



St. John & Immanuel Lutheran Churches Tecumseh / Sterling

**Newsletter
March 2023**

Rev. Marcel Kohlmeyer,
Pastor

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The Gospel in Seven Words

Imagine that a friend or family member who is unfamiliar with your Christian faith asks you to summarize the gospel. She isn't looking for a laundry list of doctrines. She has no interest in hearing you recite the Apostles' Creed. She wants to get to the heart of the matter. "In seven words or less," she says, "tell me what you believe as a Christian."

What would you say? How would you put it? Are you be prepared to confess your faith in Jesus?

To be a Christian is to "**believe with your heart**" and "**confess with your mouth**" the good news of God's love for us in Christ (Romans 10:9-10). Peter calls us to be prepared always to give a reason for the hope we have as Christians (1 Peter 3:15). Christians have the best news in the world to share! But are we prepared to share it?

During this season of Lent, we're going to prepare to celebrate Holy Week by sharing why Holy Week is so important. Our midweek worship services will serve as opportunities to consider the many ways in which the Scriptures proclaim Jesus. During the week, each of you will be working on your own summary, with the hopes that all of us are more prepared to share the good news of Jesus. Come and join us this Lent, and join us by crafting your own confession of the gospel!

Lent Worship Schedule

(C) Ash Wednesday	February 22	The Gospel in Seven Words	1 Peter 3:15	St. John
Midweek of Lent 1	March 1	Preparing to Confess	2 Corinthians 5:17-21	Immanuel
Midweek of Lent 2	March 8	Captivity and Freedom	Luke 4:16-21	St. John
Midweek of Lent 3	March 15	Death and Life	John 11:17-27	Immanuel
Midweek of Lent 4	March 22	Isolation and Community	1 Corinthians 12:12-27	St. John
Midweek of Lent 5	March 29	The Gospel in <i>Your</i> Words	1 Peter 3:15	Immanuel

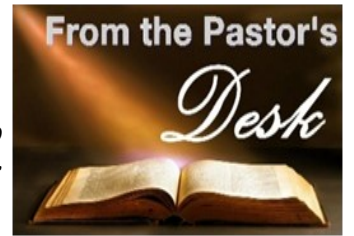
Lent Services (Wednesday Evenings) at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday (C) St. John - 7:00 pm	April 6	Jesus Comes to Feed My Hungry Soul	Matthew 26:26-28
Good Friday Immanuel - 7:00 pm	April 7	Jesus is Lord, Even Over My Death	Colossians 12:13-14
Easter (C) Immanuel - 6:30 am	April 9	Christ Is Risen! In Him We Rise! (C) St. John - 9:00 am	Romans 6:1-9

The Gospel in Seven Words!

"[B]ut in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." - 1 Peter 3:15



Our country has changed a lot over the past 60 years. Some of the changes have been positive, others have not. One of the changes that we see so prevalent in our country and community is the lack of knowing what Christians believe and why. Many simply do not understand the Christian faith or what seasons like Lent are all about. If someone were to ask you what Lent is about or even the Christian faith, how would you answer? The apostle Peter encourages us to always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that we have in Christ. To be a Christian is to confess the faith.

Back in 2010 an article was published in a Christian magazine called, "The Gospel in Seven Words" (The Christian Century, Sept. 2010). The author invited fifteen prominent theologians around the country to give it a shot— to proclaim the gospel as clearly as they could. But instead of letting them recite the Apostles' Creed, he allowed them only seven words. Some of their versions were faithful and true and creatively insightful. Others left something to be desired, and even missed the point. Here are some of the better ones:

"In Christ, God's yes defeats our no."

"God, through Jesus Christ, welcomes you anyhow."

"God was in Christ, reconciling the world."

