

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

December 2021 Newsletter



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS

229 11TH AVENUE WEST

GRINNELL, IA 50112

OFFICE- 641-236-6691

EMAIL- immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net

WEBSITE- www.immanuelgrinnell.org

REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL- koeppj@hotmail.com

HOME- 641-260-8394

CELL PHONE- 507-829-3901

ALL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE PAGES

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.

2021 Immanuel Officers/Board Members & Contacts

President: Steve Haase

Vice President/President Elect: Joel McDonough

Secretary: Kathy Stanek

Treasurer: Chris Christinson

Elders: Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, Ken Mergen

Trustees: Kevin Schultz, Ben Loudon, Melissa Mintle

Board of Education: Sherry Baker, Danielle McDonough, Markie Koepp

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe, Pam Sittig, Diane Schultz

Board of Evangelism & Missions: June Routier, Dianna Kelting, Pam Haase

Organists: Esther Huedepohl & Pam Haase

Pianist: Sophia Loudon

Church Secretary: Amber Carnine

Sunday School Opening: Pastor Koepp

LWML Board:

President: Pam Haase

Treasurer: June Routier

Secretary: Pam Haase

Christian Life: Denise Cadwell

Altar Guild:

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)



In this issue...

Pgs 5-8	Pastor's Article
Pgs 9-10	President Saunders Piece for Peace
Pg 11	Christmas Share
Pgs 12-13	LCMS Stewardship Ministry Article
Pg 14	December Confirmation Class Schedule
Pg 15	Midweek Advent Service Schedule
Pgs 16-17	Advent Article ' <i>Stir Up the Power</i> '
Pg 18	Christmas and Special Services Schedule
Pg 19	Live Nativity Invitation from St. John's Lutheran Church, Victor
Pg 20	LWML IED Convention & 80th Anniversary Celebration
Pgs 21-22	October Council Minutes
Pgs 22-23	July Voters Minutes

A Message from our Pastor



Once upon a time, a long time ago, there lived a king who was gifted, wealthy, and wise. The king made music on his harp and sang songs of praise to God. He won battles and conquered his enemies; he had everything you could want and still more. But the king also had a son. Actually, he had several sons, but one son stood out from all the rest. This son was handsome beyond all the young men of the land. From the soles of his feet to the crown of his head there was not as much as a blemish upon him. The hair on his head was full and thick, but the thoughts inside his head were wicked and devious. He murdered his brother. He fled, and his father the king wept over the pain in his family. Yet the king loved his son and in time called for his son to return again to the royal city. The son came home, but his thoughts were more evil than ever. He camped for four years at the gates of the capital and played the politician. He heard the complaints of the people and promised solutions. In time, he won the hearts of the population, and at the end of the four years he revealed his secret plan. “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, ‘Absalom is king at Hebron!’”¹

The message came to his father, David, the king, “The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.”² Then David said to his servants, “Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom.”³ So out of Jerusalem went David and his servants among others who had followed them. After a bit, they came to the Mount of Olives across the valley from the city, and “David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered.”⁴

1 2 Samuel 15:10

2 2 Samuel 15:13

3 2 Samuel 15:14

4 2 Samuel 15:30

Does the story sound familiar? Even if you have forgotten the exact details of Absalom's rebellion against his father David, the story does have a familiar ring to it. It is, after all, also our story. We, like David, experience the brokenness of sin. We see it in the world around us as war and fighting happen between our country and others, fighting and bickering in our own leaders, strife and contention from Wall Street down to the poorest of the land. We see it in our families. There is nothing quite like the Christmas season to make us more aware of the hurts in our own homes. We see it in our lives. Amid the dreams of the "perfect Christmas" is the awareness of our own deep imperfections and of those around us.

