

January 2021  
Issue 01-21



# REACHING

First Immanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

# You

## 2021: The Year of Gratitude

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### Mission:

*In response to God, who first reached down to us—the mission of First Immanuel Lutheran Church is to reach up to God, reach into each other and reach out to the world.*

An article on the webpage of New York Presbyterian Hospital reveals some interesting facts concerning the relationship between gratitude and health. The piece indicates that “studies show practicing gratitude can lead to more intimate and connected relationships, less depression, more motivation and engagement, and better overall mental well-being.” Here are just a few of the benefits of gratitude listed in the article:

- People who spend more time experiencing gratitude seem to spend less time experiencing aches and pains and going to doctors.
- Gratitude improves one’s outlook on life. Appreciating what you have can make you feel more optimistic and satisfied and experience less frustration, envy, and regret. It also tends to result in increased self-esteem and confidence, which also improves mood.
- Gratitude can enhance relationships. We are often attracted to positive people; this positivity also makes one easier to get along with and talk to, even about difficult things.
- People who practice gratitude right before bedtime, by listing those things they feel grateful for, report better sleep. This is likely because gratitude diminishes anxiety and stressful feelings, allowing for a more restful and relaxed entry to sleep.

In this New Year, let’s make a point of being more grateful. As the COVID culture continues, it is easy to become frustrated, less patient and more negative. An attitude of gratitude will give us a better outlook and a healthier lifestyle. Understand that gratitude must be intentional. We need to make a point, each day, to give thanks.

This past year, I made a point of engaging in a gratitude journal. I endeavored, each day, to write down things and situations and people, for which I am thankful. I learned two important lessons:

- It is amazing how many things and situations and people there are for which we should be thankful!
- The days I didn’t journal were less delightful and less productive.

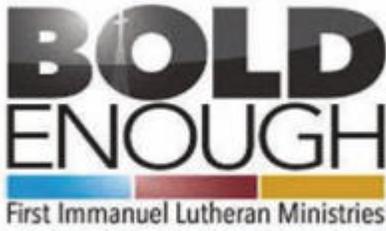
My challenge for you in 2021, is to take time each day to thank the Lord for things and situations and people. Recognize how good God is and how blessed you are. This will make a difference in your life and in the lives of those who are part of your sphere of influence.

A grateful New Year to you and yours!

**Pastor Raasch**



# Bold Enough to Learn!



*Written by: Dawn Walker, Principal*

It truly has been a blessing to be in our new addition for the first half of the 20-21 school year! The students, teachers, staff and administration, are extremely thankful to all of you who prayed for and donated funds to make this amazing educational space a reality. In Jeremiah 29:11 God promises the following: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” God’s plans are perfect and are very evident as this school year brought challenges that were able to be easily confronted in the new space.

Walking through the building and witnessing the teachers teaching and students learning is something I wish you all could see. The interior design of the building is bright and cheerful, but the best part about the space is having the students and teachers utilizing it! Please enjoy hearing what the students like the best about our new wing along with some pictures!



## **Ms. Biskupski’s 4K:**

“We love all of the play space, the carpet, the screen on the board, that we have lunch in our classroom, and everything!”

## **Ms. Creech’s Kindergarten:**

“Our classroom has big windows that we love to look out and see everything outside! We love playing in the courtyard for recess. Our classroom is so big and we can do so many things with our friends.”

**Ms. Pfeiffer’s Kindergarten:** “We love the Learning Cove, our learning suite with Ms. Creech’s class, and the cool tables and chairs in our room!”



## **Mrs. Jackson’s and Mrs. Napoleon’s 1st grade:**

Here is a list of their favorite things:

1. The overhead doors are cool.
2. We love our nice desks with lots of room around us.
3. We love the Smartboards.
4. That the fire alarms talk to us.
5. Everything about the new school!
6. We love the new classroom with the big windows.
7. The courtyard is fun because there is free time there.
8. The Learning Cove.

**Ms. Frank's 2nd Grade:**

Their favorite things about the new building are the overhead door, courtyard and the Learning Cove.

