

Immanuel Lutheran Church Augsburg

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Pastor Timothy J. Landskroener

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August, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

In the old days, when school would start after Labor Day, September would be the month when we would hear about Christian education. Now, school starts in August, so it's good to consider Christian education this month – and not just in school, but especially in the Christian home. And if you no longer have children at home, this still applies to you since we are all catechumens (disciples/learners) for life and not just for a few years of confirmation instruction. Such learning and study doesn't take the summer off, but continues year-round.

God says:

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6 ESV) and

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4 ESV)

So how are parents, and especially fathers, to do that? How do parents bring up their children in the discipline and instruction (nurture and admonition) of the Lord? First of all, by setting the proper example for their children. This certainly includes regular, weekly participation in the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. After all, children learn more from the parent's example than from their words. As with anything else, if the parents make attentive church attendance a top priority, the children will learn that it is valuable and important. But if parents make worship an occasional occurrence, the children will learn that church is less important than other things. May it never be!

The second thing parents can do to raise disciples of Jesus is to talk about the things of God in the home. Discuss the sermon with them and teach them Bible verses, Bible stories, hymns, and the Catechism. And this teaching can't start early enough. The sooner children start hearing the Bible, hymns, and the Catechism, the easier they will learn them by heart. In fact, Dr. Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism to help parents teach the faith to their children. Before each part of the Christian faith (Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Office of the Keys, and the Sacrament of the Altar), he directs, "As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household." Likewise, he includes these two directives in the section concerning Daily Prayers, "How the head of the family should teach his household to pray morning and evening," and "How the head of the family should teach his household to ask a blessing and return thanks." He knew how important it is that parents teach their children the Christian faith, and the practices that flow from it. He knew how important it is for parents to give their children a "pattern of sound words" as St. Paul writes, "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 1:13).

So how do parents teach their children Bible verses, Bible stories, hymns and the Catechism? I'm glad you asked. Family devotions are certainly a good place to start. Read a Bible story and talk about it. Choose a Bible verse or portion of the catechism and review it at meals or at bedtime. Read it through out loud once or twice, asking the child to repeat it after you. It doesn't have to be long and tedious. But especially with younger children, repetition is key. After hearing the same words each day for a week, your child will know it well, and so will you. Look for something coming soon to help you in this regard.

Why is it so important to learn the Bible verses and the Catechism by heart? "So that it can shape the faith and understanding of the catechumen [disciple/learner] and be used by him throughout his life as he learns to interpret Scripture, listen to preaching, receive absolution, pray, confess, and live in his vocation." (Bender, "Lutheran Catechesis", xi). Such learning is vital for our children and for us adults too, because knowing Bible verses, the Catechism, and hymns by heart will provide much strength and comfort throughout our life, especially as we face trials of various kinds, including at life's end.

And if parents need more help in teaching their children, they should read and study Luther's Small Catechism for themselves, as well as his Large Catechism. You would be amazed how modern and up-to-date Luther is. If you want or need a copy, please let me know. Also, if you ever have questions, please ask me. I'm glad to help as I can.

As we enter the month of August, our Sunday School and Bible Class resume. Make your attendance and participation a priority for you and your child(ren). Be here every week. You'll have something to talk about on the way home and throughout the week. Besides, then you won't be late for church.

God bless us all as we sit together at Jesus' feet in the Christian congregation and in the Christian home, and grant that we all learn to believe that we are sinners, learn repentance, learn to confess our sins, learn to trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sins, learn to call upon Him in prayer, learn to confess our faith before the world, learn to confess our sins to one another, learn to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us, and learn to live faithfully in our vocation as hearers of the Word, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, citizens of the land, and workers of every kind. (Bender, ix).

The Lord bless you and be with you always.

Pastor Landskroener

**Reminder** – If you or someone in your household has been sick or not feeling well, please refrain from attending our worship service. We understand, this is out of love for one another.

**Church Week at Rural King is August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.** Rural King will donate 10% to any Church designated organization. Purchases must be made between Aug. 2-15. Give your receipts to Scott Torbeck & he will make you a copy of your receipt. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Today we started having Sunday School & Bible Class at 9:00 am each Sunday.** We will continue to practice social distancing. The morning services will no longer be streamed live on Facebook. Readings & sermon will still be available on [www.augsburgchurch.com](http://www.augsburgchurch.com) web site.

**Plans to renovate Camp CILCA's Dining Hall are moving forward.** Would you consider posting some information (attached) about the need for volunteers for this project in your emails, newsletters, and bulletins? One big need is for volunteers to provide a snack for the Laborers at the morning break. Work will begin August 18.

**Lighthouse Pregnancy Center** in Vandalia will conduct their Baby Bottle Campaign from now till Labor Day (September 7).

**Bulletins are printed on Wednesday evenings.** Contact me if you would like to have something placed in the bulletin. You can send emails to [Storbeck@augsburchurch.com](mailto:Storbeck@augsburchurch.com) or Church email [augsburg@augsburchurch.com](mailto:augsburg@augsburchurch.com) call @ 349-6152, call or text 367-3355, hand me a note. Must receive bulletin note by 4:00 pm Wednesday afternoon to make in the bulletin for Sunday morning. Thank you.

