The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery

What does this mean?
We are to fear and love God so that in matters of sex our words and actions are pure and honorable and husband and wife love and respect one another.

Everyone wants what is good for their kids. We want them to grow up healthy, motivated, loving, helpful, faithful, and happy. We want their lives to have all of the joys that we have known and fewer of the unnecessary hurts and hard times. Is it within our power to do this for them? To steer them along a good path?

I think we all know that there is some yes and some no, if we answer the question honestly. Yes, parenting matters. The choices we make as parents contribute to our kids’ futures. But no, we can’t just make it happen, no matter how much we might like to. Nevertheless, we would want to do what is possible to give them the best possible chance to be happy and faithful adults.

Here’s what I’m getting at. Who among us would want our children to commit adultery? Who would want our children to have a difficult marriage? Who would want them to be badly hurt by a relationship, or series of relationships? No one! We wouldn’t wish such unhappiness on our enemies, much less our children.

This raises the question, what can we do for our children when they are young to prepare them for happy and fulfilling relationships when they are older? Or, in the context of this month’s Commandment and Explanation, how can we prepare our children to live lives that are pure and honorable and how can we prepare them to love and honor their spouse-to-be?

September 2016

I don’t want to go much beyond this simple question right now. This can be a very sensitive topic for people. More than thinking about answers I just want to suggest the following. Because we care about our children and because we want what is best for them, we should think about these issues long before the children are ever thinking about relationships themselves. What can we do as Christian parents to prepare them for healthy, faithful, happy marriages?

So what is the answer (or answers)? Perhaps this is an unsatisfying conclusion, but I think that I’d like to leave it right here for a month. Maybe it’s something that you can think about or talk about. I’m certainly always happy to talk about it! Next month, I’ll write a bit more for you to consider.

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Rev. Ben Worley
Emanuel St. John, Lytton, IA
(712) 541-4785 (cell phone)

"Such wonderful things are coming to you. Joy, Peace, Laughter. The difficult way is nearly over."

Emanuel St John Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2016

President Jeff Ellerbrock called the meeting to order. Present were LaVerne Arndt, Cindy Souder, Theresa Johnson, LeRoy Johnson, Ron Haden, Jim Willis, Candace Booth, Rhonda Johnson, LeRoy Johnson, Pauline Lange, Theresa Schultz and Pastor Ben. Visitors present were Dennis Hinrichs, Dave Sands, and Jean Matter. Pastor Ben opened with devotions. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Jim Willis to approve agenda with one addition. Motion passed. Motion by Jim Willis, second by Candace Booth to accept the July meeting minutes. Motion passed. Motion by Ron Haden, second by Theresa Schultz to accept the Treasurer’s report with a balance of $4,642.32.
Motion passed. A written EPIC report and Financial report was given to the council.

**Old Business:** Jeff Ellerbrock reported on the E-Pay (On Line Giving) account set up. The account has been accepted. Next step is to set up passwords and credit card acceptance. Another option for church members to be able to give is to set up an automatic withdrawal from their personal account to be put into the church account. The bank routing number and account number will need to be available to church members before this can be completed. Motion by Ron Haden, second by LaVerne Arndt to have the bank routing number and account number available to members who prefer to do this. That information will be in the church bulletin and the Vine. Motion passed. Gracious Giving Event is scheduled for August 21. Concrete work will begin after the city has fixed the street out in front. Jean Matter advised the council that the memorial money that was given in memory of her mother could be used to have cement work done from the north edge of the church to the end of the educational wing. The council thanked her for the donation. Jeff gave information to the council about new laptop computer and new LCD projectors for the church. Motion by Theresa Johnson, second by Jim Willis to use up to $750.00 to purchase a new laptop computer from Iowa Computer Depot in Lake View. Motion passed. Motion by Jim Willis, second by Candace Booth to authorize a committee to make a decision and purchase a LCD projector up to $2000.00 for the church. Motion passed. A committee was set up to figure out what type of computer and LCD projector would best fit our needs at the church.

**President’s Report:** No further information.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Ben will be on vacation August 22-29.

**Worship and Music Committee:** Jim Willis reported that Rev. Vic Johnson will lead worship on August 28th while Pastor Ben is on vacation. Communion will still be held.

**Parish Education:** Theresa Schultz reported that Sunday School Rally will be September 11th.

**Outreach Committee:** Theresa Johnson continuing to look into a flower cooler. September 17th will be the last grill out. Mission Sunday will be set for November 13th. Pastor Ben and Theresa are looking into a speaker. Will get more information for next council meeting.

**Property and Management Committee:** LeRoy Johnson gave a report on updates at the cemeteries and maintenance work completed at the church. He thanked all who helped out at the parsonage clean up and reported what was done. Tim Huddleson said that he will do snow removal this winter, but it may be his last year. Some church items will be available on a first come first serve basis. Denise Lake is looking into prices and new Christmas tree for church.

