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

August Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS 229 11TH AVENUE WEST GRINNELL, IA 50112 OFFICE- 641-236-6691

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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...

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 immanuelutheran@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.

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 Koepp

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

Church Secretary Amber Carnine

Sunday School Opening Pastor Koepp

LWML Board President: Pam Haase

Treasurer: June Routier Secretary: Dianna Kelting

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



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There is much talk of identity and politics that are ever stirring, even more so today in a political cycle. People feel the need to say something about everything and make identities clear and known.

The Gospel of Matthew records, "13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:13-18)

If there is one person in the Gospels that we often like to identify with, at times, it would be Peter; and especially in this text. There was much confusion and question as to who Jesus was. Jesus asks what seems like a simple question, but the answer, we find was not so simple.

Who is Jesus? Or as Jesus asked it, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" This elicited a number of responses. Some thought Jesus was John the Baptist back from the dead. Some thought Elijah or Jeremiah or another prophet. Many thought of Jesus as another miracle worker, or someone who had been given special gifts by God. They thought of Jesus as a mere man, but not as God in the flesh. Their confession was only half-right. He was man, but He was at the same time, God. This very Jesus was God with Us. This Jesus was not here to proclaim the way of or preach about the Messiah; this Jesus was the Messiah.

Jesus then turns His question to those who had followed Him from the beginning; the apostles. He asks them, "Who do you say that I am?" This is where we want to be like Peter and respond with all gusto and correctness, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!"

But imitating Peter is probably not the best person to imitate. As we find out a few verses later, Peter doesn't quite get it all the time either. Peter is fine calling Jesus the Christ, but when Jesus tells them again what the Christ is supposed to do, suffer, be killed and on the third day be raised, Peter says, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." It is this same Peter, who we want to be in our Gospel lesson for today, that denies Jesus, not once, not twice, but three times in one night.

So who do you say that Jesus is? Are you like Peter? Are you like the others that Jesus asked about first? Jesus asks this same question today? Who do people say the Son of Man is? What are the answers? Some say Jesus is only a good moral life coach. He tells me how I am to live my life and help me live it perfectly. He coaches me to live right, so I can do the right things and earn my own way into heaven. Like the people in our text, the confession is only partly right. We should follow the example of Jesus; in fact Jesus says quite often that we are do the commands of God all the time, including taking up our crosses and following Him. The reality is that we cannot do it, "For the good that I want to do, I do not do, the evil that I do not want to do, this I keep on doing."

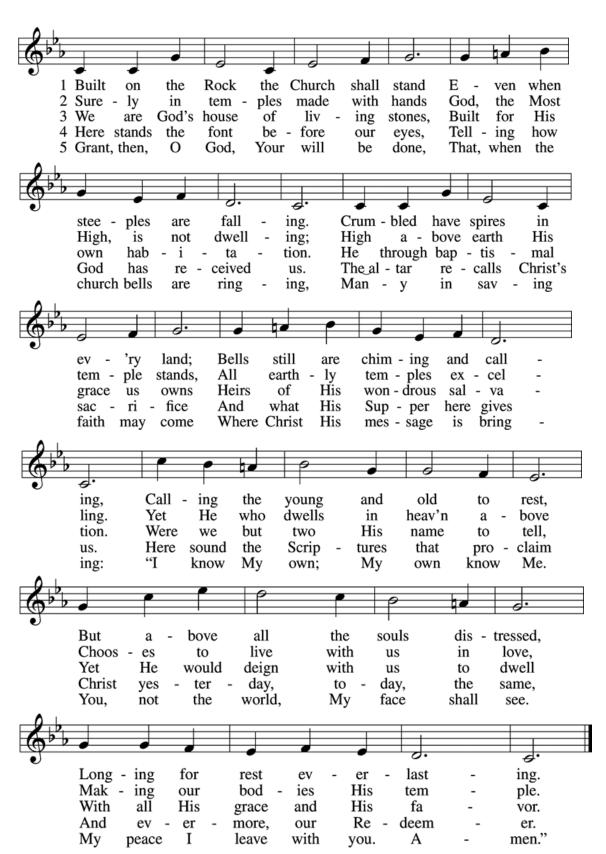
Others say Jesus is all about love, or have your heard the phrase, "God is Love"? While this is absolutely true, God is Love, they don't talk about what the love means, or how that love is shown. We live in a culture that confuses forgiveness and tolerance. Tolerance is preached heavily in our culture, but what is tolerance? Tolerance is defined as a "permissive attitude toward opinions and practices that differ from one's own." To be tolerant leaves out the understanding of right and wrong. What is right for you may not be right for me and what is wrong for you may not be wrong for me. Is this the message taught by Christ? If Christ was tolerant, if that was His message, then why did He have to die? Why didn't Christ just come down and say, "I permit you to do whatever you want to do because I love you all even if you opinion differs from mine"? If Christ was tolerant, then why did He rebuke Peter and tell him, "Get behind me Satan"?

