

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

January Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS

229 11TH AVENUE WEST

GRINNELL, IA 50112

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REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

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Pastor Koepp

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Secretary: Pam Haase

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

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Pam Sittig

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JANUARY

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A Message From Our Pastor



“Trinitarian Epiphany”

As you hear the account of the Magi visiting the infant Jesus, you discover that it is not simply about the manifestation, appearance, revelation and epiphany of the Lord Jesus. While He is the center of the Magi's investigation and travels as well as the center of the story, the Holy Child is not the only one who is made known. Also manifested are the Father and the Holy Spirit-yet indirectly, so as not to overshadow the Son of the Virgin. For Jesus is Savior of all nations, the beloved Son sent by God to redeem mankind and to give His life as a ransom for many. Yet He does not work alone, He works in communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit. And so they also are manifested and made known through Him.

So, where are the Father and the Holy Spirit? And what role do they play in the Lord's epiphany?

Notice how the holy evangelist tells the story. The Magi don't just appear out of nowhere. They are led to the infant Jesus by a star. But not simply a star, for they know of the promise of a King to be born a promise that finds fulfillment in a specific location. What is that promise?

***“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.***

***3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.***

***4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the
strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.***

5 And he shall be their peace.” (Micah 5:2-5)

That promise is recorded by the prophet Micah, but it is not Micah who makes the promise. The promise is made by God the Father. He speaks of sending His Son, who will rule over not just Israel, and not even the whole world, but who will rule life by overruling death and the devil. In this way He will be the Good Shepherd who shepherds the Lord's people, the Lord's Church. That is the promise God the Father makes through His prophet Micah.

It's that prophetic promise that gets the Magi on their way. For how would they know about a coming Ruler and Shepherd if Micah had not preached and recorded the Lord's promise? And how would they know which way to point their camels if they had not heard "Bethlehem, in the land of Judah"? So they say to themselves, "If we want to seek and find this Child, this Ruler, this Shepherd, we must believe the Word which the Lord spoke through His holy prophet. We must stick to it and not allow ourselves to be diverted from it. If we disregard or disbelieve what the Lord says, then we will certainly lose the Christ Child. For it is not by our imagination or our wisdom or our intellect that we have heard of the Christ, and believe Him to be a Ruler and Shepherd, a Savior and King. It is only because God has given us His Word that we believe Him to be worth finding and adoring and believing. So we must make the Lord's Word our reliance-or we will not see the Savior."

So the Lord Jesus is not found apart from His Word. Not in the imagination of your heart or in your clever scheming, but only in the preaching and hearing of the Father's Word. That is how the Magi know to worship the Christ. And that is how you also know that the Holy Child born in Bethlehem is both your Savior and your Lord.

It all hinges on the promise of the Father. The Father gives His Word, and the Magi believe it and, in faith, move forward to worship and adore. And the Holy Spirit, who begets faith by the Word sustains their hope, and increases their faith. He emboldens their confidence. And the Spirit preserves their reliance on the Father's promise so that they are not dissuaded by other thoughts, or discouraged by the difficulties of the journey, or frightened by the devil lurking around every corner. Their journey to the Christ is not unlike your journey in Christ. Sickness, death, job loss, family difficulties, various personal hardships, crosses, and trials seem to the world to be evidences that God is not with us. Quite the contrary, these prove that God must be with us. For if He were as distant as the devil and the world would have us believe, we would certainly perish. But His promise leads us. He has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Yet the Holy Spirit is also found elsewhere in the story. He is the star. For what does the star do? Does it not lead the Magi directly to Christ? Does it not lead them to Life Himself, to the Savior and Righteousness of God that they were seeking? Surely that star is the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son so that He might lead us by faith in the Son and enkindle in us a holy and certain hope.

And so, led by the Spirit, relying on the Father's promise, the Magi faithfully seek and worship Christ the Lord. Their faith and persistence is rewarded with the object of their faith.

