

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday Divine Service is at 9 a.m.

Sunday Bible Class begins at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 10:15 a.m. (September-May)

Wednesday Evening Service is at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Thursday Morning Worship is at 8:45 a.m. in the chapel.

Thursday Morning Bible Class is at 9 a.m. in Memorial Hall.

News, Notes & Numbers — continued

◆ **Spring Clean Up.** Thanks to everyone who came out on Saturday, April 20th, to help beautify our building and grounds. Your service was greatly appreciated.

◆ **Pastor is available** for private confession and absolution and counseling one Saturday each month, as listed in the calendar, or by appointment at other times. Consider taking advantage of these opportunities.

◆ **Facebook** is another opportunity to get up-to-date information with what is happening at Emmanuel Lutheran. Like us at "Emmanuel Lutheran Church-Mo Synod."

May God continue to reform our Church to His Word and bless our May!



“And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.”

Psalm 90:17 *(Bible reference inscribed on our church cornerstone, circa 1916)*

Return Service Requested

E-mail: pastor@emmanueladell.org

Phone: 920-994-9005

Adell, WI 53001

326 Center Ave.



PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE



Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS

326 Center Ave. — Adell, WI 53001

Phone: 920-994-9005 • website: emmanueladell.org

May 2024

Emmanuel News

“but 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)

Confirmation – More than a Graduation

In many ways it seems like the past three years have flown by. It’s hard to believe that a group of five students began their confirmation journey in the fall of 2021 and are within weeks of completing that journey on May 19th as they stand before the congregation and profess the faith given to them in their baptisms. Maybe to them these three years of preparation, classes, memory work, and fellowship haven’t flown by quite as quickly, but to me it seems like it was just yesterday that we began.

In a recent survey of more than 1,000 confirmation leaders, parents, and youth, an overwhelming majority of confirmands affirmed the importance and benefits of confirmation instruction. Adults have also made it clear that confirmation is a very important ministry. I’ll share with you several highlights of the study that will illustrate why confirmation is so important.

Confirmation’s History

In the early church, when adults were the center of its outreach, the church developed a “catechumenate.” Though the catechumenate took many forms, the content was a confession of faith, instruction in the Word of God, Baptism, anointing with oil, laying on of hands, and Holy Communion.



In the fifth century, leaders of Western churches began to describe a bishop’s anointing of a priest with oil and the laying on of hands as a confirmation. Then, the initiation rites of those churches were divided into three separate parts: Baptism, confirmation, and first Communion. The claim made by the church in the Middle Ages was that the grace of

God was given in Baptism for the remission of sins, while anointing of oil and the laying on of hands in confirmation resulted in a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit who gave strength for daily living. In 1150, confirmation became one of the seven sacraments of the church.

The Middle Age practice of confirmation became a target of Luther’s Reformation. He was amazed that the laying on of hands and anointing were called a sacrament, since neither was commanded by Christ nor ever endorsed as a channel of God’s grace. Luther’s focus was instruction in the Word of God, and he preached sermons on the key teachings of the Scriptures. He then wrote the Small and Large Catechisms for parents and pastors.

Today in the LCMS, nearly all congregations offer the rite of confirmation. The aim remains the same as the early church’s: to answer Christ’s call to go to the nations and make disciples by baptizing and teaching.



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Highlights

- Quarterly Congregational Meeting on May 5 at 11:30 a.m.
- Ascension Service on May 9 at 6:30 p.m. followed by Ice Cream Social at 7:15 p.m.
- Confirmation on May 19.
- Sunday School children sing in church on May 19.
- Sunday School/Bible Class Year-End Celebration on May 19.
- Memorial Day Parade and Brat Fry on May 27.

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Thursday Morning Bible Class

The class continues to meet at 9 a.m. and will meet on May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. We will continue to focus on the Book of Revelation.

Sunday School

- 5/5—Israel in the Desert
- 5/12—The Giving of the Law
- 5/19—Children sing in Church
Year-End Celebration
- 5/26—NO Sunday School

Sunday Bible Class

- Sunday Bible Class meets after the Divine Service in Memorial Hall.
- Currently we are studying the Resurrection of Jesus.
 - Year-End Celebration with Sunday School on May 19.
 - NO Bible Class on May 26.

Worship Attendance

- Week of 3/24.....277
- Week of 3/31.....200
- Week of 4/7.....102
- Week of 4/14.....118
- Week of 4/21.....108

Pastor's Article — continued

Why Is Confirmation Important?

