



Reformation Sunday 2018

Immanuel Lutheran Church
206 Terril Ave
Terril, IA 51364

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us through God's Holy Word. I thank God for you as I pray for you.

Over 12 years ago the Holy Spirit brought us together through the Call process. It has been a blessed honor to serve the Lord by serving you in this congregation. After much prayerful consideration I have decided to accept the Call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Marcus, IA and Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Quimby, IA.

I feel like it is time for another pastor with different gifts and abilities to serve you here at Immanuel in Terril. God has worked through you and many different pastors over the past 127 years. I pray God will continue to work through you as you worship together and encourage one another in the faith. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you search for a new pastor.

I ask that you would grant me a peaceful release from my Call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Terril, IA.

I hope to see you again if not on earth in the resurrection and life everlasting. Now we will continue to commune together as with all Christians here and in heaven. We will still be united as we partake of the one Body of Jesus Christ. May the Lord be with you always!

Blessings in Christ +

Pastor Doellinger

Rev. David D. Doellinger
Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church
Terril, IA



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

206 Terril Ave Terril, IA 51346
Church Phone: 712/853-6192

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November/December 2018

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Church Officers 2018

President.....Dennis Dallman
Secretary.....Lana Dallman
Treasurer.....Don Holmberg
Fin. Secretary.....Larry Kelp
Elders.....Duane Gunderson,
Dale Langner, Dewey Torkelson
Trustees.....Robert Von Ehwegen,
David Luehring, Rich Von Ehwegen
Fin. Board.....Connie Zelinsky,
Jerilyn Von Ehwegen, Orville Lewis,
Brian Zelinsky
Youth Counselors.....Robert Von
Ehwegen & Tammi Von Ehwegen
Organist.....Sandra Sykes
Custodian.....Tammi Von Ehwegen
Newsletter.....Sandy Langner

“We, the people of
Immanuel, Terril,
hold God’s Grace & Love,
His leadership of
providing
Bible-centered preaching,
hearing & answering
prayers,
the Great Commission &
His commitment to our
personal salvation
to be our core values.”

Pastor’s Pen.....

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”
1 Corinthians 3:6 ESV

More than 125 years ago God worked through several pioneer mission-ary pastors who planted and served 3 Immanuel Lutheran Churches in Terril, Spirit Lake, and Estherville, Iowa. It may be that one day some of these con-gregations will renew that partnership. However the circuit rider would not be on horseback like he was so many years ago.

Over the years many different pastors have served as shepherd at Im-manuel Lutheran Church in Terril. One of these pastors may have planted the seed of faith for you when you first heard the Word of God. It may have been at another pastor at another church who Jesus worked through to Baptize and catechize you. Perhaps you were still in your mother’s womb when you heard the Word of Jesus preached and the Holy Spirit worked faith in your tiny heart.

Just as farmers plant seed, fertilize, and pray for the right amount of rain and sunshine, so pastors sow the seed of God’s Word. Growth comes from God. The Holy Spirit makes the church grow. Farmers have no control when there is too much rain or not enough. Pastors can’t take credit for the growth of God’s church. God is the one who Baptizes babies in His Name. Pastors and all Christians need to talk to their neighbors and family. We all need to share God’s Word with everyone around us. After we have gotten to know people and share the Gospel with them the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. We can’t force anyone to believe. We can remove some of the obstacles by using apologetics (showing how the Bible agrees with science for instance). God grows the church though. No one can become a believer without the Ho-ly Spirit.

It has been a great privilege to plant and water what previous pastors have planted here at Immanuel in Terril. I ask for your prayers and guidance for our congregation and myself as we continue to plant and water where God calls us.

God’s Peace +

Pastor Doellinger

Sunday Morning Bible Study8:00 a.m.

We continue our study on 1 Corinthians. This rich epistle gives us insight to the early Christian Church. There is much to be learned. Many of the struggles and joys the Corinthians experienced are similar to what the modern church faces. Please join us!

November Greetings!

Happy Birthday to:

- 8-Norma Jean Meyer
-Jeremy Moyer
- 17-Tim Von Ehwegen
- 24-Matthew Feldman
- 28-Ruth Zelinsky
-Phyllis Bielfeldt



Happy Anniversary to:

- 25-M/M Dewey Torkelson

December Greetings!!