And what's encouraging for us, is that the Magi represent all of us Gentiles. They have received nothing more extraordinary or spectacular than you have received. In fact, you have more. For when the Father by the Spirit leads them to Christ Jesus, all they can do is present gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Fine gifts indeed, but not worthy to be compared with the gift you receive when the Father by the same Spirit led you to Christ Jesus.

For in your Holy Baptism, the riches of heaven were bestowed upon you in the forgiveness of sins. In this Holy Supper you have the divine Savior given to you under bread and wine. The epiphany is being re-enacted once again. Only now you are in the place of the Magi. And instead of leaving gifts before the infant Jesus, you receive from Him the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. For in His Holy Body and precious Blood is the forgiveness of sins, and where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

By the Holy Sacrament the Lord makes known to you the fullness of His glory and gives you a foretaste of the fruition of His glorious Godhead. For in the Supper of Christ's Body and Blood, you partake of the Lord Jesus and know Him most intimately by faith.

Therefore Epiphany is more properly the story of how the Father, by the Spirit, leads you to Christ Jesus in the Holy Sacrament so that, during the Sacrament of the Altar, you might come, kneel down, adore, and receive Him, Christ the Lord.

This month, I pray that you will sing with me:

'As with Gladness Men of Old'

LSB 397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872. Text and tune: Public domain

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

President's Piece for Peace



On Saturday January 21st the Cedar Rapids March for Life will organize at St. Matthew's Church to make a statement and stand for the sanctity of life from the womb to the grave. I have been asked to sit on the board for this organization to bring a Lutheran voice to the issue of defense of life. On that day there will be a line connecting defenders of life all along 1st Avenue.

That same day I have been asked to be a speaker at the luncheon. My topic? Since equality seems to be a hot topic in social circles these days, I will be speaking on "equality begins in the womb." All life is to be protected, especially the most defenseless.

As we enter the Advent/Christmas season we have a theological foundation for our belief in the value and sanctity of life in the womb. Advent gives us the prophecies of a Messiah to come for the sake of redeeming the fallen world. Isaiah is most profound in letting us know this birth will take place from a virgin. Micah informs us that He will be born in Bethlehem. The Gospel readings focus on Jesus' forerunner, John the Baptist and his ministry. It was his call to prepare the way for the Christ. And so, he did with powerful preaching calling for repentance.

This all comes to a climax on December 24-25 as the narrative of Jesus' birth is revealed in Matthew and Luke. The story is recounted every year by both children and adults with hymns, carols, and celebrations galore. However, the miracle of the birth was not in Bethlehem. Many children were born in Bethlehem around the same date Jesus was. While the place of His birth was quite rudimentary, the birth was rather normal (ok, the visit from the shepherds and later the Magi is beyond the norm). The miracle took place in Nazareth when the Holy Spirit came upon Mary, and she became great with child. That is a common way of saying that the Son of God was conceived in the womb of the Virgin and became flesh.

St. John sums up the event in Nazareth with these words “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us...”. He didn’t become flesh in Bethlehem. He became flesh when He was conceived. Right then and there, at that moment, all the DNA for Jesus to grow into the man He did, physically, was present. He was a person even then. It was Joseph’s responsibility to protect mother and child from harm and danger. That is why he took them to Egypt as they escaped Herod’s effort to kill the newborn king.

He whose birth we celebrate on Christmas did not have His beginning on that date. God in the flesh, came to us when He was conceived in Mary’s womb. As the hymn says, “From Heaven above to earth I come.” Who came? The Son of God from eternity came to save us, thus the name Jesus. He is the Lord of Life, He is the author and perfecter of our faith. Without Him we have no hope. That would have been the cataclysmic conclusion had His life been swept away before His birth. Yes, even before His time on Mt. Calvary.

