Immanuel Lutheran Church 229 Eleventh Avenue West Grinnell, Iowa 50112

Immanuel News

Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS

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Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp

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Office hours

Monday through Thursday 8am to 3pm

Let's Get Social



http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org/

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Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS



Listen to weekly sermons: Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp

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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March 2020

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. Koepp:

Office: 641-236-6691

Email: koeppj@hotmail.com

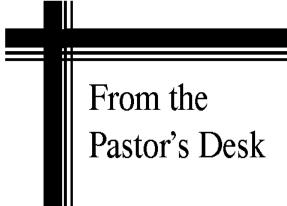
Cell: 507-829-3901

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.



Theme: "Where Are You Going?"

There is an old saying that goes, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." The one who came up with that was never hit with a dictionary.

James reminds us of one small organ of our bodies that we don't think about too much, but it does have a great influence; not just in our lives,

but in others' lives as well: the tongue. James likens our tongue to the rudder of a ship. Just as a massive ship is steered through the water by a seemingly small and insignificant piece of the ship, so we are steered and defined by our tongues. How's that for an image?

How much time and effort do we put into being defined by our jobs, our brains, our bodies, our images? We diet, we exercise, we lift weights, we study, we pour over our income vs. expense ratios, we clean and up-date our homes, our cars, our wardrobe, get make-overs, and hair-cuts, and spend money on make-up and farm equipment, and campers, and four-wheelers, and motorcycles, and on and on and on; how much time do you spend on your tongue? James reminds us that our tongues direct and lead us, so it begs the question: Where are you going?

Words can hurt. Words contain much power, and we often don't think of the power that they truly do carry. Words have the power to tear down, and sometimes it doesn't take much. During political season, we see this in the world, do we not? Words are thrown back and forth like arrows and bombs, trying to cut the other own down so far that one can win just a few more votes. It is there that we see what James is talking about when he says, "No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." (James 3:8)

But if no human being can tame the tongue, we cannot just stop at analyzing our politicians. We too have troubles with this piece of our human anatomy. Our tongues are full of poison that spews out towards our enemies; those who would do use harm, but what about our family? Do we use this poison against our families?

We are not supposed to even use it against our enemies, that is sinful in and of itself. But our restless poison cannot be contained; we turn the venom of hurtful words against those we love the most.

We call curses upon them, we call upon God to damn them to hell, we cut down and hurt them until what? Until we somehow have won a particular argument? At what cost? Is winning an argument over the dishes or garbage or some bill or anything in our day-to-day lives worth tearing down another person, another person who was made in the image and likeness of God? When you talk with others, it is not like the conversations in my house, where I am a saint and my wife is the sinner. It's ok. She knows that. Right? No, we are both sinners, and we are both forgiven children of God.

Words have power, right? Through the power of the Word all of creation was called into existence. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was With God, and the Word was God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:1-3) This Word you know "became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14) This Word in the flesh was God and Man, Jesus Christ. In our inability to control our tongues, He came and did it for us. As our poison leaves us deserving of going to one place, hell itself, Jesus became flesh, and died. This most powerful Word spoke from the cross, "It is finished." One Word in Greek. Why should you care? Because this one word shows up again in James! James writes, "If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man." (James 3:2) The word for perfect is the same as finished, or completed, or whole.

Through Jesus' death on the cross, the antidote for your poisonous thoughts, words, and deeds, the tonic for your venomous tongue was completed, finished, perfected, made whole. Because of the Word made flesh, that suffered and died for you, your sins are forgiven. You are made whole. You are washed in His powerful Word joined with water. His Words fill your ears and your mouths. His Words are yours!

For your tongue of fire, here it is quenched. As you drink the blood of your Lord Jesus Christ, that fire is put out. The spring flowing forth from the Mount of Calvary flows into your mouth, your body. His blood here cleanses you, perfects you, makes you whole. Where is your tongue leading you? To His altar. It is His Word that will steer you right through this life. With Him at the helm, you have nowhere to go but to eternal life with Him.

