

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
229 11TH AVE W  
GRINNELL IA 50112-8217

***September Newsletter***

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS**

**229 11TH AVENUE WEST**

**GRINNELL, IA 50112**

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**REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP**

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**ALL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE  
SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK**

**LET US KNOW...**

**If you have a change in address, phone or email, have a loved one who is or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Pastor Koeppe or the church office.**

**DO YOU...**

**have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?**

**Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements?**

**If so, please submit the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin or newsletter by the deadlines listed below to the church secretary at [lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com](mailto:lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com)**

**Deadline for submitting in the weekly bulletin is Thursdays by noon.**

**Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month.**

**For those of you without email access, please call or submit your written request to the church secretary.**

## 2024 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

**President** Steve Haase

**Vice President/President Elect** Lucas Bayer

**Secretary** Kathy Stanek

**Treasurer** Chris Christinson

**Elders** Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, Ken Mergen

**Trustees** Kevin Schultz, Ben Louden, Dan Huebner

**Board of Education** Sherry Baker, Danielle McDonough, Markie Koepf

**Board of Stewardship** Keith Thorpe, Pam Sittig, Diane Schultz

**Board of Evangelism & Missions** June Routier, Bev Huebner, Dianna Kelting

**Organists** Pam Haase, Amber Bayer, Esther Huedepohl

**Pianist** Sophia Louden, Sloane McDonough, Elizabeth Koepf

**Church Secretary** Amber Carnine

**Sunday School Opening** Pastor Koepf

**LWML Board** President: Pam Haase  
Treasurer: June Routier  
Secretary: Dianna Kelting

**Altar Guild** Helen Thorpe  
June Routier  
Danielle McDonough  
Pam Haase  
Pam Sittig



***In this issue...***

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Pgs 5-8</b>   | <b>Message from Pastor</b>                           |
| <b>Pg 9</b>      | <b>Message from President Saunders</b>               |
| <b>Pgs 10-11</b> | <b>LC-MS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article</b> |
| <b>Pg 12</b>     | <b>Confirmation Memory Work</b>                      |
| <b>Pg 13</b>     | <b>2025 Serving Lists</b>                            |
| <b>Pg 14</b>     | <b>Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca</b>                              |
| <b>Pg 15</b>     | <b>Lutheran Family Service Presentation</b>          |
| <b>Pg 16</b>     | <b>Lutherans for Life Iowa Fall Conference</b>       |
| <b>Pg 17</b>     | <b>LWML Iowa District East Fall Retreat</b>          |
| <b>Pgs 18-19</b> | <b>July Council Minutes</b>                          |



# Pastor's Message

There is an old saying that goes, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” The one who came up with that was never hit with a dictionary.

James writes, “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (James 3:1-18)

James reminds us of one small organ of our bodies that we don't think about too much, but it does have a great influence; not just in our lives, but in others' lives as well: the tongue. James likens our tongue to the rudder of a ship. Just as a massive ship is steered through the water by a seemingly small and insignificant piece of the ship, so we are steered and defined by our tongues. How's that for an image?

How much time and effort do we put into being defined by our jobs, our brains, our bodies, our images? We diet, we exercise, we lift weights, we study, we pour over our income vs. expense ratios, we clean and up-date our homes, our cars, our wardrobe, get make-overs, and hair-cuts, and spend money on make-up and farm equipment, and campers, and four-wheelers, and motorcycles, and on and on and on; how much time do you spend on your tongue? James reminds us that our tongues direct and lead us, so it begs the question: Where are you going?

Words can hurt. Words contain much power, and we often don't think of the power that they truly do carry. Words have the power to tear down, and sometimes it doesn't take much. During political season, we see this in the world, do we not? Words are thrown back and forth like arrows and bombs, trying to cut the other own down so far that one can win just a few more votes. It is there that we see what James is talking about when he says, "No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." (James 3:8)

But if no human being can tame the tongue, we cannot just stop at analyzing our politicians. We too have troubles with this piece of our human anatomy. Our tongues are full of poison that spews out towards our enemies; those who would do use harm, but what about our family? Do we use this poison against our families? We are not supposed to even use it against our enemies, that is sinful in and of itself. But our restless poison cannot be contained; we turn the venom of hurtful words against those we love the most.

We call curses upon them, we call upon God to damn them to hell, we cut down and hurt them until what? Until we somehow have won a particular argument? At what cost? Is winning an argument over the dishes or garbage or some bill or anything in our day-to-day lives worth tearing down another person, another person who was made in the image and likeness of God? When you talk with others, it is not like the conversations in my house, where I am a saint and my wife is the sinner. It's ok. She knows that. Right? No, we are both sinners, and we are both forgiven children of God.