**Mrs. Kegley's 2nd Grade:**

"A favorite part of the new building is the courtyard because I love playing jump rope there at recess time." "I love the carpeting all over the place in the new building because there are no squeaky hard floors to walk on." "The overhead door is the best part of our new school building because it makes our classroom bigger and we get to see more of our friends."



**Ms. Kirkpatrick's 3rd Grade:**

"We really enjoy the overhead door so we can see our friends, we enjoy the courtyard as an extra recess place, and the Learning Street is a fun new place to work!"



**Mrs. Pipkorn's 3rd Grade:**

"We have a lot more space and the opportunity to work in the Learning Street and spread out. We love the overhead door so we can see friends in the other class. It is bright and the lights are "nice!"

**Mrs. Roeske's 4th Grade**

They feel blessed with a bigger room, automatic turn off lights, the Learning Street, the sink, carpet, air conditioning, the courtyard, the overhead door to open to see the other class and the big windows! They also enjoy the new bathrooms and the sink in their classroom.

**Mrs. Valdez's 5th Grade:**

"The top three things we like about the new building are that the building is spacious, we have two rooms to use for learning and the Learning Street!"



We are truly blessed to have this amazing space that is being enjoyed by so many. Most importantly, we are able to continue to fulfill our school's purpose to "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it," Proverbs 22:6. By following this verse we will develop the whole child - academically, artistically, physically, socially and spiritually - by providing a Christ centered, quality education for the children of the First Immanuel congregation and the surrounding communities. Thank you for your support of our School Ministry!

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

## Rev. Peter Kelm Memorial Lutheran School update.

After many months of waiting, the Kelm school is set to open this month after eight months of being shut down due to Covid 19. Please keep the school staff and students in your prayers as they begin a new school term with more than three hundred fifty children from pre-kindergarten through grade five! May God continue to shower blessings on this school.

Love.  
Serve.  
Repeat

*Serve one another  
in LOVE  
Galatians 5:13-14*

## Happy and Blessed New Year!

Happy and blessed New Year! Life is full of challenges, especially over the past ten months! As we enter the New Year, we may make resolutions to challenge ourselves into some life change. Losing weight and getting into shape is the number one resolution. It is also the number one broken resolution! Quitting smoking, getting out of debt, spending more time with family and etc. These are all worthy challenges that will improve our daily living if we can overcome them. Keep in mind that with God, all things are possible!

True challenges are never easy. If they were, they wouldn't qualify as challenges! I propose to you a challenge in the new year, and beyond. It is a challenge to more generous living.

What I mean is the challenge to live and serve God and other people in the way He intended; selflessly and completely! We have been blessed by God with the gifts, abilities and resources to serve Him in many places, ways and circumstances. We all have different gifts of time, talents and treasures, given by God, to be used to accomplish His purposes. What are your gifts that you can give? The challenge is to not only discover what they are, but then, how to best use them in a God-pleasing, God-glorifying way. God is calling us to generous living! Blessings to you as you meet these challenges in 2021, and beyond!

## Mission of the Month: Lutheran Hour Ministries

*"Bringing Christ to the Nations –  
and the Nations to the Church"*

On October 2, 1930, the first broadcast of The Lutheran Hour radio program was aired with Dr. Walter A. Maier as speaker. You can still hear the Lutheran Hour broadcast every Sunday morning by tuning in to radio 620 WTMJ at 6:30 a.m. The present voice of Lutheran Hour broadcasts is Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler since those early days, the Lutheran Hour has increased its scope of ministry to include television broadcasts, Men's Network Ministry, and Mission U evangelism training seminars, among others.

The Lutheran Hour also posts podcasts, offers a mobile phone app, and has a presence on social media sites. Go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) to find out more about the many ways the Lutheran Hour is reaching out into the world in the name of Jesus.



For the past eight years, Lutheran Hour Ministries has sponsored an Online Mission Trip during National Lutheran Schools Week, which takes place the last week of January.

This year, students at First Immanuel will travel to the country of **Thailand!** Students will have the chance each day of Lutheran Schools Week to be introduced to children living in Thailand who carry their faith with them through day to day life. They will also discover much about the foods, animals, people and places of Thailand. We are excited to "travel" to Thailand in 2021!

