

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
229 11th Ave W  
Grinnell, IA 50112

January 2022 Newsletter

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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](mailto: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.**



# **2022 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

## **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

Christian Life: Denise Cadwell

## **Altar Guild**

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)





# HELLO

## *january*

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# A Message from our Pastor



## **“Arise, Shine, Your Light has Come!”**

Arise, Shine, Your Light has come! January 6th marks what is known as Epiphany, but could rightly be called the Gentile Christmas. It marks the end of the Christmas Season as we read the Magi coming to visit the infant Jesus; although, more likely a toddler at this point. Throughout the season of Epiphany we celebrate the Revelation of God in human form. We celebrate God becoming man, God in the flesh to all people, Jew and Gentile alike.

God saving the Gentiles is not a concept new in the New Testament. God’s plan was to save all men from their sins ever since the beginning. Before the world was formed, God set His plan in motion to send His only Son to save ALL PEOPLE from their sins. Throughout the church year we give thanks and celebrate God’s plan of salvation. Each part of the festival season of the church year is marked with a different tone, a different emphasis, but Christ remains at the center of the proclamation.

During Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ. During Christmas we celebrate the first coming of Christ as a babe in the manger as we look for the Second Advent of Christ. Throughout Epiphany we celebrate the Revelation of God come in our own human flesh. We do this by hearing again the coming of the magi (or Christ coming for even the Gentiles), the Baptism of Jesus, and other such texts where we read of epiphanies happening to people during the time of Jesus. After Epiphany we come to Lent. During lent we prepare for Easter. It is a time for us to be more focused on the Passion, death and Resurrection of Christ; a time in which we dig more deeply into the texts of Christ’s dying on the cross for our sins. In Easter we then look at the texts proclaiming Christ to have risen for our justification. Throughout Easter we are continually reminded and remain focused on the reality that we are living in the time of Easter. The time of celebrating Christ’s resurrection as we look forward to the time of our own resurrection on the last day.

As we walk through Epiphany, I am sure that each one of us has, at one point or another, experienced some type of an epiphany. We have all had a sudden realization, or that feeling like the pieces finally fit together. Each and everyone one of us has had that feeling of being in the dark, and then all of the sudden, the light appears. These types of experiences are just small microcosms of the greatest epiphany: the coming of the Light, Christ, into a world covered through and through with the darkness of sin. It is precisely this epiphany that Isaiah proclaims, ***“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and think darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”***<sup>1</sup>

In a world that is covered in darkness, in a world where warfare and fighting, murder and bloodshed, are rampant, the light has come. In a world where tyrannical governments exist to destroy human lives for their own personal benefit, the light has come. In a dark world where disease, famine, scarcity and sickness run amok, the light has come. In a world where kidnapping and crime exist; where gossip and violence are common place, the light has come. This light, Jesus Christ came to defeat the darkness and darkness could not defeat Him. Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Creator, has dominion over the darkness. Nothing is beyond His control because nothing is beyond Him. Nothing is greater than that small baby who was born on a silent night away in a manger. One of the greatest struggles in our human reason is the fact that while the baby Jesus relied on His mother for food and for life, mankind relied upon Him for the continuation of their lives.

The light did not just come to the world for a few religious zealots. The light came to all men; to Jews, to Gentiles, to you and to me. Isaiah tells us that a thick darkness covers the earth, and he describes us as being covered by a THICK darkness. In the Hebrew Text, this is a very emphatic statement. This description is like being covered in a very, very, thick cloud. In speaking this way, Isaiah is describing us as being more sinful than the earth. As original sin affects the earth, so original sin also affects us, but we not only have original sin. We also commit sins daily and are in need of repentance. We thank God for His Holy Spirit who keeps us in the one, true faith. We give thanks that the Holy Spirit brings us faith and brings us to God's house where we receive His gifts: forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We cannot come to God by our own reason and strength because we are in the middle of this great cloud. Just as when you are in a thick fog, you cannot see where you are going, so also, we are in such thick clouds of sin that we cannot find the way or see where to go.

