

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

La Vernia, TX

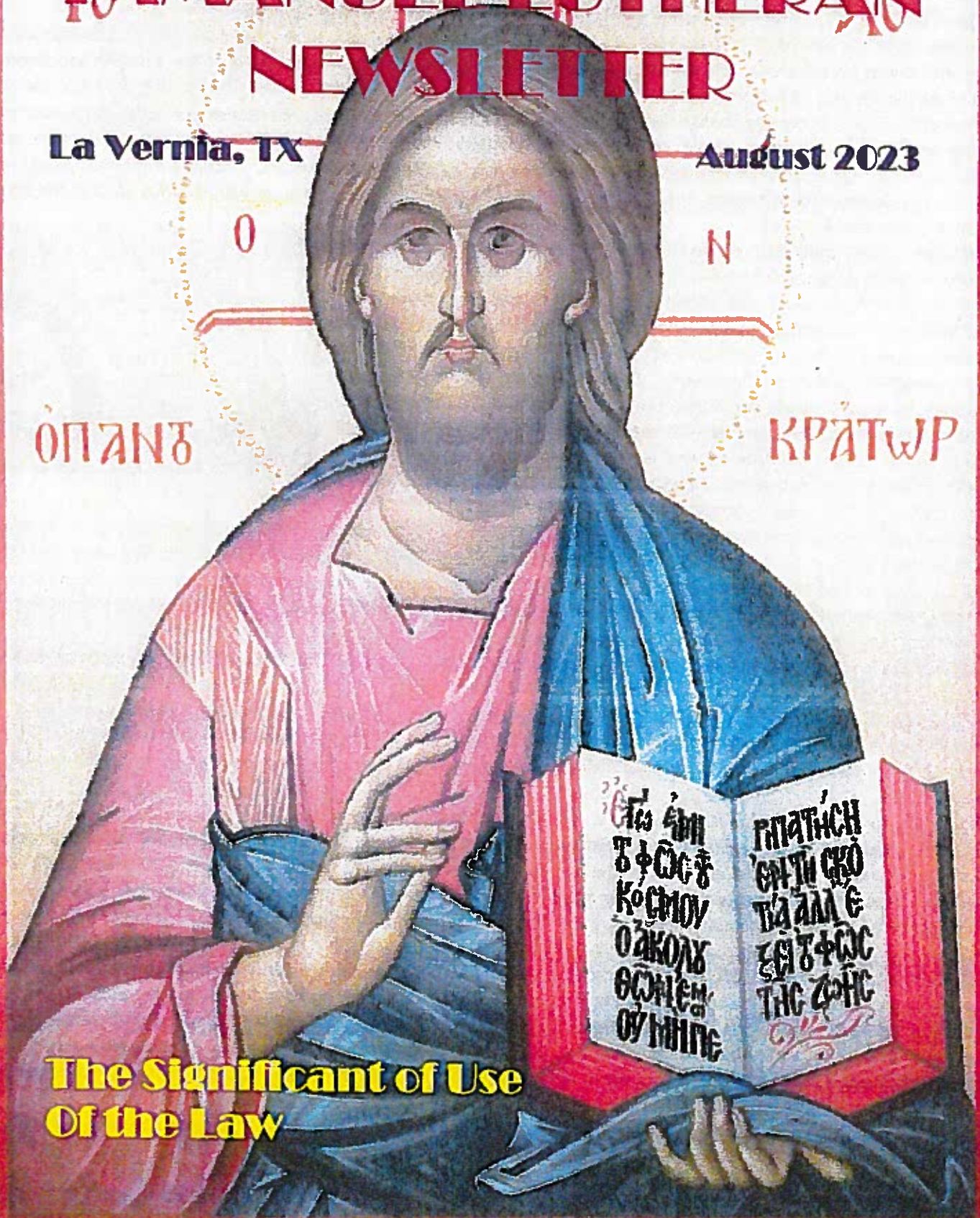
August 2023

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**The Significant of Use  
Of the Law**

## The Significance of the Use of the Law

**A** fundamental Lutheran doctrine is what the Bible teaches us about salvation; we are saved by grace alone (John 3:16-17; Romans 9:16, 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:9). This means that there is nothing we can do to be saved because salvation belongs to God's realm through Christ (John 6:44, 15:16; Romans 9:15-16; 1 John 4:19).

Now, many Christians have confused seeking God with fulfilling the third use of the Law, that according to Lutheran doctrine, we are not exempt from the Law. Still, we are called to follow the Law, not by our own human will -because it is impossible due to our sinful nature- but by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' words, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore, anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 5:17-19).