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

ACTS 1:8

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**~UPDATED Communion Schedule~**

**First Immanuel (FIL):** On 1st and 3rd Sunday, Communion is at 5:00pm, 7:30am, 9:00am and 10:35am  
**River of Life (ROL):** On 1st and 3rd Sunday, Communion is at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 10:45am

					<b>1</b> <b>NO SCHOOL/ OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>Happy New Year!</b>	<b>2</b> <i>7:30am</i> <b>Men's Bible Study (FIL)</b> <i>5:00pm</i> <b>Traditional Worship (FIL)</b>
<b>3</b> <i>7:30am</i> Traditional Worship (FIL) <i>8:00am</i> Traditional Worship (ROL) <i>8:45am</i> Adult Bible Class (FIL) <i>9:00am</i> Traditional Worship (FIL) <i>9:30am</i> Café Contemporary Worship (ROL) <i>10:35am</i> Contemporary Worship (FIL) <i>10:45am</i> Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)	<b>4</b> <i>10:00am &amp; 7:00pm</i> <b>Stephen Ministry</b>  <i>School resumes</i>	<b>5</b> <i>3:00pm</i> <b>Serve a Meal— MRM</b>	<b>6</b> <i>9:00am &amp; 7:00pm</i> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <i>11:30am</i> <b>Safer at Church Service (FIL)</b> <i>5:30pm</i> <b>Faith Ed.</b> <i>6:30pm</i> <b>Adult Bells</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>6:00am</i> <b>Breakfast Bible Study</b> <i>12:05pm</i> <b>Bible Study Live (online)</b>	<b>9</b> <i>5:00pm</i> <b>Traditional Worship Service (FIL)</b>
<b>11</b> <i>7:30am</i> Traditional Worship (FIL) <i>8:00am</i> Traditional Worship (ROL) <i>8:45am</i> Adult Bible Class (FIL) <i>9:00am</i> Traditional Worship (FIL) <i>9:30am</i> Café Contemporary Worship (ROL) <i>10:35am</i> Contemporary Worship (FIL) <i>10:45am</i> Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)	<b>11</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>12</b> <i>9:00am</i> <b>Ladies Bible Class (ROL)</b> <i>3:00pm</i> <b>Serve a Meal— MRM</b>	<b>13</b> <i>9:00am &amp; 7:00pm</i> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <i>11:30am</i> <b>Safer at Church Service (FIL)</b> <i>5:30pm</i> <b>Faith Ed.</b> <i>6:30pm</i> <b>Adult Bells</b>	<b>14</b> <i>9:00am</i> <b>Mom to Mom (online)</b> <i>7:00pm</i> <b>REACHing into 2021 ~ REACH Groups (online)</b>	<b>15</b> <i>12:05pm</i> <b>Bible Study Live (online)</b>	<b>16</b> <i>7:30am</i> <b>Men's Bible Study (FIL)</b> <i>5:00pm</i> <b>Traditional Worship Service (FIL)</b>
<b>17</b> <i>7:30am</i> Traditional Worship (FIL) <i>8:00am</i> Traditional Worship (ROL) <i>8:45am</i> Adult Bible Class (FIL) <i>9:00am</i> Traditional Worship (FIL) <i>9:30am</i> Café Contemporary Worship (ROL) <i>10:35am</i> Contemporary Worship (FIL) <i>10:45am</i> Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)	<b>18</b> <i>7:00pm</i> <b>Stephen Ministry</b>  <i>School Enrollment Begins</i>	<b>19</b> <i>3:00pm</i> <b>Serve a Meal— MRM</b> <i>7:00pm</i> <b>Board of Lay Leaders Meeting</b>	<b>20</b> <i>9:00am &amp; 7:00pm</i> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <i>11:30am</i> <b>Safer at Church Service (FIL)</b> <i>5:30pm</i> <b>Faith Ed.</b> <i>6:30pm</i> <b>Adult Bells</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>12:05pm</i> <b>Bible Study Live (online)</b>	<b>23</b> <i>5:00pm</i> <b>Traditional Worship Service (FIL)</b>
<b>24/31</b> <i>7:30am</i> Traditional Worship (FIL) <i>8:00am</i> Traditional Worship (ROL) <i>8:45am</i> Adult Bible Class (FIL) <i>9:00am</i> Traditional Worship (FIL) <i>9:30am</i> Café Contemporary Worship (ROL) <i>10:35am</i> Contemporary Worship (FIL) <i>10:45am</i> Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>9:00am</i> <b>Ladies Bible Class (ROL)</b> <i>3:00pm</i> <b>Serve a Meal— MRM</b>	<b>27</b> <i>9:00am &amp; 7:00pm</i> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <i>11:30am</i> <b>Safer at Church Service (FIL)</b> <i>5:30pm</i> <b>Faith Ed.</b> <i>6:30pm</i> <b>Adult Bells</b>	<b>28</b> <i>9:00am</i> <b>Mom to Mom (online)</b>	<b>29</b> <i>12:05pm</i> <b>Bible Study Live (online)</b>	<b>30</b> <i>5:00pm</i> <b>Traditional Worship Service (FIL)</b>