Thus Isaiah speaks to us who are covered in thick darkness, “Arise, Shine, Your light has come.” You, who are in darkness, stand up! Your light has come; the Lord has risen upon you and has given you His glory. That light that has defeated sin, death, and darkness by dying on the cross and rising on the third day has come to you.

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<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 60:1-3



That gift of light and life was not just for those who were living in Jesus' day, but that gift is for you, here now, today. Just as rain and wind clear the foggy clouds on a foggy day, so at your baptism the water and word has done the same. The water and God's Word combined at the font has cleared the fog, cleared the clouds, and has made you clearer than the clearest sky. Here at this font the Glory of the Lord as shined upon you. Here you were given the gift of light that conquers the darkness. Here you were given the light that shines brighter than the brightest sun.

This conquering light, this light of God, is not a flickering light that waves in the wind and is snuffed out by the breeze. This light given to you at your baptism is continually strengthened through God's Word. As you gather here to hear God's Word read and proclaimed, as you read God's Word in your own homes, Jesus Christ, the Epiphany Light, continually comes to you. He fills your head, heart, eyes, ears, and reason and gives you victory over the darkness. This light of God comes to you upon the altar where He feeds you with His precious body and blood to fill your mouth, your belly, with that life giving food, with the light that forgives sins.

In the meaning of the first article we read, "I believe that God has given me my body, and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them." Not only does God give us all that we need to support our physical body and life, but He gives us also what we need to support our spiritual body and life. Isaiah says, "The Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you." God has arisen upon you at your baptism and has given to you His glory. He has given you His light; a light that is strengthened by His Word and His Holy Supper. A light that is always with you and cannot be snuffed out. A light that even in the hour of your death you can be comforted beyond all human understanding and with all your might you can cling to that light because that light has defeated the darkness of death. That light has dispelled the shadow of death and hell and has put in its place the light of everlasting life. That light that was given to you in water and strengthened in bread and wine will again speak these words from Isaiah to you, "Arise, shine, your light has come!"

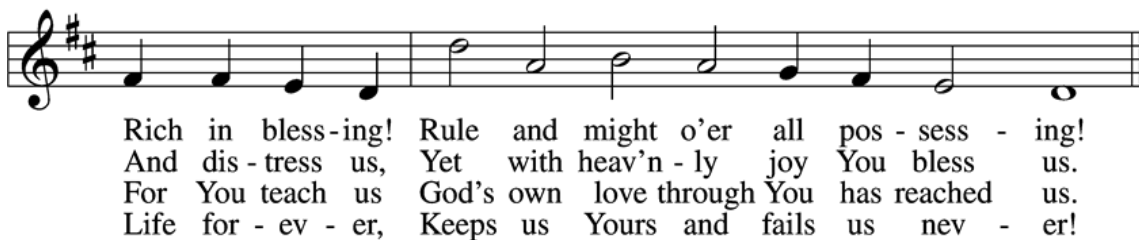
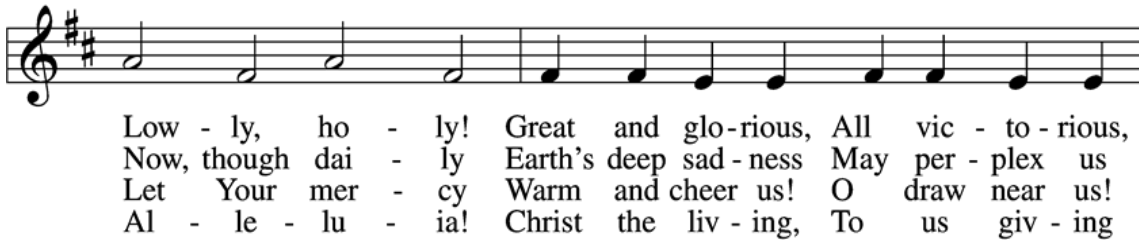
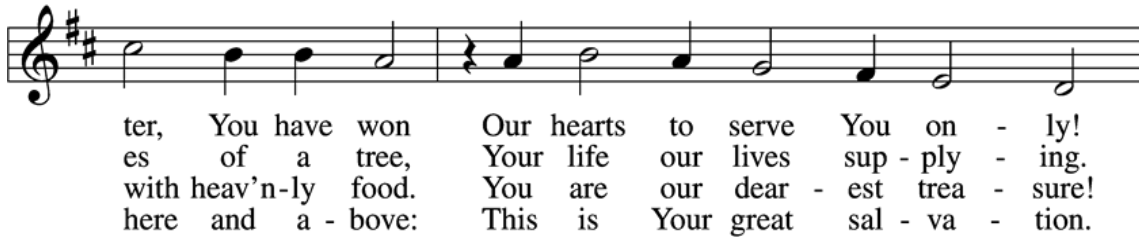
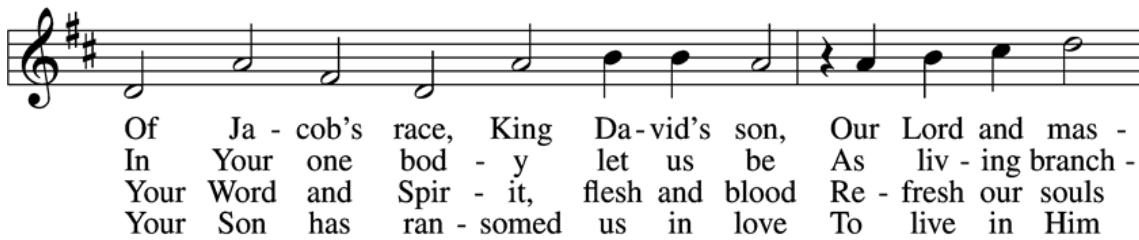
This month, I pray that you will sing with me: "*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*" #395



