

Living As Christ's Disciples



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Mission Statement

"To Know Christ is to Share His Love"



Statement of Faith

We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of God and that it has been kept free of error through His Divine intervention throughout the ages. (*Sola Scriptura*)

We believe in the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe the Scripture teaches that Jesus the Christ, who is both God and man, was born of a virgin - lived a life which was completely without sin - suffered and died on a cross - returned to life three days later - walked, talked and ate with many during the next 40 days - finally, He ascended to heaven where He sits at God's right hand awaiting the resurrection of us all.

We believe that Jesus the Christ is the Messiah (promised by God throughout the Old Testament period) and therefore is the sole way for humankind to achieve eternal life in heaven. (*Sola Fide*)

We believe that the only way that this eternal salvation can be attained by us is as a free gift from God - there is nothing that we can do or say which will cause us to be saved from the penalty of our sins - only by God's grace. (*Sola Gratia*)

We believe that the Book of Concord assists us in properly interpreting Scripture because it is a normative set of creeds that define Christianity from a Lutheran perspective.

Philosophy of Ministry

As Christ's Body we follow His command "to Make Disciples." This is done as we WORSHIP together praising our Lord as His family through EDUCATION and the study of His Word as it relates to our daily lives, through WITNESSING of God's love in word and deed, through FELLOWSHIP as a family through many and varied activities, and through SERVICE in meeting the needs of people.

VISIONS FOR IMMANUEL LUTHERAN (03/06)

As members of Christ's body, we will participate in, support, and promote the visions of Immanuel's Philosophy of Ministry.

WORSHIP

A congregation that is a community of believers valuing Christ-centered weekly worship that engages individuals of all generations to be empowered to "Share His Love".

GOALS BY 2009

- We will increase our worshipping community to at least 1500.
- Each style of worship will have a Worship Team and Leader to plan and implement the services.
- Double the participation of people in the prayer ministry.
- Have staffing in worship for creative arts.
- Increase the position of Minister of Music and Minister of Technology.
- Signing for deaf
- Welcoming people - better trained greeters
- Add services
- Sign changed
- Creative arts - Dance - Drama - Decorations

EDUCATION

A congregation that is involved in the study of God's Word personally and corporately.

GOALS BY 2009

- Hold at least one personal and spiritual growth campaign.
- A Christian Day School of 2 classrooms per grade supported by tuition and congregational support not to exceed 20% of the cost of the Day School. Continued enrollment and recruitment to keep up the number enrolled.
- Every staff member and leader is actively involved in Bible study.
- Begin a program for 2 year olds called, "Tiny Treasures"
- Children's education ministry that includes at least 500 of Immanuel's children (ages 0 - 6th grade) and Youth Education Ministry that includes at least 350 of Immanuel's youth (7th - 12th grade).
- Adult Bible study classes attendance for the week totaling at least 450.
- Establish a full-day Kindergarten.
- Offer more ministry opportunities involving 7-12th graders.

EVANGELISM

A congregation that seeks God's heart of compassion, and a burning desire to share His love with those who do not know Him in our community, nation, and globally.

GOALS BY 2009

- To hold a mission emphasis weekend at least once a year.
- At least 300 individuals have been trained in witnessing through a specific evangelism course.
- Adult confirmands and baptisms totaling at least 60 per year.
- Continue youth mission trips at least once per year and adult team mission trips 4 times per year.
- Offer Evangelism Course at least two times a year.
- 75% of the guests who attend six times or more per year become members.

FELLOWSHIP

A congregation that experiences the joy of gathering together to develop meaningful relationships that uplift one another as a Christian community.

GOALS BY 2009

- Congregational Fellowship Event in 2008 (5 years after 150th - 5 Years of Grace)
- Increase the number of groups (with the key components of Fellowship, Service, Task, or Bible Study) by 50.
- Have Leadership Training (Boards and Staff) at least once a year.
- Small Group Leader training at least once a year.

SERVICE

A congregation that is involved in a meaningful ministry of service to God, others and self.

GOALS BY 2009

- 80% of new members will be actively involved in one ministry and in worship 75% of the time after one year.
- Develop our volunteer information in a format that is easily accessible for our leadership.
- Have a Ministry Expo in 2007.
- Have 55 Trained Stephen's Ministers.
- Develop a staff position of a Small Group Minister.

Core Virtues

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are committed to...

◆ God's Word as truth and we are involved in it daily.

John 17:17 Romans 9:1 Colossians 1:5 II Timothy 3:16-17
II Peter 1:21 Ephesians 1:13 II Corinthians 4:2

◆ Every Christians purpose as a witness of salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

Acts 4:12 John 3:16 John 17:3 John 14:6
Luke 19:10 Matthew 9:37-38 Acts 1:8 Romans 10:13-15

◆ The application of God's Love through Word and Sacrament.

