

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to

Esprit

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MOTHERS’ AND FATHERS’ DAY

by Pastor Meyer

The months of May and June are busy months. May brought us college graduations, many of which fell on Mothers’ Day. My granddaughter’s university graduation pretty much swallowed up Mother’s Day because my daughter was busy preparing a grand celebration in honor of the graduation. June likewise is awash with special celebrations, high school graduations, end of school year events, baseball, softball, soccer games and tournaments. And then there is Fathers’ Day. This event will likely get less attention than Mothers’ Day but many fathers have come to understand that. Men tend to be less gushy about the day. Most fathers will end up cooking on the grill. Maybe we men are less emotional about such things.

But I’m not complaining about this busy-ness. Far from it. These are important items that have roots in the biblical concept of the family. That involves a discussion about marriage, a discussion we Christians should welcome having.

In 2010 President Obama affirmed that marriage united a man and a woman. As Professor Robert George of Princeton University points out, “So did 45 states and the federal government.” He and Dr. Ryan T. Anderson, president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, pointed out what has happened in the past 11 plus years. Something happened, or to use their word to describe what politicians said, “evolved.” And in 2013 the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 ruling, struck down the federal laws defining marriage as a male-female union. Same sex marriage was given legal recognition.

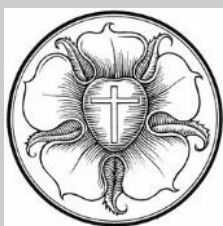
Profound consequences happened. As Anderson and George wrote, “Law shapes culture; culture shapes beliefs; beliefs shape action.” Marriage as defined by Holy Scripture had been altered well before this ruling. When I was a high school student in public school [early 1960s – yes, I’m that old!] I can remember almost no peers not coming from a two parent household. This included minority students. Cohabitation was pretty much a rare thing. Bearing children outside of marriage was frowned upon. There was no such thing as no-fault divorce. Then the hookup culture had its beginnings with the flower children of the Age of Aquarius.

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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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The dissolution of marriage between a man and a woman has been in the cross-hairs of radical unbelievers for a long time. It was and is a bedrock principle of Marxism that children belong to the State and not to parents. We see echoes of that in National Socialism in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s, properly known as the German National Socialist Workers’ Party [NAZI]. This government encouraged people to cohabit to raise up pure Aryan children as workers to fuel the scourge which ravaged Europe.

We have come to a place where the body’s “plumbing” no longer matters. Identity, or one’s perceived identity, has taken center stage. One can barely keep up with the identity alphabet where some 243 categories have been named!

All of this is rebellion against our Creator. Those who push the limits to meaninglessness have an end goal: there is no God and we can do whatever our flesh desires, even if it destroys other human beings.

I want to come back to the importance of the family as God has created it. It is His safe place for sexual relations and the security of a loving home where both parents are involved in the welfare of their children. While this is a distinctly Christian doctrine even ancient pagan societies like Rome recognized the importance of a stable home with a father and a mother where children were protected. We cannot equate what went on outside of marriage in Rome or even Greece, but it is historically factual that the family was regarded as the bulwark of the State.

Both motherhood and fatherhood are under attack in our society today. Some won’t even call mothers “mothers!” They are “birthing units,” no more than cattle giving birth to calves. I suppose that tattoo artists will rue this as no one will get a tattoo inscribed with “Birthing Unit.”

Patriarchy is particularly singled out for hate. Patriarchy has been the defining structure for millennia. One sees it in the very first chapters of Genesis. The whole biblical narrative is based on this premise. Radical feminists have waged war against this so-called “male privilege” seeking to destroy it. Yet, substituting a matriar-

chal society has no real success stories in the history of the world. Absent anonymous fathers breed children who behave like animals. The discipline and guidance of fathers is rejected. Masculinity is hated. Men are told they must be more like women. The differences that God created are erased.

Marriage and family are not simply biological. Patriarchy as practiced by the Romans was transformed by the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. So the Apostle Paul instructs: Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. [Ephesians 5.21-33]

This pattern is the way the Holy Trinity deals with us. Who of us Lutherans can forget the words Luther uses in the Small Catechism to teach how we are to approach God? "As dear children ask their dear Father." [SC, Our Father, Introduction]. There stands the relationship of a loving father to his children, the product of the love of a father and mother for each other is an inseparable bond. In each of the Six Chief Parts Luther repeats the father's God-given responsibility to teach his children in love: "As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household." There we have it! It comes from our heavenly Father through earthly fathers and mothers. The family structure is ordained by God.