We are physically who we are at the time of our conception. All our DNA is present at that time and will develop us into the people we are today. For that reason, all life has equality from the time of conception in the womb to the time we breath our last on earth. Life belongs to Christ Jesus. He died to redeem it for salvation’s sake. For that reason, and many more, we consider life in the womb equal at every and any age.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President



Thank you to many, many people for their efforts and contributions towards the Children's Christmas Program

- *The students for their voices in word and song*
- *Sunday School teachers for working with the students*
- *Board of Education for working with the students*
- *Fellowship hall decoration*
- *Cookie providers and servers*
- *Treat bags donators and preparation*
- *Program editing, rehearsing, directing and even more*
- *Music practice and accompaniment*
- *Costume fitting and modifications*
- *Parents for transportation and memorization assistance/encouragement*

LCMS - Set Apart to Serve

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:36-38

In response to Overture 1.01 of the 2018 Iowa District East—LCMS District Convention, a district task force has been commissioned to, within the Iowa District East, to aid efforts to recruit and retain church workers in the LCMS. The synod has also launched Set Apart to Serve, an initiative of the LCMS to recruit church workers. This IDE Task force met in May, September, and October of 2022 and has developed the following vision statement:

We pray for God, through the intentional efforts of faithful mentors and ministries, to raise up and sustain well-qualified Lutheran church workers who are full of the love of God and are supported in their physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual well-being so that they may joyfully serve Christ and His church in their lifelong professional and personal vocations.

In addition, three initial goals were established: 1) Congregations, schools, ministries, families, and individuals regularly pray the Lord would send workers into the harvest; 2) All church workers view themselves as mentors; and 3) Cultivate a culture of well-supported workers. Achieving these goals will happen over time, but beginning with the Professional Packet, we hope to provide resources aimed recruiting and retaining church workers, beginning with providing prayers to be included for use in Divine service, school assemblies, classrooms, staff meetings, or at home.

This month's prayers for worship, school, and home:

*As John the Baptist prepared the way of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, so do we implore you, O Father in heaven, to raise up and send forth faithful pastors into the harvest field, that they may also, with steadfast zeal, proclaim the whole counsel of God. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*For an increase of the Holy Ministry, that as John the Baptist prepared the way of our Lord Jesus Christ, by proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, so do we implore You, O Father in heaven, to raise up and send forth faithful pastors to serve the faithful by the pure preaching of the Gospel and the faithful administration of the Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

More on LCMS Set Apart to Serve here: lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve

Through *Set Apart to Serve*, the LCMS is intentionally working to identify, encourage and form future church workers for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until His return. Visit lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve to learn more.

SET APART TO SERVE
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



IDE Middle School Retreat & Snowlympics - January 27-28

The 2023 IDE Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics are being held January 27-28, 2023 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Pastor Mark Squire of Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Ansgar, IA will be presenting under the theme of, *"Lord, Teach Us To Pray."*

Prayer seems so simple, doesn't it? To pray just means to come before God with words. How often, though, have we come before God and not had any idea what to say? We aren't the only ones. Even the disciples - people who had seen and listened to Jesus! - had to ask, "Lord, teach us to pray." Prayer, like anything worthwhile, is something we should spend time learning how to do. And with Jesus, we have the best teacher there is! During this retreat, we will consider what prayer is, how we should pray, and how important it is for us to make prayer a priority during our entire lives. Only when we sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to his Word can our lives of prayer truly begin!

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 now 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 week-end, so be ready for a lot of fun on top of some solid Christian learning.

The retreat begins at 8PM on Friday, January 27 and ends around 3:30PM on Saturday, January 28. A pizza snack will be served on Friday night, with breakfast and lunch provided on Saturday. Registration is available at 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!



Camp Presentations

Would you like to know more about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? Camp Director Daniel Sanchez is available to speak to congregations and groups about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's mission, facilities, and programs. Call 319-848-4187 to schedule a speaker!



