

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 Eleventh Avenue West
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

June 2021 Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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LET US KNOW...

If you have a change of address, have a loved one ill 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.

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Office: 641-236-6691

Pastor's Email: koeppj@hotmail.com

Pastor's Cell: 507-829-3901

All services are live streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages:

(search for Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp)

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelGrinnell/>

<https://www.youtube.com>

Where

To

Find

Us

Podcast Links

(search for Immanuel Grinnell)

Anchor: <https://anchor.fm/ImmanuelGrinnell>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com>

Google: <https://www.google.com/podcasts>

Pocketcast: <https://pca.st/jkhh18k8>

RadioPublic: <https://radiopublic.com>

Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com>

All links are available on our Church Website:

www.immanuelgrinnell.org



From the Pastor

“Who Has the Harder Task?”

This time of year in the Church is often filled with many thoughts of Ordinations and Installations. Many pastors and congregations are reminded of the vows made by both pastors and congregations, not only to God, but also to each other. After hearing many Bible verses that expound on the Office of the Holy Ministry, the Pastor is questioned:

P Dear brother in Christ, the Lord grant that you receive and keep these words in your heart so that you may be strengthened and encouraged in your labors. God gathers His Church by and around His Holy Gospel and thereby also grants it growth and increase according to His good pleasure. That this may be done, He has established the Office of the Holy Ministry into which you have been called by the Church and are now to be ordained and consecrated by prayer and the laying on of hands.

In the presence of this congregation and before our Lord God to whom you must give an account now and at the Last Day, I now ask you:

Do you acknowledge that the Lord has called you through His Church into the ministry of Word and Sacrament?

R *I do.*

P Do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

R *Yes, I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.*

P Do you believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

R *Yes, I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds because they are in accord with the Word of God. I also reject all the errors they condemn.*

P Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord—as these are contained in the Book of Concord—are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?

R *Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.*

P Do you promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all your preaching and teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy Scripture and with these Confessions?

R *Yes, I promise, with the help of God.*

P Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian doctrine, will you forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you? Will you minister faithfully to the sick and dying, and will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready ministry centered in the Gospel? Will you admonish and encourage the people to a lively confidence in Christ and in holy living?

R *Yes, I will, with the help of God.*

P Finally, will you honor and adorn the Office of the Holy Ministry with a holy life? Will you be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture and the Confessions? And will you be constant in prayer for those under your pastoral care?

R *I will, the Lord helping me through the power and grace of His Holy Spirit.*

After these promises by the Pastor, the questions now turn to the Congregation:

P Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture says, “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Will you, the faithful, according to the Church’s public confession, and speaking for the whole Church, receive *[name]* as a servant of Christ and minister of Word and Sacrament? If so, then answer: We will.

C **We will.**

P Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, *[name]* has been called to be (a) pastor of *[name of congregation(s)]*. I ask you now, in the presence of God: Will you receive him, show him that love, honor, and obedience in the Lord that you owe to the shepherd and teacher placed over you by your Lord Jesus Christ, and will you support him by your gifts and fervent prayer? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God.

C **We will, with the help of God.**

P Will you honor and uphold your pastor as he serves Christ in all his God-pleasing responsibilities? Will you aid him as he cares for his family? Will you be diligent to “put the best construction on everything,” recognizing that “love covers a multitude of sins”? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God.

C **We will, with the help of God.**

So who has the more difficult task? The Augsburg Confession rightly summarizes and confesses these two wonderful complementary realities. *First, "It is also taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us."*¹

Second, *"To obtain such faith God instituted the office of the ministry, that is, provided the Gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit, who works faith, when and where he pleases, in those who hear the Gospel. And the Gospel teaches that we have a gracious God, not by our own merits but by the merit of Christ, when we believe this."*²

When you truly sit down and reflect on these truths, I don't know who has the harder task. Pastors are charged with the task of preaching Christ crucified, which is a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles. It is a message that goes against reason. For us Americans, we place a high value on education, reason, disputing, debating, thought, logic, and feelings. Our sinful nature wants nothing to do with God. It enjoys the flesh too much. It would rather make its own God. It is much easier to serve a God of my own design. I can do what I want, when I want, with no repercussions. I can dictate right and wrong, and because it is my choice, I can determine when I have been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake. I can build myself up in my own image, and then approach God with my own justification, my own feeling of being good, right, and salutary.

This is how the sinful nature lives, and pastors stand in the Office of the Ministry which is to be solely concerned with preaching Christ and Him crucified. A very simple and basic question arises at this point, "If I can justify myself, if I can determine right and wrong, then why was Christ crucified?" Here is where the task is hard. Pastors are to preach the reality of sin and grace, law and gospel to God's people. They are to proclaim a message to sinful people, whom, because of sin, don't want to hear it. They stand in the Office that distributes God's gifts to men; the Office that teaches, proclaims, offers and gives the foolishness of God that is wiser than men, and the weakness of God that is stronger than men.

As I said before, I don't know who has the harder task. Congregations see before them a sinful man. While this man stands in the Office of the Ministry, he still remains just a man. It will be easy to see his faults. It will be really easy to see his sins. He will stand with you and confess to be a poor, miserable sinner, one who is by nature sinful and unclean. He will fail many times. He will not always love God with his whole mind, heart, soul, and strength. He certainly will not always love his neighbor as much as he loves himself. He will need the same forgiveness, the same Jesus, the same gifts of God, as you.

