

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
229 Eleventh Avenue West  
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

November Newsletter

# *Immanuel News*

*November 2019*

## **Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS**

229 11th Ave. West  
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

Office: 641-236-6691

Office Email: [ImmanuelLutheran@iowatelecom.net](mailto:ImmanuelLutheran@iowatelecom.net)

## **Rev. Dr. Joel Koepf**

Cell Ph. 507-829-3901

Email: [koepfj@hotmail.com](mailto:koepfj@hotmail.com)

## **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. Koepp:  
Email: koeppj@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](mailto: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.



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](http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org).

Thank You!

## Reflection on All Saints' Day

The First of November is home to a well-known Feast—All Saints' Day. It is a day in which we remember all the saints who have gone before us in the faith; which makes it a day, for many, of mixed emotions. The Hymn *For all the Saints* (LSB 677) sings these beautiful words, "For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia!"



This phrase gives me pause as I reflect for November on the Last Day, specifically my last day. Everything we do as Christians confesses something. As Christians, it is important to confess that it is the name of the Lord who is to be treasured above all else. To this end, it behooves us to reflect on what do we do with our last confession to the world; namely, funerals and burial. It is not an easy subject, or even a fun one. The world spends the whole month of October confessing its own trepid, disgusting, and fearful ideas of death, and what happens after death. Should we as Christians not boldly confess the truth? It is encouraging to celebrate the Reformation on October 31 (where we rejoice in boldly confessing the true Word of God), and then celebrate All Saints' Day on November

1 (where we rejoice in what this Wordmade flesh has done for God's people).

Newsletter articles are supposed to be sort-of short, so let me get to the point. What we do in our funeral services is a confession. What we do with our bodies, after our death, is a confession. To hear a great presentation on this you can check out a Talk and Tastings Event hosted by Rev. Travis Berg, Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Latimer, IA, recorded September 29, 2019 <https://www.clericalerrors.org/e/disposal-of-our-dead-burning-or-burial/>

Does God care? Do others care? What is your confession? A few thoughts to consider: Romans 15:4 declares, "Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." What does the Old Testament have to say?

Abraham makes a big point to buy a burial plot, and in fact this is the first mention of land purchase in the Bible. The first land purchase is a tomb! That is rather significant. Abraham paid a high price for the land, and paid great attention to detail at this last confession. It is on this land, his family will also be buried with their wives (Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob & Leah). Jacob also makes a point to bury his wife Rachel after she dies during childbirth. These can found in Genesis 23; 35:29; 49:29-33; 50:25; Exodus 13:19; 1 Samuel 10:2; and Hebrews 11:22. Moses is buried by God for important reasons, see Deuteronomy 34:6 and Jude 1:9. The Kings are mentioned of honor in burial Ahaz-2 Chronicles 28:27; Hezekiah 2 Chronicles 32:33; Josiah-2 Chronicles 35:24; and Abijah 1 Kings 14:12-12. The New Testament confesses both Jesus and John the Baptist were buried.

On the other side of the coin, the Old Testament speaks of the horror that is associated with no burial. In Deuteronomy 28:25-26, God uses no burial as Divine Punishment. This happens to King Jeroboam (1 Kings 14:10-11), and Jezebel (1 Kings 21:23 and 2 Kings 9:30-37).

Not only is burial the honorable practice in the Old Testament, but God issues Divine Punishment by burning. Leviticus 20:14 and 21:9 give examples, as well as Joshua 7:25, 1 Kings 13:2, 2 Kings 23, and Amos 2:1-2.

Historically speaking, cremation is a relatively recent practice, and there is no cremation in Christian cultures through the 18th Century. The first cremation in America was 1876 in Pennsylvania. The person who was cremated was Joseph Henry Louis Charles, Baron de Palm. He was heavily influenced by Eastern philosophy and fancied himself as a freethinker. He was part of the Theosophist society, a group that believes there is a great connectivity throughout the world by wisdom and/or God. It confesses both karma and reincarnation. To that end, as part of his last confession, he had texts read from Charles Darwin at his funeral. He also requested that his body be disposed of "in a fashion that would illustrate the Eastern notions of death and immortality." In other words, he wanted reincarnation, so his body had to be destroyed quickly for him not to be bound to his current life and he could "move-on."

The practice of cremation has thus since evolved, and many Christians are today considering this practice. They are not freethinkers like the Baron of Palm, nor are they doing in an effort to test God's ability to see if He really can raise even the ashes.

The more common questions that get raised are cost, and space. These are other lengthy discussions that can and must be had, but for this article, it is getting rather lengthy.