Happy Birthday to:

- 5-Jeanne Rademacher
- 9-Roxie Von Ehwegen
- 12-Harlan Maas
-Marilyn Lewis
- Brittany Jepsen
- 14-Jean Martin
-Jerry Zelinsky



- 16-Ron Zelinsky
- 18-Donnis Sorbo
- 27-Wilbert Bielfeldt

Happy Anniversary to:

- 3-M/M Rich Von Ehwegen
- 18-M/M Larry Kelp
- 30-M/M Roger Nelson

November/December readings.....on Saturday, (or sometime earlier in the week) go over these readings in your devotions as you prepare for church. Pray for the worship service on the next day. Pray for Pastor and his sermon that God may speak to us through him. Pray for blessings on all the people who will worship

DATE	FESTIVAL	1st Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
November 4	All Saints Day (observed)	Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
November 11	25th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 17:8-16	Psalm 146	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12: 38-44
November 18	26th Sunday after Pentecost	Daniel 12:1-3	Psalm 16	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-13
November 22	Thanksgiving Eve/Day	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	Psalm 67	Philippians 4:6-20 or 1 Timothy 2:1-4	Luke 17:11-19
November 25	Last Sunday of Church Year	Isaiah 51:4-6 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Psalm 93	Jude 20-25 or Revelation 1:4b-8	Mark 13:24-37 or John 18:33-37
December 2	1st Sunday in Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25: 1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:25-36
December 9	2nd Sunday in Advent	Malachi 3:1-7b	Psalm 66:1-12	Philippians 1:2-11	Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)
December 16	3rd Sunday in Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Psalm 85	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)
December 23	4th Sunday in Advent	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45(46-56)
December 24 Eve	The Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 110:1-4	1 John 4:7-16	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24 Midnight	The Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14(15-20)
December 25 Dawn	The Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 62:10-12	Psalm 98	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-14) 15-20
December 25	The Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 2	Hebrews 1:1-6(7-12)	John 1:1-14(15-18)
December 30	1st Sunday after Christmas	Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15	Psalm 111	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:22-40
December 31	Eve of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus (New Year's Eve)	Isaiah 30:(8-14)15-17	Psalm 90:1-12	Romans 8:31b-39	Luke 12:35-40



We did not meet in September or October, so we have no minutes to report. Thanks to those who furnished cake and helped with the Birthday Party at St. Lukes in September.

Betty Von Ehwegen & Marilyn Lewis attended the LWML Spencer Zone Rally in Spirit Lake on October 2nd. (Sandra Sykes-were you there too?) The speaker for the rally was Pastor Mark Gerken from IDW Missions and the ingathering was a monetary collection in support of Siouxland Mercy Meals in Sioux City. Lana Dallman from our society was elected zone treasurer. Thanks for your service Lana!!

Thanks also to everyone who provided goodies and helped serve for LWML Sunday which we celebrated October 14!

We collected non-perishables and monetary donations from our congregation for Upper Des Moines Opportunity of Dickinson County during October. Thanks to everyone who donated and if you'd still like to make a donation, please contact Betty or Lana.

We also have been collecting donations for St. Lukes Gifting Bazaar and will continue having a basket out in November for a couple of weeks. Monies collected will go towards activities for the residents.

Notes for upcoming meetings: November meeting on the 15th will also be election of officers and the December meeting will be an opportunity to invite guests (all are welcome!) and celebrate the birth of our Savior!

LWML Officers 2018

President....Betty Von Ehwegen
Secretary.....Marilyn Lewis
Treasurer.....Lana Dallman
Christian Growth...Mary Nelson
Funeral Co-chairs...Glenda Von Ehwegen, Mary Nelson, Betty Von Ehwegen

November/December LWML

November 15...2:00 pm
Betty Von Ehwegen, hostess
Election of officers

December 20.....2:00 pm
Marilyn Lewis, hostess
Guest Day
Manger of Love
Christmas stockings (bring \$\$ to meeting)

A big Thank-you to everyone who helped with the newsletter in any way. Since no one has volunteered to take over, this will be our last issue. Please check your weekly bulletins for up to date information. -Sandy L.

Camp Okoboji News...1531 Edgewood DRMilford, IA 51351 Phone: 712/337-3325..... Toll free: 866/449-3326 Email: info@campokoboji.org.....Website: www.campokoboji.org

Ephesians 4:12 states that God has prepared and equipped us for service in order to build up the body of Christ. Camp Okoboji would not exist were it not for the dedicated and loving people who offer their talents and time for the benefit of Jesus at the Lake.