**Parish Hall reservations** – If you would like to plan an event or meeting to use our Parish Hall for any reason, this also includes Church activities. You will need to contact Scott or Karen Torbeck. If not asked, we don't know. Use of the Parish Hall will be determined by the first reservation made.

**Trimming Stamps for Mites** -- Trim each stamp leaving paper measuring 1/8 of an inch or less around the stamp. Be careful not to trim too close to the stamp. No corners or edges should be cut. The stamps must be 100% complete. If there is a group of stamps trim around the whole group.

**Church office is looking for help** in maintaining accurate records for Augsburg. Have you moved since our last directory or had a change in marital status? Have you noticed a birthday or anniversary that is incorrect or missing? Please notify Scott Torbeck to get our Church records updated.

**Do you have a cell phone?** Do you text? Do you have a home phone? Some do some don't. How do you want to be contacted by the Church? The Church would like to contact you via text with any info, updates or closings. To receive a text message, you will need to give us your cell number. Normal text fees will apply. Please provide info to Scott with a note or email [storbeck@augsburchurch.com](mailto:storbeck@augsburchurch.com) or text 618-367-3355

**Augsburg Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
**Quarterly Voters Meeting**  
**July 19, 2020**

Due to the Coronavirus infection and pandemic, beginning March 22, 2020 live church services were suspended in accordance with the State of Illinois mandates for social distancing and gatherings. With God's grace we are now able to meet again. The following minutes reflect what has happened since January 1, 2020.

Chairman Mo Schukar called the meeting to order and Pastor Landskroener led all present in prayer and devotion. Minutes from the January 13, 2020 voters meeting were printed in the church newsletter. There was no further discussion on these minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes as posted, seconded, and approved.

Members:

Voting members: Pastor Timothy Landskroener and Kathy Landskroener

Communicant members: None

Baptisms: None

Transfers:

Transfer out: None

Transfer in: Pastor Timothy Landskroener and Kathy Landskroener

Releases: Kala McMMain, Emma McMMain, Rylee Witt, Alexis Jones

A motion was made to accept the releases, transfers and new voting members, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was presented. A motion was made to accept the report as presented, seconded, and approved.

Elders' Report:

Have been meeting with the pastor throughout the Coronavirus crisis, to set guidelines for re-opening of the church to live services. They will continue to work through this process.

Pastor's Report:

The pastor was installed on February 23, 2020. Since then Coronavirus has created many unique challenges and issues for the pastor, as well as the congregation. From shutting down the live church services and this year's Easter celebrations to interfering with pastor's ability to visit shut-ins and hospital patients, it has been a challenging past few months. A copy of the pastor's full report is included with these minutes.

LYF: No Report

Trustees' Report:

There are no major problems to report. Issues will be addressed as they come up.

Sunday school:

Now that we have returned to live church services, Sunday school will resume on August 2, 2020.

Bible Class:

As with the Sunday school, adult bible class will also begin again on August 2, 2020.

Finance Man: No report.

Sexton:

- Recent high winds caused the flagpole in the cemetery to break. A new one has been ordered and should be installed soon. This will be coordinated with the installation of the new veterans' monument.
- An individual has donated \$1000 for gravel for the cemetery lanes. It will be delivered soon. Additional gravel will be purchased through the cemetery fund if necessary to complete the job.

Old Business:

Pastor Timothy Landskroener was installed as pastor for the Augsburg Immanuel Lutheran Church on February 23, 2020

New Business:

Coronavirus, communion, and church procedures:

The Coronavirus has caused many challenges to be overcome before we could return to safe attendance of live church services. New procedures have been implemented for seating, collections, and communion by the pastor and elders.

Previously, the first, third, and fifth Sundays were designated as communion Sundays. Due to the changes brought on by the virus, the pastor and elders decided that communion would now be offered every Sunday to accommodate everyone that may not be able to attend service due to illness or quarantine. A motion was made that going forward the frequency of communion will be decided upon by the pastor and the elders. The motion was seconded and approved.

Thank you:

A special thank you was extended to Karen Torbeck for her work in streaming the live service on Facebook during the church shutdown for those who could not attend.

Special Collections:

There are no special collections designated for the third quarter.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and approved. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Steven R. Hickerson

# Augsburg Church

# August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> (A) Dennis & Evelyn Meseke 51
<b>2</b> (A) Kevin & Melissa Gramlick 96	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> (B) Ronald Rogers	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> (A) Dennis & Lisa Lange 77 (B) Joyce Bertram	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> (A) Gale & Helen Meseke 70
<b>9</b> (B) Quentin Schukar	<b>10</b> (A) David & Stacy Kruenegel 85	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> (B) Emily Ehrat (B) Marlin Schukar	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> (B) Waylin Rogers	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> (B) Whitney Roberts	<b>22</b> (A) Ty and Ashley Meseke 15 (B) Lana' Merriman (B) Scott Torbeck
<b>23</b> (B) Marsha Sasse	<b>24</b> (B) Cody Warner	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> (B) Brian Walk	<b>27</b> (B) Karen Torbeck (B) Lori Meseke	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> (B) Murlin Klukis
<b>30</b> (B) Nita Schukar	<b>31</b> (B) Florene Klukis					

# Augsburg Church

# August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>31</b>					