2023 Important Dates

January 16

Summer Camp Registration Opens

January 27-28

IDE Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics

June 14

First Day of Summer Camp

July 29

*I Believe in Camp Fundraiser Auction
60th Anniversary Celebration*

August 1-4 (tentative)

Higher Things Confirmation Camp

October 13-14

IDE Confirmation Retreat



THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2021, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received over \$10,000 in Thrivent Choice contributions! Thank you donors for making this program a success for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Will you help make 2021 an even better year in Thrivent Choice giving?

Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice" to designate your choice dollars for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca today. Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!

Needs List

Paper Towels; Toilet Paper; First Class Postage Stamps; Batteries: 9v, AA, AAA; Cleaning Supplies: disinfecting wipes, window cleaner, all-purpose cleaner. Please see our web site for a complete list: www.campiodiseca.org.

2023 Summer Staff

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is one of dozens of Lutheran camps across the country looking for college-aged young adults to make a difference in the lives of children. The opportunity to serve at a camp awaits. Go to www.nloma.org to start your summer camp service today!

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca also needs Junior Counselors (JC's) to assist the summer program. Applicants should be at least 15 years old. JCs spend the week with a cabin group enjoying the many camp activities and serving as a positive role model and motivator for younger campers while helping the cabin counselors supervise younger campers. It's a great experience for only \$100 per week.

Please contact Program Director Alec Deppe by emailing programdirector@iodiseca.org for more information or to receive an application.



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org



INTERNATIONAL Lutheran Council

November 14, 2022

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Evangelical Lutheran
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Fort Wayne, Indiana, U.S.A.

Dear Pastor Koepp & Saints of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

The International Lutheran Council (ILC) is getting much attention. The ILC is 55 Lutheran church bodies from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America that believe the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and that the Lutheran Confessions are the true exposition of these Scriptures. ***The ILC is getting attention because presidents and bishops of these churches recently elected Bishop Juhana Pohjola (Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland) to be the new chairman of the ILC board of directors. Bishop Pohjola has been fighting for freedom of religious speech since being charged with hate crimes for publishing a booklet that lays out the biblical understanding of marriage, rejecting homosexuality and calling all to faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. (See more at www.ILCouncil.org.)***



The ILC exists to encourage, strengthen, and promote confessional Lutheran theology and practice centering in Jesus

Christ, both among member churches and throughout the world. Bishop Pohjola was elected by acclamation and without opposition.

Some of the Bishops & Church Presidents attending the ILC World Conference in Kisumu, Kenya, September 2022, where Bishop Pohjola (far left) was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The International Lutheran Council, Inc. ~ PO Box 10149, Fort Wayne, IN, 46850, U.S.A.
Roger.James@ILCouncil.org ~ +1 260-413-7613 ~ www.ILCouncil.org

His election underscores two things about the ILC. ***First, the ILC is truly determined to stand fast on the Bible and the faith once delivered to the saints. Second, the ILC is determined to have leaders who are willing to put livelihood, reputation, and life on the line for sake of Christ and His Word.***

The ILC is funded by (1) dues from member churches, (2) grants from foundations such as the Lutheran Legacy Foundation (www.lutheranlegacyfoundation.org), and (3) the voluntary gifts of individuals, congregations, and organizations.

We hope you also will choose to encourage confessional Lutherans around the world by

- ***learning more about the ILC and what is happening in global Lutheranism*** by frequently visiting our website www.ILCouncil.org;
- ***inviting us to share about the work of the ILC and explain the pressures that world Lutherans are facing.*** ILC leadership is eager to speak at your congregations, church conferences, pastor circuits, and conventions;
- ***supporting the ILC financially. One thousand donors of \$1000 per year (or \$100 per month) would presently fund the ILC and provide opportunity for program development.***



Retiring BOD Chairman, Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt of Germany, (L) confers with Chair-elect Pohjola during a break at the ILC World Conference in Kenya.

To learn about our new Seminary Accreditation Agency, the Lutheran Leadership Development Program, World Conferences, Mission in Mercy—Ukraine, and other efforts of the ILC go online to www.ILCouncil.org or call or email us.