Like David, we have wept and tasted the bitterness of our tears. We try to flee in terror from our sin and its consequences. We try to ignore it. We try to stave off death. Sin makes us curve in upon ourselves. We focus on me, me, me, rather than on God and others. Because of our sin, the only thing that we deserve is to be driven out from the presence of God.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the world will offer us, with a vigor that is unique to this season, its answers to our sin. New toys for the young and the old will be dangled before our eyes, each one promising to make us better or happier. However, for all who have experienced the brokenness of sin, who have been driven from comfort by their failures and have cried out to God for deliverance, there is good news: Your King [WAS, IS, WILL BE] Coming! ⁵

Here and here alone we find our comfort and our peace! Zechariah 9:9 proclaims these well-known words, "Behold, your king," the Son of David, "is coming to you." Absalom was not David's only son. Jesus is the Son of David who comes to be the King that none of David's other sons could be. Jesus is the royal Son of David, whose Word is faithfully obeyed.

Jesus comes to the Mount of Olives; from the place where David experienced shame, he comes to the holy city to renew the kingdom of God. In contrast to some other sons of David, Jesus is humble and gentle. Though popular with the crowds, at least some crowds, Jesus does not come to win their favor; rather He will be rejected. He will be driven out of the city, not for His sin, but for the sin of all humanity. He will die, rejected even by the heavenly Father. He will even share the curse of Absalom: "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree." ⁶

⁵ For more on this, see my sermon for Ad Te Levavi, First Sunday in Advent, November 28, 2021

⁶ Galatians 3:13; 2 Samuel 18:9

“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.”⁷ The humble King, the Son of David, your King, the one who rode into Jerusalem in humility comes to you. Through repentance we meet our Savior. In the humble forms of Word, water, bread, and wine, He comes to each and every one of you, personally, individually and corporately, to forgive sins, to give peace, to strengthen faith. How you ask? Through His holy means of grace – His Word and Holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

As our King comes, we join with people long ago and shout our hosannas to the King. By faith, we are joined to the hope of God’s people long ago. Like them, we pray with Isaiah in our Old Testament text, “But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”⁸

The time between American Thanksgiving and New Year’s is a time of parades. Bracketed between the Thanksgiving Day parade and the Rose Bowl parade are all kinds of other processions. Santa will come to the mall and be escorted to his “throne,” if you will. Carolers will patrol the streets, and harried shoppers will process from store to store looking for the right gift. However, the parade that captures our attention is one that happened on a Sunday in Jerusalem long ago. The Son of David returns to the royal city and comes also to us in humility and forgiveness to us comfort the world can never give. “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”⁹

As you prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, and for His coming again in glory, I invite you to read a chapter of Luke each day beginning on December 1. By the time you reach Christmas Eve, you will be reading His ascension and celebrating His birth! What a great way to pray all month together – Savior of the Nations. Come!

⁷ Mark 11:10

⁸ Isaiah 64:8

⁹ Mark 11:10



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001879 Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

The fall of the year is upon us once again. While it is nice to see change in seasons this is one I have always had a bit of a hesitancy celebrating. The switch from green leaves to brown, yellow, and red are beautiful as you scan the horizon of a tree laden field. At the same time these colors last but such a very short time. Soon they suffer from lack of nutrition, break away from the branch, and fall to the ground. After they have littered our yards, they are gathered up into a pile and are either vacuumed up or burnt.

The fall is a term that just can't escape the fall of mankind. The fall from grace has passed its DNA onto every human being throughout history. This means our classrooms, pews, and pulpits are occupied by the fallen. The Old Adam delights in feasting on its own nutrition which has nothing to do with the Word of God. As a result, our faith is starved and our thoughts, words, and deeds act contrary to *the faith*.

As servants of the Church we desire for all God's children to well acquainted with the Word and that their lives would reflect the faith they have been baptized into. That is why we teach and preach. The rate of speed by which our members participate in the fall is ever increasing. It out-paces the time we have with them in instruction and guidance. How frustrating it is when your efforts at leading your hearers into lives of righteousness is hampered by a very active Old Adam.