Forgiveness implies that something is wrong and needs to be forgiven. Forgiveness is about Grace. For by Grace you have been saved through faith, not by works, not by tolerance. Christ is about Forgiveness, He is Love. How does He show His love? His love is shown at the cross. It precisely for forgiveness that Christ came and died. It is because you are exactly like Peter, that Christ died for you. You do confess that He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and you also confess with your thoughts, your words, and your deeds that you are sinful and unclean. You confess that He is not always God. You try and make yourself have more authority and power than His Word. When you try to justify your sins, "Well, surely God cannot be upset about one sin." "Well it is just a little sin, a least it is not a big one." It is because you deny Christ when you fail to talk, live, and proclaim that His is Your God, Your Father, Your Brother, and that you are His Child, the object of His love. Like Peter you have times when you deny the true confession of who Christ really is. Like Peter, you are tolerant, and you live lives of tolerance, instead of lives filled with forgiveness.

Like Peter, you come face to face with your sin, and like Peter, you are brought to the foot of the cross. Like Peter, you hear the words, "Father forgive them." Like Peter you here, "Take eat, this is my body given for you;" and "take and drink this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins." Like Peter you hear the risen Lord say, "Peace be to you!" Like Peter you are given the peace that passes all understanding. Like Peter, You are not tolerated, but you are forgiven. Yes you cannot and will not always do the right thing, but there is forgiveness through the blood of Christ. You are made right with God through the Blood of the Lamb and this you can draw eternal comfort as you remember your Baptism, Hear God's Word and receive His gifts. Join me this month by singing with Peter:

Hymn 'Built on the Rock'

LSB 645



Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.

Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87

Text and tune: Public domain

+ Soli Deo Gloria + Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

President's Piece for Peace

August 24

The Synod's theme this year for Lutheran Schools is from Hebrews 12:2-3. It centers on the words of verse 2 "endured the cross." The Greek word for endure is one that translates "remained under." In other words, Jesus remained under the wrath and persecution of the cross for the joy it would produce for sinful humanity. While the cross was agony most vivid for Jesus, it was the only means of purchasing back that which had been lost to the Devil. It is pure joy for Jesus to make the payment to His Father on our behalf that we could be debt free from the consequences of sin and death.

I like that theme as we enter a new academic year for our Lutheran Schools, catechesis of our Sunday school children, and bible class for adults. Preparation can be taxing and hard work, yet it is all worth the joy of bringing to light the Holy Word of God for those who hear. Within this hearing and learning is the fruit of stronger faith, more obedient lives, love for God and neighbor. There is hardly any fruit more delightful than these for those whom we teach.

The third verse of Hebrews 12 gives us encouragement to remain under the challenges that beset us in the parish and school. We need that encouragement. It is all too easy to "grow weary and faint" from the oppositions we face. There are members who complain about biblical doctrine but never attend a bible class so they could learn. That is frustrating. There are students who will not study, nor put in the effort, but misbehave in classrooms causing disruption. One can "lose heart" when this happens time and time again. I know, I have been there.

This side of heaven we always live under the cross. We remain under the malady that caused the cross to be occupied by the Son of God. Not only are we exposed to it, we contribute to it every day of our lives. Yet, we

remain there because Jesus remained under its wrath and punishment. He did this for the joy of conquering Satan. His ascension to the right hand of His Father is the seat of victory and authority. He wins, Satan loses. Because that is true, He has the authority to gift us faith that clings to Him and receives all His benefits. Free divine gifts, that is joy.