All of these statements are faithful to the Gospel. Each of these brings out one specific aspect of the Gospel. Each of them tells someone something specific that Christ has done for them. That is what we do as Christians; we simply are telling someone about Jesus and what He has done for them. In our Lenten sermon series, we are exploring what it means to confess the Gospel and we are preparing ourselves to be able to state the Gospel in seven words. These summaries of the Gospel are meant to be a place where you can start to have a conversation about what Jesus has done for you. Throughout this season, as we study the Word of God, the Holy Spirit will guide as we prepare to share the Gospel. I ask you to come and prepare a specific and personal confession of the Gospel. I will ask everyone to turn in a copy and will share them with the rest of the congregation. Do not worry! I will not share names but it is my hope that we can all be encouraged from one another!

Until then, I pray that the Lord will lead you to greater insights as you explore the Gospel and what it means for your life! May the Lord abundantly bless you all!

Sola Deo Gloria!

Pastor Kohlmeyer

Preschool News

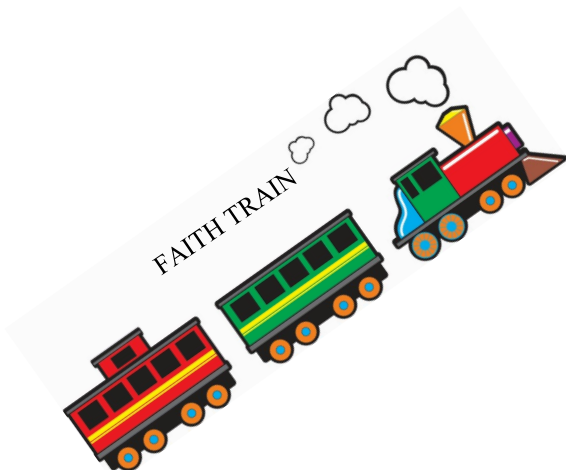
Hello everyone! It is almost spring! We have been learning so much here in Preschool this year. Our first theme for the month is Pets. We will learn all about the different animals we can have for pets and how to take care of them. We will also learn about what a Veterinarian is. Our other theme is All about Dinosaurs. One of the things we will learn about in this theme is what a paleontologist is. We will do an activity where the preschoolers get to pretend that they are paleontologists.

We will learn our last number 20 this month. Then we will continue to practice recognizing and writing our numbers 0-20. We will learn the letters L, J, U, and Z. We are almost through the alphabet. We will have one letter left. As we learn new letters we continue to do activities to practice the ones we have already learned.

Our Hot Beef Luncheon will be Sunday, March 19th. The Preschoolers will have a short program during Church. In Jesus time this month we will continue to practice for this along with Bible lessons about Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Good Friday, and Easter.

We continue to keep very busy here in Preschool and learn so many new things. I hope everyone has a great month!

Mrs. Walters



Faith Train on Wednesdays has been going well! We have been learning about the Exodus and journey to the promised land. The kids also enjoy snacks when they arrive, music, craft and game time. We encourage you to share with family and friends there is still room for more to come aboard Faith Train .

St. John's Lutheran Preschool

Tecumseh, Nebraska



Annual Hot Beef Luncheon

~*~Free Will Offering~*~

**Sunday, March 19th
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Delicious Menu includes: Hot Beef Sandwich,
Homemade Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Cole
Slaw and Dessert.**

To-Go Orders Available

~~NOW ENROLLING FOR 2023-2024 CLASSES~~

**Give your child an eternal advantage
with a beginning to their education
at a Christ-Centered Preschool.**

Call TODAY for enrollment forms!



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 25, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM

***Your child will benefit from a small teacher to student ratio**

****Scholarships are available for students**

Open to all families in the community who are interested in enrolling their child in the St. John's Lutheran Preschool Program. This open house will give you an opportunity to see the classroom, meet the teacher, and ask any questions you may have. An Orientation night will also be held in August.