Even though we may think that we are all children of grace alone, this reference is mainly for the process of salvation. Yet, this process does extend to the whole life of the Christian, does not mean that it automatically rebukes our responsibility with the order and guidance of the Law. By this, I mean that many so-called "modern Christians," as they reject an order (liturgy), the God of history (as they reject the history of Christianity), and theology (as they reject formal education), have significantly diminished the completeness of God revelation in the Old and New Testament. Through this mentality of dropping the whole Bible as God's truth, they artificially created and preached a "human tailor-made diminished false gospel" full of new social theories and proudly rejected the Bible as a normative text for today's society.



This new *on-vogue* so-called Christians walk the extra mile to blend Christianity with non-Christian beliefs (from Hinduism to New Age) and express their "love to God" as a Broadway show. They believe praising God through modern songs and rhythms is the exclusive way to serve Christ. From this wrong way of understanding discipleship, they promptly move to teach and convince the weak in the faith of their twisted morals and ethics (meaning not aligned with the text or the spirit of the sacred word of God) through mere motivational speeches, manipulated emotions, and dramatic performances.

This kind of modern Christianity preaches a gospel without repentance, using their "worship services" as psychological therapy for mental well-being, a Christian life without commitment, portraying the church as a mere country club. They have gotten rid of the respect toward the sacred as they have transformed our altar for stages, our temples for theaters, and our crucified Christ (as we are supposed to preach Christ according to 1 Corinthians 1:22-23), for empty flashy, and trendy crosses (because for them it is hard to conceive that Christianity is all about sacrifice (Matthew 16:24-26) and self-giving to the Others -Matthew 25:31-46).

Teaching grace without personal responsibility is to portray an empty gospel where living an entire life through salvation is taken for granted, and Christ's sacrifice and ministry are just another antique tales for our amusement. All of the above with the sinister purpose of deceiving us from the spiritual implications of all these challenges (Ephesians 6:12) and the consequences of not teaching respect and order according to God's word (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40; 1 Peter 5:5).

Different from what many religious people may think, there is not a radical conflict between God's grace and his Law. We are called to fulfill the spirit of the Law through the Holy Spirit, yet we are still natural sinners. (Matthew 3:8; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:14). The same grace that saved us (Ephesians 2:8-9) is the same grace that takes us by the hand to understand and follow in Christ as we do what is right (the Law) in our minds and our deeds (Romans 8:26-27).

The conflict between "grace" and "Law" may strongly arise, disrupting our spiritual connection with God if we misunderstand the purpose of the Law, try to use God's grace as a justification to keep sinning, or pretend to have no personal responsibility over our self-giving lives to the Other as children of God. Let us keep reaching deep into studying the Bible -together as a church- so this misunderstanding never derails our path in Christ.

May the God of the whole Bible help us follow His calling and will in our life as his holy people to fulfill the entirety spirit of the Law through grace.

God Bless You All!  
Pastor Eric M. Miletti



## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL 2023 May 23, 2023

*Correspondence and Reports were presented.*

**Old Business:** *Workshop was successful and the next one was set for August 15<sup>th</sup> Chrystal to contact contractors regarding storm repairs and ask for bids by 7<sup>th</sup> of July*

**New Business:** *Council agreed to begin to seek bids for Phase 2 of the Parish Hall  
Agreed to purchase 2 commercial grades open top trash cans for the Parrish Hall*

*Set dates for church calendar 2024*

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### Building Funds Report



*We are currently in Phase 2 of the parish hall construction. As of 31 May, the balances in the dedicated funds for the parish hall building project are:*

<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>\$ 196,056.09</i>
<i>Building Furnishings</i>	<i>\$ 10,000.00</i>
<i>Building Kitchen</i>	<i>\$ 10,143.01</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 216,488.10</i></b>

*If you wish to contribute to the general construction expenses for the parish hall, annotate the amount under the Building Fund designation on your offering envelope. If you want to give to the furnishings or kitchen fund, earmark "Bldg. Furnishings" or "Bldg. Kitchen" under the Other category on your offering envelope. Please contact Treasurer, Chrystal Coble (210-865-8205), if you have any questions or need additional information.*