God changed the world through the Gospel as it gained hearing among the pagans. He didn't do it through force but through the quiet examples of husbands and wives who love each other and accept children from God as blessings to be enjoyed. In the safety of those families spilling out to others, the western world was changed.

So celebrate Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day as distinct blessings that God has given our world. Raise your children to know their heavenly Father. Instruct them in the truths of Holy Scripture. You can do nothing more important than this. ✠

The Rite of Confirmation

by Vicar Norris

In May as we confirmed in the Christian faith the catechumens perhaps we should examine the rite of from the onset of this article that I referred to Confirmation as a "rite", not a sacrament in the Church. The astute reader might notice. Confirmation is considered a rite and not a sacrament because it does not have the required criterion of a Sacrament. "A sacrament is a ceremony or work in which God presents to us what the promise joined to the ceremony offers." [Apology of the Augsburg Confession XXIV.18] The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod recognizes only three sacraments. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the Sacrament of Altar (Lord's Supper), and the Sacrament of Absolution. Only these three things fit the definition of a Sacrament. The rite of confirmation is not commanded by our Lord Jesus, and it does not offer a means of grace.

So then, what is the purpose of Confirmation? Why does the Lutheran Church perform this particular rite? Perhaps the basis for this rite can be found in 1 Corinthians 11:27–31. *"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged."*

Lutheran pastors are the gatekeepers of the Lord's Supper. As such, they are to protect the altar from those who do not rightly discern that the true body and blood of our

Savior is present at the altar and eaten by those who partake. This takes on the form in the LCMS as "closed communion" or another way of thinking of it, only those who are properly catechized and properly discern the true body and blood of Jesus in the sacrament are permitted to partake. This is not done out of exclusivity, but instead in Christian love so that all who partake of Jesus' true body and blood do so to their benefit. Another aspect of the Lord's Supper is that we proclaim the body and blood of Jesus. When we eat and drink of Jesus' body and blood at the altar, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. As we eat and drink, we preach a Gospel sermon without even saying a word. When we commune together, we proclaim as a congregation that this is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

It might shock you to know that Martin Luther did not like the rite of confirmation. Luther said of confirmation, "In particular, avoid that monkey business, Confirmation, which is really a fanciful deception." [LW 45:24] We must understand the kind of Confirmation that Luther had in mind when he called it "monkey business." In Luther's time, confirmation had a sacramental understanding which was instituted and practiced in the Middle Ages. His objection to Confirmation being considered a sacrament stemmed from the argument that laying on of hands signifies a sacramental act. However, Luther rightly argued that if we say that laying on of hands is a sacrament because the apostles did it, then so also then preaching and prayer should also be considered sacraments. Luther did away with the confirmation practice early in the church, but it was later reintroduced by Martin Bucer and became a common rite in the German territory of Hesse by 1539. This reintroduction was a response to the Anabaptists.

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There are many ways that different church bodies understand the rite of confirmation. We view it much the way Luther, Chemnitz, and Melancthon did. They viewed catechesis as an ongoing instruction of the young people in conjunction with their parents. However, it should not be viewed as theological graduation. Instead, the rite of confirmation declares of a catechumen that he or she is a Christian who is baptized, confesses the faith, and is in communion with Christ and His Church. It links catechumens to their baptisms, celebrates the reception of the Lord's Word among them, and welcomes them to the Lord's table as ones who have been examined and absolved by their pastor in accordance with the Augsburg Confession Art. XXV.

Think of the public profession which you made at your confirmation - *"Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?"* and you replied, "Yes." There is a temptation for one to say, "Well, I was confirmed on such on such date, I

know everything I need to know." This is a very dangerous position to take. Catechesis is a lifelong venture that never ends. We should all continue to learn, even pastors and vicars. One way to sharpen your theological understanding is to attend Bible class. If you have children, even if they are not part of the catechesis class yet, study the Small Catechism together. Study the Small Catechism on your own. There is always room to refresh and reinforce what you learned long ago. Martin Luther wrote of the ongoing study of the Catechisms,

If they manifest such diligence, then I will promise them, and they shall also perceive, what fruit they will obtain, and what excellent men God will make of them, so that in due time they themselves will acknowledge that the longer and the more they study the Catechism, the less they know of it, and the more they find yet to learn; and then only, as hungry and thirsty ones, will they truly relish that which now they cannot endure, because of great abundance and satiety. To this end may God grant His grace! Amen. (Introduction to the Large Catechism) ✕