# FIRST ~ Your Online Connection with Christ

First Immanuel is starting something new this year: a digital-first ministry. Seeking to reach new parts of our community and world, FIRST is being launched to engage people where they are to connect them to Jesus and one another. And where are people these days? Online.



Online is a big deal right now. We shop online. We order food online, listen to music online, pay our bills online, interact with our friends and family online, do our work online- you might even be reading this newsletter online! No matter how online is used, its purpose is to connect us to something else. And that makes it a great medium for us to extend our ministry.

[firstmin.church](http://firstmin.church)

As we seek to connect people to Jesus, FIRST will be a place for people to find worship services, community groups, and service opportunities. People don't have to walk into a building, or show up at a specific time, or worry about any of the barriers that might be keeping them from Jesus. We are working to bring God's Word to them *first*. *After offering a virtual Christmas Eve service, the next worship opportunity we will be offering is a virtual Ash Wednesday service, at 4:19 on February 17. You can find all of this at <http://firstmin.church>.*

*Why FIRST? As you might guess, this ministry is part of the family of ministries, so FIRST connects us with First Immanuel. But in addition to that, we are inspired by 1 John 4:19- "We love because God FIRST loved us." This is right in line with the mission statement of First Immanuel, which reads, "In response to God, who FIRST reached down to us- the mission of FILMinistries is to reach up to God, reach in to each other, and to reach out to the world with the love of Jesus."*

You can learn more by checking out [firstmin.church](http://firstmin.church) online or social media. Please share this new opportunity with people you think might be looking to connect with the church in a new way or who are passionate about reaching others with the good news of salvation in Christ. We are thankful for the almost 170 years of ministry, and all the steps of faith First Immanuel has taken over that time. May God continue to lead and guide us as we follow Him!

## Did You Know?

- ◆ The congregation collected, packed and online packed 794 **Operation Christmas Child** Boxes this year.
- ◆ Fifty-six turkeys, nine hams, plus many pumpkin pies, bags of potatoes and other Thanksgiving fixings were collected and given to both the **Saukville Community Food Pantry and Food Pantry Inc. in Port Washington** for families to enjoy during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thank you for your outpouring of **generosity** that will reach not only locally, but around the world with the love of Jesus!

- ◆ **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study** resumes at First Immanuel at 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall lead by Pastor Paul Kelm.



## Stephen Ministry— New Year's Resolutions

This month we welcomed in the year of our Lord, 2021. It is a new year and a time when many people take the opportunity to start afresh and correct negative habits by making resolutions. The majority of the resolutions that will be made will be related to diet and physical health. Resolutions to lose weight (21.4%), to join a gym (5.5%), or to quit smoking and drinking (7.1%) are the most common goals that are set. They are also the ones least likely to be completed (In any given year, only 9.2% of people feel that they were successful in achieving their resolution.)

