



IMMANUEL Lutheran Church
Boldly proclaiming the gospel



GOD WITH US

News

September 2022, Vol. 55, Issue 9

Red River Reflections #6

The Bible contains both history and mystery. Mysteries are things which defy human logic and understanding; things that function outside the realm of what we would define as natural processes. Mysteries as such are issues of faith, but the supernatural things which scripture records are also historical and can be evaluated in the same way as we might evaluate any other historical event. The Bible is packed with such claims that can in many cases be easily examined for their accuracy without calling into question any mysterious aspect of the event. Methods for the evaluation of historical events often have more in common with courtroom proceedings than laboratory work, but they have been well established by legal tradition and historians alike, and the resurrection of Christ, for example, meets or exceeds all the standards by which historical facts are measured. For anyone to reject the possibility of the supernatural outright is to place one's faith solely in observable natural processes, limited by man's ability to understand them. It is better not to lean on our own understanding, but upon the word of God.

When examining the truth claims of the Bible, it is important to follow the established principals to help us determine the validity of its claims. The validity of any given claim is not likely to be in question for many Christians, but it may be for others and unbelievers, and God wants us to be ready to give an answer for the joy we carry in our heart, so it serves us well to be familiar with the ways by which we understand His word. Because the Bible uses words to express God's truth, basic linguistic considerations apply, such as grammar,

genre, and context. For the purpose of our discussion here, let's look at the 5 main genres found in scripture: historic narrative, poetry, letters, parables, and prophecy.

These are broad categories, but they give us a framework. Each genre exhibits specific indicators which identify it and help us to understand its content. Scripture is versatile and in many places contains multiple genres. For the most part, however, the books of Genesis through Ester, the Gospels, and Acts are written in the historical narrative format. When we think of poetry (artistic writing) we think of Job through Song of Songs.

The books of Romans through Jude are letters (or epistles which is Greek for letter). Parables (stories with a special and sometimes hidden meaning) are contained mostly in the Gospels. And finally, prophecy (writing that speaks of things to come) is found in Isaiah through Malachi, Revelation, and within the Gospels. As you can see, the Gospels contain many genres.

Here are some more examples:

Historic Narrative & Parables: Much of the Old Testament and the Gospels are historic narrative, and most parables occur inside a historic narrative. In most cases Jesus tells a parable in response to a question or sequence of events and he tells the parable to address or explain the question or events. So the Parable is told as part of a historic narrative, but the parable is itself a narrative with a different purpose; to convey a truth in a metaphoric or symbolic way.

Poetry: Psalms and Proverbs are obvious examples, however, poetry may also be found in a historic narrative when a group or individual sang a song and the song is recorded for us. My favorite is when Mary sings the Magnificat (found in Luke 1:46-55). This song is very similar to Hannah's song in 1st Samuel 2:1-10 when she thanks God for her promised son.

Prophecy: Prophecy may discuss a future event as in Isaiah 53 which is a prophetic explanation of what would take place on Good Friday. To prophesy also means to "proclaim truth", so when a prophet says "thus saith the LORD" it can also be a simple proclamation of God's truth, such as "You shall not murder".

Letters: Understanding letters is easier when we consider who is writing to whom for what purpose. When Paul writes to Corinth, he does so in order to address the issues of conflict and sin in their congregation. We better understand the letter when we see it as a Pastor telling a congregation how best to deal with the issues at hand in a God-pleasing way.

Next month we will discuss Hermeneutics (the study of scripture) and will start to look at how we got the Bible.

In Christ,
Pastor Portier

Pastor Yeager September Letter

Content in Christ

Matthew chapter 13 writes this, ... **the seed sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful (Matthew 13:22, ESV).**

How has your life been in these last couple of years? Have you accomplished everything you wanted? Did you get the job you desired? Did you get married? Did you graduate from the college you wanted? Were you as successful as you thought you would be? We all have dreams that we hope to accomplish, especially before we get to a certain age. We all have specific goals that we strive for as we continue to grow older. Can you think of certain goals that you had in mind when you were growing up?

The world can seem like a market place of ideas that can encourage many people to strive to become successful. The world and its economy might seem like a place that encourages many families to pursue great wealth and acts as a healthy form of security for those we love. It's true that in our world today there are many people who find success in what they do and where they work. In our world, there are many people who are content with what they have earned and are satisfied with what they were given. Are you content? Are you happy with your life? Do you feel like you've been succeeding?

