



# *Immanuel Lutheran*

507-345-3027 [www.ImmanuelMankato.org](http://www.ImmanuelMankato.org)

Pastor Joe Naumann 920-266-5386

Pastor Neal Radichel 920-268-8002

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# *Septuagesima Sunday*

February 8 - 9, 2020

Vol. 83, No. 7

## *Welcome!*

We are excited to share the Good News with you!

Guests, please sign our guestbook in the entry. Please join us again.

## *Serving Us This Week*

PASTOR Joe Naumann ♦ DEACON Daniel Pfeiffer ♦ ORGANIST Vickie Schreyer  
SOUND \_\_\_\_ ♦ VIDEO Paul Bode ♦ SCREEN (Sat) Russ Schmitt (Sun) Cliff Kuehne  
FLOWERS Laura Heinze / Kristen Friedrichs ♦ GREETERS (Sat) \_\_\_\_ (Sun) Lien  
HEAD USHER Paul Bade ♦ ASSISTANT Justin Mueller ♦ USHERS Jesse Cornish Sr;  
Orrin Gessner; Brandan Heinze; Scott Kruse; Todd Kruse; Evan Matzke; Jared Mueller;  
Bennett Olmanson; Daniel Pfeiffer; Daryl Pischner; Mike Schweim; Dale Spear;  
Philip Stelter; Jeff Strand; Logan Wendt

## *Serving Us Next Week*

PASTOR Neal Radichel ♦ DEACON Brent Schreyer ♦ ORGANIST Karla Olmanson  
SOUND \_\_\_\_ ♦ VIDEO Vern Frank ♦ SCREEN (Sat) Rachael Hanel (Sun) Russ Schmitt  
FLOWERS Laura Heinze / Kristen Friedrichs ♦ GREETERS (Sat) \_\_\_\_ (Sun) Busch  
HEAD USHER Fred Friedrichs ♦ ASSISTANT John Heinze ♦ USHERS Niko Becker;  
Joshua Clobes; David Clobes; Austin Hanel; Hunter Hanel; Jay Hanel; Ty Hanel;  
Dennis Heinze; Brett Kruse; David Lueck; Andy Olmanson; Luke Olmanson; Peter  
Olmanson; Mick Rykhus; Russ Schmitt; Alex Schmitt; Ron Wolle; Steve Wolle

“In Him we live and move and  
have our being.”

Acts 17:28

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## *Pre-Service Meditation*

Psalm 10 See the Psalm of the Day

**Prayer:** Dear God, Thank you for revealing Yourself to us through Your Holy Word. It is only by that Word that we can come to know you as our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sanctifier. Strengthen me to praise You for these wonderful truths today and always. Amen!

## *Order of Service*

### *We Prepare to Meet our Lord*

Opening Hymn 43 TLH (Red Hymnal)  
We Sing the Almighty Power of God

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**INVOCATION** *We invoke (“call upon”) the name of our Triune God.*

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**Pastor (P):** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation (C):** ♪ Amen!

### **OUR CONFESSION OF SINS**

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**P:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C:** ♪ Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: **♪ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives the privilege of being children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: **♪ Amen.**

## *We Praise our Lord*

RESPONSIVE READING PSALM 10:12-18

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P: Arise, O LORD! O God, lift up Your hand!

C: **Do not forget the humble.**

P: Why do the wicked renounce God?

C: **He has said in his heart, "You will not require an account."**

P: But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand.

C: **The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless.**

P: Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man;

C: **Seek out his wickedness until You find none.**

P: The LORD is King forever and ever;

C: **The nations have perished out of His land.**

P: LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble;

C: **You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear,**

P: To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,

C: That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

P: Glory be to God!

♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All glory, praise, and blessing to God the holy Trinity,  
for planting and sustaining our faith in Him who sets us free,  
on whom our trust is founded, our house built on a rock,  
our life by grace surrounded, our Shepherd's precious flock,  
dear children to Him clinging, who welcomed once again,  
join saints and angels singing, "Amen, Amen, Amen!" *LSB 820*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

P: Let us pray...

C: ♪ Amen.

## *Our Lord Speaks to Us*

OLD TESTAMENT READING JEREMIAH 1:4-10

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Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: **5** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." **6** Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." **7** But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. **8** Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD. **9** Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. **10** See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."

Congregational Praise: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Congregational Welcome: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord!

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. **15** "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. **16** "Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. **17** "And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. **18** "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. **19** "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **20** "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' **21** "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' **22** "He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' **23** "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' **24** "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. **25** 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' **26** "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. **27** 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. **28** 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. **29** 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. **30** 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Congregational Response: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!

