

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 Eleventh Avenue West
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

January 2020 Newsletter

Immanuel News

Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS

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Office hours

Monday through Thursday 8am to 3pm

Let's Get Social



<http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org/>



Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS



Listen to weekly sermons:
Rev. Dr. Joel Koepf

Worship with Us!

Sundays at Immanuel

Divine Worship 9:00 a.m.

Christian Education 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays

Weekly Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

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Reference Information

HAVE YOU...moved? ...changed phone numbers? ...changed email addresses? ...need to update birthday/anniversary dates? Let the office know! Thanks!

LET US KNOW...If you have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if any pastoral need arises.

PRAYER REQUEST...If you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Rev. Dr. Koepf:
Email: koepfj@hotmail.com Cell: 507-829-3901 Office: 641-236-6691

DO YOU...want to put something in the bulletin or newsletter? Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements? Upcoming events? 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.

Deadlines:

Bulletin – 12 noon of each Wednesday

Newsletter – 15th of each month

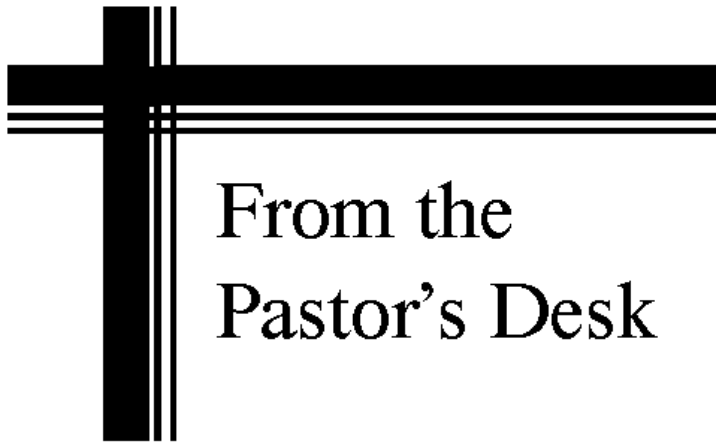
For those of you without email access, please call or submit your written request to the church secretary.

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To those of you that “fly” south for the winter and would like your monthly newsletter mailed to you, please submit your address, date departing and date returning, to the church office. Even those that have submitted their address in the past, please do so again to make sure we have the correct address. If you would like to “go green” and have your newsletter e-mailed to you, please submit your e-mail address.

The newsletter can also be read online
at www.immanuelgrinnell.org



From the Pastor's Desk

“Oh! Look at the Baby!”

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. By the time you get this, it may be in the Christmas Season or the Epiphany Season. These two seasons are beautiful together. The first confesses and celebrates the birth of God in the flesh, the latter confesses and celebrates the birth of that baby, Jesus, is God!

The birth of a child is something special. We only want the best for our children. This begins with many neonatal check-ups and pregnancy vitamins, and then continues greatly after they are born. We buy them soft blankets and soft toys. We go to great lengths to make sure they are healthy and happy and safe. Stories abound concerning the level of safety that has been increased for children today. From certain chemicals, to certain fabrics, new parents are barraged with the safety and the well-being of their new child.

We like babies, and news about them makes most people happy and excited. For many, news of another baby brings both joy for the new life, as well as fond memories of one's own children. News about babies gets a lot of attention, especially if the baby is born to someone who is rich and famous, or has a royal lineage. You know they will be surrounded with the softest and safest items known to man.

One would like to think that would be true not only for the rich, the famous, or for those of royal birth, but also for the Son of God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but, “Instead of soft and silken stuff, You have but hay and straw so rough.” (from Martin Luther’s Christmas Hymn “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”) The King of Kings was born in a stable, placed in a manger, and visited by a very unlikely crew. Rather than glowing grandparents and smiling snapchats, Jesus’ first visitors were dirty shepherds, fresh from the hills.