Romans 6:23 Acts 2:38 Romans 10:17 I Corinthians 10:16
Galatians 3:13 Ephesians 2:8-9 Matthew 26:26-28

◆ The power of prayer

James 5:16 Mark 11:24 Acts 4:31 I Thessalonians 5:17
Acts 2:42

◆ Faithful service by giving our best to God, that which is already His.

Matthew 6:24,33 Psalm 139:14-15 Proverbs 3:9-10 I Corinthians 12:4-6

◆ Supporting households of faith:

Joshua 24:15 Psalm 127:1a Colossians 2:6-7

◆ Ministry of the whole person

James 5:13 Matthew 10:7-8 Proverbs 14:21 Romans 12:1-2
Proverbs 15:30

The purpose of this class is to provide information on the following:

- What it means to be called a disciple.
- How we grow in our discipleship, prayer, Bible Study, and in God's family.
- What is our response to God's love?
- Stewardship of time, talent and treasures.
- How I have been blessed. - How I can be a blessing to others.
- Who are we? - We are part of the family of Immanuel, and that is special.
- Who are we? - Transfers, Pastor's Class, Declaration of Faith



New Member Welcome in Church is: _____

New Member Reception is: _____

Part I: Called Into New Personal Lifestyle

Open your Bibles to **Ephesians 2:1-10**. Let's review and celebrate how God brought us from death to life.

1. Before Christ came to us we were _____: we were unable to _____ to God or people in a _____ way.

2. Our life and our destiny were dominated by _____.

3. Daily choices were determined by our _____
_____.

With its _____, _____, and _____.

4. But a new day has come! God, rich in _____, has _____
_____ in _____.

5. We have a new home in the _____ and in the future we will fully recognize the _____ of His GRACE.

6. God's _____ has rescued us.....a _____ we receive through _____ not _____.

7. Now we are _____ with meaningful _____
_____ prepared for us to do.

8. For private study: Romans 6:1-14. At our baptism we were joined to the Resurrected Christ that we might walk in New Life. This is really living!

9. Make your eternal reservations now "Smoking or Non-Smoking?"

How We Grow In Our New Life As Disciples

Now that we understand what our new life in Christ is, we will learn how to grow strong and effective in it.

- A. Just as a newborn child has received complete life as a free gift, yet must receive nourishment and exercise to continue to live, so we who are "born again" must nourish and exercise our new life in Christ. This is not an optional activity for "extra credit," it is a matter of survival as well as joyful, meaningful living.

We learn from Jesus' own words on this matter in **John 15:1-8**, using the metaphor of vine and branches. "Give God glory....."

1. Three facts about "branches."

- a. Branches bearing _____ are _____ to become more _____.
- b. _____ branches will be _____.
- c. Branches who remain in _____ will bear _____.

2. See verses 7 and 8. Two vital functions of "Fruitful branches" in Christ are _____ and _____.

3. The power of _____, focused and applied through _____ will produce a _____ life of _____ and giving glory to _____.

4. On your own, look at **Galatians 5:22-23** and list the fruit of the Spirit:

- B. Prayer: The talking part of our relationship with God (two way communication - God to us and we to God.) Prayer focuses and applies the power of God's Word in our lives and in our world. On the one hand, prayer is clearly a "powerful and effective" action as James 5:16 states. "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." On the other hand, it is an action in which sinful and weak humans sometimes find difficulty understanding and applying. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "that although we can only see and understand partly now, in heaven we will see and understand clearly."

1. Jesus invites us to _____, _____, and _____ with His promise to respond.
2. God promises to respond to our prayers as a loving and wise _____, who will _____ to His _____. God's answers are "YES," "NO," and _____.
3. Luke 11:9-13.....Ask for _____.
4. Effective communication is also about the quality of the interaction, not just the frequency.
5. We need to pray - God knows all things but we need to come to him in prayer.
6. Ephesians 6:1-20 - The Armor of God
 - a. Finally, be _____ in the _____ and in His _____.
 - b. Put on the _____ ARMOR of _____ so you can _____ against the _____.
 - c. We struggle against?
 - d. Stand firm as you are equipped with the Belt of _____, Breastplate of _____, Feet fitted _____, Shield of _____, Helmet of _____, Sword of _____ which is the _____ of God, and _____.
 - e. You and I need to be with each other in His _____ and in prayer!