I urge you to study and seriously think about your last confession. You give your day-to-day confession much time, it makes sense our final confession gets some prayer-filled time. Death is the unnatural separation of body and soul. The return of the body to dust is God's judgment. It seems unwise by worldly, man-made, means to speed up His judgment (by cremation), or slow-down His judgment (by embalming). Iowa state law does not require embalming if the funeral is done within a certain period of time.

You has body and soul, have been set aside by God as His temple to do special work in His Kingdom by being His child. You are important to Him. Christ has defeated death and, we confess with St. Paul, "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved." (Philippians 3:20-4:1)

What is the best way to confess this saving truth to the world? Not to be conformed to the earthly way of thinking, but to gloriously and boldly proclaim, to confess before the world the Name of Jesus be forever blest. How can we rightly practice our confession in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting? May God grant us His wisdom!

*From earth's wise bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through gates of pear streams in the countless host, Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! (For All the Saints LSB 677:8)*

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
Newsletter Article – November 2019*

St. Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). God loves a cheerful giver. But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

Greetings from Christmas Share!

It seems so soon, but we are once again making preparations for the 2019 Christmas Share program. Last year we provided gifts to 176 families, thanks to our sponsors, and we're again reaching out in an attempt to make this all happen again. Those we serve often get no other help with holiday gifts, so we're eager to do all we can to help, and we hope you will be too.

We'll be signing up families the week of October 28 to November 2, at the Drake Community Library. Family gift information will be forwarded to sponsors the week of November 4, and gift drop off day is scheduled for Monday, December 16. Gifts will be distributed to families on December 21. We will be asking families that qualify for assistance for their needs, gift suggestions including sizes, favorite color, hobbies, ect., to help sponsors with gift selections. Our families realize that the lists are "suggested" gifts, and they are truly thankful for all sponsors do for them. Our goal is to make Christmas enjoyable for every family, despite hard times.

We are in need of sponsors for individuals and families (large and small). If you're unable to shop or prefer one of our volunteers do that for you, monetary contributions are always welcome. If you'd like to help in another way, we can always use helping hands that would like to volunteer their time. If you would like to sponsor a family or an individual, or if you'd like to volunteer your time, please call me at (641) 990-0404 or email [share@windstream.net](mailto:share@windstream.net).

We appreciate your assistance, and thank you for supporting Christmas Share and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,



Pam Montgomery  
Second Mile Christmas Share  
P.O. Box 229  
Grinnell, IA 50112  
Phone: (641) 990-0404

# POWESHIEK COUNTY CHRISTMAS SHARE SIGN-UP!

## OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 2

9:00 TO 11:30 AM Mon-Fri

**[Saturday by appointment]**

**DRAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
930 PARK STREET, GRINNELL, IA**

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR SIGN-UP:**

1. PHOTO ID
2. UTILITY BILL (PROOF OF RESIDENCY)
3. ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
SUBSIDIZED RENT RECEIPT  
LIHEAP APPROVAL/APPOINTMENT  
CURRENT SNAP NOTICE OF DECISION  
CURRENT DHS NOTICE OF DECISION

To avoid long lines and extended wait times, we suggest you sign up using the schedule below. Use first letter of last name:

Monday, October 28 - Last Names A-E

Tuesday, October 29 - Last Names F-J

Wednesday, October 30 - Last Names K-O

Thursday, October 31 - Last Names P-U

Friday, November 1 - Last Names V-Z

**Saturday, November 2 - By Appointment Only**

**Call Second Mile at 236-7892 during their regular business hours.**

Dear Immanuel Families,

The Board of Education is beginning to plan for the Sunday School Christmas Program. We would like to know if your child/children plan to participate as we will be assigning parts at our November board meeting. We have included confirmands as we would like you to be a part of the program. We would like you to help with narrative parts and singing.

**Practice Dates:**

Sunday, Nov. 24 10:15-11:30

Sunday, Dec. 1 10:15-11:30

Sunday, Dec. 8 10:15-11:30

Saturday, Dec. 14 @ 9:00 - 10:00 or 10:30

Christmas Program is on Sunday, December 15 at 10:30

We will be assigning parts at our November 4 meeting. Please let us know if your child/children will be participating by November 1. We hope you all can join us. We love working with your children and sharing the good news of Jesus!

Sincerely,  
Immanuel Board of Education

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**Immanuel Lutheran is again participating in the Festival of Trees December 6th at the Drake Public Library. The Evangelism Board is collecting new colored socks size infant to adult, to use to decorate the tree. When the tree is taken down, they will be donated to the needy.**



**Festival of Trees**

**Thanks!  
Board of Evangelism & Missions**



***Relief for Human Need Worldwide***

## ***Toot! Toot!***

Here comes the Orphan Grain Train! The Evangelism board would like everyone to get on board. The Orphan Grain Train is looking for lots of different things.