If you have any questions, please call St. John's Lutheran Church at **402-335-3816**

Nebraska Lutherans for Life essay contest

Nebraska Lutherans for Life would like to invite students in grades 6-12 who are members of a Lutheran congregation or attend a Lutheran school in Nebraska to participate in this year's Lutherans for Life Essay Contest, based on the 2023 Conference theme: ***Just As ... I Am with the Bible verse: "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***

One winner will be selected for grades 6-8 and one for grades 9-12. Winning entries (one from Grades 6-8 and one from Grades 9-12) will be awarded \$100 each. The winning essays will be entered in the national contest. Grand Prize for the national winning entry at each level will be \$250 plus free conference registration to the 2023 Conference and one night at a conference hotel. Second place national winners at each level will receive a \$125 prize.

Essays should, of course, be the students' individual, original work, but pastors, teachers, and parents are encouraged to discuss the criteria on which the essays will be judged. The same rubrics will be used at both the state and national levels. Please request a copy of the rules and rubrics from Bob Saeger, Nebraska LFL president, at saeger001@windstream.net. **Entries must be submitted electronically by April 1, 2023.**

Pastors, teachers, and parents are asked to promote the contest. It is our hope that this contest will give them an opportunity to discuss the Sanctity of Life and life issues with our young people.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Nebraska District College Scholarship

What is the Nebraska District College Scholarship?

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Nebraska District College Scholarship was developed to encourage college students in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Nebraska District to pursue their educational goals. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to at least one applicant.

Applicant must be a graduating high school senior with a minimum 3.0 GPA or current full-time post-secondary student at an accredited institution with at least one year of courses remaining and a minimum 2.5 GPA. Applicant must also be a member of a congregation belonging to the LCMS located in the Nebraska District.

Applications close April 15, 2023. Winners will be announced on May 5, 2023.

Learn more and complete your application at lcef.org/Nebraska-scholarship.

Questions about this scholarship? Connect with Nate Meier, LCEF District Vice President at nate.meier@lcef.org or [402-643-2961](tel:402-643-2961).

District Synod & Mission Central News



Mission Central News

Plan now to take a group from your congregation out to visit [Mission Central](#) 2 miles east of Mapleton, Iowa to hear from these missionaries. [What in the world is Mission Central? Click here to read about this not normal place.](#)

June 3, 2023, 1:00—[Rev. Gustavo and Ruth Maita](#), Puerto Rico

June 10, 2023, 1:00—[Rev. Gerald and Heidi Paul](#), Cayman Islands;

1:30—[Rev. Walter and Robyn Steele](#), Kenya

July 8, 2023, 1:00, [Rev. Jonathan Clausing and family](#), East Africa

July 15, 2023, 1:00—[Rev. Steve Oliver and family](#), Taiwan

July 22, 2023, 1:00, [Rev. Dr. Mike Paul and family](#), Taiwan



Orphan Grain Train

A Matching Grant Opportunity to help build the addition to the existing center in Norfolk. The total of the improvements is about \$7,000,00.00, of which about \$6,000,000.00 has been raised. A foundation and some businesses have recognized the value of OGT's services and have put together a matching grant challenge amounting to \$375,000.00 to help achieve this goal. If you would like to make a donation, please mail it to : Orphan Grain Train, Inc., PO Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702-1466. Please make sure you put Servant Center matching grant in the memo line.

ANNIVERSARIES, BIRTHDAYS, BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS & GREETERS

Birthday Celebrations

- 2 **Shirley Hestermann**
- 6 Victoria Juilfs,
Rick Thies
- 7 Cliff Lacey
- 10 Evelyn Buethe
- 13 Janelle Moran
- 17 Eric Bartels
- 23 Esther Buethe
- 26 Stetson Miller
- 27 **Seth Dean,**
Jon Rathe
- 29 Fred Pooch,
Jackie Boden

Anniversary Celebrations

- 11 Lavern & Eloise Bartels (61 yrs)

Baptismal Birthdays

- 4 Jackson Haughton,
Ken Lueders
- 7 Breanna Borrenpohl,
Brooklyn Borrenpohl,
Treyton Holthus
- 9 Duane Krause
- 14 **Rachel Goracke**
- 16 Steve Klein
- 17 **Heather Thies**
- 21 **Jackie Boden**
- 22 Ryly Haughton
- 23 Janene Bartels,
Sarah Borrenpohl,
Ashley Juilfs
- 24 Elaine Kuhl,
Sharon Mandery
Harlea Thies
- 27 Roger Borrenpohl
- 28 Haleigh McDonald
- 29 **Rick Thies**
- 30 **Ed Heiden**