We fulfill our calls living and working under the cross. We do so with great appreciation, even in the challenging times. Joy is not so much an emotion as it is a state of beIn joy we teach our classes. In joy we preach and teach...

ing. In joy we teach our classes. In joy we preach and teach, we officiate, and we make calls upon those who need the gifts God gives. It isn't always received, nor it is always easy. But because Jesus remained there for us, it is always a joy living under the cross.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders District President

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca





August 2024

Summer Camp 2024: Immanuel- God With Us

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14

Summer camp has now come to an end for the year. Though we will miss all the kids we had the opportunity to serve this summer, we are grateful to have had that opportunity. We had the opportunity to teach them about how God is with us in various ways. He was with His people in the Old Testament as well as during His life and ministry on earth. We also thank God that He is still with us today through His Word and the Sacraments and that He has given those to us to display His love for us. This is the same, unconditional, love that was shown for us when Jesus died upon the cross, the love that won for us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Within this theme, we also had the opportunity to teach about how God fulfills His promises. We got to see that when He promised Israel that He would be with them, and He was; when God promised to send His Son to be born of a virgin, and He was; when God foretold His dying and rising again, and that's what He did. What a great comfort that is, that when God says He will do something, that is what happens, especially when He tells us that His death and resurrection saves us from our sins and wins for us life and salvation. Thanks be to God that He gives us this assurance in the church today, through His Word and the Sacraments.

We pray that all who attended camp this summer get to go back into a congregations where the same gospel is preached: that God is with us and for us, that His death and resurrection bring us new life, so that we may live with Him forever.







3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

God's Work in Latvia A Mock Family Newsletter May-June 2024

We're in Riga!

You read that right. We've moved and are currently settling into our new place in Riga. Praise God! News came in early June that we would be able to move to Riga. A clear path had been found by the lawyer who has been helping us with our Latvian visas. The timing would be quick, as they wanted us to be in country before the end of the month so we could start on our Latvian visas before our Czech Republic visas expired. With that news and timeline, we quickly began our preparations to move from Prague to Riga. The move went very smoothly and we have been settling well. Our fellow missionaries in Riga have made sure of that by presenting us with groceries as we arrived, showing us how to use public transportation, and guiding us through the city. We have stayed busy settling our home, working on our documentation for our visas, and exploring our neighborhood.

Intensive Study Week

Unfortunately, with the timeline for our move being so quick, I (Cody) was not able to attend Luther Academy's Intensive Study Week. Fortunately, I was able to assist in a remote capacity—albeit a much smaller capacity due to not being physically present. It's not just good for the students and theological educators to get together in person—but also for the

IT people!





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On a much more joyful note, before we left Prague, Aurélie and I were able to attend and be sponsors to the baptism of Benjamin Lu. Benjamin was born at the end of May and is the son of two of our very good friends from St. Michael. We were honored to be asked to be sponsors and we miss them dearly. This goes also for the rest of our fellow missionaries and church family at St. Michael, as well as all those whom we had been able to get to know during our nearly one-year stay in Prague. While we miss those we have left behind, we look forward to the relationships that God will provide for us here.

Language Learning Update

It has been very encouraging to be in Latvia and hear and see Latvian everywhere we look. We are also pleased by how much English is spoken—especially since our Latvian remains wanting in many situations. One fun example of this is when I asked for help at a store. In Latvian, I asked, "Do you speak English?" and received the reply, "I'm sorry, could you please repeat that?"—not in Latvian but in perfect English!

Thank you so much for your prayers as we continue in the work that God has set before us, that the Gospel of Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world may be proclaimed. Please be in prayer with us as we begin our time here in Latvia and continue the crucial work of securing our Latvian visas.

Cody, Aurélie, Eva and Moriah

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **LCMS Stewardship Ministry – Newsletter Article**

Icms.org/stewardship

Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul's exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church's response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God's mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul's call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians' joy filled Jerusalem's need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God's generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we re-ceive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord's. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn't. Stewardship is easy because it is God's work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.