Volunteers play a role in nearly every aspect of camp, from Camp Board leadership to preparing Camp Okoboji for guests. Volunteerism also takes a variety of forms, from helping with a mailing to doing light construction. The only common denominator is a willing heart and love for Camp Okoboji.

Contact the Camp Office to share your talents and abilities and to be placed on a contact list.

If you or a group from your congregation would like to help out at camp, we have several opportunities to make this happen. The list below is just a few tasks we need completed. Thrivent Financial Action Teams can also play a big role in helping accomplish projects. If you would like to help us out, contact the Camp Office at 712-337-3325.

LCMS Stewardship November

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or overseas than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like – how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like hearing about stewardship certainly means we ought to face it. Here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. This means we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else.

We don't pay for all the stuff we need, and think we need, and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10 percent? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

So, if 10 percent was needed in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

First-fruits, sacrificial, generous giving – that's the way. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've out-given God's goodness or that we've given plenty.

We might be tempted to think so but consider – no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

Or, as St. Paul said, bringing the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church:

Continued >>>

If you have a prayer request, you may call or notify by email any person on this list. That person should then call the first person on the list to get the chain started. You may either call or email the prayer information. Our purpose is to pray for the need as soon as we are notified. This will be kept confidential and only included in public prayers of the church if requested. It is not necessary to give names if you prefer not to. We hope this prayer chain not only enhances the ministry of our congregation, but also helps you to grow in our faith and life in Christ.

Marilyn Lewis.....853-6108 or lewis@terril.net
Mary Nelson.....580-6644 or ramcnelson@gmail.com
Jan Torkelson.....853-6162 or dtork@terril.net
Melissa Doellinger.....853-6162 or pastord@terril.net
Sandy Langner.....836-2544 or lngnrfrm@mtcnet.net
Betty Von Ehwegen.....853-6552 or dandbvon@terril.com
Sally Hoppe.....332-8200
Roxie Von Ehwegen.....853-6551
Rebekah Schnelle.....339-0793 or rsch51477@yahoo.com

LCMS Stewardship, continued....

"I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's law, and the law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance.

The law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the law. If first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus took the disciples' five loaves and two fish and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing.

Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing.

He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread. But they need to give it. And what they give, however little it might be, however grudgingly they do so, He blesses it.

He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them, the givers – not just in that they wind up with (a basket full for each loaf) but that they learned to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly or asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

He does all things well and works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, they love Him, and they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise. From www.lcms.org

November 2018 Immanuel Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>All Saints Day</i> Office Hours: 12:00-2:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 pm	2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	3
4 <i>All Saints Day (observed)</i> Bible Study 8:00 am Divine Worship Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	5 Office Hours: 12:00-2:00 p.m.	6 Pastor D @ CTK	7 Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 pm	8 Office Hours: 12:00-2:00 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 pm	9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	10 <i>Martin Luther's birthday (1483)</i>
11 26th Sunday after Pentecost Pastor D. last Sunday Bible Class 8:00 a.m. Divine Worship Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Veterans Day	12 Veteran's Day observed	13	14 Confirmation 4:30 pm	15 LWML 2:00 p.m.	16	17
18 27th Sunday after Pentecost Bible Class 8:00 a.m. Divine Worship Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.	19	20	21 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 pm	22 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 	23	24
25 Last Sunday of the Church Year Bible Class 8:00 a.m. Divine Worship Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.	26	27	28 Confirmation 4:30 pm	29	30	

Please refer to the weekly bulletins for corrections & additions to the calendar.

(Due to vacancy after Nov. 11, times for Sunday & special services, Bible Study and confirmation times may be subject to change. Watch the weekly bulletins!)



Thank You, LORD!

Immanuel Lutheran Church

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 1st Sunday in Advent Bible Class 8:00 a.m. Divine Worship Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.	3	4	5 Confirmation 4:30 pm <i>Advent Midweek 7:00 pm</i>	6	7	8
9 2nd Sunday in Advent Bible Class 8:00 a.m. Divine Worship Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.	10	11	12 Confirmation 4:30 pm <i>Advent Midweek 7:00 pm</i>	13	14	15
16 3rd Sunday in Advent Bible Class 8:00 a.m. Divine Worship Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.	17	18	19 Confirmation 4:30 pm <i>Advent Midweek 7:00 pm</i>	20 LWML 2:00 p.m.	21 <i>St. Thomas, Apostle</i>	22
23 4th Sunday in Advent Bible Class 8:00 a.m. Divine Worship Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols 6:00 pm	25 Christmas Day Christmas Day Service with Communion 9:00 am	26 St. Stephen, Martyr	27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	29
30 1st Sunday after Christmas Bible Class 8:00 a.m. Divine Worship Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.	31 New Year's Eve		<i>"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus., because he will save his people from their sins."</i> <i>Matthew 1:21</i>			

Please refer to the weekly bulletins for corrections & additions to the calendar. Thank you!