But if you're lonely, if you're prone to brooding and worrying, if your self-esteem is low, if you're burdened by unresolved guilt, if your relationships are poor, if you feel demoralized, if you just lost your job and don't know where to turn, or if you're experiencing ongoing emotional pain—losing weight, getting fit, or quitting smoking will do little to improve your quality of life. In other words, most New Year resolutions have little impact on the long-term quality of life.

The primary reason emotional health is neglected when making New Year resolutions is many people don't quite know how to go about pursuing such goals. One possible starting place is in contacting the Stephen Ministry at First Immanuel and receiving a Stephen Minister to be there for you as you sort out your feelings and emotions.

A Stephen Minister is a trained lay person who provides one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing challenges or difficulties in life. A Stephen Minister is not a counselor or therapist, but a Christian care giver who listens, understands, accepts, and prays for and with you as you work through your crisis or tough time with the help of God. The Stephen Minister is the care giver while God is the cure giver. Your Stephen Minister will be with you in the new year as long as you feel you need them.

If you or someone you know needs someone to be there with them as they go through a difficult time, please consider contacting Pastor Reichmann at 377-6610 to explore the possibility of having a Stephen Minister. All referrals and discussions with a Stephen Minister are kept in the strictest confidence.

May you, your family, and friends have a blessed new year in Christ, who makes all things new and gives us all hope for the future. **Galatians 6:2Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**

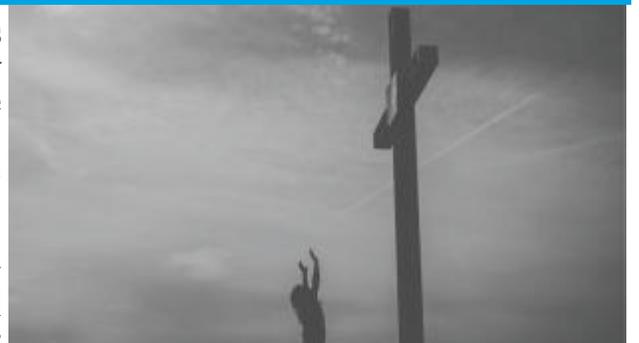
## Suffering by Grace: The Book of Job

We know that good things come because of God's grace. We don't earn it. We don't do good, that good may come. In other words, "karma" is not biblical; it's not the way God works.

But what about when it comes to evil? It is a little harder to believe that, when bad things happen, it has nothing to do with our own "badness." To be consistent, however, we must believe that good and evil both come by God's grace. "My grace is sufficient for you," God told Paul as he faced suffering, "for my power is perfected in your weakness" (2 Cor.12:9).

The book of Job pushes us to the same conclusion. Probably the first portion of the Bible that was recorded, Job is an ancient story of a man who lived by faith and suffered by grace. After a mind-bending heavenly conversation, Satan attacks Job with God's permission and launches Job into deep depression and despair. In his suffering, Job gets confronted by his own friends, who condemn him as a sinner and terrible person. Finally God addresses Job in the end, leaving him with no answer to his suffering. But God makes it clear that Job is deeply loved, even if he is suffering.

Join us for this seven week sermon series, working our way through a beautifully written and thought-provoking book of the Bible.