Items to be completed and returned at our next session:

1. **Immanuel Lutheran Church Membership Form** - *one for each family member*
2. **"My commitment to the Lord"** - *letterhead sheet - one for each family member*
3. **Survey of Talents** - *Make sure you highlight what Pastor will announce when he introduces you to the Congregation on the day you are welcomed into Immanuel*
Your Talents are God's Gift to You.....What You Do with Them is Your Gift to God.
4. **Spiritual Gifts Results**
5. **Past Records of Churches which Have closed** - We take people as a Declaration of Faith -
You may contact the Synod at:
Concordia Historical Institute
801 DeMun Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105
314-505-7900

How to Read the Bible

*"Like newborn babies long for the pure spiritual milk,
than by it you may grow up in your salvation," - 1 Peter 2:2*

The following are suggestions to help you as you read the Bible:

Select a book of the Bible as a unit of God's Word to be studied over a period of time.

Read the passage through several times, noting the questions and observations as you read.

You are reading God's Word so ask Him for understanding.

Understand the whole picture of the book.

Who is the author?

What are the circumstances?

What are the major divisions of thought?

To assist you in your reading, use a Bible concordance or commentary, an atlas, a dictionary or handbook.

When reading a given passage, ask yourself these questions:

What is the major idea?

What blessings does this passage remind me of for which I should thank God?

What sin does this remind me of, for which I should ask God's forgiveness?

What duties toward God and others does this remind me of, for the performance of which I must ask God's help?

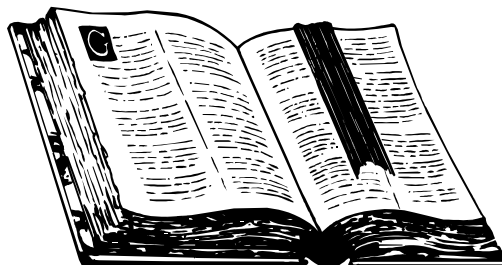
What does this passage mean to me for my daily living? What am I going to do about it?

Bible.com - "Bible" and "Search"

John 14:25-26 - The Holy Spirit will help us to make sense of His Word

Other scripture which states the same - Hebrews 11:1-3, Romans 10:17, Mark 4:1-12, I Thessalonians 2:13

These are written that you may.....**John 20:31**



Christian Service

Summarize the following passage with one word:

"This is how we know what love is - Christ gave His life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for our brothers! Our life should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action."

Why should we serve?

James 1:22
Ephesians 5:1-2
I John 4:11, 19
James 2:14-17
John 15:8
Ephesians 2:10
I Corinthians 12:26-27
Matthew 25:40

Who should we serve?

Luke 10:27
Galatians 6:10
Hebrews 13:1-2
Luke 6:35

How should we serve?

I Peter 4:10
2 Corinthians 9:6-8
John 15:16

Commit that time to God right now; come to it faithfully each day. Seeing it in your moment of release from burdens, calms in storms, and guidance for living.



I. Adopted Into Our Father's Family - God's Family - Baptism of Water and Spirit

Being saved from sin and death is **never** a purely personal matter. We share a common Father with all other believers and are jointly recipients of His generosity. It is His design and purpose that we support one another and strive **jointly** in the work of His kingdom. Each of us needs other Christians and others need us. **Ephesians 3:14-21**

- A. Our family as Christians originates in _____.
- B. _____ we experience Christ's love and generosity.
- C. _____ we experience the working of His power.

II. Active Participants in God's Family - Your Ministry For Your Lord and People

- A. One significant purpose of our Family gathering is found in **Acts 2:42, 46-47** and **Hebrews 3:12-14**.
- B. Every day they _____. They _____ together, _____ God.
- C. We gather to _____ one another.
- D. We need such encouragement because of sin's _____.
- E. In the Early Church: teaching, fellowship, prayer, communion, evangelism and outreach, baptism, miraculous signs, and wonders, sharing of possessions, serving the needy, and worship were marks of the Christian. The attitude of the believers is described as reverent, joyous, and generous.
- F. You cannot realize your complete purpose and meaning in life until you venture into a solid commitment to, and invest in, a body of believers.



The Lord's Supper

Please participate in the Lord's Supper as often as you have the opportunity. Holy Communion provides a personal and powerful gift of God's grace! Christ's Body and Blood are offered to forgive, renew, and empower you as a living Disciple. When communing, please mark the box on the "WE CARE" card after each person's name participating.

Questions:

Am I a Sinner?

Do I want my sins forgiven?

Do I believe that Christ can forgive my sins?

Do I believe that Christ is present in the Sacrament?

Am I willing to change my life?

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer need for your family or friends please print the request on the bottom of the "WE CARE" card. You do not need to compose the prayer. That prayer will then be passed onto our Prayer Chain Ministry. If you wish to have your prayer included in Pastor's prayers during the church services and/or printed in the Church bulletin you must contact the Church Office by Thursday afternoon the week before.

Date: _____

WE CARE (MEMBERS)

I am attending

6:30 p.m. 8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
 10:45 a.m. 7:00 p.m.

