

# Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

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<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

June-July 2021

## What About...The Sacrament of the Altar?

The following article is another from the "What About" series by Dr. A. L. Barry, President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, ©2001. The entire series can be found at <https://steadfastlutherans.org/whatabout/>

~Pastor Richard Gaub



On the journey through our earthly life to heaven, our good and gracious God provides a holy and precious meal to sustain and strengthen us on our pilgrimage—the **Lord's Supper**. What a privilege it is for us to receive this powerfully comforting gift! Thanks and praise forever be to God for the Sacrament of the Altar.

*Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but you are mighty; Hold me with your powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me now and evermore. (Hymn 220, Lutheran Worship (LW)) [Editor's note, Hymn 918, Lutheran Service Book (LSB)].*

### **Why do we need the Lord's Supper?**

As we examine our lives in the bright light of **God's holiness**, we realize how much we have sinned and how much we need His forgiveness. Our sinfulness and the troubles, sorrows, difficulties, **and stresses of our life in this fallen world are all reasons we need the Lord's Supper.**

As great as is our need, even greater is the life-giving meal He has provided! It is a very personal way God works in our life to save us, to strengthen us and to keep us close to Him. Jesus promised to be with us always, to the very close of the age (*Matt. 28:20*). Through His precious Word and Sacraments, our Lord continues to fulfill His promise.

**Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Altar with these words: "This is My body, given for you. This cup is My blood of the new testament, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" (*Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*).**

*(continued on page 3)*



## Our ECE Is Sharing Jesus

Every week our Early Childhood Education program holds Chapel. **This school year's** schedule was difficult because of the corona virus. My visits to the school were very limited. The school secretary was at the door to check students, staff, and visitors for fever or symptoms. Even attendance at the school was limited due to corona virus distancing and capacity protocols. Despite the restrictions and extra procedures, God is at work!

I love leading Chapel. I love to walk around, sometimes I shout, bang on the lectern, and sing songs with them. As I stand before the children, their eyes follow me, and they listen as I tell them of their Savior, Jesus Christ. I enjoy talking about Jesus!

Three years ago, on Ash Wednesday, I invited Henry Dietrich to help me place ashes on the **children's foreheads. The children walk up and stare** as we placed the ashes. Some ask to have the ashes placed on their wrists. Henry was the most excited of us all – the joy of singing and leading worship.

The following year, I called on Max Bolen for **help. He put on the Elder's vestment and was moved** by the number of children and staff who came to receive the ashes. As I was getting ready to leave, a child called out, **"Pastor Perez, where is the other pastor?"** I mentioned this to Max and he gave me a big smile.

Our ECE has had children baptized through the years. How can we break the ice and have their parents worship with us on Sunday? Pray for our ECE school, many children hear and learn about Jesus. Let the Director, Secretary, Teachers, and staff know that you appreciate and love them for the work they do with these children.

*~Pastor Claudio Perez*



## Texas District LCMS Convention

The 62nd Convention of the Texas District will be held June 10-12, 2021, in San Marcos.

For details about the schedule and other information, including the Conference Workbook, see the Conference website <https://txlcms.org/2021-texas-district-convention/>



Did you know that the LCMS has an app for iOS and Android phones? Get it and a variety of other apps from LCMS partners at <https://www.lcms.org/resources/multimedia/mobile-apps>

# What About ...

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**The Lord's Supper "is the true body and blood** of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to **eat and to drink"** (*Small Catechism*).

*Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy your praises render. Bless the One whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded. He, though heavenly, high, and holy; deigns to dwell with you most lowly. (Hymn 239, LW) [Editor's note: Hymn 636, LSB]*

## **What is Jesus giving us in the Lord's Supper?**

In the Sacrament of the Altar our Lord and Savior is continually distributing to us the body and blood of the sacrifice He made for us, the sacrifice by which He paid for the sins of the entire world. Thus, receiving His body and blood, we receive forgiveness, life and salvation. Flowing from these tremendous **treasures of God's mercy are the love**, peace and hope that He gives us in His Supper, and the ability and desire to **do God's will**, living in love and harmony with others.