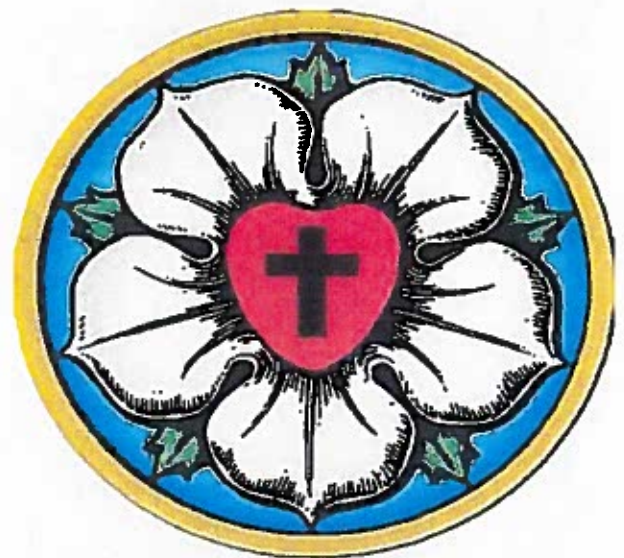
***"For we are God's fellow workers; You are God's field, God's building"***  
***1 Corinthians 3:9***

## Lutheranism 101: The Lutheran Rose

This seal was designed by Dr. Martin Luther while teaching at Wittenberg, and it has become the primary emblem of all Lutherans. It is essential to know its meaning because everything in the Lutheran tradition is significant for our history and beliefs as Lutherans.

The meaning of the rose can be described as follow: the black cross, for faith in Christ, crucified; the red heart, for faith in the Savior; the white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation, and peace; the blue sky, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is the beginning of heavenly joy to come; and the golden ring surrounding all, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless. This seal is not attached to any specific Lutheran denomination but belongs to all Lutherans worldwide. The last stanza of the Luther League Hymn (SBH 567) gives a poetic description of this same Luther Emblem. It reads:

We proudly bear as banner  
A cross within the heart,  
To show that we have chosen  
Christ, the better part.  
Then joy and peace and comfort  
Shall blossom as a rose,  
Until our earthly blessings  
The worth of heaven disclose.  
All hail, our glorious Savior!  
We march where thou hast trod,  
To seek thy house of triumph,  
The city of our God!  
-- SBH 567 vs. 3



## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**Our Christmas Cantata will be held on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. We would like to invite all Adults, High School and Junior High students to make a joyful noise unto the Lord with us! The sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. Please sign up by Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>. We will begin practice Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Contact Patrice Goodman at 830.391.2346 or Adrienne Kelley after church service.**



## *8<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Market*

As Pastor says, "It's never too early to start planning for Christmas." So, plans are underway for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual ILC Christmas Market! It will be held on Saturday, December 2 and we will have booths both outside on the parking lot and inside of the Parish Hall. If you or someone you know is interested in being a vendor, contact me. If you would like to help in any way for set up, clean up or as a volunteer during the day, contact me. If you have canned goods, handmade goods or Christmas items to donate, contact me. Basically, if you want to be a part of the Market, contact me and I'll answer any questions you may have!

Darla Buccigrossi

830-688-1810

[ILCWOFCChristmasMarket@gmail.com](mailto:ILCWOFCChristmasMarket@gmail.com)

## **La Vernia Christian Food Pantry**

First, let me thank everyone who donated to the School Supply Drive; more than 200 bags were to be distributed on July 29th. We also appreciated the men from Immanuel who came out early to do traffic control.

Second, our workday is scheduled for Saturday, August 12th from 8:30 - 11:00 AM; anyone who would like to help is welcome!

Third, I have been the Food Pantry Coordinator for Immanuel for more than 20 years; it's time for me to step down and let someone else be the liaison between the church and the Food Pantry. The experience has been more than worthwhile - helping the community by putting in a few hours every other month is a great way to show Jesus' love. If anyone feels a tug to your heart, please see Karen Campbell.

**LV Christian Food Pantry Volunteers -  
our next workday is **Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30 – 11:00 AM!**



**Sunday Live Streaming  
10:30 am Facebook**



- 1 Trevor Davis
- 3 Jeanne Andrews  
Donna Prater  
Will Scull
- 5 Brenda Espinet
- 7 Kayla Homeyer
- 8 Dan Reeves
- 9 Tiffany Kosub
- 10 Jameson Baker
- 11 Sara Buccigrossi  
Stephen Ferry  
Shasta Franklin  
Ryker Korzekwa  
Jessica Schroeder
- 12 Barbara Claus  
Gerry Morgenroth
- 14 Justin Coldewey  
Tricia Ferry  
Brayden Lambeck  
Karen Rodgers
- 16 Karen Rose
- 17 Darrell Hancock  
Sammie Hewitt  
Sara Hewitt
- 19 Brynn Baker  
James Tanneberger
- 20 Gloria Henkes
- 21 Johnnie Morgan
- 22 Hunter Homeyer  
Shane Morrison
- 24 Jackson Faglie
- 24 David Robertson  
Wyatt Wilson
- 25 Pauline Karnei
- 26 Audrey Badders
- 28 Cayleigh Coble
- 28 Renee Scull
- 30 Konnor Reeves
- 31 Steven O'Neal