The church year is near an end, and we pray *Come, Lord Jesus!* with urgent joy and confidence. Until our Lord returns Lutherans around the world continue to confess our faith in the God who has given all for our forgiveness through His Son and by His Spirit. Pray for our churches to remain faithful to this good confession.

Yours in Christ,


Rev. Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill
General Secretary, ILC

P.S. Use the enclosed giving card and envelope or visit ILCouncil.org and donate online. Look for the donate link in the upper right corner of our web page.

P.P.S. If you do not desire to receive communications from the ILC, simply send an email or leave a phone message informing us.



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

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God” (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God’s gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you’ve not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God’s Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord’s body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn’t want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

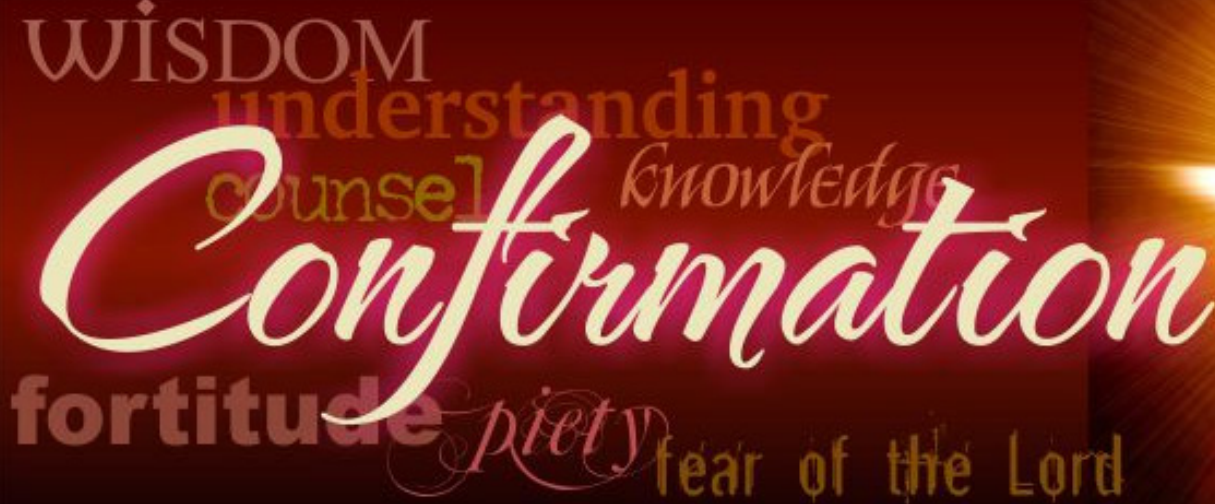
Second, pray for the Lord’s help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God’s family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God’s mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Confirmation

MEMORY WORK FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

5th & 6th Grades Confirmation Memory Work
Classtime Wednesdays 4:00pm — 5:00pm

Jan 4: First Article of the Creed and meaning all of it

Jan 11: No Class

Jan 18: No Class

Jan 25: First Article of the Creed and meaning (all of it)

7th & 8th Grades Confirmation Memory Work
Classtime Wednesdays 5:00pm — 6:00pm

Jan 4: 2nd Article and Meaning

Jan 11: No Class

Jan 18: No Class

Jan 25: 2nd Article and Meaning



LUTHER CLASSICAL COLLEGE
2300 Hickory St.
Casper, WY 82604
T: 307-314-5882

December 16th, 2022

REV. DR. JOEL KOEPP
229 11TH AVE W
GRINNELL IA 50112-8217

Dear Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp

Greetings in the Lord! It is Advent, the first season of the Church Year.