It is often observed how there is a **foreshadowing of the Lord's Supper in the Old Testament** discussion of how the sacrifices were eaten by those for whom they were offered (*1 Cor. 10:18*). The Scriptures indicate that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (*Heb. 9:22*). The blood of **Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin** (*1 John 1:7; Matt. 26:28; Acts 20:28; Rom. 5:9; Heb. 9:14; Heb. 12:24; 1 Peter 1:18-19;*

*Rev. 1:5; Rev. 7:14*). And it is this very blood He gives in His Supper.

*Draw near and take the body of the Lord, and drink the holy blood for you outpoured; Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest. (Hymn 240, LW) [Editor's note: Hymn 637, LSB]*

How is Jesus present in His Supper?

We do not try to explain how Jesus is present **under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper**, rather we believe, teach, confess and rejoice that He is present. We Lutherans let the words of Jesus stand without arguing about their possibility or trying to explain how they are true. As Luther put it so **clearly, "We maintain that the bread and the wine in the Supper are the true body and blood of Christ"** (*SA III.6*). Everyone who communes receives into their mouths the body and blood of Jesus Christ, whether they believe it or not, be they worthy or unworthy.

**Jesus' Word is sure and certain. The Holy Spirit gives us faith to trust in and believe Jesus' words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Faith in Christ's promise is what makes us worthy to receive His Supper. Christ's words of institution retain their validity and efficacious power and thus, by virtue of these words, the body and blood of Christ are truly present, distributed and received.**

*Your body and your blood, once slain and shed for me, are taken at your table, Lord, in blest reality. Search not how this takes place, this wondrous mystery; God can accomplish vastly more than what we think could be. (Hymn 249, LW) [Editor's note: Hymn 628, LSB]*

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# What About ...

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## **Why do we receive the Lord's Supper often?**

We receive the Lord's Supper often because of how much we need what the Lord gives in His Supper. We dare never make a law about how often an individual "should" or "must" receive the Lord's Supper. But this is a separate question from how frequently Holy Communion is offered in our congregations. Our Lutheran Confessions make it clear that the Lord's Supper is offered every Lord's Day and on other days when there are communicants present (*AC XXIV.34 and Ap. XXIV.1*).

In saying this, our Confessions are merely reflecting the truth of the Sacred Scriptures, which place the Lord's Supper at the center of worship (*Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20, 33*), not as an appendage or an occasional extra. It is for this reason that our Synod has repeatedly encouraged our congregations to provide the opportunity for communicants who so desire to receive the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day.

*My Lord, You here have led me within Your holiest place. And here Yourself have fed me with treasures of Your grace; for You have freely given what earth could never buy, the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die. (Hymn 244, LW)*

## **What should we do if we do not feel a need to receive the Lord's Supper?**

Because of our sinful human nature, we are tempted at times to think, "I don't need to take Communion. I just don't feel like it." But when we feel this way, we need to realize that in the

Lord's Supper, the holy God of God, and Light of Light, very God of very God, is coming among us, under the bread and wine, to be with us, to join Himself to us, to forgive, renew and strengthen us.

In preparing to receive the Lord's Supper, it is good for us to review, "Christian Questions with Their Answers," on page 306 of our hymnal, *Lutheran Worship* [Editor's note: page 329, LSB]. There Luther talks about those times when we just may not "feel" like receiving the Lord's Supper. Luther writes, "To such a person no better advice can be given than that, in the first place, he put his hand into his shirt and feel whether he still has flesh and blood, and that he by all means believes what the Scriptures say about it in Gal. 5 and Rom. 7.

"Secondly, that he look around to see whether he is still in the world, and keep in mind that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15-16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

"Thirdly, he will certainly have the devil also about him, who with his lying and murdering, day and night, will let him have no peace within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Eph. 6; 2 Tim. 2."

*O Jesus, blessed Lord, my praise, my heartfelt thanks to You I raise. You have so lovingly bestowed on me Your body and Your blood. Break forth, my soul, in joy and say; what wealth has come me today, what health of body, mind, and soul! Christ dwells within me, makes me whole. (Hymn 245, LW) [Editor's note: Hymn 632, LSB]*

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# What About ...