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's  
 2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in  
 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls  
 4 Al-might-y Fa-ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!  
 our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!  
 from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.  
 not yet be-gun Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!



5 O let the harps break forth in sound!  
 Our joy be all with music crowned,  
 Our voices gladly blending!  
 For Christ goes with us all the way—  
 Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
 His love is never ending!  
 Sing out! Ring out!  
 Jubilation!  
 Exultation!  
 Tell the story!  
 Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
 The Lord we love is first and last,  
 The end and the beginning!  
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
 Transport us to that happy place  
 Beyond all tears and sinning!  
 Amen! Amen!  
 Come, Lord Jesus!  
 Crown of gladness!  
 We are yearning  
 For the day of Your returning!

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



## **President's Piece for Peace**

***Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders***

***District President***

The Matthean account of Jesus birth from chapter one revealed something to me that is even more clear in the original language. He clearly makes it known that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a virgin. Joseph knows that he has not been with Mary in a sexual way because when told about her pregnancy he was willing to let her out of her betrothal so she could be with the baby's father. The good news for him came from the angel who informed him that no one has been with Mary. She is pregnant by the miracle of the Holy Spirit having come upon her. Joseph was instructed to restrain from sex with Mary to secure that fact that no one could be the father of this Child except God.

Matthew is insistent on declaring Mary a virgin. It fulfills the prophecy from Isaiah that a virgin will give birth to a son and name him Immanuel. It is also very interesting that the Greek word for virgin is PARTHENON. The Greek culture was not foreign to the land of Palestine, and its religious places and deities were still in the life of those who traveled from Greece to Egypt passing through Israel.

Up on the hill of the Acropolis in Athens stands the Parthenon, the house of a virgin. The virgin goddess inside the Parthenon was Athena from which the city receives its name. Athena stood on a pedestal and measured about 35 ft. high. She wore a gold suit of armor with head wear. In her right hand she held a small figure of the god Nike. In her left hand was a spear. At the base of her feet and coiling itself up the spear was a serpent with its head ready to strike.

Thousands made pilgrimage to worship at the Parthenon. Young women wanted to be like her. Military men came to her for blessing before they went off to war. She stood as sentinel over the city to protect it from invading armies. So many trusted in Athena and highly honored the virgin goddess. Needless to say, the wood and metals she was made of had more earthly value than did any thing she could do for her worshippers. Athena was an idol and nothing more.