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CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTOLIC CREED

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I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Children are invited to come forward and gather around the pastor in the front of the church.*

Hymn 743 *WS2000 (Tan Hymnal)*  
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

## SERMON ACTS 17:22-32

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**22** Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; **23** for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: **24** God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. **25** Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. **26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, **27** so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **28** for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' **29** Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. **30** Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, **31** because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given

assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."

## The Unknown God Makes Himself Known

1. By Revealing His Power in Creation (24-25)
2. By Revealing His Existence in Mankind (26-29)
3. By Revealing His Love in His Judgment (30-31)

*Preaching today Pastor Joe Naumann  
bulletins and services online at [www.ImmanuelMankato.org](http://www.ImmanuelMankato.org)*

## *We Offer Ourselves to the Lord*

OFFERTORY TLH (RED HYMNAL) PG 12

*In this prayer we offer God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.*

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- ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Hymn 798 WS2000 (Tan Hymnal)  
God, We Praise You

### OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

### PRAYERS

# Our Lord Blesses Us

BENEDICTION *A Good Word or Blessing.*

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Congregational Response: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn 50 *TLH (Red Hymnal)*  
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

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## Last Week

### Gatherings

#### February 1-2

Saturday Worship: 87  
Sunday Worship: 219  
Weekend Total: 306  
Saturday Bible Class: 14  
Saturday School:  
Sunday Bible Class: 45  
Sunday School: 41  
Ambassadors: 8

#### Bible Studies

Men's Breakfast: 25  
Old Main: 6  
Primrose: 6  
New Perspective: 5  
Realife: 6  
Walnut Towers: 8

#### Worship

Autumn Grace: 7  
Pathstone: 27  
Primrose: 13  
Water's Edge: 4

### Fruits of Faith

#### Immanuel

Current Expenses **\$10,421.21**  
*Weekly Need: \$14,033.54*  
Benevolent **\$2**  
Christmas Eve **\$40**  
ILS Interactive Display Fund **\$25**  
ILS Preschool Fund **\$75**  
ILS Student Aid **\$635**  
ILS Tuition Aid **\$40**  
Land Purchase **\$75**  
Major Improvement **\$71**

#### CLC

Missions (Coop. Budgeted Plan CBP) **\$1,131**  
*Weekly Need: \$1,200.53*  
KINSHIP **\$50**  
Mission Development Fund (MDF) **\$190**  
Bequest to be designated **\$10,000**



# This Week

- Sat Feb 8 6:00p WORSHIP  
7:00p Bible Study *in the church basement*  
7:00p Saturday School *in the Kindergarten room*
- Sun Feb 9 9:00a Bible Study *in the church basement*  
9:00a Sunday School *in designated classrooms*  
9:15a Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM  
10:00a WORSHIP  
11:00a Church Choir Practice *in the sanctuary*  
11:15a ILS Junior Class Banquet Meeting *in the social studies classroom*
- Mon Feb 10 Have a blessed week!
- Tues Feb 11 ILS Late Start at 10  
9:00a Bible Study, *New Perspective Senior Living, 100 Dublin Road*  
9:00a Bible Study, *Realife, 50 Teton Lane*  
3-5p Pastors' Office Hours  
4:30p ILS Home Basketball Game Girls 5-6 vs St Paul's Truman  
5:30p ILS Home Basketball Game Boys 5-6 vs St Paul's Truman  
6:30p Deacons' Meeting *in the basement conference room*  
7:00p Board of Education Meeting *in the language classroom*  
7:00p Property Board Meeting *in the church basement*  
7:30p Finance Board Meeting *in the pastors' offices*  
8:00p Council Meeting *in the church basement*
- Wed Feb 12 12:45p Televised WORSHIP Service, *Charter #181; Consolidated Comm #7*  
5:00p Public School Catechism *in the pastors' offices*
- Thu Feb 13 9:00a Bible Study, *Walnut Towers, 105 E. Walnut Street*  
10:00a WORSHIP, *New Perspective Senior Living, 100 Dublin Road*  
10:00a Bible Study, *Water's Edge, 800 Agency Trail*  
1:30p Bible Study, *Old Main, 301 S. Fifth Street*  
5:45p Televised WORSHIP Service, *Charter #181; Consolidated Comm #7*
- Fri Feb 14 6:30a Men's Breakfast and Bible Study *in the church basement*  
8-9:30a Pastors' Office Hours  
9:30a ILS K-12 Chapel *in the sanctuary*
- Sat Feb 15 9:00a Worship Music Practice *in the church sanctuary*  
10:00a Bible Study, *Primrose, Fireplace Community Rm, 1360 Adams St*  
11:00a ILS Home Basketball Game Girls Varsity vs Foreston  
12:30p ILS Home Basketball Game Boys Varsity vs Foreston  
6:00p WORSHIP followed by *third Sunday communion*  
7:00p Bible Study *in the church basement*  
7:00p Saturday School *in the Kindergarten room*
- Sun Feb 16 9:00a Bible Study *in the church basement*  
9:00a Sunday School *in designated classrooms*  
9:15a Radio Sermon: KTOE 1420AM or 102.7FM  
10:00a WORSHIP followed by *third Sunday communion*  
11:00a Church Choir Practice *in the sanctuary*