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## Conclusion

Here is how one Lutheran theologian beautifully describes the precious treasure of **the Lord's Supper**:

**"The Israelites** were fed with manna in the wilderness as with bread from heaven (*Ex. 16:15*). In this Holy Supper we have the true manna which came down from heaven to give life to the world. Here is that bread of heaven, **that angel's food, of which if any man eat** he shall never be hungry (*John 6:35, 51*).

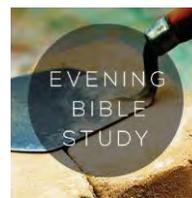
**"The children of Israel** had the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat, where they could hear the Lord speaking with them face to face (*Ex. 25:21, 22*). Here we have the true ark of the covenant, the most holy body of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (*Col. 2:3*). Here we have the true mercy seat in the precious blood of Christ (*Rom. 3:25*), through which God has made us accepted in the Beloved (*Eph. 1:6*).

**"Nor does Christ simply** speak the word of comfort to our souls, He also takes up His abode in us. He feeds our souls not with heavenly manna, but, what is far better, with His own blessed self. Here is the true gate of heaven for our souls, and the ladder reaching from earth to heaven on which the angels of God ascend and descend (*Gen. 28:12*).

**"Christ holds us dear because He has bought** us at so dear a price. He holds us dear because He feeds our souls with so dear and precious a food. He holds us dear because we are members of His body, of His flesh (*Eph. 5:30*).

**"The holy flesh** of God, which the angelic hosts adore in the unity of the divine nature, before which archangels bow in lowly reverence, and before which the principalities and powers of heaven tremble and stand in awe, has become the nourishment for our souls. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad (*Ps. 96:11*), but still more let the believing soul exult and sing for joy, to whom God gives such an **unspeakable gift!**" (*John Gerhard, Sacred Meditations, pg. 103ff*)

*O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you, in thanksgiving bow before you. Here with your body and your blood you nourish our weak souls that they may flourish. O Lord, have mercy! (Hymn 238, LW) [Editor's note: Hymn 617, LSB]*



Monday Night Bible Study  
June 7 and 21  
July – No Bible Study

## Newsletter Contributors

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*Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*How can I ever thank you enough for opening your hearts to me with your financial gifts, prayers, telephone calls or just a word of encouragement to say how are you doing. I am so blessed to have a church family here at Immanuel.*

*God blessed my son and I by taking us both through the fire and letting us live.*

*I know when God closes one season of our lives, He is faithful to take us through the next season.*

*With heart filled thanks and blessing to you all.*

*In Christ,  
Carolyn Breithaupt*

# Sunday School

During May, our Sunday school may have been small in numbers, but it never lacked for the love of learning about Jesus. Evie continues to bring joy to Carolyn and I on Sunday mornings. We have been learning about **“BUGS and JESUS”**. Each Sunday we learn about a special bug that was created by God and how that bug can teach us something about Jesus.

## Caterpillar

**Caterpillars** are bugs with a promise: one day, they will be butterflies. Jesus' **disciples** were simple fishermen when they first met him, but Jesus would **transform** them just as he can transform us.

Our caterpillars were made from leftover Easter eggs. Evie said her caterpillar also looked like a rainbow.



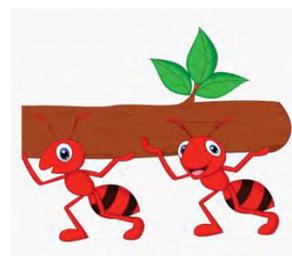
Me too!

Coming to SS!



## Bee

A **bee** makes sweet honey and Christians can do **sweet** things like the **Good Samaritan**. As believers, we can make the world sweeter by doing good and loving other people. This makes Jesus happy.  
Be a **Good Servant of God**.



## Ant

An **ant** is created to be a **worker**. A worker that knows its job and does it without complaining. We, as children of God, are to be workers for God. **Working together**, we should **joyfully** share God's Word with others.

# Sunday School (con't)

On Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Sunday school took a break from the bugs and had a lesson on “**Jonah and the Whale**”. The story was told through felt, pictures and a puppet. We learned was that God is a forgiving God. When we do wrong, we are to repent and ask God for forgiveness.