Those chosen by the Holy Spirit and sent by God to serve the Church are to keep in mind the Old Adam that hampers them as well. It is too easy to get angry with God's people rather than show patience in bringing correction to their attention. Our fallen condition calls for us to return to our baptism daily by repentance seeking absolution. Confession of our weakness and error is the starting point for us to address the malady in the lives of our students and parishioners.

Being absolved better prepares us to be aware of what it is we do that gets in the way of reaching those who need to hear us. In confession we become aware of the fact what we see in our membership is also seen in us. In absolution we are strengthened in faith that leads us to address our members in a manner by which we are heard and understood. The kindness and mercy the Lord of the Church shows us flows through our ministry to those we shepherd.

What we are given to do is of the utmost importance. It has eternal benefits. The Word that causes this and sustains these benefits is completely capable of accomplishing what it promises. I guess what I am saying is this—trust and use the Word in all its truth and purity.

**“Rejoice, my friends,
that we are given the
means to care for God’s church.”**

Let it address the lives of God’s children and don’t get in the way of it. The ministry is not about us, it is about Christ and His gifts. Make no mistake, sin is to be called to repentance. The Word does that. It is the same Word that forgives sin, strengthens faith in Christ, and desires the life of the New Man.

In the fall of this year my encouragement is to shepherd your sheep and teach your students with the approach that lets the Word of God stand out in front. Keep our disappointments and frustrations under wraps and see those we tend with the same eyes Jesus sees us with. God has sent us to our vocations to feed His sheep. They belong to Him and we have the honor of protecting them from the Evil One. Jesus defeated the Devil and conquered death. We live in the Living One with a constant supply of the holy gifts that lift us from the dust of the earth to the joys of heaven. Rejoice, my friends, that we are given the means to care for God’s Church, as we do we set ourselves beneath the Word that stands out front.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President



2021 Christmas Share

From the Board of Evangelism & Missions

Immanuel Lutheran will be supporting the Grinnell Christmas Share for December 2021.

We will be supporting a family of five; two adults and three children.

Pick out one of the colored tags on the tree in the entrance...wrap the gift and return to Immanuel with the colored tag and the gift will be put under the tree. Gifts need to be the size indicated but colors can vary. Some gifts may require more than one family purchasing.

Your gift needs to be at church by December 5th by noon. Someone from the Board of Evangelism will deliver all the packages to the Grinnell Christmas Share.

No gift cards will be accepted.

If you have any questions, please see June Routier, Pam Haase or Dianna Kelting. Also, let them know that you have brought your gift for tracking purposes.

THANK YOU!



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when in-dulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (*Seneca, Consolation to His Mother Helvia, 11.3*).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them" (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. “No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, “If I just had this much then I would be happy.”

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician’s diagnosis and a physician’s remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.



In essence, He says, “Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!” And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? “By no means!” St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God’s great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God’s gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship

CONFIRMATION 2021

Schedule

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

December 1 *shortened class time 4:00-5:00pm

Confession: What is the Office of the Keys? AND Christmas Program Pieces

December 8 *shortened class time 4:00-5:00pm

Christmas Program Pieces

December 15 *shortened class time 4:00-5:00pm

Confession: Where is this written? What do you believe according to these words?

December 22

NO CLASS

December 29

NO CLASS

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

December 1 *shortened class time 5:00-6:00pm

Baptism: 1st Part

December 8 *shortened class time 5:00-6:00pm

Baptism: 2nd Part

December 15 *shortened class time 5:00-6:00pm

Baptism: 3rd and 4th Parts

December 22

NO CLASS

December 29

NO CLASS

A photograph of four lit purple candles arranged in a circle, surrounded by greenery and white flowers. The word "Advent" is written in a large, black, cursive font over the center of the image.

Advent

MID-WEEK EVENING PRAYER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 1 — 6:30pm

Stir Up the Power of Hope

Wednesday, December 8 — 6:30pm

Stir Up the Power of Preparation

Wednesday, December 15 — 6:30pm

Stir Up the Power of Love

Wednesday, December 22 — 6:30pm

Stir Up the Power of Joy

A meal will be served before each service from 5:15pm—6:15pm

Advent Write-up 2021

Stir Up the Power

As I get older, I find myself doing this more and more – prayer. In the services of the church, one comes across the word *collect*. But what is a collect? When asked, some may think, “Well, I guess it’s the collection. You know, when they take up the money.” This sounds like a reasonable answer, but if the collect is the collection, what’s the offering?