Words have power, right? Through the power of the Word all of creation was called into existence. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:1-3) This Word you know "became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14) This Word in the flesh was God and Man, Jesus Christ. In our inability to control our tongues, He came and did it for us. As our poison leaves us deserving of going to one place, hell itself, Jesus became flesh, and died. This most powerful Word spoke from the cross, "It is finished." One Word in Greek. Why should you care? Because this one word shows up again in James! James writes, "If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man." (James 3:2) The word for perfect is the same as finished, or completed, or whole.

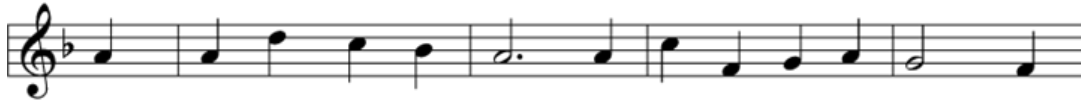
Through Jesus' death on the cross, the antidote for your poisonous thoughts, words, and deeds, the tonic for your venomous tongue was completed, finished, perfected, made whole. Because of the Word made flesh, that suffered and died for you, your sins are forgiven. You are made whole. You are washed in His powerful Word joined with water. His Words fill your ears and your mouths. His Words are yours!

For your tongue of fire, here it is quenched. As you drink the blood of your Lord Jesus Christ, that fire is put out. The spring flowing forth from the Mount of Calvary flows into your mouth, your body. His blood here cleanses you, perfects you, makes you whole. Where is your tongue leading you? Here! To His altar. It is His Word, His blood that will steer you right through this life. With Him at the helm, you have nowhere to go but to eternal life with Him.

As He has made you whole and complete, you drink the very blood of life. The Word joined with these earthly elements of bread and wine. Here feeding you the very life of Jesus. Where are you going? Our tongues are led to the great altar of God where we proclaim together, Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing  
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;  
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;  
What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;  
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;  
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in  
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless  
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,  
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.  
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.  
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.  
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

5 Let me depart this life  
Confiding in my Savior;  
By grace receive my soul  
That it may live forever;  
And let my body have  
A quiet resting place  
Within a Christian grave;  
And let it sleep in peace.

6 And on that final day  
When all the dead are waking,  
Stretch out Your mighty hand,  
My deathly slumber breaking.  
Then let me hear Your voice,  
Redeem this earthly frame,  
And bid me to rejoice  
With those who love Your name.

*Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen  
Text and tune: Public domain*

**+ Soli Deo Gloria +  
Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe**



Everything is getting started back up for the blessed business of the Church. Schools are back in session. Sunday School has begun where there might have been a summer hiatus. Bible Classes are being scheduled during the week along with Confirmation Catechism instruction. I pray all is going smoothly with you as we transition from summer rest to fall full-go.

The more we interact, the more Gospel we have the privilege to teach and discuss. The more we teach and discuss the more Satan wants to interrupt this process and interfere with the work of the Church. His greatest tool of disruption is distrust of one another and negative opinions with those with whom we may differ. Did someone say something we may not like? Did someone's desires interfere or conflict with your own? Do we have concerns over fellow workers' performance, effort, attitude, etc.? If so, let not Satan get in the way! Here is how to prevent that. What I am going to write here may seem overly simple, and maybe it is. Yet, it is very effective in "getting Satan behind us." I will use a simple formula that makes use of the letter C.

**Concerns:** we have them. There is nothing wrong with having them. They may be valid, or they may not. There is only one way to find out if the concerns are warranted.

**Clarify:** we may not have heard correctly what we think we did. Ask the speaker to clarify what they said. You can even voice the concern you have, so you ask questions to make sure you heard correctly. Take the time to ask if they have given thought to how it sounded or might be taken by others.

**Clarify:** someone has written something in the bulletin or newsletter that may not articulate the point clearly. Again, take the time to ask the writer what point they are making. Suggest something easier to understand for the sake of clarity and understanding. After all, if someone has something important to say or write, they need to be hearable and readable.

**Conclusion:** going from concern to conclusion without clarifying is where Satan makes the most of his effort to disrupt the work of the Church among her members. It is also a serious failure of Luther's explanation "to put the best construction on everything." Conclusions that are most fruitful for the Church come when complete clarity is comprehended of what was said or written. It only takes love for the speaker or writer along with the time and courtesy it takes to ask questions out of appreciation and respect.