## Speaking Boldly, Sharing God's Word Every Day

Author: Dr. Edward O. Grimenstein

Reviewed by Audrey A. Stockey

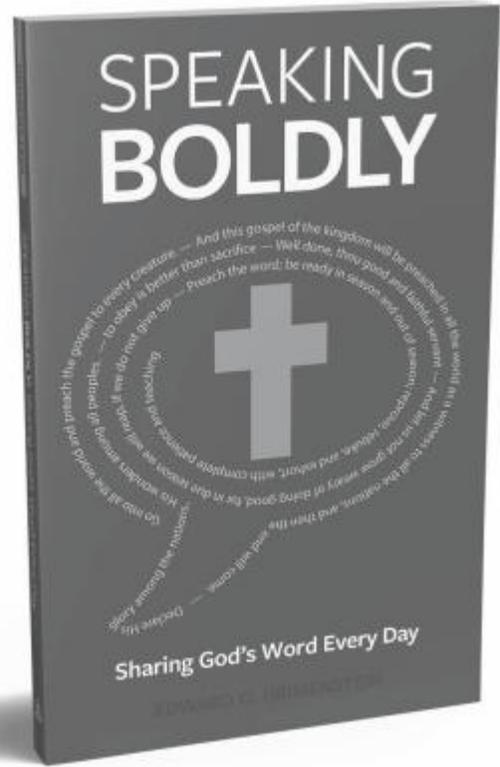
Rev. Grimenstein's purpose in writing **Speaking Boldly** is to help people feel more comfortable, confident, and relaxed in speaking with and to others about God's Word. The key is remembering it is not us as individuals speaking, but rather it is God speaking when we use His Word. And He is with us, directing our words, His Words. It tells us when to use the Law and shows us when the Gospel is needed. We also need to remember God's Word is perfect, we are not. Our job is to remain faithful.

To share God's Word with others, three things are important: 1. Knowing the difference between the Law and the Gospel, 2. Listening with rapt attention, and 3. Realizing the Holy Spirit is the one that changes people's hearts. These three run throughout the book and its many examples.

Overall, the **Law** teaches us what we are to do and not to do. Additionally, it shows us our sins as well as the consequences of those sins. It stresses the point that knowing we are sinful and trying to alter our behavior doesn't give us freedom from the Law. Instead, the Law should lead us to seek forgiveness through the Redeemer. This then leads us to the **Gospel** and Jesus Christ. It provides the knowledge of what God did for us and continues to do for us through His grace. It provides the Good News and gives us hope and peace.

Real **Listening** doesn't just happen. We have to work at it by eliminating distractions and focusing our complete attention on the individual by providing direct eye contact. Listening means keeping our mouths shut without interrupting. It gives us knowledge of who the individual is and what that individual is concerned about. This then helps determine if the Law or the Gospel is to be spoken or both. In some cases, silence is the correct response.

We, as Christians, are spreading God's Word, but we almost never know the results of those words. It is the job of the **Holy Spirit** to help them take hold. Sometimes this is not immediate and we may have several opportunities to discuss God's Words—all the while the Holy Spirit is at work in that person. Some of the topics that may come up in these discussions include living together and sex before marriage, abortion, creation vs. evolution, homosexual and transgender life styles, and comparisons of other religions. Throughout these conversations, the Holy Spirit is always present and will be doing his part. Ours is to speak the truth and the truth is in God's Word. God wants His Word spread throughout the world.



Pastor Grimenstein reminds us the devil sows words of doubt and unbelief in people's lives, making them think they are their own god just as he did with Adam and Eve. God's Word speaks of love, forgiveness, and Salvation with its promise of eternal life with Him. We need to be courageous and comfortable in sharing His Word whether it be one-on-one, a small group, or in front of an audience. We are speaking God's Word and sharing His Light with others.

This 177-page book motivates the individual to share with others and stresses we don't have to be speaking experts to do this. He suggests familiarity with Luther's Small Catechism, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the Ten Commandments. **Speaking Boldly** contains many situational stories from everyday life with both positive and negative results from these shared conversations. It also uses familiar Bible stories and parables to reinforce his point. An example is the parable of the sower and the three seeds which forms the major idea in several chapters. At the end of each chapter is a section entitled "Let's Talk". These questions review the main points and their application. The book can very easily be used for small group discussions.

*~A copy of this book will be in the church library.*



# What does this offer?

## Help Hope Healing

### Help children heal from the pain of divorce

“Are your children angry, hurt, and confused about your separation or divorce?”

“ DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K), a support group for kids, offers:

- a safe, fun place where your children learn skills that will help them heal
- games, music, stories, videos & discussion to help kids process the divorce
- weekly groups designed for children ages 5-12”
- See <https://www.dc4k.org/> for more details & parent resources

Volunteers are always needed to help with this ministry, to promote it within the community and online, to prepare snacks, to work with kids by reading & playing games. Interested? Contact the office or talk to Pastor Reichmann .

