other families can express faith and love in natural and positive ways.

TV, MOVIES AND OTHER MEDIA - Children can be greatly affected by what they see on TV, the internet

and elsewhere. Values and actions portrayed may or may not support a strong faith in God. Parents should be aware of what your children are watching and seeing on other media.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Sunday School and church attendance helps build a basic foundation of their Christian faith.

SCHOOL AND RECREATION EXPERIENCES - Adults and other children in organized sports, clubs and other organizations can provide both a positive and negative role model.

PEERS - As children grow, their peers become more and more important. Some experiences with peers help build faith while others challenge it. Parents need to be aware of their child's friends.



We are planning a Harvest Party towards the end of October. A date has not been set, but a note will be sent home with more information.

We want to congratulate our Confirmation student. We pray that you will walk in the way of Jesus throughout your life. Remember that God has sent His Son just for YOU! Embrace His love and share that love with others. May God continue to bless you and show you His love in many w



Enjoy your FALL!!



*Lynette Johnston-Martin
Superintendent*

Confirmed in Christ

This year, we have one confirmand to be confirmed. In October, Pastor Solum will meet with the student and her family for her examination in preparation for her Confirmation. Then, on Sunday, October 27th at 8:45 a.m., the congregation is invited to join her in the sanctuary to pray for her, listen to her recite selections from the Small Catechism, and then enjoy a reception with her in Fellowship Hall. She will be confirmed at the 10:00 a.m. Divine Service the same day.



You are invited to be there on Oct. 27th to witness the confession of faith given by this young person, renew your own confession of faith with her, and give her the benefit of your blessing and prayers that our Loving Lord will always keep her strong in the Faith she will profess! Encourage her as she continues to grow in this Faith and live out God's plan for her life!

HYM'N ALES



We invite you to Zorn Brew Works (605 E. 9th St., Michigan City) to sing hymns and enjoy some fellowship time on **October 24 from 6 to 8 p.m.** The theme for the hymn sing is "*Beer, Hymns, and the Reformation.*" Come and invite your friends!



PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to submit items for the November Gazette is **Monday, October 7.**



GIVE BACK DAY
is October 21st
at Hacienda Mexican
Restaurant
2148 N. Karwick Rd.

What is a Give Back Day? It's the perfect time for yummy food and fantastic fellowship! Just bring your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to Hacienda anytime that day, and enjoy a wonderful meal (and a margarita), hand your waitress the coupon when you pay your bill and that's it! Hacienda will give back 20% of our sales to Immanuel! Nothing better than supporting our church while enjoying the fellowship with loved ones. Coupons **CANNOT BE PASSED OUT ON HACIENDA PROPERTY** or we will lose our rebate!

Proceeds will go toward our Mortgage Reduction Drive.

Please invite **EVERYONE** you know and give them a coupon to join us on that date!

COUPONS ARE ON THE NEXT PAGE



REFORMATION
Sunday
October 27



Group: Immanuel Lutheran Church
Date: 10/21/2019
Location: Karwick Rd, Michigan City

You must receive this token from your organization prior to your event. Distribution of this token on Hacienda property will disqualify the organization from receiving any proceeds.

Don't have time to eat out? Pick up a Hacienda gift card or Fiesta-to-go order. They count towards the fundraiser.

Restaurant Phone Number

219-879-4404

GIFT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR YOUR PURCHASE WITH THIS TOKEN.



Group: Immanuel Lutheran Church
Date: 10/21/2019
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