

Inside Immanuel

Message from Pastor Fittje

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Our Confirmands answers as to why they wanted to be Confirmed:

1. Why I want to be confirmed. I want to be confirmed so that I can serve the Lord God with all that I have.

I believe that being confirmed is one of the most important things that can ever happen in my life. As Matthew 5:16 says "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to Father in heaven." Using this quote in my life means lots of things by doing good works such as helping others through my faith. People will see that I am doing good and hopefully they also might start helping others too.

One of the Bible verses that I believe is the most important to me is Matthew 4:19 it says "follow me and I will make you fishers of men." This verse can mean many things but one that stands out the most to me is that if you follow Jesus Christ and believe in him He will guide you, He will make you His followers and believers and will lead you to greener pastures. By following Christ you can become a better person and I believe that I can too become a better and more Christ-like person as well as help others find Christ.

Another reason I want to be confirmed is that I will be taking communion for the first time. It is very important to me because I will be drinking the blood of Christ and eating the body of Christ. Taking part in communion is very important to my faith and that I will be able to drink and eat the body and the blood which will put me closer to Christ and move me deeper into my faith which I believe is very important for everyone and is very important to me.

Another huge part of confirmation is the people I will be getting confirmed with which are great Christian people. The people you surround yourself with are really important, if you surround yourself with bad people and non-believers they could trick you to switching your faith. In turn I will be helping my friends throughout their life and making sure they give their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

How will being confirmed help me with my future? Being confirmed is a very important and vital part of my future. If you are confirmed you can keep living strongly in your faith by going to worship and praying by yourself or with others. It also will help me to be surrounded by people that have the same values as me. If they are not confirmed in their faith they can be easily pressured into bad things in their life and never find their true self with Christ. If I become confirmed it will help me help others in the future turn their life to Christ and help them to also become Christians.

Finally we look at what I can do with being confirmed on this faith. When I am confirmed it will really help me become closer with the Lord my God and will open my eyes to so many possibilities. Being confirmed comes with some responsibility such as: going to worship, going to Wednesday services, helping with LYF and so many other servant opportunities. In conclusion, I try to follow the Bible as my guide in life and as I go through confirmation. As Matthew 6:33 says "Strive first for the kingdom of God and it's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

2. Why I want to confirm my faith...

I am ready and have been so excited for so long to confirm my faith. I believe in the one true God and all the wonderful things he has done, and I am ready to confirm that and let God, and the people around me know that I believe that. I believe and agree with the Lutheran beliefs and so I am ready to confirm my agreement and be a true member of this church and their beliefs. I agree with the answers my parents and sponsors answered for me at my baptism and I am ready to answer the same for myself. Confirmation is a very special occasion that we get to take part in. I feel so blessed to be able to partake in such a special event. I am so lucky to be able to freely believe in the one true God, and now get to confirm that belief. I am so grateful for getting the opportunity to be able to be baptized, and that the old broken me died and the new me emerged when I was baptized. "Jesus is Lord" is the most basic confession of the Christian faith. It means that though he was crucified and died, He rose and is ruling over the universe including us. It means that through his death and resurrection we have eternal life. It means that He will come again to judge the living and the dead. It means we are to obey his word. I believe this, and am ready to fulfill this. Disciples stay strong in the faith through the Means of Grace. I will stay strong in the faith, and fulfill the duty of a disciple. Our purpose in life is to serve Jesus by loving others. This, along with all the other wonderful things God has commanded us I want to do, and fulfill. I believe that the bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar are Jesus' body and blood because he said so. When I was baptized God brought me into His kingdom, and through baptism God adopts me into His family. I am so grateful for baptism, and to be a part of His family. I am ready to confirm my beliefs and to speak and agree with the things that were spoken for me, but as myself. I am ready and so excited to be a true member of this church. I am ready to take the blood and body of Christ. I am ready to renew the promises and the faith of my baptism. I have put my faith in Christ not other christians or the church. I know I have no rights with God. I believe that Jesus is fully divine in every way the Father is. I believe that God is perfect, sinless, regardless of what others think. I believe that if God says it, it happens. I believe all these things and am ready to confirm them in front of the church, and be a true part of this church and their beliefs.