(Note–Due to vacancy, Sunday Worship, Confirmation & Christmas service times may be subject to change. Please watch weekly bulletin for changes & information)

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH TERRIL, IOWA Quarterly Voters Meeting, October 14, 2018

President Dennis Dallman called the meeting to order in the name of the Father, Son & the Holy Spirit. Pastor Doellinger led the group in prayer. Twenty-four members present.

Secretary Lana Dallman read the minutes of the last meeting. There were no additions or corrections and the minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Don Homberg gave the Treasurer's report. Current balances are: General fund,\$425.75; Building Fund,\$10.92; Memorial Fund,\$5459.96; Annuities,\$36,872.70. We again had to withdraw \$2500 from Annuities to meet expenses. After Don explained several items and answered questions, Dale Langner moved, and Larry Kelp seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

ELDERS: Dewey Torkelson gave the Elders report. They had Bible study, then discussed the voting ballot and the lack of names for the officers of the church. There are two confirmation classes and we will be having two baptisms coming up. Thanksgiving Eve service will be 7:00 pm on November 21. Advent services will be December 5, 12 and 19 at 7:00 pm. Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 pm and Christmas day with Holy Communion will be at 9:00 am. Pastor will be taking some vacation days in October and December. Pastor Ewoldt will fill in.

Dewey also shared Pastor's Quarterly report (Pastor left to do CTK service in Spencer). Dale Langner reported that Pastor has received a call to the joint parishes of Trinity Lutheran in Marcus and Pilgrim Lutheran in Quimby. Pastor will consider the call and let us know his decision in two weeks. He asks that the members of the congregation pray for him and his family as he considers the call. The elders discussed the call with Pastor; we are concerned about his future and that of his family in view of the current financial situation of our church.

Trustees: David Luehring has investigated getting the carpet in the front of the church re-stretched and it will be done. He also has taken care of ordering the new box for the remote speaker system. We should receive a fifty-dollar rebate. There is a tree at the church and one at the parsonage that need to come down. David has obtained an estimate for \$400 for the church tree and \$200 for the parsonage tree. Trees will be cut down, stumps ground, and debris hauled away. Orville Lewis moved, and Glenda Von Ehwegen seconded to have the trees taken down. Motion carried.

Old Business: The mold problem in the parsonage basement was discussed.

New Business: We have received correspondence from the Lutheran Hour asking for a contribution. In the past, this contribution was left up to the individual members. Sandra Sykes suggested that the members could make out their checks to the church and the church could send them in and get credit for the donation.

Larry Kelp mentioned that the Pastor posting his sermon on Facebook has been receiving a good response, and we have received a contribution from someone outside our church because of the posting of the sermon.

Don Holmberg reported that he had turned in a claim to our insurance carrier for the lightning damage to the sound system. There is a \$500 deductible. It was also discussed whether we should switch insurance carriers for the church's insurance. Writing with a new company could save up to \$3000 annually. David Luehring moved, and Don Holmberg seconded the motion to change insurance carriers. Motion carried.

Ballots for officers for next year were handed out to the members. There was no candidate for Elder and Larry Kelp agreed to be put on the ballot for the position. Orville Lewis moved, and Duane Gunderson seconded the motion to accept the ballot and that all positions be filled as shown on the ballot without a vote. Motion carried. Officers for the coming year are: President-Dennis Dallman, Secretary-Sandy Langner, Treasurer-Don Holmberg, Elder-Larry Kelp, Financial Secretary-Lana Dallman, Trustee-Jeff Meyer, Finance Board-Brenda Luehring and Robert Von Ehwegen, Youth Counselor-Melissa Doellinger.