# Immanuel Announcements

## CALL RESPONSE

Dear members of the Immanuel Mankato congregation,

I have received the call to serve as a high school math and science teacher at Immanuel Lutheran school. I express gratitude for being considered for this position. After careful prayer and consideration, the Lord has led me to return the call. I appreciate all of the prayers and advice given to me. I pray that the Lord fills the vacancy for your school in the upcoming school year.

Your brother in Christ, Darin Lau

**ILS BANQUET MEETING** Parents of the ILS Junior class are asked to meet after the 10 am service this Sunday, **February 9**, in the social studies classroom to discuss food for the spring banquet.

**AN IMMANUEL MOVIE SEMINAR** is planned for **February 19**, from 5:30-8 pm. We plan to watch the "Patterns of Evidence" documentary exploring the striking archaeological findings of the Exodus from Egypt. Children are welcome; supervision will be available in the gym. We plan to break halfway through for pizza, so please RSVP by signing up on the bulletin boards or in the narthex if you/your family plan to attend. Hope you can make it!

**CAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** Our annual high school Christian Athletic League (CAL) Basketball Tournament is **March 5, 6, and 7**. Information about the basketball tournament (i.e. game locations, game times, etc.) can be found online at: [www.immanuelmankato.org/school/cal](http://www.immanuelmankato.org/school/cal) Volunteer sign-up sheets and tournament passes will be available starting Sunday, February 16, through Wednesday, March 4. Both will be available after church services and in the school office. If you have any questions concerning the CAL Tournament, please contact Julie Busch at 345-3027 or 386-0706.

**SAVE THE DATE! *Red Cross Blood Drive*** The next Red Cross Blood Drive at Immanuel will be in the gym on Friday, **March 13**, from 12pm -5pm. More details will be coming. The contact person is Mara Heinze at 507-382-4331.

**SCHOOL JANITOR NEEDED** The Property Board is looking to hire a janitor for the school. This position will start at the end of the 2020 school year. Our longtime janitor, John Paulson, will be leaving the position at that time. For more information, please connect with Kyle Hulke at 507-382-7335.

**NEEDED: *Tools*** The Board of Property is looking to acquire donated hand tools to supplement our tool inventory in order to be better equipped to take care of the church and school. If you have any tools you are able to donate, please connect with Kyle Hulke at 507-382-7335.

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** For 47 years, Birthright has provided pregnancy help to women in need. They have worked with thousands of women in Mankato and the surrounding area, always with the pro-life philosophy that "It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born." Birthright volunteers thank everyone who has helped financially and with your prayers during those years and hope you will continue so they can continue their mission.

Birthright is in need of volunteers. Please give consideration to serving a few hours a month to help with this vital service to save and positively impact lives. Training will take place on Saturday, February 22. For more information and to express your interest, call Lois at 388-4558; or call the Birthright office at 387-7818 and leave a message with your contact information.

## *CLC Announcements*

**CLC CALL NEWS** Mr. Darin Lau, Eau Claire, WI, returned the call to serve as high school math and science teacher beginning the 2020-2021 school year at Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN. <> Pastor Mark Tiefel, Redemption, Lynnwood, WA, has returned the call to Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN.

**CLC GRADE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT BAND** The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament Band will be performing at the CLC Grade School Basketball Tournament at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, on Saturday, **March 14**. Any CLC student in grades 5-8 that plays a band instrument is invited to play with us. You do not have to be playing on a basketball team to play with the group. REGISTER ONLINE and print music for six songs at <http://clclutheran.net/tourney> Click on "Band information". Exact rehearsal and performance times (both on March 14) will be announced by mid-February. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Lau, Eau Claire at [music@thelau.com](mailto:music@thelau.com)

**CLC MIDWEST WOMEN'S RETREAT** Registration is now open for the CLC Midwest Women's Retreat. Join us **March 20-22** at the new retreat location in Amery, Wisconsin. This year the theme is: You Are Designed. You Are Loved. You Are Sent. *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10.* We will be studying how God designed us as His children, the unique gifts He has given to each of us, and how we can use those gifts to glorify Him in this world. You can access the online registration and all other retreat info online at <https://christianwomensretreat.weebly.com/spring-midwest-retreat.html>. The cost is \$150 per person which includes lodging and all meals. Lodging preferences are on a first come first served basis, so register soon! We hope you can join us for a weekend of fellowship and growing in the study of God's Word! If you have any questions, please contact Erin Radichel or Sarah Radichel at [clcmidwestwomensretreat@gmail.com](mailto:clcmidwestwomensretreat@gmail.com).