3 I want to confirm my faith by getting confirmed into Immanuel Lutheran Church. When I was baptized into the church I was not able to speak for myself, it was my parents taking responsibility for bringing me to church every Sunday, but now I will be able to show my family and the church that I want to be a dedicated member of this church.

Everywhere I go I want to be an example of a good church-going Christian person. I also want to be able to inspire more people to be Christians. Some people try to hide their faith, but I want to express mine and make it who I am. Going to church and God are big parts of my life, and getting confirmed is something I have always wanted to do. When I was in third grade I was very jealous of the big kids because I wanted to be in pastor Fittje's class doing confirmation, and now I am finally getting to learn about God from pastor and getting confirmed into my church. 😊

Confirmation has had a good impact on me. I have gone home and thought about all the things I did not even care about how it happened or what it was like before I started going to confirmation. I have learned so much from our class, and more than I ever would anywhere else, I am just so excited to show people how happy I am to be a true member of my church.

So many people older than me have inspired me to get confirmed and to show me how much it means to them. I want to feel the same way and show other people that same feeling. If I could tell that they were excited about getting confirmed then I should be able to show people how I feel about it so kids younger than me can have the same feeling as me and all of the people older than me.

I feel like my baptism was my parents' and godparents' opportunity to say I would be a member of this church and that they would take responsibility for me coming to church but to me this feels like it's my chance to say what my parents and godparents said for me in my baptism.

One thing that makes me want to get confirmed even more is all of my family is confirmed and I want to keep that going once I get confirmed, but also everything I talked about earlier in this essay. I want to get confirmed so badly, you don't even know how long I have been waiting for this time to come. Like I said before, ever since I was in third grade I have been thinking about confirmation, and how bad I wanted to be an eighth grader just so I could be confirmed.

I am very thankful for everyone who made it possible for me to get all the material learned in the two years I was in confirmation, Annie Hedeman for helping us with the sixth commandment, and most of all Pastor Fittje, thank you so much for everything you have taught me. I would not be even close to getting confirmed without all the time and effort it took for you to teach us. Thank you!

4. I want to confirm my faith because I have learned what it means to be a Christian. I was baptized as a baby, so my parents said my vows for me. Now that I have practiced and studied, I am ready to confirm what I believe.

I was born with pneumonia. My parents and grandparents didn't know if I would live. They believe, and still believe, that baptism brings people, including me, into God's Kingdom. God adopted me through baptism into His family. I was baptized when I was one day old, April 13, 2010. Well, as you can see, God wasn't ready for me to be in heaven yet. On May 16, 2010, I had a dedication in church. My godparents are my aunt and uncle and my dad's second cousin and her husband.

My mom, dad, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents have, and still, encourage me in my faith. My parents are a great influence in my life, because they take me to church every Sunday and volunteer a lot at church. Everything they do is all for the glory of God, our Father. My grandparents are living proof of what having God in your life can do. He has provided for them in many ways over the years. All of my aunts, uncles, and cousins forgive me like God forgives them, which shows me that I can forgive them too.

Confirmation, in the Christian church, is when you affirm, or confirm, that you believe what your parents confessed you did at your baptism. My struggles and hardships have shown me why I should believe in God. My parents have shown me what it looks like to believe and obey God.

I believe that Jesus is Lord, that He was crucified, died, and rose from the dead. I believe that He rules over the universe and that through His death and resurrection I have eternal life. I know He protects me, takes care of me, and provides for all my needs. I believe and know that He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

It is my duty to obey Him, serve Him, and do everything for His glory. I believe that everything God has given me is for my good. This includes the Ten Commandments, which keep me safe, the Lord's Prayer, which has helped me learn how to say my own prayer, and the Sacrament of the Altar, in which He forgives my sins, strengthens me for daily living, and draws me into closer fellowship with Him and other believers.