## YARD WORK SCHEDULE

Aug 7 – Aug 12 Brad Bales & Betty Maultsby

Aug 21 – Aug 26 Mark Buccigrossi & Ronnie Haug

## Anniversaries

- 1 Mark & Darla Buccigrossi
- 2 Chelsey & Deano Thayer
- 3 Matt & Alicia Koepp
- 9 Dwight & Patricia Koepp
- 14 Kenneth & Bobby Mills
- 18 Toni & Kurt Smith
- 21 Dan & Liz Pianfetti
- 22 Fred & Claudia Pianfetti
- 23 Tony & Donna Prater
- 25 Henry & Pauline Karnei
- 28 Pete & Laura Baumann

## SPECIAL DATES IN AUGUST

August 6 at 9:00 – 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Church Festival

August 20 after 2<sup>nd</sup> service Women of Faith at Witte's

## FLOWERS FOR AUGUST

- |        |       |                           |
|--------|-------|---------------------------|
| Aug 6  | Altar | Mark & Darla Buccigrossi  |
| Aug 13 | Altar | Kenneth & Bobby Mills     |
| Aug 20 | Altar | Malcom & Gerry Morgenroth |
| Aug 27 | Altar | Hershel & Patrice Goodman |
|        | Piano | Marvin & Laura Bauman     |

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Aug 6 Church Festival 9:00 am

Ushers  
Readers  
Acolytes  
Altar Guild  
Facebook Live  
Tellers

Mark B., Charles S., Travis M.  
Darla Buccigrossi  
Maddi Schwake/Lillie Faglie  
Darla Buccigrossi  
Susan Ferguson  
Jacy Reeves and Gloria Kipp

### Aug 13

Ushers  
Readers  
Acolytes  
Altar Guild  
Multimedia  
Facebook Live  
Coffee Hosts  
Tellers

#### 8:00 am

Chrystal C., Amy W.  
Mark Buccigrossi  
Matthew Stanush  
Karen C., Toni S.  
Karen C., Adriana W.  
Shirley Stanush  
  
Darla Buccigrossi

#### 10:30 am

Gary B., Gloria K.  
Ana Norwood  
Henry Scull  
Gloria H., Brenda W.

Congregational Council  
Wendie Roser

### Aug 20

Ushers  
Readers  
Acolytes  
Altar Guild  
Multimedia  
Facebook Live  
Coffee Hosts  
Tellers

Randall R., Ronnie C.  
Douglas Piehl  
Kimber Hild  
Amy W., Crystal C.  
Billy Bunton  
Jana Clarke  
Men of Immanuel  
Shirley Stanush

Tim & Suzan Ferguson  
Suzan Ferguson  
Abigail Clarke  
Charles & Candy Stork  
Karen Campbell

Jana Clarke

### Aug 27

Ushers  
Readers  
Acolytes  
Altar Guild  
Multimedia  
Facebook Live  
Coffee Hosts  
Tellers

Darla B., Kathy V.  
Dianell Recker  
Kaden Morrison  
Paige H., Joyce M.  
Ronnie Haug  
  
Women of Faith  
Brenda Willeford

Laura B., Lillian K.  
Jacy Reeves  
Lillie Faglie  
Jeanette B., JoElla H.  
Jackson Faglie  
Bill Roser  
  
Rebecca Reeves

# AUGUST 2023

A - ANNEX PH - PARISH HALL P - PARSONAGE		1	2	3	4	5
<b>6</b> <b>9:00</b> <b>20th Annual Community Church Festival</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>8:30</b> <b>Men's Breakfast - P</b>  <b>8:30 - 11:00</b> <b>Food Pantry Workday</b>
<b>13</b> <b>8:00</b> <b>Worship / HC</b> <b>9:15 Coffee Fellowship Bible Study Confirmation / Sunday School</b> <b>10:30</b> <b>Worship / HC</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>Council Work Shop - 6:00 - 8:00</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>Lay Ministers Mtg 7:00</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>8:00 Worship / HC</b> <b>9:15 Coffee Fellowship Bible Study Confirmation / Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship / HC</b> <b>Women of Faith @Witte's after 2<sup>nd</sup> Service</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>Sewing Circle 9:00 - 12:00</b>  <b>Council Mtg. 6:00</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>  <b>8:00</b> <b>Worship / HC</b> <b>9:15</b> <b>Coffee Fellowship Bible Study Confirmation / Sunday School</b> <b>10:30</b> <b>Worship / HC</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		