## SUSPENSION OF THE PROFESSOR CALLING PROCESS

With the approval of the CLC President, the Regents are suspending the calling of the next professor. In the past year the Regents and ILC President have been reevaluating how to address all of ILC's administration functions. As this has developed, we considered this a timely opportunity to implement a full-time administrator position by keeping the faculty at 11 professors after this year's retirement of Prof. Paul Sullivan. We are working through the details with the faculty to determine if this is a viable option. If so, the intent is to present a proposal to the 2020 CLC Convention. May the Lord of the harvest continue to lead us in managing the available manpower within our church body so that our primary focus is on the preaching and teaching of His powerful Word.

**BLACK HILLS FAMILY BIBLE CAMP** Camping in the beauty of the Black Hills, studies in the beauty of God's Word, along with many outdoor activities such as hiking, climbing/repelling, swimming, fishing, kayaking, bonfires, s'mores etc. The dates are Friday evening **July 10** through Tuesday morning **July 14**. To sign up or for more information, connect with Pastor Aaron Ude at (605) 393-1311 or [aaronude@gmail.com](mailto:aaronude@gmail.com).

**2020 MANUP! MEN'S RETREAT** The 2020 ManUp! Men's Retreat will be held **September 24-27**, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI, about an hour south of La Crosse. ManUp! offers strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities. The cost is \$75, including lodging and meals. You can register at: [www.tinyurl.com/manup-2020](http://www.tinyurl.com/manup-2020). Visit our website [www.manup.clclutheran.org](http://www.manup.clclutheran.org) for more information, pictures of previous retreats and reviews from those who have attended in the past. You may contact Phil Strike at [plstrike7@aol.com](mailto:plstrike7@aol.com) with any questions. We look forward to seeing you in September!

**2021 ISRAEL TRIP** A group trip to Israel is being planned in January of 2021, and is less than a year away. The dates are set for **January 13-22, 2021**, with a possible three day extension to Jordan for those who are interested. We currently have 10 members of CLC congregations registered for the trip and many more who have expressed an interest. Join this group of like-minded believers as we see the places where God stepped into History to fulfill His plan of salvation for sinners! The trip will include visits to Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, and En Gedi and more. It will include visits to the traditional sites of many of the events in the ministry of Jesus as well as those of the prophets and apostles. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Nathanael Mayhew at 404-729-4602 or at [ndmayhew@att.net](mailto:ndmayhew@att.net).

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If you have an announcement or event for next weekend's bulletin, please send it to [Bulletin@ImmanuelMankato.org](mailto:Bulletin@ImmanuelMankato.org) or contact one of the pastors by Thursday at 12 pm. Thank you!

# 2020 CLC Events

YOUTH EVENTS	DATES	FOR AGES
CLC Grade School BB Tourney (ILC) <a href="http://www.clclutheran.net/tourney">www.clclutheran.net/tourney</a>	March 13-15	Grades 5-8
Girls' Basketball Camp (ILC) <a href="mailto:Ross.Rdoehl@ilc.edu">Ross.Rdoehl@ilc.edu</a>	June 11-13	Grades 5-12
CLC Youth Camp (Pillager, MN) <a href="http://www.facebook.com/clcyouthcamp">www.facebook.com/clcyouthcamp</a>	June 14-20	Grades 6-12
Black Hills Family Camp (South Dakota) <a href="mailto:AaronUde@gmail.com">AaronUde@gmail.com</a>	July 10-14	All ages
Girls' Volleyball Camp (ILC) <a href="mailto:Joe.Lau@ilc.edu">Joe.Lau@ilc.edu</a>	July 19-22	Grades 5-12
Messiah Family Camp (Wisconsin) <a href="mailto:BruceNaumann@gmail.com">BruceNaumann@gmail.com</a>	July 24-26	All ages
Lower Michigan Youth Camp <a href="mailto:Pastor316@RedeemerCLC.info">Pastor316@RedeemerCLC.info</a>	July 27-30	Grades 6-12
Porcupine Mountains Camp Outing <a href="mailto:gnaoster@gmail.com">gnaoster@gmail.com</a>	August 8-12	Grades 8-12
Christ's Explorer Camp (Gaston, SC) <a href="mailto:runsforfun@aol.com">runsforfun@aol.com</a>	August 13-15	Grades 3-9