Why should I confirm my faith? I should confirm my faith, because at my baptism my parents confessed for me, but now that I have practiced and learned what it means to be a Christian and why I should believe in God. To me, being a Christian is doing what God has commanded, and spreading his love to everyone around me. I believe in God because all I have to do is look around at everything he has created, and I can see and know he is alive.



Elder: Jerry Schnelle
Asst. Elder: Steve Allison

Altar Guild:
 Paraments: Kristen Fittje & Kathryn Shaw
 Communion: Kathryn Shaw & Reggie Obert
 Flowers: Janice Patterson

Ushers:	8 :00	10:30
	Mike Theurer	Seth Losack
	Jordan Backs	Clay Lasater
	Kevin White	Seth Meinzen
	Randy Hayes	Kyle Caldwell
Acolytes:	4/7: Drey Lasater & Hayes Scott, Pace Allison & Cannon Lasater; 4/14: Allie Harmon & Harper Prichard, Liam Spinks & Brantley Bowen; 4.21: Braylin Brollier & Hadlee Combs, Marissa Brewer & Norah Meinzen; 4/28: Denver Combs & Nathaniel	

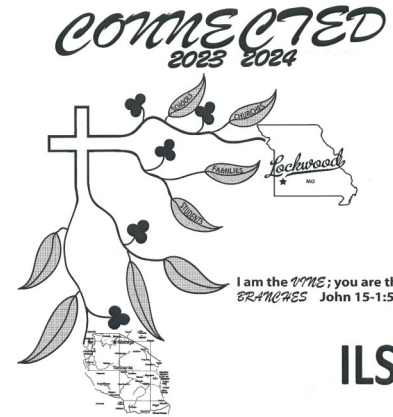
School News...From the Principal, Mr. Iver Johnson

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mission of Immanuel Lutheran School is to provide a Christian environment so as to educate and develop the mind, body, and soul of each child, enabling them to be disciples of Jesus Christ in this sinful world.

VISION STATEMENT:

Immanuel Lutheran School is a caring and loving Christian learning community where a high standard of academics challenges each student to personal excellence and by planting and nourishing the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, inspires families to daily walk with Jesus.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Major March Events

Virtual (ZOOM) Author visit by Amy Young explaining the writing process and what it takes to become an author

8th Grade visit the Lamar career and Technical Center

Kindergarten Screening

Upcoming Events in April

April 3: In Class Neurodiversity Training

April 12-26: Shine Projects. More Information coming

April 17: Reading Night 3:30-5:00 PM

April 20: Blue Jay Run/Walk/Bike

April 22: Snow Make Up Day
School in Session

First and Second Grade Trip
to African Safari

April 26: Kindergarten Prep and
Kindergarten Field Trip to
Dickerson Park Zoo, Springfield.



www.fishnbids.com

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILY LIFE CENTER | 212 W 4TH STREET, LOCKWOOD

Fish N Bids after expenses brought in **\$35,740.13.**

A big Thank you to all the workers, contributors, and bidders who helped make this a success!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Whom Are You Looking At?

The disciples were thrilled. They had their Lord back in their presence once again. Since His Resurrection, He had appeared to them and others several times. They were still a little confused, though, when He talked about “*wait[ing] for the gift [His] Father promised*” (Acts 1:5), and, then, “*He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight*” (Acts 1:9).

You can imagine their bewilderment. He had died and been buried and then had risen from the dead! He had walked among them and taught them again, and now . . . He is taken up into the clouds. No wonder they stood there – probably with mouths agape – looking into the sky where they had last seen Him.

It took “*two men dressed in white*” (Acts 1:10) to bring them back to their senses. “*‘Men of Galilee,’ ” they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, Who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into Heaven’*” (Acts 1:11).