A few of them are clothing (babies on up), bedding, bath towels, education supplies, kitchen accessories, medical supplies and clothing accessories. Copies of the complete listing will be on the hall table for your taking.

Things cannot have holes or stains and also no crosses or Christian symbols. They are selective because the boxes are subject to inspection in other countries so if things are not correct they will possibly throw all of it away.

Feel free to ask what is okay, if in doubt by talking to Dianna Kelting, Sandy Koch, Steve and Pam Haase and Pastor Koepp.

We will be collecting at this time until the end of November. You may place your donations in the entryway by the clock.

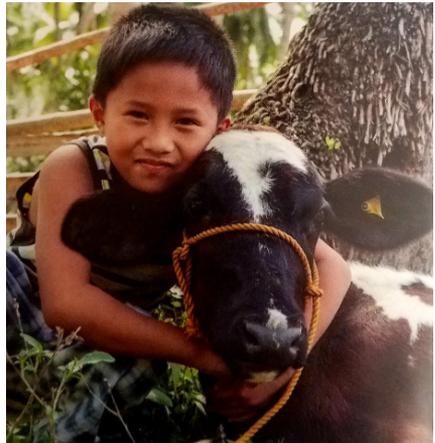
Thank you for your support!

## ***Creating a Christmas Tradition of Giving***

Last year, a thoughtful group of children at First Universalist Parish in Chester, VT wanted to give their church community a way to celebrate Christmas that didn't involve exchanging wrapped gifts. The young boys and girls put together a beautiful Living Gift Market for their fellow parishioners. Instead of a tangible gift, people could purchase flocks of chicks, ducks or geese for their loved ones through Heifer International. These gifts were then sent around the world and reflected the real meaning of Christmas as they gave impoverished families the gift of hope and a path out of poverty.

The children served food and handed out special ornaments they had made to create a festive shopping experience. In the end, they raised more than \$700 for Heifer!

Fellow members of their parish could choose just the right gift for their loved ones, and read stories of how shares of bees, rabbits, goats, or sheep or water buffalo changed the world. Heifer provided the kids with cards they could give to anyone who made a donation of \$10 or more. These cards could be sent by the donors to let their family members know about the remarkable gift they had received.



In the end, everyone left the Market filled with the spirit of generosity and love for their neighbor.

For more information or to donate, please visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Monthly Meeting of the Church Council**  
**Sunday June 9th, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on Sunday June 9th, 2019 at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koeppe, Steve Haase, Chris Christenson, Cindy Cloyed, June Routier and Kathy Stanek. Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koeppe opened with prayer.

Minutes of the May 2019 regular monthly meetings were distributed. Chris motioned to approve with a correction to change an incorrect word from fun to fund. Cindy 2nd. Motion carried - minutes approved

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Steve Haase

- Continue to gather and compile an accurate members list to have better accountability of members and those that need visited, etc. Compiling 3 lists into 1.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Christenson

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

**Board of Trustees:** Steve Haase

- The contractor has ordered the siding and may start construction this month. 1st installment of \$25,000 will be paid.
- The brass plate in the Sanctuary lamp has been fixed.
- 14 Ash trees are dying on the property and will need to be addressed in the future.

**Board of Evangelism:** June Routier

- "Everyone His Witness" begins today during adult bible study.
- Requesting donations of candy for the 4th of July Parade and asking for volunteers to ride the float or walk along side of it.
- Delivering snack to the Drake library ended in May. Discussions with library to resume in fall 2019.

**Board of Education:** Pastor Koeppe

- Vacation Bible School will be June 16, 23 & 30. Theme is Jonah.

**Board of Stewardship:** Cindy Cloyed

- Nothing new at this time.

**Board of Fellowship:** No Report

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Koeppe

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

**Unfinished Business:**

- Reviewing options for a new sign on the side of building after new siding is installed.

**New Business:** None

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

Next Council Meeting: July 14th, 2019 at 8:00 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek  
Secretary

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Monthly Meeting of the Church Council**  
**Sunday July 14, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on Sunday July 14th, 2019 at 8:00 AM. Present: Steve Haase, Ken Mergen, Chris Christinson, Sharon Krumm, Dianna Kelting, Darlo Kelting, Sherry Baker and Kathy Stanek. Steve Haase opened with prayer.