## EVENTS FOR ADULTS

CLC Women's Retreat (Amery, WI) <a href="http://www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com">www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com</a>	March 20-22	All women
Arise and Shine Retreat (Pillager, MN) <a href="http://www.ariseandshineretreat.com">www.ariseandshineretreat.com</a>	June 11-14	20's & 30's
CLC Convention at ILC	June 25-28	Delegates & Visitors
CLC Women's Retreat (Chadron, NE) <a href="http://www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com">www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com</a>	Sept 18-20	All women
CLC Men's Retreat (Wyalusing, WI) <a href="http://www.manup.clclutheran.org">www.manup.clclutheran.org</a>	Sept 24-27	All men
CLC Women's Retreat (Myrtle Beach, SC) <a href="http://www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com">www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com</a>	November 1-3	All women



## The First Article

**“I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.”**

“Knowledge is power.” That famous saying is often attributed to Sir Francis Bacon, a British philosopher from the late 16th century. It’s likely that you’ve heard this saying before as it’s applied to many situations in our modern age. However, what you may not know is that the context in which Bacon wrote this phrase was about mankind’s relationship with God. Bacon was also an ardent Christian who believed that all knowledge was a gift from God and that the highest form of wisdom was in relation to God’s Word. Much of the secular world which lauds Bacon’s achievements is either unaware of this fact or blatantly ignores it.

It’s sad that a saying attributed to a Bible-believing Christian who submitted to God’s power is now held up as a beacon for atheistic humanism. When our culture thinks of knowledge as power it’s not the same type of knowledge that Bacon was talking about. Certainly, knowledge can be powerful in the hands of any person - believer or non-believer. But knowledge that is without God cannot be compared to knowledge that conforms to His Word and humbly recognizes mankind’s limitations because of sin. Whether a person wants to admit that God exists or is powerful does not change the fact that God continues to oversee the world and provide for all of creation. It’s foolish, at best, for men and women who live within such a small sliver of world history to think that they have more figured out than the eternal God.

Sir Francis Bacon recognized the vast power of God and its impact on our lives, so also did Martin Luther as he elaborated on the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed in his Small Catechism. The First Article, attributed to the Father, is all about God’s power. There was a time in Luther’s life that he feared the almighty God. He didn’t enjoy meditating on God’s works or contemplating God’s infiniteness.

That changed for Luther when he came to learn of God’s grace in Christ. As it is in the Apostles’ Creed, so also should we understand the three articles in the Catechism - they are all connected and dependent on each other because they are about the same Triune God. God’s power cannot be fully understood, and certainly not trusted, without the blessing of a Spirit-delivered faith



through the redemptive merits of Jesus Christ. And as Bacon explained, man’s knowledge will always be limited if viewed outside of the context of God’s power; for as the First Article explains, God is the Creator and Preserver of everything in the world.

Today, man’s pursuit of knowledge is so often set in contrast to God’s will and word. This often happens through man’s quest of the very thing that Bacon paired with knowledge — power. Our inborn sinful nature craves power and will often stop at nothing to attain it. History teaches us many lessons, but we are left with a deeper impression from our own hearts. We feel that desire for power and it affects our thoughts, words, and actions.

The First Article can be used as a powerful witnessing tool by leading people to see the true meaning of power under the cross of Christ. Paul wrote, “We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). The greatest example of power and knowledge in relation to God is found through Christ, not through our own efforts to control and manipulate the events of this fallen world. Bacon was correct that “knowledge is power,” and whether you’re a Christian or not that saying will ring true. But how much more meaning there is behind this thought when we recognize it under the context of faith in the Triune God. Knowledge of His gospel message (also called a powerful thing in Scripture - Romans 1:16) truly unlocks to lowly sinners the power of Christ by faith.

### **Read More About this Topic**

Romans 11:33-12:2  
Psalm 8

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## **Catechism Evangelism**

The Ten Commandments

The Lord’s Prayer

**The First Article**

Baptism

The Second Article

The Lord’s Supper

The Third Article

The Office of the Keys and Confession

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The **Committee of Domestic Fields** is a subcommittee of the CLC Mission Board. “The purpose of the Committee on Domestic Fields (CDF) is to make outreach ideas and material available to CLC congregations and to encourage them in carrying out the Great Commission of our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

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