**Stewardship and Finance Committee:** Ron Haden no report.

**WELCA:** Candace Booth present. No report.

**New Business:** Pastor Ben reported on God’s Work, Our Hands. With the short notice to set up something for September the council decided to wait until October. Jeff presented information on an elevator maintenance plan. Council declined to have this done because of costs. EPIC concerns were discussed. A letter was received from the Methodist Church in Rockwell City, that they no longer wish to participate as a partner in the EPIC program. Leader Leah Rosado for EPIC has resigned her position. The council discussed what our option and concerns for a youth program involving our church and the youth in our community and church. EPIC Board will be meeting and will be reporting back to churches still involved with the program. Motion by Jim Willis, second by Ron Haden to move for the purpose of the EPIC Board meeting that the council would support at the same or less level for the ongoing EPIC program if it does continue. Motion passed. Motion by LeRoy Johnson, second by Theresa Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Lord’s Prayer.

**September Birthdays**

1) Larry Kruckenberg  
3) Eric Gifford, Tina Peter  
5) Erin Gifford  
6) Elin Albright, Dennis Booth, Jered Campbell, Arlin Purdie  
8) Dennis Dettmann  
9) Jeffrey Talbott  
10) Denise Ramsey, Stacy Talbott  
11) Ann Albinger, Keith Berry  
12) Haden Stell  
13) David Diersen  
14) Dennis Hinrichs, Zerik Winey  
15) Jody Cerra, Sarah Cerra, Randy Scharn, Aubrie Stell  
17) Kimberly Adams, Susan Albright, Carlyee Clark, Samantha Walker
SUNDAY SCHOOL
RALLY DAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016!

Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning through May 2017. Children of the congregation and community from the age of three are invited to come each Sunday morning to learn about Jesus. Students present will sing during the worship service.

Bibles will be given to the 4th grade students during the Sunday morning worship service also.

In-Kind offering will be gathered for Gateway to Discovery and Hope Sweet Hope Studios at the Women’s Dorcas Cluster Fall Retreat, September 14th. Items needed are:
- Personal Care Items (for women): deodorant, razors & shaving cream, hair care products, toothpaste & toothbrushes, body soaps & lotion, gift cards for haircuts.
- Household Products: hand soap, dish soap, dish towels, laundry soap, fabric softener, toilet paper, paper towels, garbage bags, household cleaning products.
- Craft Supplies (new or gently used): sewing notions & supplies, buttons, ribbons, yarn, fabric, used CDs & DVDs, glass jars & vases, picture frames, scrapbook supplies, flowerpots, candles, votive candles, baskets, old puzzles, plastic shoe boxes.

A box for items will be in the entry.

Margurete Marie Hovden
Margurete Marie Hovden, 91, of Decorah, died Sunday, July 31, 2016, at Barthell O.E.S. Home in Decorah. Margurete was born Oct. 30, 1924, in rural Allamakee County to Albert and Elna (Stuckman) Depping.
Margurete was married to Donald Sersland June 30, 1944. They had two children, Joan and John. Donald was killed in a farm accident Jan. 13, 1954, as the family was preparing to move to the Sersland home farm.

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Wedding Anniversaries

Sept. 1, 2007 Jon & Angela Ellerbrock
Sept. 5, 1971 Mark & Janet Talbott
Sept. 7, 2002 Eric & Angela Esser
Sept. 15, 1990 Timothy & Gloria Kral
Sept. 17, 2005 Chad & Tonya Lankford
Sept. 20, 1980 Ricky & Laurel Linquist
Sept. 20, 2003 Jeffrey & Stacy Talbott
Sept. 22, 1973 Michael & Sara Carlson
Sept. 24, 1983 Randy & Marilyn Schmitt

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On Wednesday, July 20th, April Diersen became the mother of a baby boy, George Maxwell Diersen. George was 8 lbs. 12 oz. and measured 20" when he arrived.
George is the grandson of Dave and Diana Diersen.

Congratulations to the Diersen Family!
She is survived by her daughter, Joan (the Rev. John) Willmann of Richmond, Texas; her son, the Rev. John (Mary) Sersland of Fort Dodge; her step-son, Leslie (Audrey) Hovden of Decorah; her step-daughter, Cathy (Scott) Decker of Kasson, Minn.; by nine grandchildren; and by eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands Donald Sersland, Leonard Barth and Verne Hovden; her parents; and her two sisters, Hilda Olson and Verona Nelson.

Susan Kay (Meyer) Schraeder
Susan Kay (Meyer) Schraeder, age 65, of Brooklyn Center, MN, formerly of Lytton, IA, passed away following a lengthy battle with cancer at the North Memorial Hospital in Minneapolis, MN on Wednesday, August 10, 2016.

Susan was born on February 17, 1951, in Eugene, Oregon, to Harold and Darlene (Hurd) Meyer. She was baptized and confirmed at Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church in Lytton. Susan graduated from Lytton High School in 1969. She continued her education at nursing school in Minneapolis, MN, receiving her LPN.

On December 4, 1971, she was united in marriage to Lowell “Russ” Schraeder in Minneapolis, MN. This union was blessed with two sons: Eric and Dan. They made their home in Brooklyn Center, MN, where Susan worked as an LPN for several years and then worked as an office manager for State Farm Insurance in Brooklyn Center for over 25 years, until her health forced her to retire.