The real virgin spoken of in Isaiah is indeed Mary the Mother of God. In her womb dwelt He who is the Most High. From Heaven above to earth He came so that a battle could be fought against Satan and his minions. It was a battle no army could fight. No fictitious god like Nike could effect anything for the world. Nike was created in the minds of men. Jesus was conceived in the virgin Mary, and He came to us so that He could fight for us.

The battle was fought alone. He had no help, no armaments or weaponry. He did not accomplish His mission using gold or silver. His headdress was not of metal but of thorns. The spear was not for His use but for the use of the soldier who pierced His side with it. By Himself He fought the old evil foe. The serpent might have tried to wind its way to His body to destroy it but found its head crushed under the sacrifice of the Son of Mary, the Son of God.

While we do not find scripture lifting Mary to the level of a Co-Redemptrix or claim her as a sinless woman who herself was immaculately conceived, we do honor the fact she is the real PARTHENON. She is the virgin through whom God sent His Son to redeem us from sin, death and the devil. God be praised for the faithfulness of Mary. God be honored for her steadfast commitment to the mission given her by the angel. God be worshipped and adored as we are fully and completely blessed by His visit to us, to save us, to bind us back to His Father.

Merry Christmas my fellow servants, and a Blessed New Year!

*Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders*  
*District President*





**At the December meeting of the LWML group of Immanuel, we not only enjoyed the Word of God and each other's company, we celebrated the birth of the King of kings. Wearing crowns, we were reminded of the coming of the Magi and the birth of Jesus for all people. As we recalled the events surrounding His birth and the Hymn of the Day for Christmas Day, we were reminded of the crown of life He gives to each of us by grace through faith. You are always welcome to join us, and if you would like to hear the good news of great joy as to why you would want to join us, visit with one of the ladies of the LWML. Have a blessed Christmas and Epiphany Season!**

## District Life Coordinator - Life Sunday

Life Sunday may be observed on the Sunday closest to January 22nd, that horrible day when the United States Supreme Court decided in the Roe V. Wade decision that unborn babies are not worth defending by law. This coming year, that Sunday would be the January 23rd, 2022. Or, perhaps Life Sunday would be incorporated better into the life of the Church along with one of the appointed Feasts.

Christmas Eve (December 24th) & Christmas Day (December 25th) are obvious opportunities for you to teach & proclaim that our Lord Jesus was born as a tiny, defenseless baby so long ago for us & for our salvation. Father in heaven, grant us grace to proclaim Christmas joy every day, & offer your peace to every mother, father, son, & daughter!



The Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs (December 28th) is a tragic remembrance of the baby boys in Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod. We pray in the Collect for that day: “Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying.” Lord, help us also to make the good confession in our lives as well as with our words, defending innocent babies with our words & with our actions!

The Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord (March 25th) is also a wonderful time to preach into the ears of God’s people that our Savior Jesus was made man, not only at His birth, but 9 months prior to that at His conception! We confess in the 2nd Article of the Creed: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...

Whenever you observe Life Sunday this year, remember the murder of nearly a million tiny little unborn babies in the United States every year by elective abortion. Pray for moms, dads, babies, grandparents, friends, & neighbors, that we may speak God’s Word as God gives us opportunities. Help to offer alternatives to abortion in your area. Give a special offering to Lutherans for Life. Most importantly, offer the forgiveness of every sin, including abortion, to everyone, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

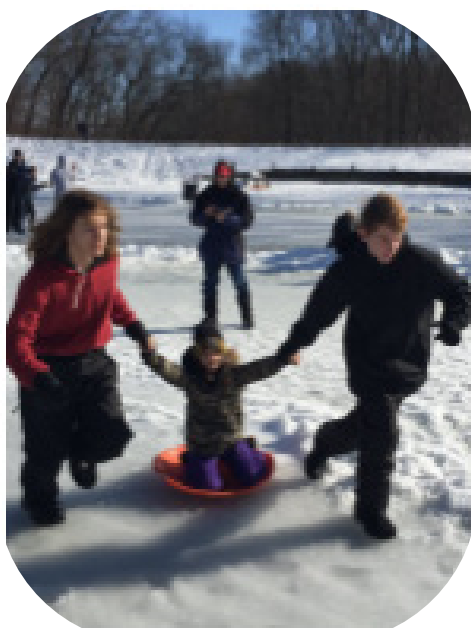
Here are your resources from Lutherans for Life for Life Sunday:

<https://lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2022/>

Pastor Alex Post, Iowa District East Life Coordinator



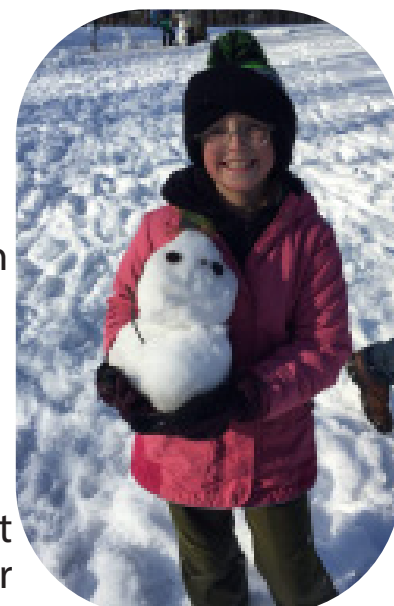
# Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



The 2022 Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics is scheduled for January 28-29, 2022. Pastor Caleb Weight from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bettendorf will be presenting on Who Am I? A Focus on Baptismal Identity and Vocation. Today's society is infatuated with identity. The topic of identity seems to permeate every aspect of our lives. Everyone from children to adults is being forced to constantly ask the question "Who am I?" The world gives a plethora of answers to this question, many of which are against God's order of creation and His will for our lives. During this retreat we will be looking at who we are based on Scripture, we are not only going to answer the question "Who am I?," but also "Who are we?" as Christians living in a world searching for identity and purpose. God has the answer to this question, and how we answer this question has implications for how we live our everyday lives.

But wait, there's more! The Snowlympics will be happening at the tail end of the retreat. Youth groups attending will compete in a series of snow-based competitions, so campers will need to bring their snow gear. Come find out if your youth group take home 1st place in this year's Snowlympics! We'll also go out and play some broomball throughout the weekend, so be ready for a lot of fun on top of some solid Christian learning.

The retreat begins at 8PM on Friday, January 28 and ends around 3:30PM on Saturday, January 29. A pizza snack will be served on Friday night, with breakfast and lunch provided on Saturday. Registration is available at [lcmsside.org](http://lcmsside.org) at \$50 per youth participant and \$30 per chaperone. You can register and online, or mail in your registrations and payment to the Iowa District East—LCMS. See you in January!



## One Camp's COVID Journey



Summer camp is an unforgettable experience for many. The day is packed with swimming, hiking, friends, games, songs and campfires from dawn until dusk. Camp is a place to learn and grow. It's a place to relax and have fun. And at camps like Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, Iowa, it's a place to strengthen in faith.

"Camp is a place where campers can learn a Christ-centered way of life where God's Word is front and center," says Daniel Sanchez, director of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca.

Campers get to experience a unique community grounded in the Christian faith. Each day begins and ends with a devotional study of the scriptures, and the staff encourage campers as they learn.

"[Our] camp has a culture of love, joy and care that is unique," says Sanchez. "We get to do things that are far beyond average daycare, and participating in that Lutheran Christian culture causes campers to grow emotionally and spiritually."

Summer is undoubtedly the busy season with programs like Horse Camp, Adventure Camp and Projectile Camp. Still, Io-Dis-E-Ca offers year-round retreat options for church groups, pastors' wives and more. In more than 50 years of operation, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca has been a blessing to the church, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Iowa District East and the community.

### The Unknowns Ahead

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca found itself in an uncertain situation. With in-person gatherings restricted, they knew it would be difficult to adjust, and revenue might be impacted. They had to figure out how they were going to navigate the rough waters ahead.

"Camp is in the mass-gathering business. [This meant] most of our retreat groups, especially the ones we depend on financially, would not be able to meet indefinitely," says "Our mission is too valuable for COVID-19 to shut us down permanently, so we needed to figure out how best to get to the other side."





Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca decided to open a line of credit with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). According to Sanchez, “Opening a line of credit with LCEF was a no-brainer and the first financial step we took.”