Already at the birth of Jesus, there is a great reversal taking place. What the world sees as important and great, is not always what God sees. From this single, little baby, the sins of the entire world would be paid in full. This baby placed in the hay, would suffer and die for the sins of creation. This baby visited by Shepherds is the Good Shepherd who would lay down His life for His sheep.

From this tiny little baby, we gain a new perspective on what life truly means. There is beauty in life, there is beauty in the cross, and “worldly honor, wealth, and might are weak and worthless in [God’s] sight.” (verse 12 of Luther’s hymn) Life for the Son of God would start harshly, and would continue to build. Jesus’ life would be threatened by King Herod. Jesus would suffer many temptations from Satan. Jesus would suffer threats, persecutions, beatings, shame, scorn, and finally die the eternal death on the cross. He did so that you would have life in His Name! In this not no soft life of Jesus, He would suffer and die, and rise again, so that you would not be sinful creation, but you would be dressed in the white robes of comfort and joy; you are God’s Children! He has wrapped you in the blessed waters of Baptism, that give you eternal life in Him. He continues to speak His Word that exhorts, encourages, admonishes, comforts, prepares, consoles and soothes. He continues to give forgiveness, life, salvation, and strength through His Holy Supper. As we are set to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ from December 25th until January 6, we wonderfully laud and glorify the Triune God as we sing, “Joy to the world! The Lord is Come!”

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – January 2020*

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

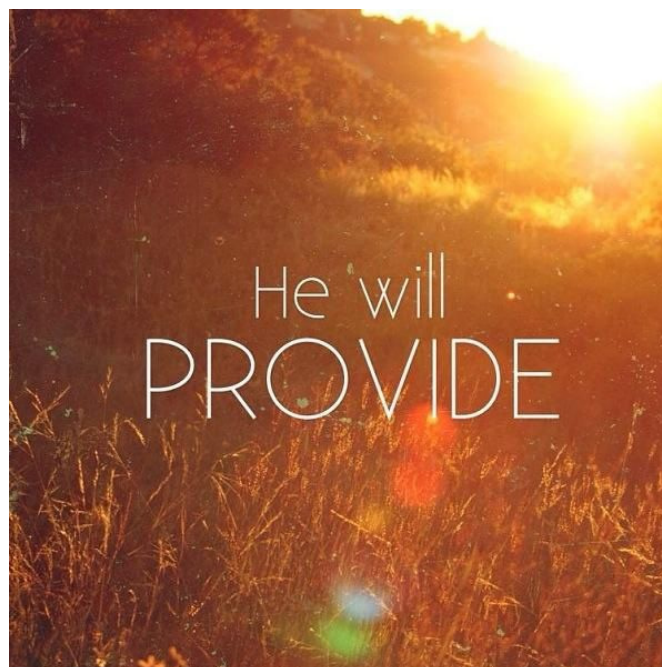
God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philip-
pians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ],” St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His “yes” to you, but others will find it, too, through you. “But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also” (2 Cor. 8:7).



Christ Academy: High School

Not sure what to give the theologically-minded high school student in your life? This Christmas, consider giving the gift of Christ Academy: Timothy School (men) or Christ Academy: Phoebe School (women). Split into two different schools, the high school academy takes place on the CTSFW campus for two weeks in early summer, from June 14–27, 2020. Open to high-school-aged students from ages 13-18, the academy is an opportunity for these young men and women to study theology, build lasting friendships with confessional Lutherans their age, and consider whether they would like to begin planning for a future as a pastor or deaconess.

Students take classes taught by CTSFW faculty and other ordained ministers, gather four times daily in liturgical, Christ-centered worship in Kramer Chapel, and pack the rest of their hours with fun. Housing and food are provided on campus, with a handful of mission opportunities and a baseball game that will take them off campus and into the wider Fort Wayne community. The students of both schools take some classes together, but much of their learning is separated to allow them to focus on their specific vocations as young men and women in Christ.