In the survey of 1,015 participants, confirmands reflected on the benefits of the instruction and nurture of parents, confirmation leaders, teachers, and congregations. The survey results revealed that:

- Ninety-three percent of youth described confirmation as being very important or important.
- Three of four youth named growing in faith and living as a Christian as the number-one reason for being in confirmation.
- Confirmands have a clear view of the value of human life, with 90 percent rejecting the statement that it is OK for a couple to seek an abortion.
- While more than 50 percent of Protestant youth are involved in various forms of “supernatural” experiences such as astrology and a belief in reincarnation, 8 of 10 LCMS confirmands have nothing to do with these practices or beliefs.
- Ninety-eight percent of confirmands said that their faith in Jesus Christ helps them to know what is right and wrong.
- Ninety-eight percent of the parents said that confirmation is very important or important in the lives of their daughters and sons.

A Theological ‘Graduation’?

The survey also found that more than nine of 10 leaders identified a “confirmation is graduation” view in their congregations. Leaders responding to the survey indicated that only 41 percent of those who confirmed their faith in the rite of confirmation were active as high school seniors. Many issues contribute to this reality such as time and schedule conflicts, the need for a higher level of parental commitment, and the cultural and moral issues that families are facing today.

In the same survey, “suggestions” for strengthening confirmation ministry included more applications of catechetical content in the lives of young people, a greater participation by youth in the congregation and in leadership roles, more involvement by the congregation in confirmation ministry and a greater clarity of expectations and accountability in a confirmation ministry.

What We Can Do

As we look forward to May 19th and the important day in the faith journey of **Parker, Tim, Kai, Levi, and Jordyn**, we can encourage them that this day, although a very important one, is but a stepping stone in their lives of faith that extend from baptism until they draw their final breath. The work of the church in encouraging its youth is not limited to the parents of those youth. We’re all called to be encouragers by modeling the faith in our own lives, creating a culture of faithful and regular worship attendance, and living as the body of Christ in all that we do.

Our confirmation program provides a great base for the knowledge and faith development that Christians need to live this life as disciples, but discipleship is a lifelong process. Each of us is in the midst of it every day and in need of one another’s encouragement. Let us be that encouragement for each other, and especially this month for those who will publicly profess their faith.

Blessings,

✠ *Pastor Marks*



2022 Emmanuel Confirmation Class

Betsy Marks, Jonah Marks, and Gwenevere Payne

Mission of the Month—May

The Mission of the Month for May is the *Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach*. Rev. David Blas continues his work to the Hispanic population of Sheboygan County. Spanish Divine Services are held at Good Shepherd in Sheboygan on Sundays at 12 noon and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Bible Classes are held on Sundays at 1 p.m. for adults, youth and children. Kids learn about Jesus, the Bible and the Sacraments. They do crafts, games and sing songs. Any gift on the mission line of your weekly envelope in May goes toward this important mission. We continue to support this energetic young man in his work in Christ’s church. Thanks be to God!



Pastor David Blas



Quarterly Congregational Meeting May 5 at 11:30 a.m.

News, Notes & Numbers

◆ **Pastor Marks** can be reached at the church office or at (920) 400-0425 and is available for any pastoral needs that you might have. Feel free to reach out to him to schedule a visit or just stop by when the porch light is on. Monday-Wednesday mornings are generally good for visits, but he will always be happy to see you. Pastor also holds designated hours one Saturday morning per month for individual confession and absolution, counseling appointments, and general visitation. Also, let Pastor know if you are in the hospital, having surgery or a procedure, or simply desire prayer for any reason. He can also be reached by email at pastor@emmanueladell.org.

◆ **March Missions**, *Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and Seminarian Luke Konkell*, raised \$1,200. Our Christian Education Fund matched the \$600 in support of the Konkell family. We thank you for your gifts that supported these missions.

◆ At the Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne assignment service on April 23rd, **Luke Konkell** received his vicarage assignment to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora, Iowa. We keep Luke, Jenny and Elijah in our prayers as they transition to this new stage in his pastoral formation.



◆ A **Cemetery Association** meeting has been scheduled for Monday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall. A vote on the proposed changes will be held. All plot owners are encouraged to attend this important meeting.



◆ An **Ice Cream Social** hosted by the Ladies’ Aid will be held on May 9th following the Ascension Service which begins at 6:30 p.m.

◆ **Walter Wilhelm Buchholz**, son of Aaron and Hayley Buchholz, was born on April 1st and baptized on April 14th.



◆ **Easter Breakfast**. Thank you to all who helped and attended this year’s Easter Breakfast. The Youth Group raised \$350 to support their activities.



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