Other: _____

NAME(S) *please print first and last name – please check if going to communion*

Check if change of address and/or phone number and indicate on the reverse side

PREPARING FOR COMMUNION
Confessing my sin to God, believing in Jesus Christ as my Savior, desiring to live a new life in Christ, and accepting the presence of Christ in the Sacrament, I hereby express my desire to partake of the Lord's Supper today by checking the box behind my name.

Prayer Requests:

Stewardship

All that you have belongs to God. You are a steward (manager) of your time, relationships, talents and money.

A. Another purpose of our family gathering is found in **II Corinthians 8:1-5** and **9:6-15**.

1. We _____ to share together in _____ as well as _____ God's generosity even in our possessions.
2. Joyful financial giving begins first with giving _____ to _____. (Lordship!)
3. Our giving can have a huge impact according to the principle of _____ and _____.

B. Evaluate your pattern of financial giving to the Lord now and develop a plan you will follow Cheerfully and confidently in God's grace. Do so keeping before you the privilege, guidance, and promises found in God's Word such as:

1. **I Corinthians 16:2** - "On the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income."

The direction: _____

2. **Proverbs 3:9-10** - "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops. Then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

The opportunity: _____

3. **Genesis 14:18-20** - Abraham - Before the tithe was commanded in **Leviticus 27:30**.

4. **Malachi 3:10-12** - "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. 'Test me in this', says the Lord almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

The promise: _____

5. Small seed - Great oak

6. Jesus spends much time on wealth, earthly possessions and money - 16 of the 38 major parables - 1 out of 10 verses - Bible has 500 verses on prayer - 200 on faith - 2000 on possessions - WHERE ARE YOUR TREASURES?

7. Do you want GROSS or NET blessings?

8. Needs vs. Wants

9. You cannot OUT GIVE THE LORD.

C. In light of these truths, and reflecting on my current giving pattern, I determine the following:

1. My current giving to the Lord has been:

_____ regularly \$ _____ or _____ % of my income.

_____ loose change

_____ nonexistent

2. The Bible encourages tithing - 10% to God. In view of my experience and understanding of God's promise, I will commit to honor God with _____ % of my income or \$ _____ per week/month.

YOU CANNOT OUT- GIVE GOD.

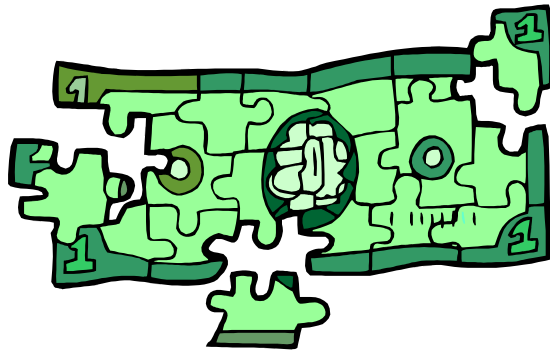
D. Where does my help come from and what can I use?

1. My help comes from _____ who made _____ and Earth. - Psalm 121:1-2

2. Ephesians 6:10-20 - Put on the full _____ of God and stand against _____.

When evil comes use the following: belt of _____, breastplate of _____, feet fitted with the Gospel of peace, shield of _____, helmet of salvation, sword of _____ which is _____ of God. Pray.

E. Narrative Explanation - CHURCH BUDGET



Annual Income	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	15%	20%
\$ 1,500	\$.87	\$1.15	\$1.44	\$1.73	\$2.02	\$2.31	\$2.60	\$2.88	\$4.33	\$5.77
\$ 5,000	\$2.88	\$3.85	\$4.61	\$5.77	\$6.73	\$7.69	\$8.65	\$9.61	\$14.42	\$19.23
\$10,000	\$5.77	\$7.69	\$9.61	\$11.54	\$13.46	\$15.38	\$17.31	\$19.23	\$28.85	\$38.46
\$15,000	\$8.65	\$11.54	\$14.42	\$17.31	\$20.19	\$23.08	\$25.96	\$28.85	\$43.27	\$57.69
\$20,000	\$11.53	\$15.38	\$19.23	\$23.07	\$26.92	\$30.78	\$34.61	\$38.46	\$57.69	\$76.92
\$30,000	\$17.30	\$23.07	\$28.84	\$34.61	\$40.38	\$46.15	\$51.92	\$57.92	\$86.53	\$115.38
\$40,000	\$23.07	\$30.76	\$38.46	\$46.15	\$53.84	\$61.53	\$69.23	\$76.92	\$115.38	\$153.84
\$50,000	\$28.85	\$38.46	\$48.07	\$57.69	\$67.31	\$76.92	\$86.54	\$96.15	\$144.23	\$192.31
\$60,000	\$34.62	\$46.15	\$57.69	\$69.23	\$80.77	\$92.31	\$103.85	\$115.41	\$173.08	\$230.77
\$70,000	\$40.38	\$53.87	\$67.31	\$80.77	\$94.23	\$107.69	\$121.15	\$134.62	\$201.92	\$269.23
\$80,000	\$46.15	\$61.54	\$76.92	\$92.31	\$107.69	\$123.08	\$138.46	\$153.85	\$230.77	\$307.69
\$90,000	\$51.92	\$69.23	\$86.54	\$103.85	\$112.15	\$138.46	\$155.77	\$173.08	\$259.62	\$346.15

Envelopes

Church giving envelopes will be mailed to you periodically from the envelope company that the church uses. You will be assigned an envelope number and this information will be given to you at new member welcome. If at any time you experience a problem with your envelopes you should contact the church office.

