

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

December 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 Koepp or the church office.

DO YOU...

want to put something in 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 immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net.

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.

2023 Immanuel Officers/Board Members & Contacts

President

Joel McDonough

Vice President/President Elect

Steve Haase

Secretary

Kathy Stanek

Treasurer

Chris Christinson

Elders

Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, Ken Mergen

Trustees

Kevin Schultz, Ben Loudon, Melissa Mintle

Board of Education

Sherry Baker, Danielle McDonough, Markie Koepp

Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe, Pam Sittig, Diane Schultz

Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier, Dianna Kelting, Pam Haase

Organists

Esther Huedepohl & Pam Haase

Pianist

Sophia Loudon

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

LWML Board

President: Pam Haase

Treasurer: June Routier

Secretary: Pam Haase

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)



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A Message from our Pastor



This December you will be receiving Devotion Books that will run in concert with our Advent Theme and Children's Christmas Program entitled Peace Came to Earth.

Peace is our common pursuit. As Advent leads us to Christmas, we are especially seeking a distinct season of peace. We need a quiet place to rest during this restless time. Year after year, with each Advent season, we wonder if this year will bring a peace that endures. We crave the reassurance that God knows all our needs and will provide for them, not just for these short weeks but for every season.

Often, we grow impatient as we seek peace. Despite knowing the promises of God to provide for us, we might try to find peace on our own. We then define peace according to the ways we seek it. We might imagine that peace comes when we finally have enough of all the things we plan to buy. Or we might look for the perfect place where peace is an undisturbed solitude, the cabin beside a still lake. We might seek peace by escaping memories of the past. Or peace might be an elusive future where everyone does exactly what they should.

These are our many ways of defining peace, but sadly, each of these directions could go on and on without ever being fulfilled. To illustrate both our pursuit of peace and God's plan for us, our Advent series this year uses a five-point star for each sermon and children's message. Each message will emphasize a different point of the star. Overall, the star reminds us of the Christmas star of Matthew 2 and that wonderful light that guided the Wise Men to find Jesus. Their long journey ended with the blessing of a lasting peace.

Just as the Wise Men followed the star, so we will go to each point in this Advent star. This won't be a useless journey that never ends. We will find that God meets us at each point of the star, knowing our needs and bringing us the peace we are seeking.

Since the five-point star will guide our journey, picture yourself drawing such a star. Start in the bottom left corner and draw up to the top center point. Stop and draw downward to the bottom right corner, then upward to the middle of the left side. Draw across to the right, and back to the bottom left corner, eventually reaching each point. Every point goes a certain distance but then is stopped. In the same way, each of our paths to peace could go on and on, never being fulfilled. There won't be enough possessions or perfectly calm places to give us lasting peace. But as we seek peace in these many ways, God intersects us with a peace that both passes our understanding and yet meets our needs. God knows the many ways and directions by which we seek peace. As we journey, God meets us, halts our endless pursuits, and gives us a new understanding of His gift of peace. That peace comes always through the birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh who steps into the world and fulfills our desire for peace.

In the end, we find our lasting peace and treasure. God's peace doesn't send us on an impossible search. God's peace is not an invisible needle buried in a haystack. God's peace is a treasure laid in the straw of the manger. God's peace is the priceless Son of God, born in the stable and laid in plain view for us all. He is the diamond found in the manger's straw. As the Prince of Peace, He is the peace that we seek.

As we spend our Advent time preparing together, I offer several encouragements:

- 1) Take advantage of the extra worship opportunities on Wednesday evenings, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- 2) Read through the devotional books each day, as well as beginning December 1, read a chapter of Luke together as a family each day. By doing this, you will get to the end of Luke on Christmas Eve. This will serve as a wonderful reminder of why we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child.
- 3) Connected with the reading of a chapter of Luke and your devotional reading, sing *A Great and Mighty Wonder*. It is a wonderful proclamation to have committed to memory, not only for yourselves and your children; but may it also shape the way you continue to live a Christian in this life.

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
Text and tune: Public domain

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe

President's Piece for Peace



I have been given an assignment from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to prepare a document on the relationship between the Office of the Holy Ministry and all “Helping Offices.” My research has taken me to an official position the LCMS has voted on in convention on more than one occasion. The publication is a work done by C. F. W. Walther called Church and Office (Kirche und Amt). In Thesis VIII on the office Walther speaks of the relationship in very short

form: “The pastoral ministry is the highest office in the church and from it **flow** all other offices in the church.”