Vacation Bible School/Summer Sunday School

by Joe Eckardt, Deacon over Education

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner set for the week of June 13th! K-6 will meet from 6:00-8:30PM (M-F) and Pre-K will meet from 10-11AM (Tues-F). Please help spread the word to members and non-members to sign up for a week of crafts, games, catechism, music, snacks, Bible lessons, and prayer. This year's theme is "Bread of Life." Please contact the church office at 812-232-4972 or stacy.gibbens@ielcth.org for registration and Joe Eckardt at joeyeckardt30@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Summer Sunday School begins Sunday, June 5. It will be a "One Room Schoolhouse" format with all children grades K-8 in the same classroom with Jasen Gibbens teaching. He has planned very exciting classes wherein our kids will learn about the Old Testament stories we all loved as kids. This should be a great opportunity for our younger kids to learn these stories for the first time and a great refresher for our older children. Bring your kids to this fun and exciting adventure with Mr. Gibbens!

Update on Pastoral Call

by John Schulz, Chairman
Council of Deacons

The Council of Deacons has considered the names that were suggested by congregational members. Six men had unanimous approval from the council. This list was published in the bulletin in accordance with the bylaws of our constitution. Once again, in order to keep this process clean, please do not contact any of the men on the list. This first list will be submitted to the district office for further vetting, along with a Congregational Self Study that describes the current state and future goals of our congregation. This study will help the district to provide us with additional names to consider. ✂

Financial Update

by John Schulz, Deacon of Finance

The receipts have been strong to start the year but we are still slightly behind according to the budget. The summer months are generally a tougher time as families travel and schools are on break. Remember that gifts can be given electronically with the new Vanco Mobile App, in person using the offering plate in the narthex, or by mailing to the church office. Thank you again for all of your time, talents, and treasure in support of Immanuel and its missions. ✂

Immanuel Book Club

Please join us Monday, June 20 at 10:00 am in the Parish Center for delicious snacks and a lively discussion of our monthly book choice! In June, we will read *The Bodies in the Library* by Marty Wingate. ✂

Our Website: IELCTH.org

Our website is the best way to stay up-to-date with Immanuel news as we share our regular weekly and monthly correspondence and special events on-line! Visit the website for announcements and information about upcoming events, Divine Service, the church year, catechesis, and the *Parish News* which is published weekly. Share the website with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers as a way to spread the word about our confession of faith and activities at Immanuel. ✂

Immanuel's Google Calendar

View the church calendar on our website. At the top of the page, go to "Events." Click on the "click here" link to add the calendar to your own Google calendar to stay up-to-date on events at Immanuel. ✂



2022 Confirmands Front Row: Emma Wineinger, Esme Drew, Pr. Sutton. Back Row: Vicar Norris, Blake Fitzgerald, Pr. Meyer, Allie Cracraft.

The Rite of Confirmation at Immanuel took place Sunday May 22, 2022. The Catechumens, Allie Cracraft, Esme Drew, Blake Fitzgerald and Emma Wineinger, completed their two years of Catechesis classes in early May and were celebrated by the congregation and their family members at the Confirmation Banquet the evening before and a reception following the service. Congratulations to the newly confirmed and their parents for all the hard work they put into their catechetical studies. May God bless you as you continue your life-long pledge of faithfulness to Christ. ✠

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

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

PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION is offered by appointment.

“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.

ESPRIT DEADLINE for July is June 15.

Schedule of Divine Liturgies for May

June 5	The Day of Pentecost 10:30am	Divine Service
June 12	Holy Trinity 10:30am	Divine Service
June 18	Ordination of Kyle Mullins 11:00 am	Divine Service
June 19	First Sunday after Trinity 10:30am	Divine Service
June 26	Second Sunday after Trinity 10:30am	Matins

Serving in June at Divine Service/Matins

Altar Guild

Sara Latta and Leslie Bilyeu

Tellers

Jo Ann Beleslin, Beth Beel, Susan Clements

Ushers

Kris Bilyeu, Shawn Wallace, Jim Latta, Mike Latta, Jared Gibbens

Acolytes

June 5	Adam Sutton, Levi Sutton, Evan Pound, Eli Gibbens
June 12	Eli Gibbens, Conner Howard, Noah Schulz, Jace Bays
June 19	Austin Fitzgerald, Blake Fitzgerald
June 26	Connor Howard, Drew Wiesneth