Each set of envelopes that you receive will contain the following envelopes:

White: "My Sacrificial Offering to the Lord" - These offerings go to our General Budget, for day-to-day operation of our congregation.

Purple: "Gift of Joy" - These offerings go to our current Capital Stewardship Drive

Pink: Special Ministries and Funds - These offerings go to the special ministry/fund as listed on the envelope included are the following funds:

 Birthday - Altar Guild Expenses - Candles, Flowers, Communion

 Organ Fund - Repair and upkeep of our existing organs

 Bethesda Lutheran Home - Serves more than 650 children in the community

 Lutheran Special Education - Serves handicapped children in the community

 The Lutheran Hour - Radio Ministry of our synod

 Lutheran High School - Lutheran High School North at 24 Mile & Romeo Plank

 Chapel Restoration - Repair and Maintenance of our Chapel

Gray/Green: Scholarship Funds

 Day School Scholarship (Green) - To students here at Immanuel Lutheran

 Church Worker Scholarship (Gray) - To college students who are members of Immanuel who are attending one of our synodical schools for full-time professional church work.

Holiday: These envelopes are white with colored graphics and a special designation such as Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent, or Christmas. These offerings currently will go to help pay our tuition subsidy to the Lutheran High School Association.



Items of Encouragement and Information

I. Devotional Materials

- A. "Portals of Prayer" - regular and large print devotional booklet
- B. "Daily Walk Bible"
- C. "Care Notes" - found in Worship Center lobby - please take any that you would like
- D. Advent and Lenten devotional booklets are available in the Worship Center lobby



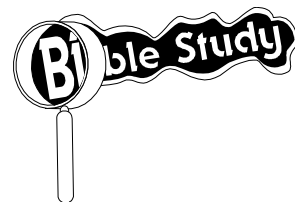
II. The Bible

Another structure you might prefer is to read one chapter per day from the gospel of John, Mark, or another book of the Bible. Keep a simple notebook of your thoughts on each chapter, reflecting on such questions as:

- A. With Christ as my Savior, how do these words focus on my life?
- B. What concerns do these words lead me to pray for?
- C. What actions do these words lead me to take today?
- D. Who else needs to hear these words?

III. Bible Studies

Review the listing of group Bible study opportunities given to you. Mark those, which suit your interests and schedule. Are there none? Speak with the Pastoral Staff. We will begin one!



IV. Sermons

Follow the sermon outline with the Pastor's message in your printed order.

V. Witnessing My Faith - Acts 1:8

- A. Family
- B. Friend
- C. _____

VI. Why Go to Church Faithfully?

- A. To give thanks to God.
- B. Be a good example to our children.
- C. Help others grow.
- D. Spiritual help for our lives now and the hereafter.
- E. To be a part of a family.



VII. The Michigan In Touch Magazine

VIII. The Day School and Preschool

IX. Sunday School (Living Stones, Gods Little Gems)

X. Building Video

XI. Groups in our church that you may wish to become involved with

XII. Support Groups

XIII. Directories - Pictorial and Address

XIV. Ministry Responsibilities

XV. Church Nursery

- Volunteer
- Message Board

XVI. Church Library

XVII. Desks

- Visitor
- Information

XVIII. Coffee Nook

XIX. Cemetery

XX. Questions???

XXI. God's Work - God's Way - Will Never Lack - If We Use God's Resources

Living Disciples Grow Together With God's Family

I. Gifts Given By The Father

Within the church God has given gifts to His people. These gifts are to be used by those in His family to accomplish His will and work in this world. To each believer He has given one or more Spiritual gifts. **Read Ephesians 4:1-16.**

A. Our Father's generosity is so vast that He fills the _____ with His _____.

1. His gifts exist to _____ His _____ for _____.
Ephesians 2:10

2. Christians who utilize God's gifts express the _____ of _____.

3. Our UNITY and GROWTH in Christ produce _____.

4. Even our daily conversations change as we speak the _____ in _____.

B. Tremendous blessings from Christ appear as _____ does its Work - Christ's Body the Church.

Now we see that membership in God's family involves much more than passive association. We are living productive family members by God's power and His honor. Begin now to identify through prayer and our discussion how Christ desires you to become an active participant in His family at Immanuel.