Attendance for the two weeks costs \$650, which is all-inclusive, covering tuition, housing, meals, and all off-campus activities. Returning students are eligible for \$100 discount if they apply by December 31, 2019. As space is limited, students must fill out an application to be considered for admittance. To apply, go to:

Young men: www.ctsfw.edu/timothyschool

Young women: www.ctsfw.edu/phoebeschool

We'll begin processing applications on January 15, with deadlines closing on May 1, 2020. You can also learn more about the planned activities, opportunities, expectations, general theological concepts taught each day in the classrooms, and more at the above links. For questions or concerns, email ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu or call (260) 452-3140.

God's blessings to all in this season of Advent—and, soon, a very Merry Christmas!

In Christ's service,
Rev. Matt Wietfeldt
Director of Christ Academy

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



December 2019

IDE MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT & SNOWLYMPICS - JAN 31-FEB 1



Each one of us has our own unique taste of what we enjoy, some like Country music, others prefer Rock or Rap music. But let us not forget Classical music, Jazz, Blues, Hip Hop or Christian music. At the 2020 IDE Middle School Retreat, our youth will study God's gift of music with Pastor Ferch. Together, we will look back to the Old Testament and learn how music was involved in the life of the church. We will peer back into history to see how the early church used music in the Divine Service and how that applies to the church today. We'll also answer an equally important question of, "How does Satan influence our youth with music?" Pastor Ferch will have samples of popular songs that today's teens listen to and together as we parse the words of the song. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, our youth will recognize the influence of Satan through all genres of music. The

Snowlympics on Saturday, where IDE youth groups compete in a series of outdoor winter events!

Our presenter is Pastor Bradley Ferch from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Davenport, IA. You can register online or download a registration form at www.lcmsida.org. The retreat will take place beginning on Friday, January 31 at 7pm and going through 3 pm on Saturday the February 1. This retreat includes a pizza snack on Friday evening and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. A full schedule can be found at the link above.

2020 Summer Camp Theme: Teach Us To Pray

One pillar of Christian life that we can often struggle with is prayer. What are we supposed to say, anyways? When does anyone have time to pray? How can we be sure that God is even listening? Are my problems are too big or too little to trouble God with? On top of this, our sins plague us and, out of shame, we might think that God probably doesn't want to hear from us.

These are real questions, but Jesus gives us real answers. Jesus teaches us in the Lord's Prayer about what a loving God we have. Jesus himself teaches us how and what to pray for. In our greatest joys and our deepest sorrows and despair, we learn that we have a God who is eager to hear from His children. We learn that we have a God who provides for our needs and forgives us our sins. More than this, through diet of God's Word, we understand and trust that our prayers are heard and answered by God, who gives us what's best for us in His time. This coming summer, our campers will get to learn about prayer just as the disciple did who asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Registration for summer camp opens on Friday, January 10, so stay tuned to campiodiseca.org for more information!

B is for Bethlehem



"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2 KJV

It was Christmas Eve sometime in the 1960's, the night of our Lutheran school's children's Christmas service. We had been coached and prodded by our teacher to speak LOUDLY and c-l-e-a-r-l-y. My younger sister rose to the occasion with a glorious recitation of Micah 5:2. It was unexpected by the parents and other congregation members because out of this 2nd grader came a prophecy all could hear and understand, even the word "Ephratah"! Though small in stature, her message from Micah came through boldly, in a LOUD and c-l-e-a-r voice.

Isn't that like the Lord? He chooses the seemingly small and insignificant to work His miracles and fulfill His promises. He selected this little dusty town, Bethlehem, as the birthplace of the incarnate Son of God.

Sometimes we, too, feel so insignificant. We feel as though we really aren't making a difference. When we look at ourselves, using the world as our reference point, we often feel inadequate or lacking. Remember, however, that God uses that which the world considers little or meaningless to accomplish His purpose.