So, what is a collect? The short answer is a prayer. Each Sunday of the Church Year has at least one special collect that somehow relates to the season. But there are also collects to be said after Holy Communion. And there are collects for worship orders other than the Divine Service. There are collects for celebrations and special needs. The origin of this class of church prayers we can trace back to the apostolic age. They are mentioned by both Tertullian (155 – 240 AD) and Justin Martyr (b. 100 AD). We are not exactly sure from where the name itself comes, but there are several theories. One argues the collect is a prayer of the gathered assembly. Another argues the collect is a summary or collecting together of the petitions of those assembled. Another theory posits it is a collection of the various themes that will be found in the readings, thus tying the readings together and preparing the hearers for what they should be listening for the readings that will follow. This is the theory that is practiced in the Lutheran Church. The Collect of the Day collects the themes of the readings, while the Prayer of the Church collects the petitions of the church (and those assembled).

Collects are an important function in the gathering of God’s saints. As you may have noticed, the Collect of the Day is surrounded by two important features. First, the Pastor singing/speaking, “Let us Pray.” In this single act, the pastor is acting in his role as intercessor for the congregation. He stands in the Office of Christ, bringing the petitions of the people, on their behalf, to God’s gracious throne. Second, the people respond with, “Amen.” This word, which means, “Yes, let it be so,” is the acknowledgement by the people, and a confirmation that this indeed is their prayer.

The structure of The Collect of the Day is also important. It follows a general pattern that can instruct us in our own prayers. Typically it includes five parts: Address (O God...); Rationale (because...); Petition (grant that/help us/may we...); Benefit (so that...); and Doxology (through Jesus Christ... (If the Son is mentioned in the collect, it ends with “through the same...” If we are making a petition to Jesus, the collect would end with “in Your name...”

When The Collect of the Day is chanted, the various parts are marked by different tones. The address and rationale, praise and thanksgiving, are given on the same tone, then a lower tone is used for the petition and benefit. In this way, a musical contrast of joy/humility helps the hearer to demarcate the various parts of the prayer. Another practice is to have a moving sets of notes at the end of each section, marking when one ends and the other begins. In either case, it is simply meant to be a guide in helping us proclaim, teach, and commit the words to memory.

Why sing? Why all the chanting? Chanting is recitative singing, which occupies a point halfway between genuine speech and genuine singing, and is and should be nothing other than a loftier, solemn elevation of the tone and way of speaking by giving the important word greater resonance. Luther said, “next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in this world.” What does the Bible have to say? The word “sing” occurs more than 150 times in the Bible.

The posture taken in the Collect is also important. Take notice of when the pastor is facing which direction. When he faces the altar, he is speaking on the people’s behalf to God. When he faces the people, he is speaking on behalf of God to the people. As the pastor prays the Collect of the Day on behalf of the people, it is most proper for the pastor to be facing the altar. In a beautiful confessional act, the pastor brings before God the requests of His people, then will turn and speak the Word of God (His response) back to His people through the reading of His Holy Word.

The Collects of the Day for the Sundays in Advent take on a particular theme – Stir Up. These Stir-Up prayers will be the focus of our Advent meditations this year. We will be strengthened through these collects as we meditate on the Stirring Up of Hope, Preparation, Love, and Joy.



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19 — 10:30am (after the Divine Service)

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24 — 4:00pm

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day Service

Saturday, December 25 — 9:00am

First Sunday of Christmas Service of Prayer & Preaching

Sunday, December 26 — 9:00am

New Year's Eve Service

Friday, December 31 — 4:00pm

LIVE NATIVITY
HOSTED BY
St. John's Lutheran Church
2656 CC Ave. Victor, Iowa

A DRIVE THROUGH LIVE NATIVITY
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
DECEMBER 11 & 12, 2021
4:30 – 7:30 PM



YOU ARE WELCOME TO WALK THROUGH
THE CHURCH AS WELL!