II. The Gifts of the Spirit

A. A definition: A Spiritual Gift is a special attribute given by the _____ to _____ of the body according to _____ grace for use _____ the _____ of the body (the Church).

1. Why do you need to know about Spiritual Gifts?

a. They will benefit: _____

b. They will benefit: _____

c. They will help you know _____. **Romans 12:1-6**

2. D _____ your Spiritual Gift.

D _____ your Spiritual Gift.

U _____ your Spiritual Gift.

3. What happens if I decide not to discover, develop, and use my Spiritual Gifts?
- I Peter 4:10** teaches that I am a _____ of the gifts that God has given me.
 - Matthew 25:14-30** teaches that:
 - If I use my gift well I am a _____ (verses 21-23).
 - If I do not use my gift I am a _____ (verse 26).
4. Alright, suppose everyone in our church decides to discover, develop, and use his or her Spiritual Gifts. What would happen then?
- Each member will know his or her _____.
 - All members will be able to work together in _____, _____, and _____, thus avoiding _____ and _____.
- Romans 12:3**
- The whole body will _____. **Ephesians 4:13**
 - The church will _____. **Ephesians 4:16**
 - And, God will be _____. **I Peter 4:10-11**
 - Knowing your Spiritual Gifts helps you.....
 - Understand the will of God for your life.
 - Understand how the Holy Spirit works through you.
 - Know what God has not called you to do.
 - Relieves you from serving out of duty.
 - To fill a deep inner need.
 - Help to build unity among Christians.

B. Scriptures Listing Spiritual Gifts which we use here at Immanuel (21)

1. **Romans 12:6-8**

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Encouragement (Exhortation)
- Contributing (Giving)
- Leadership
- Mercy

2. **I Corinthians 12:8 -10, 28**

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Encouragement
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Discernment
- Help

j. Administration

k. Apostle

3. Ephesians 4:11

a. Evangelist

b. Pastor (Pastor - Teacher)

4. I Peter 4:9

a. Hospitality

III. Composite list of the Gifts of the Spirit

Special People Gifts

A. Apostle

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to lead, inspire, and develop the churches of God by proclaiming of the love of Jesus and teaching of true facts.

(Acts 1:13-14, 21-22)

B. Prophet, Prophecy

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand Scripture and to apply its message to the needs of people.

(Acts 2:14-21, 21:9-11 and I Corinthians 14:1-33)

C. Evangelist

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with unbelievers in such a way that it makes sense to the person and they believe. **(Acts 8:26-40)**

D. Pastor (Pastor-Teacher)

This special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to certain members of the Body of Christ to take on a personal responsibility for the Spiritual Welfare of a group of God's people.

(I Timothy 3:1-7, John 10:1-18, Titus 1:5-9 and I Peter 5:1-3)

E. Teacher

This special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to tell the truths of God's Word so that others will learn.

(Acts 20:20, James 3:1-5, Acts 2:42, 18:24-28)

Speaking Gifts

F. Exhortation

This special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to stand with fellow Christians in need and bring them counsel and encouragement.

(Titus 1:9, 2 Timothy 4:2, Titus 1:9, Hebrews 3:12-15)

G. Wisdom

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to bring to the church an understanding of God's Will for the living of life.

(2 Timothy 3:15, James 2:13-18, Colossians 3:1)

H. Knowledge

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand the great truths of God's Word and apply them to specific situations.

(Galatians 4:9, Romans 11:33-36, I Corinthians 13:8-12)

Serving Gifts

I. Serving

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to identify unmet needs and to make use of available resources to accomplish the desired goals. **(Acts 6:1-3, John 13:1-7, 2 Corinthians 8:8-15)**

J. Helping

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to take the talents they have and help others to increase the effectiveness of their Spiritual Gifts. **(Acts 20:35, Galatians 6:2, 2 Timothy 4:9-13)**

K. Leadership

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to motivate, delegate, direct, and inspire God's people so that the work of the church goes on. **(Timothy 5:17-22, Exodus 18:13-26, I Thessalonians 5:12-22)**

L. Administration

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the body of Christ to direct the church's Ministry, keeping people on course. **(Acts 14:23, 15:12-21)**

M. Giving

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord - willingness, cheerfulness, and liberality. **(2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Philippians 4:15-20)**

N. Showing Mercy

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine compassion to individuals and are moved to devote large amounts of time and energy to caring for the suffering. **(Romans 12:8, Colossians 3:12)**

O. Discerning the Spirits

This special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to distinguish between that which is of God and that which is of Satan.

(1 John 4:1-6, Acts 5:3-6, 8:18-21 and 19:16-18)

P. Faith

This special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to demonstrate an unusual trust in God's promises. **(Hebrews 11, Acts 6:8-15)**

Q. Hospitality

This special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to cheerfully open their homes to others, offering them lodging, food and fellowship.