As you walk through this season of Lent looking forward to Easter, may the Lord keep your mouth from tearing down and your lips from speaking deceit. Even though we put away the Alleluia's in joyful anticipation of celebrating Easter, it is my prayer:

"Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!" (Thy Strong Word LSB 578:5)

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp



Annual Fundraiser Bowl for Kids' Sake

April 25, 2020 Bowladrome in Grinnell

Bowling Sessions are from: 11am—1pm 1:30pm—3:30pm 4pm—6pm

Bowl for Kids' Sake is our one large fundraiser to support the programming needs of Grinnell Big Brothers Big Sisters.

All dollars remain local.

Help us make a difference in the lives of Grinnell's children—one child at a time!

New Beginnings

We have begun a new month, year, and decade. Unfortunately, our old nature remains. Like it or not and hard as it is to admit, that old nature is sinful and corrupt, impure and usually self-centered! We admit and confess that in the confession of sins. We rejoice that in our baptism we have become a new creation. Paul states: "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come." Il Cor. 5:17.

Something marvelous has happened for us in Christ Jesus. Paul says: "He made Him who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." <u>II Cor. 5:21</u>. The Sinless One becomes sin and goes to the cross as the "Lamb of God" who takes away the sin of the world. His death and resurrection have earned forgiveness of sins for all people!

Our sinfulness was placed upon Christ Jesus and He paid for it completely. Our corruption has now been replaced with His incorruptibility. What was impure is now cleansed and forgiven. Our self-centeredness begins to be changed into a life which is Christ-centered and other people focused. That is how the baptized are to live.

The rhythm of the baptized is one of daily contrition and repentance as Luther points out: "It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." That is a daily lifelong battle because of our old sinful nature. It won't end until the day the Lord Jesus calls us to inherit the kingdom which He has prepared for us.

In the meantime and in the midst of the battle, the Victor is with us. He forgives our sins in the Holy Absolution. His voice is heard through Law/Gospel preaching which declares to us: "Be of good cheer, your sins be forgiven you." We receive His body and blood in the Holy Supper for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith. Those means bring "new beginnings" each time we receive them. Peter states: "And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed." | Peter 2:24.

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild Assistant to the President



2020 IOWA PRAYER RALLY FOR LIFE | IOWA STATE CAPITOL

Monday, March 2 from 11AM - 3PM

Join the Movement | 11AM - 3PM | Rotunda

Stop by the lowa Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders tables to find out how you can join the effort to save both babies and mothers in lowa!

Prayer Rally for Life | 12PM - 1PM | Rotunda

Hear from lowa's pro-life leaders on the latest efforts to save babies' lives, hear from and encourage legislators who are standing up to defend life, and join local clergy in powerful prayer.

Invited Prayer Rally for Life Speakers: Governor Kim Reynolds, Senator Jake Chapman, Representative Steve Holt, and Restored by Grace Executive Director Laura Limmex.

Learn to Lobby | 1PM - 2PM | Room 315

To lobby is to seek to influence a politician or public official on an issue. And your voice matters! Work with veteran lobbyists on how to effectively lobby at the State Capitol.

Lobby Your Legislators | 2PM - 3PM

Encourage, pray for and work to influence your legislators to support pro-life legislation!

STRONGER TOGETHER

IOWA COALITION OF PRO-LIFE LEADERS | #SHESABABY

IDE LHM District Convention—April 4, 2020 "The Cost of Free"



Iowa District East Lutheran Hour Ministries annual convention is Saturday, April 4, 2020 at Camp Io -Dis-E-Ca, 3271 Sandy Beach Rd. NE, Solon, IA 52333.

Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook, Vice President, Global Ministries. will be sharing how global outreach efforts are reaching others with the Gospel message. All are invited to attend.



Booklets help strengthen sick woman's faith in Madagascar





LHM-Kenya VBS Reaches 100 Children



Homeless girl finds hope at puppet show in Myanmar

Registration: Registration open at 9:00AM

Convention starts at 10:00 AM and conclude at 4:00 PM.

Registration is \$12 (\$15 at the door), includes a noon meal and snacks. Please register by March 29, 2020 to allow time for meal planning. (Extra restrooms available.)

Directions: Take I-380 until exit 10 (Swisher, Shueyville) and head east on 120th St. [F12] until stop sign. Turn right onto NE Curtis Bridge Rd. and follow it until Sandy Beach Rd. Turn left onto Sandy Beach Rd. and follow it to the Camp. Watch for Camp signs.