CRUISE into the 2022 LWML IED Convention and 80th Anniversary Celebration!



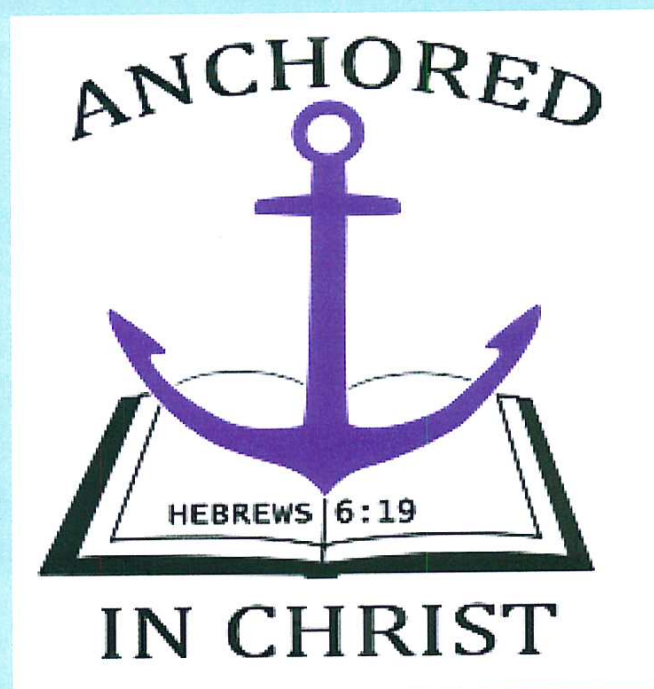
June 10 and 11, 2022

Hilton Garden Inn, Cedar Falls

Proclaimer Reverend Brian
Saunders, District President

Banquet Speaker Cari Chittick,
Associate professor of Education,
Concordia University, Irvine,
California

Mites Challenge: Fishin' for
Missions



**We have this hope as an anchor
for the soul, firm and secure. Heb 6:19**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, October 10th, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on October 19th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Chris Christinson, Kevin Schultz, Diane Schultz, Sherri Baker, Keith Thorpe, and Dianna Kelting. President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. Minutes from the September council meeting will be presented at the November meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Steve Haase

- Susan Voss funeral will be scheduled later this week.
- Pastor Brandt will lead Divine Worship service on 10-17-21 with Sacrament.
- Joel McDonough will conduct the Voter's meeting as President Steve Haase will be out of town.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written reports attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.
- The money for repairs from Derecho is in the bank.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- The Parking lot is scheduled to be sealed.
- Church lawn will be sprayed and treated this fall.
- The equipment has arrived to repair the siding and fascia covers after damage from Derecho.

Board of Evangelism: Dianna Kelting

- Drake Library/Immanuel is not resuming their treats for after school kids due to very little attendance and a mask mandate. The program will be reviewed again after Christmas.
- The board is planning a soup supper (get-together) November 17th.

Board of Education: Sherri Baker

- 2 new Sunday school students have joined classes
- Beginning preparations and assigning parts for the Christmas program.

Board of Stewardship: Diane Schultz

- Envelopes for 2022 arrived and will be distributed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

- Pastor's report provided listing official acts and Pastoral Duties including.
- Windsor Manor is not allowing visitors due to Covid.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Ken motioned for the church to cover the cost for Immanuel confirmands to attend the Confirmation Retreat at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Darlo 2nd. Motion carried.
- Asking Immanuel members to consider becoming a nominee and join the Board of Officers for 2022. A slate of candidates will be posted the 1st week in October with elections held October 17th, 2021.