As I looked at this in the original German language I was greatly helped by the use of the word “flow.” Some have translated in as “stem” but I think the use of flow is much more accurate to what Walther is saying in the explanations and proofs in the rest of the thesis. While stem and flow can be used as synonyms, they do have a thin line of difference that is helpful for us to understand the relationship between the ordained and the commissioned offices.

To stem from carries the connotation of that from which other things grow out and establish their own bloom (in the case of plant life). I suppose one could say that the commissioned offices stem from out of the ordained office and therefore the relationship is one of origin. The problem with that is that it leaves the idea that what grows from out of the stem becomes its own producing bloom and the only connection is the origin but later takes on its own shape, form, and purpose.

To flow is to come along with its origin and continue along the way with the origin. So, in fact, the origin does not end with a different result. The origin is the continuation of what something is along with what it always will be. The end result lies within the origin which is helped and assisted as the local need requires from circumstances unique to its setting.

Do you see the difference here and how that affects the relationship between ordained and commissioned offices? The ordained office has all the responsibilities of the ministry.

The most obvious are to preach, teach (young and old alike), administer the sacraments, visit the needy, implement church discipline, etc. When a congregation reaches a sizable membership that requires assistance for the ordained, the church has the right to establish “helping offices.” One such office is teaching children where there is a day school. Parents are given the responsibility to educate their children. They ask the pastor to do this in preparation for communicate membership in the congregation. They also ask for their children to be educated in a classical sense so they may be prepared to enter the work-a-day world with the tools necessary to be contributors to a society. This is where teachers are commissioned with a specific duty that they carry out, not as to bloom on their own, but to flow within the purpose of the Holy Ministry. As such, teachers flow with the pastor for the sake of the children of parents in the parish.

The same is true with “music precentors, sextons, almoners,” Directors of Education, Deaconesses, and the like. Each of these is a God pleasing vocation that has specific duties to carry out that flow with the pastoral office but not in the pastoral office. The preparation for each of these vocations does not entail the comprehensive study and preparation that is required of and that belongs to the Ordained Office. While the Ordained Office has all these responsibilities, the Commissioned Offices have only a “part of the one ministry,” as Walther says. That part is limited to the duties for which they are prepared and commissioned.

The relationship, therefore, is one of a flow-along-with more than a stem from. The fruit of the service rendered is not for individual recognition but for the Kingdom of God and eternal salvation. Flowing together within our respective duties is much more fruitful than stemming out to do what we do on our own.

I pray this article is not confusing. There is much, much more I will be producing that will become a CTCR document for the Church. Where what I write needs strengthening and or improvement, I pray for the Holy Spirit’s wisdom to do so.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President



Tis the season to give

**Christmas
for
MICA**

Immanuel will be collecting food items for the MICA Food Bank for Christmas during the month of December.

Please bring cereals, soups, skillet meals, etc.
by December 17th.

A list on the round table in the entrance will be available with items that can be collected.

Any questions, contact one of the members of the Board of Evangelism.

*June Routier
Dianna Kelting
Pam Haase*



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

– **LCMS Stewardship Ministry:** lcms.org/stewardship



MEMORY WORK FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

CONFIRMATION

5th & 6th Grades Memory Work

December 6: *Confession: What is the Office of the Keys?*

December 13: *Confession: Where is this written?*

December 20: *No Class*

December 27: *No Class*

7th & 8th Grades Memory Work

December 6: *Test over Lord's Supper should be done and returned to be graded in class*

December 13: *Questioning Books*

December 20: *No Class*

December 27: *No Class*



Advent Midweek Services

A meal will be served before each service from 5:00-6:15pm

Wednesday, December 6 • 6:30pm
Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near

Wednesday, December 13 • 6:30pm
Peace to All, Near and Far

Wednesday, December 20 • 6:30pm
Our Peace Rests on Him Alone

Christmas

SERVICE TIMES



Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 17 — 10:30am

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve Prayer Service
Sunday, December 24 — 4:00pm

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day Divine Service
Monday, December 25 — 9:00am

New Year's Eve Divine Service
Sunday, December 31 — 9:00am



It's that time of year again! Every year we adorn our altar area with poinsettias for Christmas. A poinsettia may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. The poinsettias will be displayed for the Christmas Eve Service. You may take the plant(s) you ordered home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Orders need to be placed by December 8th

Poinsettias are \$15 each.

Checks should be made payable to 'Immanuel Lutheran Church' with 'Poinsettia' in the memo line.

Place your order by filling out the order form along with payment and return in the offering basket at church by Dec. 8th Order forms are available on the entryway table.



FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR AND EPIPHANY
MUSIC AT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 3:00PM

The saints at Grinnell are invited to sing with us at Redeemer on Sunday, December 3 at 3pm. Pass this invitation to your organists and let me know by the end of the month if they'd like to perform an instrumental piece, or accompany a hymn that we'll sing together, or one of both.

Thank you,
Alex Post
Redeemer Lutheran Church
1600 S Center St
Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641)753-9565
alexpost1226@gmail.com



LISTEN TO BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY VOICES, ORGAN,
TRUMPET, BELLS, AND OTHER INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC,
AND SING FAVORITE HYMNS WITH US!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Voters' Assembly Meeting Minutes
Sunday, July 16, 2023

The quarterly meeting of the Church Voters was held on Sunday July 16, 2023.

Members Present: Rev. Dr. Joel G Koepp, Joel McDonough, Richard Huedepohl, Esther Huedepohl, Dan Huebner, Tammy Smith, Helen Thorpe, June Routier, Diana Kelting, Darlo Kelting, Keith N. Thorpe, Markie Koepp, Danielle McDonough, Jan Mergen, Ken Mergen, Marrina Kaloupek, Diane L Schultz, Kevin S. Schultz, and Kathy Stanek.

President Joel McDonough called the meeting to order, and Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp opened with prayer.

New Voting Members: None

Approval of April minutes: Darlo motioned to approve and Marrina 2nd.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

- Continuing to schedule home visits and working on devotions

Treasurer's Report: Joel McDonough for Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Installation of the steel shingled roof is almost complete and siding repair will start soon. Steel shingles have a 50-year warranty, and all repairs continue to be within the budget.

Board of Evangelism: Diane Schultz

- Planning a congregational picnic scheduled for July 23 after worship service.

Board of Education: Markie Koepp

- VBS begins July 17th.
- Sunday School materials for the fall curriculum were ordered and received.
- Beginning the search for fall Sunday School teachers.

Board of Stewardship: Keith N Thorpe

- 2nd quarter statements are going out and giving is steady.

Pastor Koepp's Report:

- Rev. Joel Picard, currently serving at Trinity Lutheran in Knoxville will serve as the temporary Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran in Newton during their pastoral vacancy. Rev. David Brandt will also support Our Savior in by, leading Bible class, visitations, and mid-week services.
- One membership transfer in and a couple transfers out.
- Continue to provide spiritual leadership to members of Immanuel church, preparing weekly sermons, preaching, and conducting worship services. Preparing/Leading Confirmation and Bible Study classes.
- Counseling/home visits, attending board meetings, visiting sick/shut-ins, and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Immanuel By-laws require a new board President and Vice-President in 2024. Joel asked for members to consider joining the board.

NEW BUSINESS: None

With no other business Helen motioned to adjourn and Diane 2nd. Pastor closed in prayer.

Voters Meeting: October 17, 2023 @ 10:30 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
Council Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, October 8, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on October 8 at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Keith Thorpe, Chris Christinson, Diane Schultz, Kevin Schultz, June Routier, Sherri Baker, and Kathy Stanek. Steve called the meeting to order, and Pastor Koepp opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the September 10 meeting were presented for approval. Keith motioned to approve with 2 changes and Diane 2nd.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Steve Haase

- Continue to work on membership items and devotions.

Treasurer's Report:

- Written reports attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- The lawn is scheduled for treatments this fall.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- Raised \$270 from the noisy bucket collection and will be donated to selected organizations.
- A Thanksgiving potluck will be held at Immanuel November 15th.

Board of Education: Sherri Baker

- Working with students to select parts and start practice on the Christmas program.

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe

- Giving is steady with no issues to report.
- 3rd quarter giving statements have been delivered and the special envelopes have arrived.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

- 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:

- Elections will be held October 15, 2023, at the voter's meeting for the 2024 Church Council.
 - ☐ Vice Chairman Lucas Bayer two-year term, +two years as Chair
 - ☐ Treasurer Chris Christinson two-year term
 - ☐ Trustees Daniel Huebner three-year term
 - ☐ Board of Education Danielle McDonough three-year term
 - ☐ Board of Education Markie Koepp two-year term
 - ☐ Board of Stewardship Diane Schultz three-year term
 - ☐ Evangelism Beverly Huebner three-year term

New Business: None

With no other business to discuss meeting was adjourned and Pastor closed in prayer.

Voters Meeting: Oct 15, 2023, 10:30 am
 Council Meeting: Nov 12, 2023, 8:00 am

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
 Council Secretary



Electronic Giving: Fast, easy, & secure

Leave your checkbook at home.

Give electronically instead!

Electronic Giving is a convenient and secure way to provide consistent financial support to our church.

Pick up an authorization form on the entryway table and return to the church secretary.