**PROGRAM ON HOLD UNTIL FALL 2021**

#### Our Past Commitment

FIL Care Ministries has been involved with DC4K since January, 2016, when we began with two classes for kids, one immediately after school and a second class in the evening. As expected the after-school session served school families while the evening class met the needs of families from Cedarburg and as far away as Oak Creek. These classes continued each January – March through 2020.

## FIL Divorce Ministries



# WORD

REFLECTIONS ON A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY FROM *LOIS GIORDANO*

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## BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

***Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9***

Many of us have been eagerly anticipating the end of 2020. It has been a stormy year. We've been buffeted by winds coming from every direction—Covid, politics, election chaos, civil unrest. And this doesn't address the tempests we inevitably experience in our lives and homes even in reasonably normal years. The limits of our endurance have certainly been stretched and tested.

- ***God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. Psalm 46:1 (GNT)***
- ***I claim His strength, not mine, for His strength is perfect. “My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.” I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ's power over me. 2 Corinthians 12:9 (GNT)***

A dear friend pointed me back to Joshua 1:9. In the midst of the chaos of life, our God tells us to be strong and courageous. I've been pondering just what that looks like in my life.

The Good News Translation of this passage resonates with me: ***Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (GNT)***

In the Name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit:

- We remain determined and confident as we face life's challenges – ***“for I, the LORD your God, am with you.”***
- We shake off our fears – ***“for I, the LORD your God, am with you.”***
- We rise above discouragement – ***“for I, the LORD your God, am with you.”***
- We cease striving to make sense out of our lives and yield control to God. We choose to set aside time to be still, joyful, and mindfully present in the all-sufficient presence of God. ***Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10***
- We wait patiently and trust God's timing as an act of humility and faith. ***Humble yourselves, then, under God's mighty hand, so that he will lift you up in his own good time. 1 Peter 5:6 (GNT)***
- We cast off our worries and anxieties. ***Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6 (GNT)***

Maybe this sounds like I have this **strong and courageous** thing all figured out. Not so. Every day is a battle against Satan, against the world, and against my own sinful self. Left to my own strength, I am an empty shell capable of nothing. The capacity to grab hold of God's promises lies completely in the faith that God gives to each one of us.

With St. Paul both you and ***I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philipians 4:13.***

To God be the glory!

*Good News Translation (GNT). (1992). American Bible Society.*

# Many Positive Mentors for Our Children = Stronger Character & Stronger Faith

Written by Pastor Tim Seban

## Asset #3: Other Adult Relationships:

*The young person receives support from three or more non-parent adults.*

Did you ever have a favorite teacher, coach, or neighbor who invested in your life? We still remember the way they supported us, encouraged us and taught us right from wrong. As we go through the 40 assets that help create healthy, caring and responsible children, today we look at relationships that children have with adults outside of the family.

It is healthy for young people to have other adults besides Mom and Dad shaping character and encouraging our children. Dr. Marilyn Price Richards reports, "In a study involving more than 70 mentoring programs and more than 25,000 young people, researchers affirm what many other smaller studies have found—that mentoring has a significant effect on positive youth development."



From a Christian perspective, the greater number of faith mentors a child has while growing up, the greater probability they will stay faithful. One study indicated that if a child has five or more strong faith influences in their life, the odds increase dramatically that they will remain faithful to Jesus throughout their lifetime. That's what all faithful parents desire!

Proverbs 1:5 says, "A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel..." Helping our children be in places where there are wise, loving, encouraging Christian mentors will assist in building these important relationships.

Here are a few proactive questions we can ask ourselves to help set our children up for success!

- Are the primary adults in your child's life reflecting the values you believe?
- Do your children have the opportunity to talk about their faith with other adults who they trust?
- We are always actively looking for coaches, instructors, or tutors to help our children grow. Are we actively looking for opportunities for our children to grow in their faith?
- Who might be a good role model for your child? How can you find the opportunity to spend more time with them?

As you try to create the best environment for your child to be faithful in their Christian walk, be creative in identifying opportunities for your children to be mentored by other adults of character and Christian faith. Character and Christianity is contagious... the studies tell us so!



# REACHING into 2021

Take charge of your personal and community wellness by engaging with REACH Groups.