Certainly, there are good days. On these days we feel good about ourselves and our lives that we continue to live. But what about the bad days? What about the days where you don't feel so comfortable? Your bills need to be paid for, your debts have been called in, you have to get your car fixed, and your pay check isn't due for another week. You have loved ones in the hospital, you were let go at work, and your car just ran out of gas. Groceries are scarce, and you're fighting to put food on the table for your family.

Our trust in the world can lead us to always wanting more. We are never satisfied with what we have been given. The same is true when we search for success, sometimes our faith and trust can fall into worldly things, which can leave us empty handed. Then our

anxious minds are wrapped around thoughts of getting lucky and finding something that would serve as a quick fix for all the problems that we go through every day. Then, it's too late. The world and its temptations can cause us a great deal of anxiety and stress. The world draws us away, pulls us further into doubt and despair, pulls us away from the promises that God gives and from His word that was planted in us so long ago.

Dear saints, rejoice in what God gives. Rejoice in your successes and find joy in your shortcomings. For God is not blind or deaf. God has promised to be there for his children, on both the good and bad days. He knows the supplications that lays on your heart, and the burdens that weigh on your mind. He hears you in your times of trouble. He is there to comfort you in times of need. Jesus says this in Matthew Chapter 6, **Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?**

God is invested in you and loves you as one of His own. The world would like nothing more than to choke you with all its temptations and deceptions. Our measure of worth is not based on the wealth that we acquire in the world, or the successes that we continue to add to our belt. Our value comes from the God who sent His Son to die for you. This God overcame the world for you. He bore the thorns around His head, and cross on His back. This God willingly gave up His life for yours so that you could witness just how much He would go through to save you. Through His life, death, and resurrection, God reveals the love that He has for you and for your neighbor. Therefore, as you continue to struggle, or even when you find relief, keep your eyes focused on the cross, the very place where God shares with you the abundance of an everlasting life that has no end. And find contentment in no other promise than the words that Jesus says in the last chapter Matthew, ... and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

In the name of Jesus+ Amen.



ReNesting July Needs

Full-size sheet sets
Shower curtain liners (white or beige)
Shower curtain

Twin-size sheet set
Shower curtain rings
Ice Cube trays

September Sermon Text

September 4

Wed. Sermon Isaiah 29:17-24

Cor. 3:4-11

Sun. Sermon Mark 7:31-37

September 11

Wed. Sermon Ez. 34:11-24

1 Tim. 1:5-17

Sun. Sermon Luke 15:1-20

September 18

Wed. Sermon Amos 8:4-7

1 Tim. 2:1-14

Sun. Sermon Luke 16:1-15

September 25

Wed. Sermon Amos 6:1-7

1 Tim. 6:6-19

Sun. Sermon Luke 16:19-31



You are invited to join our group for intercessory prayer for prayer for others. Prayer Ministry is an opportunity to serve Jesus and our congregation by lifting others in prayer when they have a need. If this appeals to you, or if you have any questions, please contact Shirley Fortune at 318-402-8940.

Ministering Among Us In September

ALTAR GUILD	<i>Diane Derbonne, Cathy Ward, Tammy Szekacs, Christie Walters</i>
USHERS	<i>Lawson Deblieux, Scott Deblieux</i>
GREETERS	<i>Shyanne & Paul Jones</i>
ACOLYTES	
<i>September 4</i>	Volunteer Needed
<i>September 11</i>	Volunteer Needed
<i>September 18</i>	Volunteer Needed
<i>September 25</i>	Volunteer Needed
POWERPOINT	
<i>September 4, 18</i>	<i>Tammy Deblieux</i>
<i>September 11, 25</i>	<i>Sloane Engle</i>

Sound	
<i>September</i>	Lee Anderson
ELDERS	
<i>September 7, 14, 21, 28</i>	<i>Mike McKim</i>
September 4	Mark Wright
<i>September 11</i>	<i>Beaux Jones</i>
September 18	Scott Broberg
<i>September 25</i>	<i>Bob Gernand</i>
USHERS	<i>Lawson Deblieux, Scott Deblieux</i>

In Our Prayers

Mary Ahrens · Joanne Davis · Addison Gould · Linda Russell
 Todd Willis · Mary Jo Minks · Roger Davis · Jack Derbonne · Gerry Meche
 Robert Frederickson · Edwin Coyner · Norma Langston · Sophia Borghardt
 Glenda Juneau · Pat Stevenson · Cheryl Carroll · Erin Castanes
 Lois Hibbs · Laura Leshner · Jack Russell · Hannah Frobel
 Virginia Lutterman · Carol Buther · Kathy Sorenson · Zolly Kirsch