Back they went to Jerusalem. Their eyes were no longer on the clouds, but they were still looking at Jesus. They waited. They prayed. They chose another disciple. And they waited some more – all the while looking at Jesus.

Whom are you looking at? Yes, Jesus has ascended. We can only imagine His joyful, triumphant return as all the hosts of Heaven welcomed back the risen, victorious Savior. Because He is that Savior, because He is the Author and perfecter of our faith, “*let us fix our eyes on Jesus*” (Hebrews 12:2). Through His Word and Sacraments, He will lead us in His ways; He will teach us obedience and self-sacrifice; He will teach us love for our neighbors. With joyful and generous hearts, we celebrate the new life that Easter brings us by sharing the message of the Cross and the Empty Tomb with all who will listen. Keep looking at Jesus until in Heaven you see him face to face!



The Lutheran Hour



April 7 "**Raise the Flag**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Learn how the followers of Christ are raising God's flag in the world. (Acts 1:1-11)

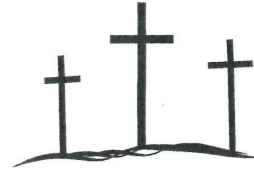
April 14 "**Breathe In, Breathe Out**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez
The Holy Spirit breathes life into the Church and the Church breathes that life out to the world, with the love of Christ. (Acts 2:42-47)

April 21 "**More Than He Bargained For**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect. (Acts 3:6)



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MAR 2024

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!

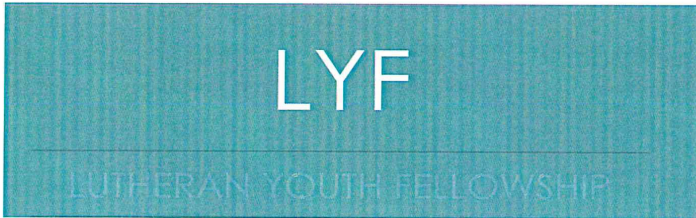
Lent has been quite the whirlwind this year, and I am quite enjoying it! I have really loved getting into a regular rhythm of preaching (normally ever other week, with Lent bringing a time of every week). Between midweek services, Thursday night curling (yes, like the Olympic sport!), visiting our homebound members, family time, chapels at school or area nursing homes, and meetings, there's not much time left for anything else! But that's ok—being busy is teaching me a very important lesson: time management! That's a good skill for anyone to get a handle on, but it will especially be fruitful for me as I try to balance church/work/family/life in the years ahead. I am blessed to be yoked to a spouse who picks up the slack and urges me to be present when I have spent time away too long. Have I mentioned that I out-kicked my coverage when she said, "I do"?! Dreama has been a great help and support to me on vicarage. It's a blessing to be supported by her, the girls, (and you all, too!!) wherever it is we go.

Eleanor is in a full-blown stuffed animal stage right now... she can't hardly go anywhere without carrying around three or more stuffed animals around the house with her. She can't run just yet, but she is getting close! She is an absolute joy to watch as she trots around the house, going from the dog, to her mom, to her sister, back to her toys, and then making the loop again. If we could bottle her energy, I think we could make a killing! Lydia is four months old now, and is almost able to roll over! Big sister is keeping a watchful eye on her and will alert us if she thinks that Lydia needs something.

February was a busy month not just because we started Lent, but additionally because I got to spend a couple of days in Arizona at the "Best Practices for Ministry" conference in Phoenix. While it was a little warmer than I would enjoy for late February, I had an absolute blast gathering together with 2,500 other LCMS church workers and lay leaders from across the country as we recharged, refreshed, learned, and networked. We ran into some folks that I hadn't seen in a while, and made some new friends too! We also learned a lot—each day you had the option to attend four sessions/classes/talks where people would share their expertise on a myriad of topics, from fundraising to preaching the Law to ministry in small-town Midwest America and everywhere in between. I think there were some 400 options for classes to choose from? It was pretty impressive to say the least. If you're ever in Arizona in February, Best Practices is well worth a stop!