Brian Zelinsky moved, and David Luehring seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Lana Dallman, Secretary



**Immanuel Lutheran
Church**

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(until Nov. 11)
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We're on the Web!
See us at :
www.lcmsterril.weebly.com



Lutherans in Africa
FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

The approaching end of a calendar year, but the beginning of a new Church year. As with the season of Lent, we find a “break” in the darkness as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday on December 17. Gaudete takes its name from the antiphon appointed for this

Third Sunday of Advent.

Rejoice in the Lord always;

Again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

The Lord is at hand. PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

Lord, you were favorable to your land;

You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people;

You covered all their sin.

Will you not revive us again,

That your people may rejoice in you?

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

For he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

But let them not turn back to folly. PSALM 85:1-2, 6,8

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you ALL!!



Immanuel Lutheran Church
PO Box 98
Terril, IA 51364-0098

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

As the letter from Pastor Doellinger on the previous page states, he has decided to accept the Call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Marcus, IA and Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Quimby, IA. His last Sunday service will be on November 11 here in Terril. We will know more information concerning Pastor & his family's departure and what will be happening here at Immanuel after the Elders & Congregation Chairman have a chance to meet & make some plans.

We thank Pastor Doellinger for his service these past 12 years at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Terril and will continue to keep him & his family in our prayers as they begin a new chapter in their life in service to Christ by serving the congregations in Marcus & Quimby.

The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. -Psalm 121:7-8

How Should Christians Engage in Politics?

.....*From Lutheran Family Service Blog*

Martin Luther wrote that God rules in two kingdoms.

1. **In the Kingdom of the Right**, He rules through His Church as they proclaim His Word and administer His Sacraments.
2. **In the Kingdom of the Left**, He rules through those He places in authority over us.

As election day approaches, it is a good time to consider God's rule in the Kingdom of the Left through government.

Some would say that the church and Christians should not be involved in politics and government. However, God's Word reminds us that that we are to be, "blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15). In case you haven't noticed, the world needs the light of Christian influence!

Of course, we do need to exercise caution. We citizens of Heaven have no business trying to establish a Christian government, some kind of "state church" that obligates people to believe. People trying to escape this very thing founded our country and many church bodies, including the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We also have no business telling people where they should stand on a variety of political issues. Christians may have different views on things like health care or tax reform or immigration policies.

However, some things debated as political issues are really spiritual issues, truth issues. For example, marriage, human sexuality, and the sanctity of human life at both its beginning and end are issues to which God's Word speaks very directly. Lutheran Family Service (LFS) actively informs legislators on such issues and supports those who take a stand for God's truth. Such issues challenge God's Lordship over life and death and put man in God's place. Christians cannot have different views on these issues. These issues should be addressed in God's Kingdom of the Right based on God's Word of Law and Gospel. This in turn should motivate God's people to bring their influence to bear on these issues in the Kingdom of the Left.

What does that look like? Before we get to that answer, consider what it does *not* look like. Screaming and yelling, waving your Bible and quoting Bible verses out of context, and condemning to eternal Hell-fire those who disagree with you will generally not get you very far. That does not mean you should leave your Bible behind. It is the basis for what you do, and it is okay that people know where your convictions come from. There even may be opportunity to share the Gospel with others. But our manner should reflect the love of Him who rules in both kingdoms.

So, what *does* bringing our influence to bear look like? As citizens of the Kingdom of the Right living in the Kingdom of the Left, we should know when these issues that attack God and His truth are being dealt with in the public square. LFS keeps a vigilant watch at the capitol when it comes to such issues. We bring the light of Christ to the statehouse when communicating with legislators on life issues. We communicate what they learn through our [E-news](#) list; being on that list will help keep you informed.

1. We can all pray about these issues. We can pray for those who represent us especially during this election cycle and when the legislative session begins. We can pray for those who suffer persecution—and believe me this happens—when they stand up for God-given truths and values.
2. We can let those who represent us know where we stand and why. We can thank them when they do take a stand for truth and encourage them in doing so.
3. If able, we can be present at rallies, debates, public forums, and other venues where such issues are discussed.
4. We can inform others about the importance of these spiritual issues and encourage their participation.

We can [vote](#) for those who reflect our views and uphold God's truth.

We can [support LFS](#) and their efforts to promote and educate on these truths.

For too long the world has influenced what the church does and says. It's time to do what we can in God's Kingdom of the Left to reverse this flow of influence. (check out LFS website, www.lutheranfamilyservice.org for more & how to donate!)