To register, complete this form, enclose check and mail to: Dick Hoelz, 3519 Heatheridge Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-7624. Make checks payable to: IDE LLL
Phone number
Number attending
Name(s)
Address
Home Congregation LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES www.lhru.org

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 Christ Academy@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

Summer Camp Registration: NOW OPEN!



Summer Camp Theme: Teach Us To Pray Luke 11:1-13

Head on over to our newly updated website at www.campiodiseca. org and click on the Summer Camp tab for information on all of our camps and to register. You can register by completing the online registration process or by downloading a registration form and submitting that.

We're also please to announce our summer camp theme for the summer of 2019: Teach Us To Pray: Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." - Luke 11: 1

We're incredibly excited for another fantastic summer and we hope you'll be a part of it! Registrations are already pouring in, so be sure to get your registration in soon! If you're not able to make it out for summer camp, please come support Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca at our I BELIEVE IN CAMP Fundraiser Auction and 1-Mile/5K fun runs for 2021 summer camp scholarships on August 1.

Early Bird Discount Deadline #1 is March 2
Early Bird Discount Deadline #2 is April 27
Camp begins June 17

TAKE AWAY HUNGER

The Take Away Hunger packaging event will take place on April 19th at the Elk's Lodge in Grinnell. Immanuel Lutheran Church will be partnering with Trinity Lutheran Church in Malcom from 1:45 to 2:30 p.m. Each church will provide six members to package meals. Each church will donate \$192 to cover the \$384 cost of food, equipment and local shipping. By participating in this event, we will be joining several area churches, businesses and organizations in this mission project.

A sign-up sheet for those who are willing to participate in this event is on



the back table. Any financial contributions may be brought to church or mailed to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Checks can be made out to Immanuel Lutheran Church with Take Away Hunger written on the memo line. This will be the first year Immanuel Lutheran will be participating in Take Away Hunger this event. Last year Take Away Hunger local volunteers packed 25,704 meals.

From the Take Away Hunger Website:

What is Take Away Hunger? Take Away Hunger is a food relief organization that unifies teams of people who package a specialized rice based soy casserole mixture which is used locally and overseas. It is based on a simple principle of people helping people, in this instance, even kids! Take Away Hunger not only nourishes hungry children, but the spirits of the volunteers who pack the meals.

The Story of Take Away Hunger:

In August of 1999, Don and Sandee Fields moved from the Cedar Rapids/ Marion area to southern Iowa where they purchased a large warehouse facility 8 miles south of Brighton. Not until the fall of 2002 did they know what purpose that warehouse would serve. Don and Sandee became aware of a missions based program called Kids Against Hunger based in New Hope, Minnesota. After traveling to New Hope and meeting the program's founder, Richard Proudfit, they became the first Kids Against Hunger packaging distribution center in Iowa in March of 2003. In their first year of operation, they packaged 250,000 meals.

They quickly realized the potential their humble operation had, and the vision grew to Mobilize Cities to Feed Nations. They began to reproduce what they were doing with wing centers in communities all around the state. As to date there are 17 active food packaging location, 13 of which Don and Sandee oversee and supply product and equipment to.

In 2010, those wing units were responsible for producing 4 million meals which are being used in four nations and also here in the state of Iowa. At the present time they supply KAH food to the Fellowship Cup in Mt. Pleasant, the Crisis Center in Iowa City, and the Southeast Iowa Food Bank in Ottumwa. Through these three outreaches they are supplying 2,500 meals per week locally.

In 2010 Kids Against Hunger moved from their Brighton location to the new office warehouse location at 1301 West Saunders Ave, in Mt Pleasant, where they are continuing to grow and expand. Their goal is to establish 50 wing units in the state of Iowa to help fight global hunger.

In 2016, Don and Sandee rebranded their company under the name Take Away Hunger. Their mission remains the same: feed the hungry and show the love of Jesus.

PIE CONTEST AND SOCIAL FOR SEG

Social Entrepreneurs of Grinnell (SEG) is sponsoring its third pie baking contest and pie social on Sunday, March 8. This delightfully fun event will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Grinnell, with the social from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Freewill offering donations to benefit SEG will be received for a delicious slice of homemade pie, ice cream, and a beverage. The pie baking contest will be held preliminary to the social.