TEARS OF HOPE EASTER SPECIAL

Tears of Hope was a special presentation of The Lutheran Hour. Hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour, this radio drama was based on an episode of the This is the Life television series. Writer Andréa Vasilo took the visual storyline, originally written for the 1950s, and gave it a modern twist for Tears of Hope. The story unfolds as the excitement and anticipation for the annual camping trip with Dad ends with a devastating turn of events. Broken and blaming himself, the dad, Luke, questions how a good and gracious God could allow such tragedy to strike. An unexpected voice helps remind Luke of hope eternal.



The Easter special was a resounding success with an estimated audience size of 95,650 listeners! Tears of Hope is the fourth special produced within the last two years and was added to the list of seasonal radio programs for future syndication. You can still download and listen to Tears of Hope at lutheranhour.org/tearsofhope.

LHM is excited to share that they are working on another new radio special, which is planned for Christmas 2024. It will be available in the weeks preceding Christmas.



GUEST SPEAKERS LINEUP

LHM is happy to announce the lineup of guest speakers for the upcoming 92rd season of The Lutheran Hour. The season will feature several guest speakers, including Rev. Dr. Dan Paavola, Concordia University Wisconsin; Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Rev. Keith Haberstock, pastoral advisor, LLL-Canada, Fort McMurray, Alberta; as well as several LHM staff clergy. Invitations to speak this season have been extended to the presidents of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church-Canada. LHM is grateful to John Nunes and Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy for their contributions as guest speakers during season 91.

JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

The Lutheran Hour is now available by phone! Dialing in to hear The Lutheran Hour is a great alternative listening option for those who cannot access The Lutheran Hour via the radio, smartphone app, or the internet. Any landline, cellphone, or smartphone will work. To listen to a recent The Lutheran Hour sermon, please call 1-800-876-9880, and then select option three.



continued ...

Worldwide Radio Ministry



After her husband passed away a few years ago, Ruby started doing mission work in areas of Malaysia near where she lives. She and her husband had previously discovered LHM-Malaysia's radio program and started listening regularly, so she decided to contact LHM staff to see if they had any materials she could use in her efforts. LHM-Malaysia staff gave her audio Bibles to share with people that she meets. Ruby shared that the response to the audio Bibles was overwhelming because people in remote villages were hungry for the Word of God. We are thankful for the ongoing relationship with Ruby that allows LHM-Malaysia to reach these individuals with Christ's message of hope.

Gladys remembered her mother listening to the LHM-Argentina radio programs years ago. Recently, she was going through a challenging time in her life, so she decided to reach out to the LHM-Argentina ministry center through WhatsApp. The ministry center staff referred her to a local pastor who talked with her and encouraged her to attend Sunday services. The following week, Gladys attended the church service and felt welcomed by everyone there. She received spiritual support and took home a few LHM materials to learn more about Christianity.





Serge and his wife are members of a local Lutheran church, and together they started a private school three years ago. Two years ago, they met with LHM-Madagascar staff after hearing one of their radio programs. Serge and his wife requested to use the ministry center's Bible Correspondence Courses as lessons at their school. Most of the teachers and all the students completed their lessons and were awarded certificates. They also began hosting film showings at the school. Serge visits LHM-Madagascar staff regularly to get more materials and lessons for the school. "My wife and I are very happy that we can help parents in raising their children and give the students a clear understanding about God's will is by

learning His Word," says Serge. "What really gives us peace is that we can serve the Lord through our engagement and involvement in the school."

Because of You

- The Lutheran Hour is available on 1,706 traditional radio outlets. While most originate in the United States; 79 are in Canada. The broadcast is also available in portions of Europe and the Caribbean.
- Production of the second season of The Gospel Adventures™ Show is underway. The program currently airs on 57 stations in 12 states. The Gospel Adventures Show is a weekly audio program in which hosts, Ben and Noah, take young listeners on a Bible journey to learn valuable lessons from some of the most-loved Bible characters.
- LHM's Easter television specials continued to share the Easter story with viewers on regular television and streaming channels. The 2024 Easter syndication efforts resulted in 85 airings.