September Sunday School Lessons

September 4

On Your Feet-Paul, Barnabas, and a Man Born Lame
 Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

September 11

The Gentile Cause-The Jerusalem Council
 Acts 15:1-14, 22-35

September 18

The Unique Greek-Lydia Is Baptized
 Acts 16:11-15

September 25

The Unknown Revealed-Paul Preaches in Athens
 Acts 17:16-34

Financial Report For September 2022 Newsletter

Budget status as of 31 July 2022.

Actual Income \$287,271 Actual Expenditures \$223,008

Budgeted income and expenditures \$265,574

Net Income (Actual Income minus Actual Expenditures) +\$64,263

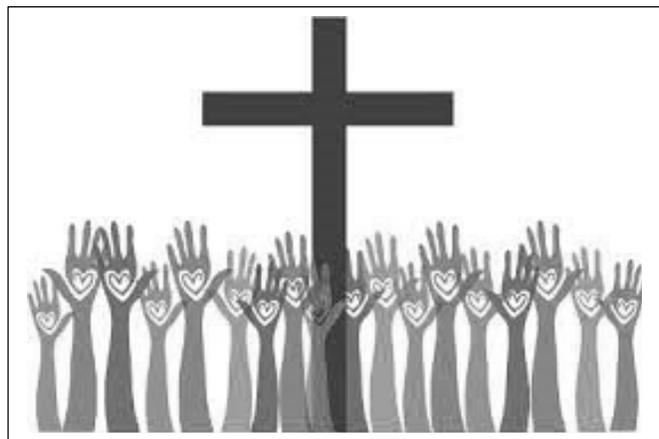
2022 Budget- The Voters agreed on a budget of \$454,766 for 2022. We are doing very well against the current budget as shown in the above figures.

2023 Budget- The budget for next year was developed for discussion at the 10 September Planning Meeting. The budget has been distributed to the committees for their discussion and approval. The 2023 budget is presently \$441,734. There is a copy of the new budget posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen. If you have any questions or suggestions about a budget item, please see someone in the responsible board or a Finance Committee member.

Maintenance Update- If you would like to help defray future campus repair and update costs, you may contribute to the Building Fund. The Building Fund is always a good place to contribute anything extra you would like to offer. Thank you in advance.

Financial Secretary Position- Tammy Szekacs was appointed by the Church Council as the new Treasurer. She has been training for the last year as assistant and is doing a great job. A great big *THANK YOU* Tammy! Again, Welcome Bill Turnage, Ken Krueger and David Mosteller to the Finance Committee. Charlie Johnson will be the BOF Chairperson and secretary. Thank you all for showing your interest in the financial affairs of the church. If you have any questions or concerns about church finances, please talk to a committee member. Now, we are looking for a person, or team, to train with our Financial Secretaries, Glenda and Earl Kroll, to aide them and to possibly assume the position in the future. Their position receives the weekly donations, deposits funds in our bank, and reports to the congregation. Pray for congregational solidarity, our pastors and all church workers, for the missions of the church, world peace, government agreement, for those involved with and suffering from the Covid, other world disasters, and for those in need.

**Voters Meeting
September 25**





“INTERESTED IN SERVICES OFFERED BY BOSSIER COUNCIL ON AGING?”

Our next LWML meeting is scheduled for September 20th at 10:00 a.m. Tana Wilder, Outreach Director of Bossier Council on Aging will be our special guest speaker. Tamara Crane, Executive Director, will also attend with Ms. Wilder. We are eager to have them come and share what services they provide for the community. The information is not just for the usual attendees at LWML, but to everyone who is interested in what is available for seniors at this facility, including the driver's training course.

Our ingathering will be items that are frequently used by seniors.

MITES Mission Update

The Food and Clothing Co-Op Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne \$5,000

At Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, nearly 60% of the students are married, second career with families.

When they decide to leave their jobs to come to the seminary, these students no longer have the same financial flow of funds as before, but they and their families do continue to have the same needs.

The Food and Clothing Co-op is currently able to supply from 80-85% of all food and household needs each month at no cost to the student. Seminarians and their families volunteer to work at the Food Co-op each month. In exchange they are allowed one shopping day each week. This \$5,000 grant will be used to purchase only perishable food items each month which are then given directly to the students and their families at **no cost**.