***The Church does not jump from concern to conclusion without clarity.***

The Church does not jump from concern to conclusion without clarity. It is the way of the Reformers who spent endless hours writing, asking questions, and pleading with Scripture for the sake of correcting errors. Luther did not jump from concern to conclusion. He took at least 13 years between the posting of the 95 theses until the Augsburg Confession. The Augsburg is an accurate conclusion to the doctrines Scripture reveals. Not everyone listened. But at least he demonstrated love for the Word, for those who have gone astray, and those who needed to hear what he had to say. He had something important to say. So, he was hearable and readable. We must do the same. God be with you all.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President  
Iowa District East - LCMS

## ***Stewards, Called to Forgiveness***

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the Lutheran Service Book has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we're unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.



# **Confirmation**

## ***MEMORY WORK SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER***

### **5th & 6th Grade Memory Work**

**Sept 4: Old Testament Books**

**Sept 11: New Testament Books**

**Sept 18: John 20:31**

**Sept 25: First Commandment & Meaning**

### **8th Grade Memory Work**

**Sept 4: Second Commandment & Meaning**

**Sept 11: Third Commandment & Meaning**

**Sept 18: Fourth Commandment & Meaning**

**Sept 25: Fifth Commandment & Meaning**



**SIGN UP**

**& Serve!**

**We need you!**

Serving others is one of the greatest blessings God offers us.

***Ways you can serve:***

**Usher** (*sign-up on entryway table*)

**Altar Guild**

**Greeter**

**Coffee Servers**

2025 Lists are being organized. If you are not wanting to be on these lists or want to change when you are listed to serve, please let the church office know October 6th to [lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com](mailto:lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com)

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,  
as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

*1 Peter 4:10*

# Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



September 2024

## Into the “Off-Season”

It has been a fairly quiet August here at Camp. Though, we are thankful for that as it has given the staff time to rest and get reinvigorated for our “off-season.” This fall, we are looking forward to hosting various retreats, especially a number of retreats for fellow groups within IDE. We have multiple schools and churches coming out for outdoor education as well as the annual LWML Fall Retreat, Fall Pastors’ Conference, IDE Confirmation Retreat (see below), and the Pastors’ Wives’ Retreat. We are grateful to have a facility that allows us to meet the needs of our fellow IDE entities, and we are grateful for your support in coming out to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. We can’t wait to see you this fall!

Another specific day to look forward to this “off-season” is our Fall Workday. Our Fall Workday is scheduled for Saturday, November 2nd. We are planning on doing some maintenance to fix things up around the horse activity areas. Additional information will be provided as that day gets closer. Any help with this will be greatly appreciated and will be of great assistance primarily to our summer program as the horses are a big attraction and Horse Camp is our most popular camp!



2023 LWML Retreat coloring cards for Phil's Friends, a non-profit that provides care for cancer patients

## IDE Confirmation Retreat - October 11-12

The **IDE Fall Confirmation Retreat** is scheduled for October 11-12, 2024 and will be held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Registration is now open! Pastor Caleb Schewe from St. John’s Lutheran Church will be teaching on The Lord’s Prayer. The retreat will take place beginning on Friday, October 11th at 7pm and going through approximately 3pm on Saturday the 12th. Registration is \$55 per youth and \$30 per chaperone. This retreat includes a pizza snack on Friday evening and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. You can register online or download a registration form, or find more information at [www.lcmside.org](http://www.lcmside.org).



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org)

email [office@iodiseca.org](mailto:office@iodiseca.org)



## Lutheran Family Service

Come and learn about Gender Identity from what the Bible says and how to respond - geared for school age children, but all are invited. The Williamsburg IDE Circuit is hosting Ms. Cassie Beltz, a licensed medical health counselor with Lutheran Family Service.

In this presentation – Male and Female He Created Them: Creation and Identity – the issue of identity from a Lutheran perspective (incorporating the simple and profound truths confessed in the catechism), gives special attention to the question of gender identity, as she equip hearers to respond to its false claims and then to appreciate and celebrate God’s gift of identity in creation. Lutheran Family Service walks with the hurting, confused, discouraged, and broken. Through their counseling, teaching, caring, and advocacy, LFS caregivers confess Christ as they bring Scripture to bear in all things.

Presentation scheduled at Lutheran Interparish School in Williamsburg on Sunday, Sept. 8th beginning at 4 pm. with a 45-minute presentation with Q & A following.

# FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH FRY PRAYER

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF IOWA FALL CONFERENCE

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

206 1<sup>ST</sup> AVE. SOUTH

STATE CENTER, IA 50247

SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY." LUKE 11:1

MAIN SPEAKER: PASTOR BOLLHAGEN

- 9:00 REGISTRATION
- 9:30 WELCOME, OPENING PRAYER AND DEVOTION
- 9:45 JUSTIFICATION AND THE GIFT OF PRAYER DANIEL LINDEMEIER
- 10:20 LUTHERS "A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY" PART 1 PR. BOLLHAGEN
- 11:30 FISH FRY
- 12:30 "A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY" PART 2
- 1:15 PRAYING AS A FAMILY (DISCUSSION PANEL) AND Q&A
- 2:00 SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

## REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (PRINT CLEARLY)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

COST: # \_\_\_\_\_ ATTENDING X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

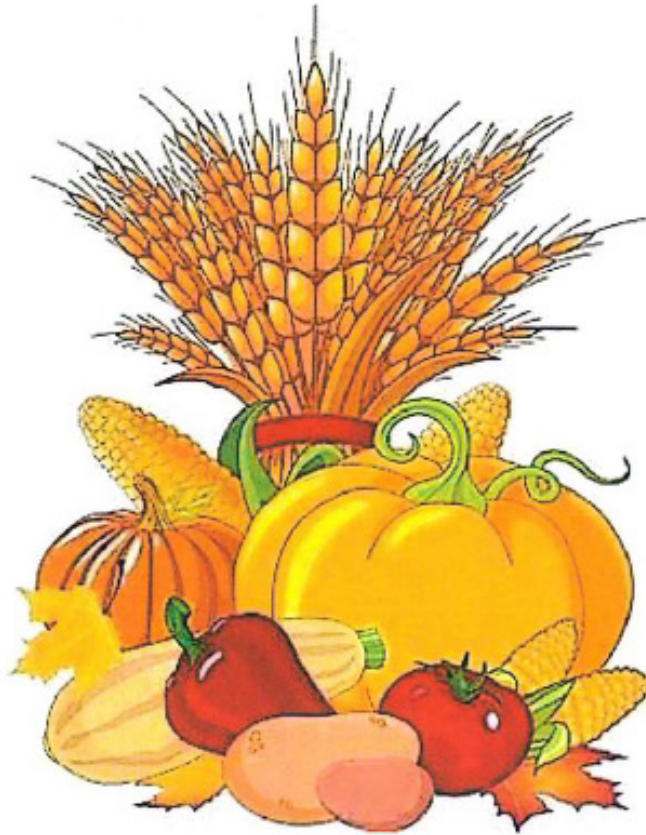
REGISTRATION ASSISTS IN PLANNING FOR FISH FRY

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF IOWA"

MAIL TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, STATE CENTER, IA



# Invitation to the 2024 LWML IED Fall Retreat



The women of the Eldora Zone invite you  
to join us for the Fall Retreat

Where: Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

When: September 13 & 14

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Monthly Meeting of the Church Council**  
**Sunday, July 14, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on July 14th at 8:00 AM.

Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Keith Thorpe, Kevin Schultz, Diane Schultz, Chris Christinson, Bev Huebner, Dan Huebner, Joel McDonough, Danielle McDonough, Luke Bayer, and Kathy Stanek

Steve called the meeting to order, and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. Chris motioned to approve the June minutes and Diane 2nd. Motion carried.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Joel McDonough

- Continue planning and scheduling member visits.
- Asking members to fill board spots.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Christinson

- Written reports distributed. All bills have been paid with current balances reflected.

**Board of Trustees:** Kevin Schultz

- Business as usual – Nothing new to report

**Board of Evangelism:** Bev Huebner

- Working with Cory Hall on a fall pictorial directory.

**Board of Education:** Danielle McDonough

- VBS dates have been changed to July 22-24 to accommodate the fair.
- Preparing for fall Sunday School classes

**Board of Stewardship:** Keith Thorpe

- Giving is steady with no issues to report.
- 2nd quarter statements have been distributed

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Koeppe

- Providing spiritual leadership to members of Immanuel church, preparing weekly sermons, preaching, and conducting worship services. Leading Confirmation and Bible Study classes.
- Counseling/home visits, attending board meetings, visiting sick/shut-ins as allowed and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

**Unfinished Business:**

- The Elders and Trustees are finalizing the specifications for the Corpus on the Cross and will be presented to members at the voters meeting.

**New Business:** None

With no other business Steve adjourned the meeting

Next Council Meeting: August 11, 2024, 8:00 AM

Submitted by:  
Kathy Stanek