(Luke 10:1-2, Hebrews 13:1-2, I Peter 4:9, Luke 10:1-2)

Sign Gifts

R. Tongues

This special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to speak to God and to fellow Christians in a language they have never learned.

(1 Corinthians 14)

S. Interpretation of Tongues

The special gift given by the Holy Spirit to certain members of the Body of Christ to translate that which is spoken in tongues for the church.

(I Corinthians 14:6-19 and 26-33)

Sharing in the Life and Mission of the Church

*You are a member of a congregation.
This implies that you want to share in the life and work
of God's Church on earth as one of His people.
You do this through your local congregation.*

Your congregation works for God.

We are one of about 6170 congregations in the Missouri Synod

<u>Locally</u>	<u>In the Wider World</u>
<i>It carries on God's work in many different ways</i>	<i>Congregations join together to do God's work more widely and effectively</i>
Through worship services and Bible Study	Provided Pastors, teachers and other church workers
Through Gospel Witness and helping those in need	Sends out missionaries and other workers
Through fellowship groups and various committees	Spreads the gospel in many ways, using such means as Christian literature and the mass media
Through Education - Day School, Sunday School, Bible Classes, Seminars and Support Groups	Does Christian welfare work to help those in need
Special Groups - LLL, LWML	
Service Groups - Men's Club, Ladies Aid (As of 1-1-04 there are 519 groups)	

Playing Your Part

Description of an Assimilated Member

Is in worship 3 out of 4 times per month.
Knows seven people by their first names.
Part of a group.
Has one role or task within the church.
Understands and identifies with the goals of Immanuel.
Witnesses to un-churched family or friends.
Growing Spiritually.
Publicly identifies with Immanuel.
Is in prayer, Bible Study and is found at the Lord's Supper often.
Practices Good Stewardship.

Church Etiquette

When we come to the house of the Lord, there are certain things that we need to keep in mind. **First** - We come out of thankfulness to God. **Second** - He deserves our respect as a loving Father and a righteous judge. Therefore, we come into His presence with a proper attitude.

WORSHIP IS:

Reverence to God: respect, honor and devotion.

AN ATTITUDE OF WORSHIP:

Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word and Spirit gives what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard and acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. Music is drawn into this thankfulness and praise, enlarging and elevating the adoration of our gracious God.

Saying back to Him what He has said to us, we repeat what is most true and sure. Most true and sure is His name, which He put upon us with the water and Word of our baptism. We are His. This we acknowledge at the beginning of worship. We are freed, forgiven, and acclaim Him as our great and gracious God.

BEFORE WORSHIP:

Be on time: One of the greatest social errors is to arrive late for a formal dinner. The church is a meeting place. We go there to meet God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are not to be less respectable to God than we would be to an earthly host. Arriving late disturbs the worshipers who arrive on time and it deprives the latecomer of the full benefit of the worship service. Try to arrive at least five to ten minutes before the start of the service.

Child Needs: For your convenience, we have established a quality nursery, which is available to you during all worship services except for the Sunday 7:45 am service. Children aged three and under will enjoy free play, snacks and story time while parents take part in the worship service. If your children will be worshipping with you, please take them to the drinking fountain and restroom **before** the service begins so that they won't have to disturb others during the service. We have children's bulletins available to assist you with your children during worship. Please encourage your child to draw on the children's bulletins and not on the nametags, We Care Cards, Credit Card Forms or Envelopes.

Seating: Please take a seat nearest to the center of the pew row. This way, other people may come in and sit down without being forced to crowd their way through or stumble over your feet or knees. Finally, bow your head and speak a silent prayer. Ask God to bless the Pastor's message, and ask Him to help you listen to His Word.

Quiet Meditation:

Spend the remaining moments before the service in quiet meditation. Look up the Scriptures for the day and read them. Read the hymns to be sung during the service. Take note of the bulletin information displayed on the screens.

DURING WORSHIP:

Sit As A Family Unit: Encourage the children to participate in the service by using the Bible, worship bulletin, and by standing and sitting at the appropriate times.

Take An Active Role: Join enthusiastically in the speaking and singing during worship. This is a great witness to your children.

Listen To The Message: Listen to hear what God wants to say to you. Discover what He wants you to do. The outline of the service is printed in the Worship folder.

Help Our Guests: Assist them if necessary on understanding how to use the worship folder. Greet them before or after the service to make them feel like part of our family. Introduce yourself to the guests.