It is the season ushered in with the story of the Incarnate God riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as our eternal King. He enters humbly with a view of Calvary ahead of Him where He will gain Salvation for the whole world, as Zechariah prophesies, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

And so, just as the children of Israel 2,000 years ago began Holy Week singing glad hosannas to their King before He went to die for their sins, so also do we as the children of God in 2022 begin this new Church Year singing aloud our glad "save now" to Christ.

We are looking ahead to His incarnation, passion, death, and resurrection. We are looking ahead to our Salvation.

I am encouraged by a special hymn this Advent, and I want to share it with you.

Arise, sons of the Kingdom!
The King is drawing nigh;
Arise and hail with gladness
The Ruler from on high.
Ye Christians, hasten forth!
Your praise and homage bring Him
And glad hosannas sing Him;

Naught else your love is worth.

The translator of the hymn above writes that our love is worth nothing else than to gladly sing these hosannas to Jesus. It's so beautiful and so right. That's what Christian love does.

Christian love does this not with the anticipation that our Salvation might come, or that it could be effected by our singing, but rather it sings hosannas with the trust and confidence that our Salvation has come, that God Himself has ripped open the heavens and descended to clothe Himself in our very own flesh and blood to bear our guilt — to die for our sin and to be our Savior.

And so, we do not sing mopey hosannas. We sing glad hosannas!

And we sing them in everything we do, because God has given us a clean conscience in Christ to use all our strength, all our powers, all our being to praise the King of our Salvation and to serve Him with works of faith right now as heirs of His everlasting Kingdom.

Luther Classical College exists for this very reason: to foster in our children and grandchildren this Christian love and these glad, cheerful, confident hosannas to Jesus that will permeate their studying and every work that they pursue for the rest of their lives.

The College is honored to be engaged in this work. And the honor is not just ours. It is yours as well.

Your support for Luther Classical College serves the everlasting Gospel. It is a service with eternal consequences, a service that we pray God will bless until He brings it to fruition according to His mercy.

It is an honor God is giving in working through you to establish this college.

Thus the work of the College is more than important. It is necessary. Our efforts to build a college where students will learn to love their Lutheran heritage—to believe it, to confess it, to articulate it, and to live it—are necessary. Our aim to build a college that defends true Christian culture is necessary. Luther Classical College is necessary.

The College will be confessional: We will answer to God's Word alone. Special interests and political agendas hold no sway here. The College refuses their money and thus their coercive power.

The College will be classical: We will take captive the absolute best of what God has showered upon our Western heritage and make it serve Christ, as we teach our students language, history, theology, literature, logic, rhetoric, music, science, and mathematics.

Finally, the College will be affordable: We do not believe in casting our children into a life crippled by debt. We want them to raise families, serve their congregations, begin and lead Lutheran schools, and above all support the preaching of the Gospel.

Indeed, our work is well worth it. And we thank God that he has richly blessed this work so far. **As of the beginning of December, we are supported by 70 congregations who believe that this mission is necessary and have raised nearly \$1 million from our community of donors.**

It is with the generosity of our supporters that we have been able to strategically invest in key resources this past year.

Our curriculum is being developed incredibly well. All courses are being crafted through a Biblical lens, and therefore through a lens grounded in reality and to the glory of God.

Our Academic Dean has been selected and will be announced in the Spring of 2023. His job is to oversee the administration of both this curriculum and enrollment. **We are excited to officially add him to the roster and ask that you pray for him and his family as they prepare for the transition.** He has extensive experience at the collegiate level and proven academic abilities. Most importantly, he is grounded in Christian faith and piety. What a blessing from God.

Pre-enrollment has begun at Luther Classical College. So far there have been 83 prospective student sign-ups. Luther Classical College is still determining the number of students it will accept in the first year for the sake of responsible management and educational quality. This number will increase each year until we are settled at full capacity with about 75 students per class. Our admissions team will look for students who are confessional Lutheran, have a high moral character, and who exhibit strong academic ability.

These are only a few of the updates we have been blessed to see come to fruition this year. We know this is just the beginning, and we push on with perseverance.