Blessings to you this Lententide as we prepare to celebrate the empty tomb of our resurrected Lord!

The Eggermans—Joseph, Dreama, Eleanor and Lydia



APRIL
•
2024

We are watching The Chosen DVD/Bible study in Sunday school. Make plans to join us!

Seven of us attended WinterJam on Friday, March 15. It was a packed arena with great bands!

There are 7 of us attending the Missouri District retreat in Lake of the Ozarks on April 5-7. We can't wait to tell you all about it!

Congratulations to this year's confirmands!



Upcoming Events:



Join us for Sunday School every Sunday at 9:15 am.

Monthly meetings are typically the third Sunday of the month.



Grant and Annie Hedeman

417-343-2507 Annie

417-343-8787 Grant

anniem513@yahoo.com

Like Immanuel LYF on FaceBook!

Missouri District retreat
April 5-7, Lake of the Ozarks

Sunday, April 21 –
monthly LYF meeting

Sunday, June 2 – church picnic with homemade ice cream



Chipper Allen
Dorothy Davis
Katherine Engelage
Eloise Haubein
Mildred Link

George Mertz
Dean & Loretta Owen
Bea Roncovitts
Jean Schnelle

April 19 - 20, 2024

MARRIAGE & FAMILY CONFERENCE

THE ORDERS OF CREATION

Trinity Lutheran Church, Cole Camp, MO

A conference for the whole family

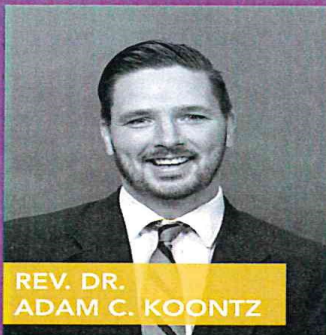
The conference is for everyone: for husbands, wives, parents, children, widows, and single people. Through the Word of God, we will grow in our appreciation for God's wonderful gift of marriage and the family, and return to our homes encouraged and better equipped to lead faithful lives, regardless of the makeup of our family.



Register by
April 12, 2024

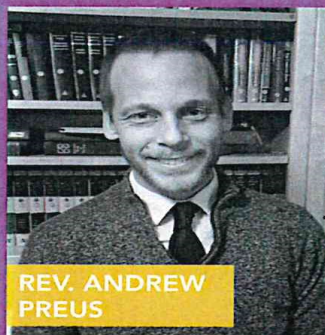
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FEATURED SPEAKERS



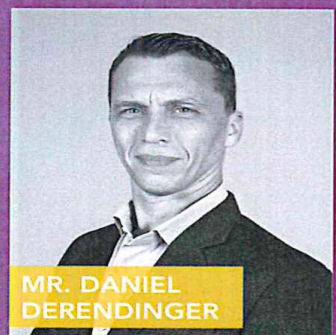
REV. DR.
ADAM C. KOONTZ

Rev. Dr. Adam C. Koontz is Associate Pastor and Evangelist of Trinity Lutheran Church, Denver, CO. In addition to his pastoral duties, he is the author of *The Narrow Way Simply Shown* and can be heard on the podcast, *A Brief History of Power*. Pastor Koontz will present the biblical theology and framework of The Orders of Creation.



REV. ANDREW
PREUS

Rev. Andrew Preus is Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Haven, MO. Rev. Preus will have a presentation on applying The Orders of Creation to the family and the church.



MR. DANIEL
DERENDINGER

Mr. Daniel Derendinger and his wife, Mayumi, are members of Grace Lutheran Church in Versailles, MO. They are raising five children in the faith. Mr. Derendinger's presentation will apply The Orders of Creation to life in our society.

For more information or to register for this event please visit www.marriagefamilyconference.org