Limited Movement During Worship:

- ✦ Exiting and entering causes distractions to other worshippers.
- ✦ There should be no movement during the message. The message is structured to apply God's Word to our lives; unnecessary movement distracts and breaks the thought process of the pastor and people. Other worshipers may miss a key thought that could have provided the help they needed.
- ✦ If it is necessary to leave or enter the worship area. Movement should be confined to when the congregation is singing. Do not enter or leave while someone is speaking.
- ✦ If there is a small child (3 years and under) that is known to have difficulty remaining restful for one hour, he/she may be taken to the nursery before the service starts. Another opportune time to take your child to the nursery is immediately following the Children's message.
- ✦ If a child occasionally needs to be taken out of the worship service for a few minutes, re-enter during the time when the congregation is singing.
- ✦ Encourage children to refrain from using the bathroom or drinking fountain as an excuse for leaving worship.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF WORSHIP:

- ✦ Nothing but an extreme emergency should necessitate an exit from the worship service before the last hymn is concluded.
- ✦ Do not put on your jackets/coats, hats or other outerwear during the last hymn and "run" for the door.
- ✦ Greet your fellow worshipers. Help to give the church an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness. Make a special effort to speak with the people around you, as one of them may be a guest. Make them feel welcome and invite them to worship with us again.

WAYS TO MAKE YOUR VISIT TO WORSHIP MORE MEANINGFUL:

- ✦ Attend with a worshipful attitude.
- ✦ Remember God ordained the church.
- ✦ Thank God for the freedom to worship.

- ✦ Remember God is present during worship.
- ✦ Look for ways the message can be relevant in your life.
- ✦ Apply the message to your own life, not your neighbors.
- ✦ Be involved in Bible class and other rewarding activities.
- ✦ Involve your children in *Little Gems* or *Living Stones*.
- ✦ Ask the Lord what you can do in your church.

INVOLVING YOUR CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:

At what age can you expect a child to sit quietly in church? The ability to sit quietly in worship is developed by example of self-control. He/she will learn it in small increments during the first few years of his/her life. Perhaps by four years of age he/she should be able to control his/her activity and sit in church without making any loud disturbance, by dropping things, waving their arms around, etc. But even at that age, punishment for noise is inappropriate except in instances of deliberate and willful defiance.

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

Before Worship

- ✦ Sit near the front where your child can easily see what is happening.
- ✦ In the order of worship help your child identify, find and make locations of hymns and Scripture readings.
- ✦ Let your child underline all the words in the bulletin he/she can read.
- ✦ Briefly explain the meaning of any difficult words or phrases in at least the first hymn you will sing.
- ✦ Share your own feelings about the hymns to be sung: "This is one of my favorites," "I really like to sing this one because it helps me to tell God I really love Him," "This is one I've never learned," etc.

During Worship

- ✦ Let your child help hold the bulletin, or the Bible. Run your finger beneath the words being sung to help your child follow along.
- ✦ Touch your child, not just when he/she wiggles, to build a sense of warmth in being together.
- ✦ Have your child draw a picture of something the pastor talks about in his message.
- ✦ Point out important items on the screens - such as pictures that enhance the message that may interest your child.
- ✦ Let your children, if they are of appropriate age, help you during worship if you are an usher, etc.
- ✦ During the greeting be sure to introduce your child to those around you.
- ✦ Let your child take part in passing the offering plate or filling out the "We Care Card."

After Worship

- ✦ Express your appreciation at being in worship with the child.
- ✦ Commend your child for specific times when he/she was participating well, i.e. "You really did a good job singing that first hymn."

- ✦ Talk about what went on in the service. Avoid making this sound like an exam, but ask one or two questions to let the child know that you expect him/her to be listening. A few good questions to ask are:
 - What is one thing you remember from the service?
 - Which hymn/song did you like the best?
 - What was the Pastor trying to teach us about?
- ✦ Share your own answers to those questions, or let your child ask you any questions he/she desires.
- ✦ Explain one or two things that happened in the service that you think your child was interested in or could have been confused by.

Additional Guidelines

- ✦ Teach children to walk (not to run) in the church. When they come up to the front for the Children's message, teach your child that the reason they are going up to the front is to hear a special message for them. Inform them that if there is not enough room to sit on the steps, it is OK to sit on the floor.
- ✦ If you bring items to help occupy your child - do bring religious items and items that **do not** make noise.
- ✦ Teach children to keep feet off the back of the pew in front of them. This avoids scratching the finish or wearing the upholstery.
- ✦ Teach children proper care of the Bible and Hymnals. Bending them backwards breaks the spine of the book. These books are not to be written in or to have pages torn out of them.
- ✦ Teach children that the "We Care Cards", nametags, giving forms and "Love" envelopes are not to be used by them. These items are very costly to have printed and are for adult use only.
- ✦ Remember that the building is part of the church.

Church Etiquette

"There before me was a door standing open in heaven.....and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. From the throne came flashes of lightening, rumblings, and peals of thunder.....in the center around the throne, were four living creatures. Who day and night never stopped saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, and who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and worship Him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

Revelation 4:1-11