Survivors include her husband Russ Schraeder of Brooklyn Center, MN; sons: Eric (Paulette) Schraeder of Lakeville, MN and Dan (Kay) Schraeder of Grand Forks, ND; five grandchildren: Chase, Kaitlin, Alyssa, Ty and Austin; her siblings: Marlene (Vern) Langenwalter of La Quinta, CA, Martin “Skip” (Valerie) Cleland of Manson, IA, and Donna (Charles) Peyton of Rockwell City, IA; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and many friends.

Susan was preceded in death by her parents, Harold “Red” and Darlene Meyer; brother Donald Cleland; and parents-in-law, Henry “J.F.” and Esther Schraeder.

Patricia Ann Dettmann
Patricia Ann Dettmann was born on January 6, 1970 and passed away on Sunday, August 7, 2016.

Patricia was a resident of South Elgin, Illinois at the time of her passing. Patti was married to Anthony “Tony” Dettmann, son of Dennis and Peg Dettmann. (no formal obituary available)

**WE PRAY FOR GOD’S COMFORT AND STRENGTH FOR ALL WHO MOURN!**

HOOKED ON JESUS

Emanuel-St. John’s Women of ELCA hosted Lytton Ladies’ Luncheon on Sunday afternoon, July 31, 2016. The theme was “Living for Jesus- Hook, Line, and Sinker”. The speaker was Becky Linn from Follow Hard Ministries who used the fishing theme to inspire the guests to develop a deep relationship with Jesus through scripture and song.

A few mother/daughter generations were acknowledged. There was one four-generation family- Maxine Corderman, Candace Booth, Becky Pike and Briley, Bristol, and Brielle Pike. Several volunteers donated door prizes using a “Hooked on Jesus” theme. Carla Hutchens made greeting cards, Darsi Huddleson made two wall hangings and Cindy Souder donated an iron cross with fish and a bowl of real fish. Winners were Linda Baum (oldest mother who insisted on sharing the title with Lorene Hinrichs), Becky Pike (came the farthest), Briley Pike (kids’ drawing for real fish), Darcy Walters and Angie Sandburg (random).

Colleen Arndt and Cindy Souder took on the challenge of cleverly decorating the church and basement with fishing items (many donated from Jean Matter). They did an awesome job.

A light luncheon was offered to the guests including desserts, finger foods and “fish gorp”. Each guest had a small driftwood magnet favor with the words “Hooked on Jesus” made by Darsi Huddleson.

The afternoon of spiritual inspiration and fellowship was the result of efforts by several local gals. They are a blessing to all of us.

Women’s Gathering

Twin Lakes Fall Retreat for Women of the ELCA Dorcas Cluster will be held Wednesday, Sept 14 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Christian Center. There for the day: “Comfort My People”. Speaker will be Mary Behrens of Lone Rock “Quilts of Valor and Prayer Quilts”. Theme Verse: Isaiah 40:1 “Comfort, comfort, my people, says your God.” Registrations were required by August 31st.
September 13 - 19 is Direct Support Professionals Week
This month Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) celebrates Direct Support Professionals Week during Sept. 13 - 19. This national awareness week recognizes the dedication of direct support professionals and their important role in caring for people in our communities.

At LSI, direct support professionals partner with children and adults with intellectual disabilities to help them pursue meaningful, personal lives through their personal goals. They also provide care for children and youth at our Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers. This could mean helping an adult with autism live on her own or helping a child who was abused begin to heal. We thank you for your faithful support of LSI - you create so many new possibilities for children, families and adults!

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

The EPIC board decided the following:

- To cancel the CTI Music Ministries concert that had been planned for September 21. Without the United Methodist Church we were in need of a new venue and without Leah we needed leaders to spearhead organization and logistics. We felt our energies were needed elsewhere right now.
- Our priority for now is to focus on staying in relationship with any of the 30-40 teens who had been part of EPIC last spring; we don’t want to simply disappear from their lives. We are reaching out to recent small group leaders to see if they would be willing for at least the next couple of months to continue with students they know, until longer range plans are formed. We are inviting any interested small group leaders to a previously scheduled cook out, hosted by board members, at the home of Pastor Ben Worley on August 31 to gauge their interest and formulate plans for meeting.
- We are planning a potluck at St. Paul’s on September 7 for EPIC teens and parents and members of both congregations to say farewell and thank you to Leah Rosado and to communicate further about plans for EPIC during this time.

EPIC is moving into a time of taking stock and discernment. Both of our congregation councils, when asked, affirmed the value of continuing to partner together for ministry to youth. But we also don’t know yet what shape that will take. Reenvisioning EPIC will take some time. Please continue to pray for our work together and for the teens who have come to expect our presence. Thank you for your support.

Pastor Jim on behalf of the EPIC Board
Kim Olson, Pastor Ben Worley, Theresa Johnson, Dave Sands, Steve Jones (EPIC paymaster and Treasurer)