Let's Feed our Future Pastors!!

September Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Sunday Bulletin Printed 8 AM	2	3 Lutherans for Life 9:30 AM
4 MITES Divine Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM	5	6 Board of Education Stewardship Board	7 Matins Service 11 AM Vespers Service 6 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Moms In Prayer 9:30 AM	8 Sunday Bulletin Printed 8 AM	9	10 Church Year Planning Session
11 Divine Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM	12	13 Elders 6:00 PM	14 Matins Service 11 AM Vespers Service 6 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Moms In Prayer 9:30 AM	15 Sunday Bulletin Printed 8 AM	16 Pastor Portier's Bible Class 10 AM	17 Pastor Portier's Bible Class 9 AM
18 Divine Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM New Member Class 12 Noon	19	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> Council 6:00 PM	21 Matins Service 11 AM Vespers Service 6 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Moms In Prayer 9:30 AM	22 Sunday Bulletin Printed 8 AM	23 Pastor Portier's Bible Class 10 AM Sewing Mission Outreach	24 Pastor Portier's Bible Class 9 AM Sewing Mission Outreach
25 Divine Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:30 AM Voters Meeting New Member Class 12 Noon	26	27	28 Matins Service 11 AM Vespers Service 6 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Moms In Prayer 9:30 AM	29 Sunday Bulletin Printed 8 AM	30 Pastor Portier's Bible Class 10 AM	

September Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Kinsleigh Downs Amy Hanley	2	3 Michelle Wright
4	5 Al Johnson Hailey Rentz	6 Willa Bose	7	8 Mark Wright	9 Paige Green Marianne Mosteller <i>Shyanne & Beaux Jones</i>	10 Marie Causey
11	12 Jake Burlison Cheryl & Steve Bull	13 <i>Michelle & Mark Wright</i>	14 Thomas Glenn Eva Andrews	15 Rachel Brummond Kathy Sorenson	16	17 Robert Fredrickson Mike Searing
18 <i>Eddie & Charlie Johnson</i>	19	20 <i>Pat & Mark Stevens</i>	21 David Brooks	22 Chase Hendricks	23 Josh Hendricks	24 Diane Fongemie
25 Stephanie Hooker	26 Aubrey Stevens <i>Pam & Mike Searing</i>	27	28	29	30 Norman Davis Jason Engle Earlene Winham	

Mission Outreach

Mission Outreach is a sewing ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Our initial purpose was to teach sewing to anyone who wants to learn. In this process we make quilts for babies and children and veterans and people with a need. Now I see our greater purpose is the fellowship with each other as we come together with a purpose to help within our community. We make more than baby quilts and blankets; we also make adult size quilts and blankets, as well as back packs, AND we make new friends as we enjoy time with some of our old friends.

Mission Outreach is also a tributary of Red River Quilters. RRQ and ILC serve the same people. RRQ covers most of the monetary needs and ILC provides a good work space with our supplies on hand. The baby quilts (Love Wrappers) are distributed to the Neonatal Intensive Care Units at our local hospitals, Care Pregnancy Center, Cara Center and Gingerbread House (Foster Care facilities), Police and Fire Departments (an item to offer comfort during a time of crisis), Providence House, and House of Hope. We have expanded our distributions and now work with the Shreveport Volunteers Network (a branch of the Cajun Navy) who collects products ready to be distributed when a disaster occurs (Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Floods...) We also make small fabric backpacks that go to the Foster Care centers and to the Care Pregnancy Center. Thanks goes to the great generosity of all who have been donating supplies.

At the time of this writing (mid August) “we” have made over 480 items for distribution into our community. Who is “we” that is making these items? We are women and men from all over our Shreveport/Bossier area and a bit beyond. Several are members of ILC; most are members of Red River Quilters and a few are our neighbors in the community. We come together to learn new sewing techniques and to work on these projects to be donated. We come together to fellowship as people with a common interest. Meetings are scheduled for two adjacent days per month but we meet more often. Emails keep us informed of unscheduled meetings.

If you would like to join this group please notify Cathy Ward to add your name and email address to the list for reminders and notifications. Next meeting dates are August 25-27, September 23-24, October 28-29, and November 18-19. Any meetings in December are planned with short notice email. Dates for 2023 will be scheduled on the church calendar in the very near future (September 10).