“I CAN’T WAIT FOR 2021!” Well, it’s here. And it doesn’t feel much different. At least, not yet. And there is always the potential that it could get worse... The problem with a mentality like this is we can wish away the time, experiences, and opportunities God has ordained for us.

What if the reason we have gotten to this point, with communities strained, families splitting apart, churches stressed, and everyone affected drastically by this global pandemic, was to **get us invested in the lives of others?** We have learned how important other people are in our lives. Whether it’s a friendly face as we walk through the grocery store or a brief greeting on the sidewalk, whether it’s a day with grandkids or a meal with close friends, humans are social beings. We need other people.

And other people need us. Our faith is strengthened by the “cloud of witnesses” {Heb. 12). We ask our Christian sisters and brothers to pray for us, we sing alongside each other in worship, we share burdens with one another. One of the primary ways we strive to do this at First Immanuel is through our REACH groups. **REACH groups exist to help us invest in others.**

2021 could be the year you “reach in” and get connected with other people through REACH groups. I am confident it will be a rewarding part of your faith life. More importantly, it will be a rewarding part of *someone else’s faith journey. People involved in groups at FIL pray for each other, serve alongside each other, and study God’s Word together. Through this, the Body of Christ is strengthened.*

Whether you wish to meet in person or online, we have groups for you, and we would like to start more. **If you are interested in REACH groups, please sign-up for an informational gathering on Thursday, January 14, at 7:00 pm.** We will be meeting at First Immanuel, with the option to Zoom in as well. At this gathering, you’ll:

- get an idea of what a REACH group looks like,
- discuss the biblical foundation of community, and
- have a chance to ask any questions you might have.

Please consider coming, especially if you are seeking next steps in your walk with Jesus. Contact Pastor Ethan at [eluhman@fils.org](mailto:eluhman@fils.org) for more information and the Zoom link to attend.

# Educating the WHOLE child

ACADEMICALLY, ARTISTICALLY, PHYSICALLY, SOCIALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

## A Wisconsin Parental Choice Program & Milwaukee Parental Choice Program school

For some, they will be considering a school for the first time for their child. They will be contemplating such questions as: Is it time to move from day care? Would it be helpful to have their child around new kids?

Other families with children already in school will be reflecting on how their child has done the past six months of school. Is their child thriving in their school? Does their family feel like a part of the larger community at their school? How satisfied are they with their current school?

With all these questions, it is natural for these families to reach out to people for advice. This is our opportunity to share our school with them. The majority of our transfer students are referred to us by a current school family. They see something in your family and they want that for their family too!



Open enrollment for FILS starts on **January 18th, 2021**. Encourage those who you share First Immanuel with to take a tour and see for themselves how satisfied and successful their family and child can be at school!. Thanks in advance for sharing your school!

### Early Childhood Education Programs

- Programs Offered: 2K, 3K, 4K
- Class Options: Half-Day Mornings and School/Full-Day
- Choose The Class Days That Work Best For Your Family
- Hot Lunch Available for 3K & 4K students in the School/Full-Day Class
- Before School Care Starts at 6 a.m.
- After School Care until 6 p.m.

### Elementary & Middle School Education

- Full-Day & Half-Day Kindergarten available
- Semi-departmentalized 4th & 5th Grades
- Fully departmentalized 6th - 8th grades
- Outstanding academics in an accredited school
- Caring environment with Christian values
- Differentiated learning methods

## Sharing First Immanuel Lutheran School

Even though the 2020 Holiday Season is behind us, the New Year gives us an opportunity to share the gift of our school with neighbors, friends and family. As they get back to a normal schedule their thoughts will be turning to making plans for the 2021-2022 school year.



For the family considering school for the first time it may be the stories your 2, 3 or 4-year old is sharing about their special chapel time, the songs about Jesus they sing, or even that day they got to do a costume parade around the school.

For the family thinking about their child's current school satisfaction level it may be the stories about when your child won the Wildcat Paw Award, was inspired by a visit to The Learning Center, talks about their positive classroom experience and how much fun learning is!



# Sent to Serve

2021 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

# January 24-30

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