Minutes of the June 9, 2019 regular monthly meetings were distributed. Ken motioned – Darlo 2nd. Motion carried - minutes approved.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Ken Mergen

- Preparing letters to be sent to delinquent members

**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:** Steve and Darlo

- 58 Ash trees have died on Immanuel's property. Received 2 bids for removal of trees and stumps. The city of Grinnell is paying for removal of trees on city property. Darlo will meet with them to discuss if any belong to them. Darlo will also talk with the tree removal service to ask how many trees they will do at a time and if some can be done next spring to distribute the cost.

**Board of Evangelism:** Dianna Kelting

- Had a good turnout for the 4th of July parade. The board thanked all those who helped pass out pens, candy and wash towels. Pastor Koepf's family handed out wash clothes with the verse "Washed in the Blood of Christ." They were a big hit.

**Board of Education:** Sherry Baker

- Had 3 good days of VBS in June
- Donated \$130 to Camp Io-Dis-E-CA's Archery Project
- Preparing for Fall Sunday School

**Board of Stewardship:** Sharon Krumm

- 2nd quarter giving statements prepared and distributed.

**Board of Fellowship:** Not Active.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Koepp

- 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:**

- Siding construction will not start until August

**New Business:**

- New Acolyte robes ordered
- An updated church constitution will be presented to members at the July voter's meeting. Proposed changes to Funeral, marriage, and Use of Facilities.

With no other business to discuss meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: August 11th, 2019 at 8:00 AM.

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek  
Church Council Secretary

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Monthly Meeting of the Church Council**  
**Sunday August 11th, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on Sunday August 11th, 2019 at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Ken Mergen, Chris Christinson, Markie Koepp, Darlo Kelting, Dianna Kelting, Pam Sittig, & Ben Louden.

Joel called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. No June council minutes. They will be submitted for approval at the September council meeting.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Joel McDonough

- Letters mailed to non-active members. If in 3 months there is no response Immanuel will send a certified letter they will be removed as church members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report. Transferred some money from savings to checking to cover bills. Summer giving has been a little light.

**Board of Trustees:** Ben Louden

- Removal of 58 dead Ash trees has begun
- The contractor replacing siding has committed to start August 21, 2019. All materials are in.

**Board of Evangelism:** Dianna Kelting

- Bible study course "Everyone His Witness" was completed and "Witnessing" has started. It teaches how to talk to detached adult church members.

**Board of Education:** Markie Koepp

- Sunday School Rally day is August 25th with Sunday school starting September 8th.
- There is a list on the front table with a list of supplies if members would like to donate. Pencils, tape, birthday box trinkets, etc. As the birthday supply is low the gifts can be homemade craft or a \$5 item.
- Sunday school students will be singing during worship on Popcorn Sunday.

- Sunday school giving will be used to purchase a new tree.
- The Board of Education will be buying 3rd graders bibles. There are 3 students this year and the inscription will include their name and Immanuel Lutheran church

**Board of Stewardship:** Pam Sittig

- Nothing new to report at this time.

**Board of Fellowship:** Not Active

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Koepf

- 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:**

- The copy machine is 12 years old and was 4 to 5 years when it was originally leased. A new one with the same speed is available and can also create booklets. The newer copier is 4 to 5 years old but will have a cost savings of \$500 per year. After discussing to lease or buy, Steve Haase motioned to lease the new copier. Ken Mergen 2nd. Motion Carried
- Steve Haase attended the Synodical Convention with Pastor Beltz. They will be presenting overviews to area churches.

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

Next Council Meeting: September 8, 2019 at 8:00 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek  
Church Council Secretary

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on Sunday September 8, 2019 at 8:00 AM. Present: Steve Haase, Ken Mergen, Chris Christinson, Ben Loudon, Sharon Krumm, Dianna Kelting, Darlo Kelting, Sherry Baker and Kathy Stanek. Steve Haase opened with prayer.

Minutes of the July 2019 regular monthly meetings were distributed. No August Minutes. Chris motioned to approve the July minutes and Darlo 2nd. Motion carried - minutes approved

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Ken Mergen

- Continue to work with delinquent members. Some have asked to be removed from our membership as they have joined an other church.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report. One-third of the tree removal cost has been raised.

**Board of Trustees:** Ben and Kevin

- Contractors have made a good start on the siding
- Most all dead ash trees have been removed and only a few stumps remain.

**Board of Evangelism:** Darlo Kelting for Dianna

- Providing treats twice a month to the Drake Library after school program.

**Board of Education:** Megan Schutt

- Sunday school begins today.
- The board is discussing the use of offerings to buy a new Sunday school curriculum.