*Immanuel Members in **Bold***

Greeters

- March 5 Sam & Elaine Kuhl
Sharon Williams
- March 12 Sharon Lintz
Larry & Donna Rathe
- March 19 Del & Cindy Lierman
Jeff & Sarah Dean
- March 26 Terry & Lisa Kuhl
Merlyn Saathoff



MONTHLY SERVANTS OF GOD

St. John's

Altar Guild

Amy Borrenpohl

Elder of the Month

Kirk Bartels
(402) 921-0774

Trustee of the Month

Aaron Kinney
(402) 335-0751

Immanuel

Flower Committee

No flowers during Lent

Elder of the Month

Galyn Bartels
(402) 866-1057

Acolytes

March 5 Madalyn Kohlmeier &
Wesley Schmid

March 12

March 19 Madalyn Kohlmeier &
Andrew Kohlmeier

March 26

Acolytes

Seth Dean
&
Sierra Goracke



Pastor office hours: Please call for appointment
Secretary office hours: Monday—Friday: 8:30 am—12:30 pm

March 2023

(C) = Services with Holy Communion

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Office: 335-3816 Parsonage: 335-9117			1 Preschool Chapel 9:00 am Faith Train / Midweek / Confirmation 4:30 pm Lenten Service (Immanuel) 7:00 pm Joint Elder's Meeting (Immanuel) 8:00 pm	2	3	4
5 Second Sunday in Lent (C) Divine Service [Immanuel] 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study [St. John's] 9:30 am (C) Divine Service [St. John's] 10:30am	6 Pastor's Family Day	7 Quilting (St. John's) 9 - 3	8 Preschool Chapel 9:00 am Faith Train / Midweek / Confirmation 4:30 pm Lenten Service (St. John's) 7:00 pm	9 Orphan Grain Train Volunteering (Lincoln) 1:00 – 3:30 Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm	10	11
12 Third Sunday in Lent Divine Service [Immanuel] 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study [St. John's] 9:30 am Contemporary Service [St. John's] 10:30 am	13 Spring Pastor's Conference 9:00 am (Kearney)	14 Spring Pastor's Conference 9:00 am (Kearney) Quilting (St. John's) 9 - 3	15 Preschool Chapel 9:00 am Faith Train / Midweek / Confirmation 4:30 pm Lenten Service (Immanuel) 7:00 pm	16	17 Pastor's Family Day	18 Hot Beef Luncheon Prep (St. John's) 1:00 pm
19 Fourth Sunday in Lent (C) Divine Service [Immanuel] 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study [St. John's] 9:30 am (C) Divine Service [St. John's] 10:30am Preschool Hot Beef Luncheon [St. John's] 11:30 am – 1:00 pm	20 Pastor's Family Day	21 Newsletter Deadline Quilting (St. John's) 9 - 3 Priscilla's (St. John's) 4:00 pm	22 Preschool Chapel 9:00 am Faith Train / Midweek / Confirmation 4:30 pm Lenten Service (St. John's) 7:00 pm	23	24	25
26 Fifth Sunday in Lent Divine Service [Immanuel] 8:30am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study [St. John's] 9:30 am Divine Service [St. John's] 10:30am	27 Pastor's Family Day	28 Quilting (St. John's) 9 - 3	29 Preschool Chapel 9:00 am Faith Train / Midweek / Confirmation 4:30 pm Lenten Service (Immanuel) 7:00 pm	30	31	

**Saint John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church and
Preschool**

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secretary_stjohnlutherantec
@outlook.com

Pastor's email:
revkohlmeyer@hotmail.com

[YouTube](#)

St. John [Facebook](#)
Immanuel [Facebook](#)

Website: www.2gatherinchrist.org



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Address Correction Requested