This passage reminds us that God doesn't always choose the most likely candidate. He carries out His plans through the most surprising and unremarkable people. By the world's standard, some of the weakest, youngest, or smallest were Jacob, Joseph, and David. Yet God chose each of them in His plan of salvation. Or, consider that an unknown girl, a simple carpenter, and a little town called Bethlehem were chosen to welcome and care for the Prince of Peace. Our heavenly Father sent His Son to us as a newborn in a lowly humble form to deliver His message of love and salvation.

How encouraging to know the Lord knows and loves us for who we are on the inside. Our value and significance is not based on the size of our school, the number of years we've been teaching, our success as a coach, or the size of our bank account. So, there you go! The pressure is off! In joy, we can look at ourselves fully assured of an inheritance in heaven, won by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Your life is full of Christmas Eve services. Use them as opportunities to loudly, boldly, and clearly tell your students and children in your care about Jesus. From the infant who is only a few weeks old in your daycare program to the senior in high school, you have the joy of proclaiming the love of Jesus through your ministry each and every day.

May our Heavenly Father open our hearts to receive and proclaim the news that Christ has been born so that we might have eternal life now and forever!

Jan Doellinger
Assistant to the President, Schools

The Snow and Cold Have Arrived

Sometimes you make good use of the "day" which you are given. A recent Saturday saw temperatures near 50° and I was able to get the rest of my leaves gathered and my Christmas lights put up. We only have our maple tree in the front yard on which the leaves have not fallen. We are leaving the season of fall and heading into the season of winter.

The very next week, winter weather arrived with snow and cold temperatures. It always takes a while to adjust. On the positive side of things, the weather forecast talks about temps in the mid-forties by next week, but will it be enough to melt the snow we received?

We are also making the transition from the end of one church year to the beginning of another. Jesus says in Matthew 24:12-14, "And because lawlessness is increased most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end it is he who shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come."

What might love which has grown cold look like? Do we fail to see the needs of others around us? Do we not take the time to hear the cries of people who are hurting? Maybe we are guilty of failing to forgive others, which demonstrates a love which has grown cold! Jesus put it this way: "For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me." "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." Matthew 25:42-43, 45.

Jesus had arrived to do battle with the unholy trinity of sin, death, and the power of the devil. He did that through His suffering, shed blood, death, and glorious resurrection. Christ Jesus feeds and quenches us with His body and blood in the Holy Supper. Jesus has welcomed us into His kingdom through the water and word of our Baptism. Jesus has clothed us with His merits and righteousness as Isaiah 61:10 declares: "I will rejoice greatly in the Lord My soul will exult in my God, For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness." As the hymn says: "Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall; You have opened paradise And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia." What we have not done for others, Jesus has done for us and to us!

God will keep us in the faith and His Church will always be a missionary church until Christ returns on the last day. Paul states in 2 Thess. 2:16-17, "Now may our Lord Jesus Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word."

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild
Assistant to the President

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Monthly Meeting of the Church Council Sunday, October 13th, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on Sunday October 13th, 2019 at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Kevin Schultz, Sharon Krumm, Darlo Kelting, June Routier, Markie Koepp, and Kathy Stanek. Pastor opened with prayer.

Minutes of the August and September 2019 regular monthly meetings were distributed. Minutes. Darlo motioned to approve the August minutes and June 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

- Continuing to work on the delinquent members list. Andrew Moon, Allison Moon, and Adam Shell asked to be removed from Immanuel's membership.

Treasurer's Report: No report

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- Making plans to sponsor a Christmas tree at the Drake Library. This year's theme is "Walking" and the board is requesting sock donations of all sizes. The tree will be put up the 1st week in December.
- Holding a clothing drive for "The Orphan Grain Train". No items with holes/stained clothing or crosses will be accepted. A list of accepted items is on the entryway table or ask a board member if you question if an item is acceptable.
- Continuing to research the possibility of a sign on Hwy 146 and 11th avenue showing the direction to Immanuel Lutheran.