Io-Dis-E-Ca and LCEF have partnered together before, financing various expansion projects and improvements. So, it was only natural to work together to develop a financial solution during COVID-19.

Establishing a line of credit ensured that, should revenue be significantly impacted by COVID-19, the camp could stay afloat. Salaries and overhead costs would be covered for the time being, and the camp could ride out the storm and be ready to serve for years to come.

### **The Lord’s Faithfulness**

Io-Dis-E-Ca was able to host campers during the summers of 2020 and 2021 (socially distanced, of course). We had limited campers in 2020 (about 100 Day Campers for the summer), but returned to a more full camp season in 2021 with over 450 campers for the summer between Day Camp and Resident Camp. But retreats, a vital part of maintaining financial stability for the camp, have lagged behind. Through it all, however, Sanchez has seen God’s faithfulness in the generosity of God’s people.”

“Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is only here because, by the grace of God, people have made it a priority to donate and volunteer. It’s always been true and more so in 2020. Donations came through at 150% in 2020, which is not something we could have expected when the economy was struggling.”

Now, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is looking toward the future. Having survived the worst of the pandemic, they are focused on what lies ahead. Over the next few years, they plan on making improvements and adjustments to the camp’s infrastructure and facilities as the needs of campers continue to evolve.

Here’s to many more years of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!



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

### ***'Tis More Blessed to Give Than to Receive***

*"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35)*

And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins? Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)





# Confirmation Preparation

## **5th & 6th Grades Confirmation** **Classtime 4:00pm -- 5:30pm**

January 5: Sacrament of the Altar: *What is the Sacrament of the Altar?*

January 12: No Class

January 19: No Class

January 26: Sacrament of the Altar: *Where is this written?*

## **8th Grade Confirmation** **Classtime 5:30pm -- 7:00pm**

January 5: Review/Catechism/Workbooks/Catch-up Day

January 12: No Class

January 19: No Class

January 26: Confession: *What is confession?*  
*What sins should we confess?*  
*Which are these?*

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Monthly Meeting of the Church Council**  
**Sunday, November 14th, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on November 14h, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Chris Christinson, Kevin Schultz, Diane Schultz, Pam Sittig, June Routier, Markie Koepp, and Kathy Stanek. President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. September 12th, 2021 council meeting were presented for approval with 2 corrections. Joel motioned to approve, Pam 2nd. Motion carried. October 10th, 2021 council meeting were presented for approval. Diane motioned to approve and Pam 2nd. Motion carried.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Joel McDonough

- New challis veils and Paraments have been ordered.
- Windsor Manor services have been suspended.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Christinson

- Written reports attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.
- June asked if the LWML checking account could be updated removing previous board members. After some discussion, Pam motioned to close the LWML and Sunday school checking accounts located at Great Western Bank and move them to GreenState Credit Union. Joel 2nd Motion carried.

**Board of Trustees:** Kevin Schultz

- Fall lawn treatment has been completed.
- New sweep was installed on front door.
- Currently receiving bids for painting the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

**Board of Evangelism:** June Routier

- The board elected to sponsor a family of 5 for the Christmas Share Program. A tree has been set up and decorated with cards of the age, favorite color and gift requested. The board is asking members to choose a card, buy the gift listed and return it to the church wrapped.
- Donating \$100 to MICA for Christmas
- Pre-Thanksgiving meal is scheduled for Wednesday 11-17-21.

**Board of Education:**

- Assigning parts and beginning practice for the Christmas program.

**Board of Stewardship:** Pam Sittig

- Nothing new to report at this time.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Koepp

- Pastor's report provided listing official acts and Pastoral Duties.
- 2 new members transferred in.
- There will be no communion during Wednesday Advent services but there will be communion on Christmas day.

**Unfinished Business:** None



**New Business:**

- Kathy motioned to approve sponsoring an advertisement in the Grinnell Herald Register "Best Wishes from Immanuel for the New Year" at a cost of \$45. June 2nd. Motion carried.