Enjoy your Summer but remember not to take a vacation from God, Church, or Sunday School! Join Us! All are Welcome.



We ask for your prayers that Immanuel's Sunday school would grow. Our Sunday school needs children. Our prayer is that we may all learn from the bugs. May children of all ages come to know God and be transformed into disciples of God. As children of God that we would love and do sweet things for others and to be willing and happy workers for Jesus.



“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it.”  
Proverbs 22:6

~Cathleen Chevallier  
Sunday School Superintendent

# What About ... Holy Baptism?

The following article is another from the "What About" series by Dr. A. L. Barry, ©2001. The entire series can be found at <https://steadfastlutherans.org/whatabout/>

~Pastor Gaub

Suppose for a moment that there was a doctor who had such incredible talent that he could prevent people from dying, and bring those who had died back to life, never to die again. Just imagine how people would do whatever they could to be treated by this doctor! Now consider that in Holy Baptism, God actually does give us the gift of eternal life! **Let's** learn more about this marvelous blessing.

What is Baptism?

*Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in **God's command and combined with God's Word.** (Luther's Small Catechism)*

**What's so special about a handful of simple water?** Nothing, until God connects His Word to it! In Baptism, that is exactly what God is doing. He combines His life-creating and life-giving Word with the waters of Holy Baptism, and thereby we are born again of water and the Spirit (*John 3:5*).

What is that Word of God?

*Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"** (Matt.28:19). (Luther's Small Catechism)*

Our Lord commands Baptism. It is not optional, nor is it simply a nice "extra." **God's Word** takes on many forms, according to His good and gracious will. The Word is preached, taught, and proclaimed. It is read, studied, and meditated on. It is shared by Christians, with non-Christian and fellow believer, alike. And it is that Word of God, His promise, that makes Baptism what it is.

God Himself is present as His name is joined to the water, with all His power and all His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. Christ consecrates the water of Baptism with His Word, so as we in Baptism stand with Christ in the water, the Father calls us His beloved children, the Holy Spirit is given to us, and heaven is opened to us.

Those who receive Baptism after they have been brought to faith by the preaching or teaching of the Word also receive all the blessings God has attached to Baptism.

What benefits does Baptism give?

*It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: **"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever *does not believe will be condemned*"** (Mark 16:16). (Luther's Small Catechism)*

In and through Baptism, God cleanses us from all of our sins, snatches us from the power of Satan, and gives us everlasting life.

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# What About ... Baptism?

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**It is all God's doing as He gives us His blessing.**

It is His promise. In Baptism, our Triune God imparts to each of us personally the gifts the Lord Jesus Christ won for the world through His life, suffering, death, and resurrection. Please see especially Gal. 3:27; Col. 1:13–14; 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5–7 and 1 Cor. 6:11.

How can water do such great things?

*Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in **the water. For without God's Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying"** (Titus 3:5–8). (Luther's Small Catechism)*

Of course, simple water can't do such great things, but the water of Baptism is not simple water! Baptism is one very special way God delivers to us the blessings Christ won for us. Baptism is not something we do, but something God does. Therefore, it is far more than a symbol. It is a sacred act in which God Himself is at work forgiving sins, giving new life in Christ and bestowing on us the Holy Spirit with all of His gifts.

Baptism gives us the faith through which we receive these gifts. God the Holy Spirit works faith in the promises attached to Baptism.

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

*It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever. Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "**We were therefore buried with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life**" (Rom.6:4). (Luther's Small Catechism)*

In Baptism we are buried with Christ, and in Baptism we are raised with Christ. His death and resurrection are made our own, and because of that fact, through our entire life, we are able to say, "**I am baptized!**" Having been buried with Christ into His death we do not have to be afraid of the tomb in which we will rest one day. Christ has already been there. In Holy Baptism we have passed through His grave into His resurrection.

As Luther says in his Large Catechism, "**If I am baptized, I have the promise that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body. ...No greater jewel can adorn our body and soul than Baptism. ...Baptism is a treasure which God gives us and faith grasps, just as the Lord Christ upon the cross is not a human work, but a treasure comprehended and offered to us in the Word and received by **faith.**"**

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# What About ... Baptism?