Board of Education: Markie Koepp

- Beginning preparations for the Christmas Program which will be held on December 15th at 10:30. Pastor Koepp wrote this year's program and is titled "Why Jesus". Treat bags will be given away after the program.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- The SE and SW concrete slabs have settled. Working on getting them raised on the entrance doors and emergency exits.
- Kevin and Diane Schultz trimmed the evergreen trees

Board of Stewardship: Sharon Krumm

- 3rd quarter giving states are in member boxes.

Board of Fellowship: Not Active

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koeppe

- Report provided listing official acts and Pastoral Duties including: Counseling/home visits, attending board meetings, visiting sick/shut-ins and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

Unfinished Business: Joel McDonough

- No movement from the City of Grinnell to correct the drainage issue.

New Business:

- June motioned to put out a basket asking for free will donations for the treat bags given away after the Christmas program. Sharon 2nd. Motion carried.
- Final cost of the siding was \$500 less than expected. The contractor wrote a nice memo thanking Immanuel for their help and patience.
- Board Elections will be held during the October 20th, 2019 Voter's Assembly. Anyone interested in a board position should contact a current board member or the church secretary.

Vice President
2 Trustees
2 Elders

Treasurer
1 Board of Stewardship
1 Board of Evangelism

With no other business to discuss June motioned to adjourn and Darlo 2nd. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: November 9th, 2019 at 8:00 A.M.

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek

Church Council Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Monthly Meeting of the Church Council Sunday, November 10th, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on Sunday November 10th, 2019 at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Joel McDonough, Ken Mergen, Steve Haase, Chris Christenson, Darlo Kelting, Dianna Kelting, Sherry Baker, and Kathy Stanek. Pastor Koepp opened with prayer.

Minutes of the October 2019 regular monthly meetings were distributed. Darlo motioned to approve the minutes - Ken 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

- Continue to work with delinquent members. A list of members to be removed from membership will be presented at the January Voters meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

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

Board of Trustees: No Report

Board of Evangelism: Dianna Kelting

- Decoration of the Library tree will be in December. This year's theme is socks and the board is requesting sock donations to decorate the tree
- Supplies and clothing for the "Orphan Train" are delivered every Tuesday. Currently 9 big bags have been donated.
- Working on what missions will be sponsored in 2020.
- Evangelism will help with the Christmas bags to be given away after the children's Christmas program.
- Continue researching if Immanuel can have a sign on Highway 146 and 11th Ave directing people to the church.

Board of Education: Sherry Baker

- Parts have been assigned for the Christmas program.
- Calendars are for sale again this year. Contact a board member to purchase.

Board of Stewardship: No Report

Board of Fellowship: Not Active

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

- Pastor's report provided listing official acts and Pastoral Duties including: Counseling/home visits, attending board meetings, visiting sick/shut-ins and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Per Steve a vote on Synodical Constitution Amendment will be held during the January voter's meeting.
- Immanuel's sign in front of the building is not lighting properly. Joel McDonough will repair it this week with the cost approximately \$200.

With no other business to discuss Darlo motioned to adjourn and Chris 2nd. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: December 8th, 2019 at 8:00 A.M.

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
Church Council Secretary

2020 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

President

Joel McDonough

Vice President

Steve Haase

Secretary

Kathy Stanek

Treasurer

Chris Christinson

Elders

Joel McDonough~Chairman

Steve Haase

Darlo Kelting

Ken Mergen

Trustees

Kevin Schultz

Ben Loudon

Board of Education

Sherry Baker~Chairman

Megan Schutt

Markie Koepp

Board of Stewardship

Sharon Krumm~Chairman

Pamela Sittig

Cindy Cloyed

Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier~Chairman

Dianna Kelting

Sandy Koch

LWML President

Maralee Kruse

LWML Treasurer

Susan Schoen

LWML Secretary

Pam Haase

LWML Christian Life

Denise Cadwell

Organist

Esther Huedepohl/Pam Haase

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

Susan Schoen

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)