With a nod to international "Pi" Day (3.14), the community is invited to enjoy an early evening dessert to benefit a worthy cause! SEG embraces its purpose of seeking to strengthen the economic well-being of those who are impacted by the forces of poverty, or who lack access to traditional financial institutions. SEG offers no-interest loans for emergency needs, to those who, otherwise, might need to turn to predatory lenders. All proceeds from the pie social will be used to offer these no-interest loans.

Are you a pie baker? Superb! Bring your pie to St. Paul's between 1:45 and 2:30 on March 8, and enter it in one of five categories: American Classic (apple or cherry), Other Fruit Pies, Cream/Custard Pies, "Fancy" Pies (like French Silk or Pecan), and a Youth category for any school-aged entrant. Please use a disposable pie tin for your entry.

Do you simply enjoy a delicious piece of pie? Then come between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. to sample your favorite (with maybe a bit of ice cream on top)!

Questions related to the contest may be directed to Al Ricks, SEG board member, who is coordinating the contest this year. Al's phone number is 319-269-3475, and his e-mail address is adrgohud@msn.com.

Mark your calendars now to prepare a favorite pie for the competition and to attend the "Slices for SEG" pie social! We'll see you there!

If you have questions about this release or questions about the event, please don't hesitate to contact:

Allen Ricks 319-269-3475 adrgohud@msn.com

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

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Monthly Meeting of the Church Council Sunday December 8th, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on Sunday December 8th, 2019 at 8:00 AM.

Present: Pastor Koepp, Joel McDonough, Ken Mergen, Steve Haase, Chris Christinson, Megan Schutt, June Routier, Cindy Cloyed and Kathy Stanek. Pastor Koepp opened with prayer.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

 Continue to work with delinquent membership List. Letters of encouragement have been sent asking members to come back.

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: Joel for the Board

The front sign has been fixed and working properly.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- Immanuel's Drake Library tree has been decorated with socks which will be given away when the trees come down.
- Supplies and clothing for the "Orphan Train" are delivered every Tuesday.
- 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: Megan Schutt

- Practicing with students for the Christmas program.
- Preparing for Sunday school 2020 curriculum.

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:

• Narcotics Anonymous is asking if they can use a meeting room at the church twice a week. Meetings will be held Monday and Friday nights 6:45 PM – 8:00 PM with 10 to 12 people in attendance. Steve Haase motioned to approve Narcotics Anonymous use of the church and give 1 key to the coordinator. Ken Mergen 2nd. Motion carried. Pastor will send a "Facility use of Property" policy.

 Pastor Koepp is contacting area pastors asking if they would like to participate in broadcasting a sermon each Sunday on local radio

stations.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer – Pastor Koepp left the room. Next Council Meeting: January 12, 2020 at 8:00 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek Church Council Secretary

Ash Wednesday--February 26

5:15pm Meal 6:30pm Service

Mid-Week Evening Prayer Services

Wednesday, March 4 Wednesday, March 11 Wednesday, March 18 Wednesday, April 1

Meal will be served at 5:15pm followed by the service at 6:30pm

The Annunciation of Our Lord Evening Prayer Service

Meal at 5:15pm Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30pm

Palm Sunday/Confirmation

April 5

Holy Week Prayer Services

Monday, April 6 at noon Tuesday, April 7 at noon Wednesday, April 8 at noon

Holy Thursday

April 9 at 6:30pm

Good Friday

April 10 at 6:30pm

Holy Saturday Prayer Service

April 11 at noon

Easter Vigil Service

April 11 at 6:30pm

Easter Sunrise Service

April 12 at 6:30am

Ressurection of Our Lord

April 12 at 9:00am

2020 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

President

Steve Haase

Vice President

Joel McDonough

Secretary

Kathy Stanek

Treasurer

Chris Christinson

Elders

Joel McDonough~Chairman

Steve Haase

Darlo Kelting

Ken Mergen

Trustees

Kevin Schultz

Ben Louden

Board of Education

Sherry Baker~Chairman

Megan Schutt

Markie Koepp

Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe

Pamela Sittig

Cindy Cloyed

Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier~Čhairman

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)