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What does Baptism have to do with our daily life?

Everything! Our entire life is a life lived trusting in the promises of God, given to us in and through Holy Baptism. We are constantly returning to Baptism. In moments of temptation and suffering in our lives, when all seems to be crashing down on us, and in particular in those moments when our sin and the guilt of those sins haunt us, we are able, as Luther says, to **"Pull out our Baptism and wave it under the devil's nose and say, 'I am baptized. ...I have God's bath. It is Christ's own blood.'** It is a bath blessed and mixed with **the blood of Christ."** (WA 47:651, 10-19, 32-36). We **can't return to the cross of Christ,** nor should we attempt to imagine ourselves back there. No, **we turn instead to the "here and now" reality of God's work in our lives.** We return to our Baptism. For it was there and then that God buried us with Christ and raised us with Him to a new life.

In his *Large Catechism*, Luther says, **"Every Christian has enough to study and to practice all his life. He always has enough to do to believe firmly what Baptism promises and brings—victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sins, God's grace, the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with His gifts."** And: **"If you live in repentance,** therefore, you are walking in Baptism, which not only announces this new life, but also produces, begins and promotes it. In Baptism we are given the grace, Spirit and power to suppress the old man, so that the new man may come forth and grow strong. Therefore, Baptism remains

forever. ...Repentance, therefore, is nothing else than a **return and approach to Baptism."**

Why are infants and young children baptized?

They are baptized for the same reason adults are baptized—because of the command and promise of God. What is promised in Baptism is given to all who receive it; therefore, infants and young children also have the promise of God. They, too, are made children of God. They, too, are included in the **words "all nations"** (Matt. 28:19). Jesus specifically invites little children to come to Him (Luke 18:15-17). But most important, as sinners, infants need what Baptism gives.

By His word, God created all that is seen and unseen. By His word, our Lord Christ called a dead man from the tomb (John 11:43-44). The unborn child, John the Baptist, leaped in **his mother's womb when he heard the word of God** (Luke 1:41-44). Why is there any doubt that in and through the Word and the promise of Baptism, God works a similar gift of faith in the infant? If we misunderstand Baptism to be our work, then we will always cast doubt on it. When we recognize that it is not our work, but **God's gracious promise and work,** we realize that infants are to be baptized and receive the treasures offered in and through Baptism.

Sadly, there are individuals and church bodies that deny Baptism to young children and infants. They do not believe that these little ones need what Holy Baptism gives. They do not believe what the Bible teaches so clearly, namely, that God saves us through Baptism. As a result of these false teachings, they deny both to themselves and to others the power,

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## Focus on Stewardship

**“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.”** **Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** (*Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34*)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let’s **explore** this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and **the Lord’s Supper. And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us.** He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. **Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”** (*Matthew 19:24*) **“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** **Notice** that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

*~submitted by Kathy Angst*

*[Stewardship newsletter insert for May 2021, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=iucUXA4gf05n5JFMovVC8VAIZno4apYI>*



## Mission Report Cayman Islands Rev. Dr. Gerald and Heidi Paul

*[Excerpt from the Paul's April and May e-newsletters]*

What **do you do when you're on a** small island with travel restrictions preventing officiants from arriving for the occasion? You do the installation online via ZOOM, of course! Thank God for modern technology! The Rev. St. Onge could do the installation out of his regular Divine Service in Montreal, Canada, Rev. Krey could assist from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Gerald could be installed as pastor of Safe Harbour Lutheran Church in his home, while still serving a mandatory post-arrival quarantine! The local parishioners could zoom in along with our family and friends in the USA, Germany and South Africa!

Still looking for a worship space

We still gather for worship at the parsonage in Snug Harbour because the Community Center, that had previously been used for worship, is still being used as a COVID testing site. We are thankful for the **parsonage's screened**-in porch that keeps mosquitoes out and can seat about twenty people for worship. However, it already is at its maximum capacity and could not fit many more people. The challenge is to find a budget-friendly space that we can rent long-term. All members are actively helping to find a new place.