Martin Luther, when asked what he would do if he knew that Christ would come tomorrow, said that he would plant an apple tree. It is with our glad hosannas in anticipation of our Savior, who came to us in the manger, will come again in the Final Judgement, and faithfully comes to us every day of our lives through His Word, that we together are planting our own apple tree.

Brothers and sisters, it is together that we will plant this tree. **Together we will make Luther Classical College a reality. Only with your support will we ever have a college that is unapologetically Lutheran, confessional, classical, and affordable.** It's impossible without our faithful congregations coming together to build it with their support. And quite frankly it is in vain without your help. It is you, faithful Lutherans, who will be sending off future Luther Classical College students. In return, they will be prepared to form their own families and join faithful congregations with the zeal to participate and raise families in the Church. Indeed, they will be prepared to give glory to God in all that they do in the home, at church, and in the world.

There is much yet to be done. Please pray for our work. And please consider joining us by making a special gift this year-end.

Lord, You came to us in the manger, we await Your glorious coming on the Last Day, and You come to us today and every day by Your Spirit in Your Word. Save us now, and we will praise and bring You homage in our every work until we finish the tasks prepared for us here to serve you there in eternity.

Your brother in Christ,

Samuel H. Preus
Head of Development
Luther Classical College

P.S. Brothers and sisters, it is together that we will make Luther Classical College a lasting reality. Only with your support will we ever have a college that is unapologetically Lutheran, confessional, classical, and affordable. Would you consider making a special year-end gift this Advent?



LUTHER CLASSICAL COLLEGE

Yes! I/we will stand with Luther Classical College.
Enclosed is my/our gift!

Donation: \$ _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

- ☐ I have enclosed a check made out to Luther Classical College.
- ☐ I have made a gift online at <https://www.lutherclassical.org/just-give>.
- ☐ Please charge my gift to my:
 - ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Security Code: _____ Exp. Date: _____

For Visa, MC, and Discover, the three-digit security code appears on the back of the card after the credit card number. For Amex, the four-digit number appears on the front of the card above the card number.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- ☐ I would like more information on how I can remember Luther Classical College in my will or estate plans.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, November 13th, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on November 13th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Joel McDonough, Danielle McDonough, Keith Thorpe, Diane Schultz, Kevin Schultz, June Routier, Steve Haase, and Kathy Stanek.

Joel called the meeting to order, and Pastor Koepp opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the October 9th meeting were presented for approval. Diane motioned to approve and June 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

- Scheduling home visits with members after the 1st of the year.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Passed insurance inspection with only a couple items requiring updates from the elders.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- Planning a Thanksgiving meal for members this Wednesday at 5pm.
- Providing treats for 18-24 students once a month at the Drake Library.
- Decorating a tree at the Drake Library.
- Christmas Giving...The Evangelism Board will not be doing Christmas Share with Second Mile this year. They have 114 families and all their needs have been filled in a matter of days. Immanuel will be having a Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall starting December 1st to collect 'Children's' stocking hats for Orphan Grain Train. All hats need to be collected by December 18th for distribution.

- Discussing a project to ask members (old and new) if they would write a bio of themselves and take a picture to display on the digital bulletin board.

Board of Education: Danielle McDonough

- Sunday school is going well, and Christmas program practice has begun.

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe

- Giving is steady with no issues to report.

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:

- A TV/Bulletin Board will be purchased for the meeting room replacing the current white board.
- The Board of Education will be buying their own TV/Bulletin Board to display in the Sunday School area.

New Business:

- Per a recommendation from the Elders - Diane motioned to join the Alliance Defending Freedom for \$250 a year and Keith 2nd. Motion carried.
- Beginning January 1, 2023, if members choose to have the church cleaned during their assigned week the cost will be \$75.

With no other business to discuss Danielle motioned to adjourn – Diane 2nd. Pastor closed in prayer.

Next Council Meeting: December 11, 2022 at 8:00 AM.

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek, Council Secretary