

THE SON TIMES

Newsletter of Immanuel & St. Paul Lutheran Church-September 2024

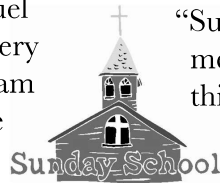
On Sunday, September 15 we will pick up our work in gathering for our adult catechism & Lutheran history class we began last year. All of our members are invited-this is generally for those who have been confirmed to again pick up the Small Catechism and learn deeper around the confession of our faith. We will begin this fall with watching some videos around our LCMS history, presented by a professor at our Fort Wayne Seminary. We will then continue in the Catechism in the Lord's Prayer. We will hold it at Immanuel at 4 pm.



As the Romans Bible study starts back up on Sept. 10 & 11, Pastor is also asking if there is interest in another Bible study for those not wishing to pick up in the middle.

Also, he plans on occasionally show videos around various topics that gives us all more knowledge and defense of our faith. If you have any questions, please speak with him.

Sunday school at both St. Paul & Immanuel begin this month! Immanuel will hold class from 9:45-10:45 am every Sunday. St. Paul's class is 9:10-10:00 am on the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday's of the month. All kids 3 years and up are invited. If you know of anyone who would like to come, talk to Kelly or Hillary. Classes start on the 15th @ SP & 22nd @ IM



Immanuel will begin an adult "Sunday school" for all members, meant to continue thinking and discussing, learning and digesting the faith. We will hold it during the time the kids are in class, starting on Sept, 15th gathering after on communion Sunday's



We will hold confirmation class at Immanuel on Sunday evenings, running from 5:45-7 pm. We will begin with evening prayer, which everyone is invited to join. Classes start on Sept. 8. If you know of any student who might be interested, please direct them to the Pastor.



Immanuel will be manning the Red Barn Brat Stand at Charlies on September 12-14. Please look for and sign up to work a shift or two.



As the fall season kicks off, so does several events we have planned at the parish. First, we will be celebrating the kick off of Sunday school-Sept 15 @ St Paul & Sept 22 @ Immanuel. We are looking at attending a "Feed My Starving Children" event in the area. This is a charity (Pastor & Wendy support them monthly) where a food packet is created to be sent around the world. This will be open to youth & adult. We will hold our 2nd Deer Hunter's service on Wednesday, Nov 20, with a meal, at Immanuel. We hope you attend our next meeting on **Monday, Sept. 30 at IM @ 6 pm**

Thank you to all who have helped out at the parish! Thanks to Hilary Kleveshal, Judy Meyers, Ron Wians, Nancy Baumgartner, Jane Runge & Jess Lederer for organizing the meal, preparing the games, and gathering the door prizes for our joint worship and picnic; to all those who worked at Charlie's for SP; to those who helped & donated with VBS. Your efforts and time are noted and so greatly appreciated by all!



Our first question submitted in one that comes up a lot in our Bible Studies: *Does your soul go to Heaven when a person dies or when Christ returns?* The first thing to define here is what is our soul? Many ideas we hold actually come from Greek philosophy & gnosticism, that they are pieces of the divine, immortal aspects that lives in the eternal. However, Scripture simply refers to them as the “breath of God,” the “Spirit of God” (it is the same word in the Hebrew). So the soul was given when God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life” (Gen 2:7). According to the 1969 *CTCR*, “*The Old Testament frequently uses "soul" (nephesh) as a synonym for the total person.*” This is why, in Ecclesiastes 12:7 notes that at death, “the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.” So a human is body and soul, both created and given by God.



So the first answer is that at death, the soul “returns” to God. In *Christian Dogmatics* (the “official” systematic of the LCMS) states that the souls of unbelievers are said to be kept “*in prison, a place of punishment (1 Peter 3:19-20).*” *Believers in Christ however find themselves in “God’s hands” (Acts 7:59; Luke 23:46).*” That at death, the soul is taken up by God to be kept safe and secure until the final day. This is why Rev. 6:9-11 speaks of, as the seals are being broken, “When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.”

So, even in death those who have been redeemed by Christ, who die trusting in Him as their Savior, finds the assurance that there is indeed nothing, as Paul sings in Romans 8, “in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” We will be kept safe and secure until that final day does come, where our souls will be again united to our fleshy bodies at the resurrection. What happens then? St. Paul speaks of this in 1 Corinthians 15, a text that we hear parts of every Easter Sunday. There we are told that when Christ returns to earth in the way He left (Acts 1:11), all the dead will rise from their graves and receive an imperishable and immortal body—both those who died in faith or in unbelief. Those who did not believe in Christ as Lord will then receive the outcome of their “faith;” they will receive what their unbelief sentences to, and that is the second, eternal death (Rev. 20:6).

But what Baptism has achieved for us, is that we have already died to this old, sin fallen age so to live in Christ forever (Rom 6:5-11). So for believers, we will find, “A new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Rev 21:1-2). That we will live on the new earth given for us to live upon, free from sin’s affect, living face to face with our God just as we once had in Eden.