*~Gerald and Heidi Paul*

*[To be added to or removed from the Pauls' mailing list, send an email message to [gerald.paul@lcms.org](mailto:gerald.paul@lcms.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.]*



*Worship in the parsonage's screened porch*

## What About ... Baptism?

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blessing and comfort of Holy Baptism. That is tragic, for it is a most serious offense against God to deny what He plainly declares in His **Word: "The promise is for you and your children" (Acts 2:39) and "Baptism now saves you" (1 Peter 3:21).**

Conclusion

**"We see what a great and excellent thing Baptism is, which snatches us from the jaws of the devil and makes God our own, overcomes and takes away sin and daily strengthens the new man. It always remains until we pass from this present misery to eternal glory" (Large Catechism).**

The meaning, power and promise of Holy Baptism rest entirely on the One who lived perfectly in our place and who suffered and died as the sacrificial ransom for the sins of the world. He rose victorious over death and the grave. In Holy Baptism, we receive all the **blessings of Christ's atoning sacrifice.** Thank God for His gift of Holy Baptism!





# Immanuel Lutheran Church – June 2021

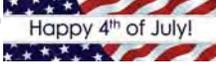


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Note Change: Voters Meeting Postponed, Date To Be Determined</b>		<b>1</b>  <b>ECE Summer Program Starts</b>  <b>All Boards @7:00 pm</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Usher Team #2</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>7</b>  <b>Bible Study @ 7:00 pm</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Usher Team #3</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  <b>Usher Team #4</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>21</b>  <b>Bible Study @ 7:00 pm</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Usher Team #5</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			



# Immanuel Lutheran Church – July 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>4</b>  Happy 4 <sup>th</sup> of July! <b>Usher Team #1</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>5</b>  ECE CLOSED  <i>NO Bible Study</i>	<b>6</b>  <i>All Boards</i> <i>@7:00 pm</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Usher Team #2</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <i>Church Council</i> <i>@7:00 pm</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Usher Team #2</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>19</b>  <i>NO Bible Study</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Usher Team #4</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am <i>Tentative - Voters</i> Bible class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# Serving Immanuel June-July 2021

	<b>Sunday June 6</b>	<b>Sunday June 13</b>	<b>Sunday June 20</b>	<b>Sunday June 27</b>
<b>Elder</b>	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.
<b>Usher Team</b>	#2 Larry G.	#3 Lonnie A.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.
<b>Media</b>	Jackie A.	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	Karen E.
<b>Audio</b>	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Gerald O.
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary O. & Vivian G.	Mary O. & Vivian G.	Mary O. & Vivian G.	Mary O. & Vivian G.

	<b>Sunday July 4</b>	<b>Sunday July 11</b>	<b>Sunday July 18</b>	<b>Sunday July 25</b>
<b>Elder</b>	Phil N.	Phil N.	Phil N.	Phil N.
<b>Usher Team</b>	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Lonnie A.	#4 John C.
<b>Media</b>	Barbara S.	Melissa T.	Jackie A.	Karen E.
<b>Audio</b>	Ray T.	Max B.	Gerald O.	Ray T.
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Margaret B. & Melissa T.			

If you would like to fill in, trade, or substitute please contact the church office. Thank you.



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1440 Cortlandt St  
Houston, TX 77008

Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

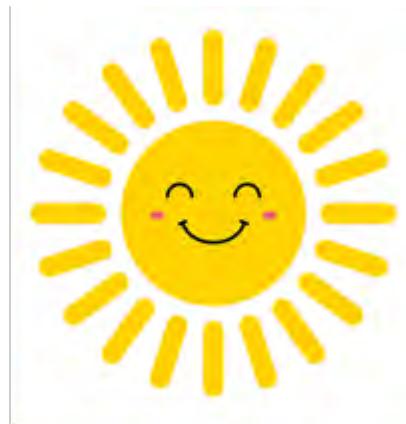
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*In Christ, for the Church and the World*



POSTPONED

Date to be  
Determined



Tuesday, June 1  
ECE Summer  
Program Starts