With no other business to discuss Steve adjourned the meeting.  
Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Council Meeting: January 9th, 2021 - 8:00 AM

Submitted by: Kathy Stanek – Church Secretary

December 15, 2021

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
229 11th Ave W  
Grinnell, IA 50112-8217

Dear Friend in Christ,

Life changed when COVID-19 arrived, and with it came the need to quarantine. In place of face-to-face interaction, we transitioned to virtual classes and video calls. It wasn't ideal, but it made our reunion that much sweeter this fall. We are continually grateful to be on campus and teaching in person again. It has been my privilege and honor to welcome all our students after such a challenging year.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this historic institution. Concordia-Chicago has been serving The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod by providing top-notch preparation for Lutheran educators for 157 years. Recent generations have also seen the university serve civil society more broadly by educating graduate students as well as undergraduates for a wide variety of careers, from business to public education, health care to the humanities. Concordia-Chicago is a place where ideas take root, the Gospel transforms lives, and God's call to service is discovered and embraced.

In 16th-century Wittenberg, Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon had a vision for higher education: the rigorous pursuit of the liberal arts for the benefit of the Church, family, and society. They realized that vision beautifully, setting a standard for Lutheran higher education that lives on to this day.

Scientific advancements over the last two centuries have led universities to embrace greater specialization and to expand their reach globally. Many have done so at the expense of the liberal arts, but not Concordia-Chicago. Here we embrace the transformative power of the quest for goodness, truth, and beauty, centered in God's revealed Word. We also embrace the demands of the modern marketplace. Our professional programs equip students for service at the cutting edge, both around the world and across the street.

I look forward to ministering with you as we in River Forest build on the Wittenberg tradition, centering our education on Christ and forming students for lives of influence and service for the common good. I ask that you encourage students in your congregation to strongly consider Concordia-Chicago as their college of choice. There is much to be excited about as I share these initiatives:

**Annual Careers for Christ Program: February 4-6, 2022**

Please encourage high school youth from your congregation to participate in our annual Careers for Christ program, which will be held on our campus the weekend of February 4-6. The theme for this year's program is ***"Through Him...For Him!"*** based on Colossians 1: 16 (ESV): *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

Future students learn about ministry to the church, connect with current students and faculty in church work programs, and are fed by the Word of God. Online registration is available at **CUChicago.edu/C4C**.



### **Lectureship in Christianity, Humanities and Public Life**

This lecture series explores the intersection of and tensions within the humanities, science, and the Christian faith. I am committed to and motivated by the biblical teaching that by and through Christ, all things were created, and “in Him all things hold together” (Col. 1: 16-17).

Our inaugural speaker, Dr. Gary Saul Morson, the Lawrence B. Dumas professor of arts and humanities, and professor of Slavic languages and literatures at Northwestern University, recently presented “Do Absolute Values Exist? A Russian Question.” Thanks to the generous funding of Dr. and Mrs. C. Ross Betts, all lectures will be free and open to the public.

### **Establishment of Free Enterprise Center**

Dr. Rachel Ferguson has been named assistant dean of Concordia University Chicago’s College of Business and director of the forthcoming Free Enterprise Center, which will serve as a hub for the study and practice of the American free enterprise system. Ferguson comes to Concordia-Chicago from Lindenwood University, where she served as a professor of managerial philosophy and director of the Liberty & Ethics Center.

Through the work of the Center, students will learn constitutional law and the benefits of free markets. The Center will be unique in its focus on the virtues necessary for citizens in a free society and on the economic wisdom needed in public policy and effective philanthropy. Students will develop an entrepreneurial mindset, equipping them to be agile and generous stewards of their skills and resources.

The Lord has dealt bountifully with us. Higher education has been a central part of Lutheranism for 500 years, and Concordia Chicago is poised to set the standard in Lutheran higher education as we embark on the next 500 years. Academically rigorous and faithful to the Confessions, this is a place where your youth can grow and flourish.

Grace to you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell P. Dawn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Russell P. Dawn, D.Phil. President

P.S. We continue to accept applications for the Fall 2022 academic year. We invite your students and their families to register for our **February 21 Visit Day** at **CUChicago.edu/visit** so they can experience the campus and meet faculty, students and coaches.