Pray

Please pray for Rev. Dr. Mike
Zeigler and the entire production
crew as they continue to proclaim
the Gospel on the radio waves;
please pray for those people
who are hearing about Christ for
the first time on the radio or on
television; pray with thanksgiving
for your support as we stand
together at the forefront and
continue proclaiming the Good
News to a world in need.



660 Mason Ridge Center Drive St. Louis, MO 63141-8557 800-944-3450 • LHM.ORG/GIVE



LWML Iowa East District Convention Highlights

Attendance: 225 – representing all 12 Zones

"Fill the Megaphone" Mite collection: \$3,809.28

Offering #1, IED Mite Goal: \$3,511.00

Offering #2, Iowa County Food Bank: \$1,620.00

2024-2026 Mission Goal: \$195,000

Gifts from the Heart

Lutheran Interparish School, Williamsburg: \$1,626.83

Community Lutheran School, Readlyn: \$1,607, plus supplies

Swaddling Clothes, Marengo: \$1,137, plus supplies

New Officers

Becky Gluesing, Clinton Zone: VP of Communications

Kay Berry, Davenport Zone: VP of Human Care

Margaret Kistler, Dubuque Zone: VP of Organizational Resources

Marna Mohr, Williamsburg Zone: Treasurer

Rev. Matthew Vesey, Dubuque Zone: Junior Pastoral Counselor

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2024-2026 Iowa East District Mission Grants

- Lutheran Family Service Lutheran School Teacher Counseling Resources: \$7,500
- LCMS Office of Pastoral Education Second-Career Phase: \$5,000
- King of Kings Lutheran Church Disaster Relief Project: \$7,500
- Wartburg Walther League Reaching College Students:
 \$2,500
- College Hill Conservatory Future Church Musicians: \$2,000
- Word of Hope Suicide Prevention Resources: \$5,000
- Mission Central Serving the Lord in Latvia: \$7,500
- 8. Community Lutheran School Science Grant: \$6,000
- 9. Lutheran Heritage Foundation East Africa: \$5,000
- Lutherans for Life Volunteer Relations: \$7,500
- 11. Eastside Mission Van Repair: \$7,500
- 12. MOST Ministries IED Short-term Mission Trip: \$7,500
- 13. Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch Nutrition Center: \$3,000



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Monthly Meeting of the Church Council Sunday, June 9, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on June 9th at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Keith Thorpe, Keven Schultz, Diane Schultz, Chris Christinson, Joel McDonough, Luke Bayer, Sherry Baker, and Dianna Kelting.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

• Continue planning and scheduling member visits.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written reports distributed. All bills have been paid with current balances reflected.
- The yearly audit was completed and submitted.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Contacted a tree removal company to price quote the removal of 4 trees.
- Keith and Helen Thorpe are maintaining the parking lot from weeds and in voluntary grass.

Board of Evangelism: Dianna Kelting

• The board is meeting with a local photographer in July to discuss a pictorial directory.

Board of Education: Sherry Baker

- Teachers and volunteers are ready for VBS July 15-17.
- Confirmation classes have been scheduled.

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe

• Giving is steady with no issues to report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

- Pastor Koepp will be in St. Louis June 9-21st. Steve Hasse will lead worship service June 16th.
- 1 member transferred into Immanuel from another church.
- 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:

- Awaiting a response from the company that will be creating the "Corpus of Christ" for the Cross to discuss final arrangements and to submit the order.
- Voting members will discuss and vote at the July Voter's meeting if Immanuel will approve Pastor Koepp for the nomination of Circuit Visitor.
- The council is compiling a list of nominees for the 2025 boards. Elections will be in October.
- S.O.S. (Substitute Organist Service) will provide music when an organist is unavailable.

New Business: None

With no other business Steve adjourned the meeting

Next Council Meeting: July 14, 2024 8:00 AM

Submitted by: Dianna Kelting



We are looking for Sunday School Teachers for 2024-2025

If interested, please speak to a member on the Board of Education

Sherry Baker, Danielle McDonough, Markie Koepp