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

Voters Meeting: October 17th, 2021 - 10:30 AM
Next Council Meeting: November 14th, 2021 - 8:00 AM

Submitted by:
Dianna Kelting

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Voters Assembly Meeting Minutes
Sunday, July 18th, 2021**

The quarterly meeting of the Church Voters was held on Sunday, July 18th, 2021.
Members Present: Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp, Steve Haase, Kathy Stanek, Richard Huedepohl, Esther Huedepohl, Tim Sittig, Keven S. Schultz, Diane L Schultz, Pam Sittig, Jan Mergan, Ken Mergan, Marrina Kaloupek, June Routier, Pam Haase, Ruth Honold, Marvin Honold, Verne L Cadwell, Keith N. Thorpe, Helen Thorpe, Tammy Smith, Marvin Stone, Carol Stone, and Denise Cadwell.

Pastor Koepp opened with prayer and President Steve Haase called the meeting to order.
New Voting Members: None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- Minutes of the April 18th, 2021 quarterly meeting were distributed for review and comment. Ken Mergan motioned to approve the April minutes – Helen Thorpe 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Ken Mergan

- Business as usual – Nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Haase for Chris Christinson.

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

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Currently requesting quotes for a one-time lawn spraying to clear clover and dandelions.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- The "Welcome Back "Picnic was a big success
- Passed out flowers for Mother's Day
- Passed out crosses for Father's Day
- The 4th of July float was a lot of fun
- Continue to give welcome baskets to visitors

Board of Education: Pastor Koepp for the Board

- VBS starts tomorrow June 19th
- The Sunday School curriculum is being updated.
- Currently there are no teachers signed up to teach for the Fall 2021 – Spring 2022 season. Students are combined into 2 classes so if anyone is eligible to teach, please contact a board member. Even if you can only teach 1 month, 1 week a month, etc.

Board of Stewardship: Pam Sitting

- The congregation has been faithful in their giving.

Pastor Koepp's Report:

- Continue to post worship services on-line via the internet, Facebook, and Spotify,
- 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.
- Windsor Manor is only allowing him and the pianist at this time for their resident worship service.
- Pastor spent a week at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as the resident Pastor. He especially enjoyed the daily "Ask the Pastor" where kids could ask anything they wanted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Richard Huedepohl thanked the Elders for all the effort and time working on the membership list.
- Steve provided a list of the 42 names that have been reached out to multiple times by the Elders asking if they would like to come back to the church or if they would like their names removed from the membership list. None of the people on this list have responded in 3 years. The next step from Immanuel is to remove them from the membership list as "Self-Exclusion"
- Pastor explained that "Self-Exclusion" means to remove them from being a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church but would always welcome them back if they chose to.
- President Steve Haase entertained a motion to remove the names listed for self-exclusion. Helen Thorpe motioned to remove the names listed from Immanuel's Membership

List for self-exclusion.

Tom Carstensen	Shannon Fitzgerald	Bryn Ford	Cary Ford
Richard Cory Ford	Bubby Greene	Sara Greene	Amber Heishman
Janae Hillier	Jason Krumm	Matthew Nagel	Mariah Reed
Aaron Schultz	Alec Schultz	Alexi Schultz	Brian Schultz
Valerie Schultz	Derrick Sears	Devin Sears	Evin Sears
Jacie Snow	Bonnie Thompson	Michael Welcher	Cara York
Christine Carstensen	Clinton Hagedorn	Dennis Hagedorn	Patrick Harms
Eric Heimsoth	Sara Heimsoth	William Nagel	Kiara Petersen
Travis Puls	Tyler Puls	Hannah Smith	Matthew Smith
Nathan Smith	Nic Smith	Samantha Smith	Jenna Tanner
Lydia Tanner			

Marvin Honold 2nd. Motion carried

- Elections for officers will be held at the October 17th voter's meeting. During the next 2 months you are asked to prayerfully consider saying yes to become an officer of continue the position you are currently in.

With no other business to discuss President Steve Haase adjourned the meeting and Pastor Koepp closed with prayer. Next Voters Meeting: October 17th, 2021 @ 10:30 AM.

Submitted by: Kathy Stanek