**Board of Stewardship:** No Report

- 2nd quarter giving statements prepared and distributed.

**Board of Fellowship:** Not Active.

### **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Koepp

- 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:**

- Darlo checked with city officials about their timeline to fix the water problem on Immanuel's property. The City of Grinnell reported they are working on a date and to be patient.

### **New Business:**

- Ken motioned to approve the \$65 for Markie Koepp to attend the Pastor's wives retreat Nov 1st and 2nd, 2019. Darlo 2nd. Motion carried.
- Board Elections will be held during the voter's assembly in October. Anyone interested should contact a current board member of the church secretary.

Vice President  
2 Trustees  
2 Elders

Treasurer  
1 Board of Stewardship  
1 Board of Evangelism

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

Next Council Meeting: October 13th, 2019 at 8:00 AM.

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek  
Church Council Secretary

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Voters Assembly Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday July 21st, 2019**

The quarterly meeting of the Church Voters was held on Sunday July 21st, 2019. Members Present: Rev. Dr. Joel Koeppe, Joel McDonough, Chris Christinson, Pam Sittig, Danielle McDonough, Tim Sittig, Kevin S. Schultz, Marrina Kaloupek, Diane Schultz, Amber Carnine, Jan Mergen, Ken Mergen, Dianna Kelting, Dewey Murken, Keith N. Thorpe, Richard Huedepohl, Esther Huedepohl, Markie Koeppe, Denise Cadwell, Verne Cadwell, Susan Schoen, June Routier, Pam Haase, Sharon Krumm.

President Joel McDonough called the meeting to order and Pastor Koeppe opened with prayer.

New Voting Members: None

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- Minutes of the April 28th, 2019 quarterly meeting were distributed for review and comment. Motion made by Ken Mergen to approve with a correction to the Evangelism report “Everyone His Witness” not “Everyone Has Witness”. Keith 2nd - Motion carried.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Joel McDonough

- New robes for acolytes have been ordered.
- Continuing to review and update membership lists for current and inactive members.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report.
- 50% of siding payment sent to contractor.

**Board of Trustees:** Kevin Schultz

- 58 Ash trees on Immanuel property have died. Trustee’s received 2 bids and both contractors are bonded. Chris Christinson motioned to accept the lower bid have all trees removed at the same time. Pam Haase 2nd – Motion Carried
- The cost for tree removal will be taken out of savings. Immanuel will present an “Adopt a Tree” program asking members to cover the price of 1 or 2 trees to rebuild the savings account.

- The building fund has slightly over 50% of the total to pay for the siding. A thermometer will be put up to show members how much is in the fund and what is needed to finish the cost. \$25k will be moved from savings to the building fund until monies have been raised to replenish savings. Kevin will reach out to neighbors with adjoining property who also have dead trees and ask if they want to remove their trees the same time as Immanuel.

**Board of Evangelism:** Dianna Kelting

- 4th of July Parade went well with lots of people helping with the float. Pens, candy and washcloths were given out along the route. Pastor Koepp's family attached a printed piece of paper with "Washed in the Blood of Christ" and Immanuel church information on the wash cloths. They were a big hit.
- "Everyone His Witness" bible study is going well

**Board of Education:** Markie Koepp

- VBS went well in June
- Preparing for fall Sunday School classes

**Board of Stewardship:** Sharon Krumm

- 2nd quarter giving statements were prepared and distributed.

**Board of Fellowship:** Not active**Church Secretary:** Amber Carnine

- Thank you to everyone for being patient after her surgery
- Currently working on bulletins, monthly calendar, 2020 serving committees and assisting Pastor Koepp.
- The amount of ushers during Sunday morning worship is decreasing. Asking for more volunteers.
- Updating Immanuel profile "Roster's and Statistics" on-line along with lay leaders membership lists.
- Working with the new church software has been good

**Pastor Koepp's Report:**

- 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 and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Siding construction scheduled to start late July or August

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Copies of the Immanuel constitution were presented to all voting members for review. Marriages, funerals, facility use, additions, redundancies, and typing errors have being updated to be in accordance with District policies and are in red. Those who have questions or concerns can ask a committee member or write an anonymous question and put in the box located in the entryway. All questions will be addressed at the October’s Voter’s meeting before approving or disapproving the changes. Constitution Committee members: Pastor Koepp, Keith Thorpe, Ken Mergen and Steve Haase.

With no other business to discuss Darlo Kelting motioned to adjourn and Ken Mergen 2nd.

Meeting adjourned after reciting “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek  
Council Secretary



**2019 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 Louden

**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

Carol Stone

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)