1 Augsburg Confession IV

2 Augsburg Confession V

You will see him as a man, and God calls you to look past the messenger, to the gifts themselves. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Jesus is the One who laid down His life for you, His sheep. There are times when you will want to see pastors as hired hands who care nothing for the sheep. As God's children, we walk by faith and not by sight. Faith will show you that while, your pastor is a pitiful sinner, and he stands in good company. Christ died for sinners, and the Office in which your Pastor stands gives Jesus through the very means that God Himself has established. While your pastor is a sinner, God has placed him here as one who is charged with preaching the word and administering the sacraments. He is one who dispenses not his own gifts, but cares for Christ's sheep and dispenses the very gifts of God.

So each of you, Pastor and people, have difficult tasks. I am not going to put any Vegas odds on which one is more difficult. I'm sure the brother pastors have an opinion on this matter, and I would guess that it would differ from many sitting in the pews. We are all tasked with various vocations, and just what is the point of all of this?

The point is very clear, ***“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned...A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”***³

This Word of God stands forever, and while your work of serving and loving each other is hard, you need to hear that this is not your work! The creed gives these humbling facts. God is the one who created everything. I didn't do it. You didn't do it. It is God who determines right and wrong, and by His standards, we don't even come close to perfect.

“It is taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake.”⁴ Jesus Christ, true God and true man, “has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own.”

God has not only created and redeemed, but it is He who makes holy. *“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.”*

³ Isaiah 40:1-2, 6-8

⁴ AC IV

So that we may never doubt that He is here. He has promised that where two or three are gathered together in His name, He is in their midst. He has attached His very word to water, giving the baptized a lavish washing away of sin. There is no doubt that the one who is baptized is redeemed. The victory of Christ's death is given to the person as they are washed in the blood of the Lamb. As you are baptized into His death, you are given His life. It is here where the work of both pastor and people, preacher and hearers, becomes infinitely easier.

*“Comfort, comfort ye My people, ‘Speak ye peace,’ thus saith our God; ‘Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.”*⁵ The greatest challenge for us sinners, Pastor and people alike, is to place too much hope, trust, and comfort in ourselves. The devil, the world, and our sinful nature deceive us, and mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice.

For this very reason, for our comfort and strength, not only did God give us His Word, preaching and absolution, not only did He attach His word of promise and comfort to water for us in baptism, He joins His word to bread and wine and we feast with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven. Here at the altar, we feast for our forgiveness, for our life, for our strength. Here the Gospel is given to the faithful. Here you receive comfort. Here you receive double for your sins. God takes your sin, your guilt, your iniquity and gives you double back, as He gives you His body and His blood.

As we live in the valley of the shadow of death, as the grass withers, and the flower fades, here we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Here the victory of the cross and the triumph over the grave is poured into your mouth. When we begin to think too highly of ourselves and our work, we only have to crawl to this altar, and here, we are reminded of Christ crucified for us. Here we are reminded of the God, whose work is for us. Here we are reminded of and given the very body of the Good shepherd who laid down His life for us sheep. Yes, ***“The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”***⁶ Amen.

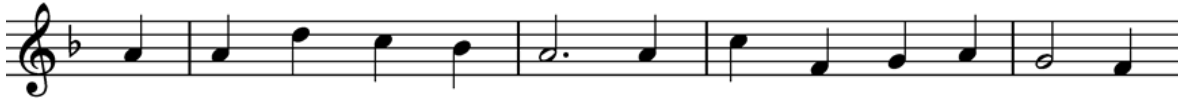
I urge you to join me this month in praying for both pastors and people alike, by singing together TLH 485 Lord Jesus, Who Art Come:

⁵ LSB 347:1

⁶ 1 Corinthians 1:18



1 Lord Je - sus, who art come A Teach - er sent from heav - en
2 Thou hast, O Lord, re - turned, To God's right hand as - cend - ing;
3 O bless - ed min - is - try Of rec - on - cil - i - a - tion,
4 Pre - serve this min - is - try While har - vest - days are keep - ing;



5 The servants Thou hast called
And to Thy Church art giving
Preserve in doctrine pure
And holiness of living.
Thy Spirit fill their hearts,
Endue their tongues with pow'r;
What they should boldly speak,
Oh, give them in that hour!

6 Yea, bless Thy Word alway,
 Our souls forever feeding;
 And may we never lack
 A faithful shepherd's leading!
 Seek Thou the wand'ring sheep,
 Bind up the sore opprest,
 Lift up the fallen ones,
 And grant the weary rest.

7 Bring those into Thy fold
Who still to Thee are strangers;
Guard those who are within
Against offense and dangers.
Press onward with Thy Word
Till pastor and his fold
Through faith in Thee, O Christ,
Thy glory shall behold.

Text and tune and tune: Public domain

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Ok, let's address the looming cloud that has blown our way from Washington D.C. which threatens our Church, congregations, and schools as well as rostered workers. I speak of the "Equality Act" that is being discussed in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. President Harrison and Dr. Greg Seltz have already written a letter to the Synod concerning this issue. Both men display strong biblical knowledge and a keen awareness of the potential consequences to the Church should this act pass into law. If you have not read these two letters I urge you to do so.

Both letters offer concise evaluation of the Act as well as very pious suggestions as to what we can do about these pending dangers. They offer two very sound pieces of advice. First, the best we can do at this point is to pray for our leaders and pray that God's wisdom would shine upon them and that their minds as well as actions would reflect the will of our Lord. The other action we can take is to contact our legislators we have elected to office for the purpose of leading this nation in honesty, fairness, and justice.

Taking into account the very serious and dangerous consequences for the Church should this Act become law, I want to address what we as the Church will do. In short, we will continue to do what we have been doing. We will remain faithful to what we vowed and confessed is the holy Truth of God. The theology of the Written Word directs our actions and oversees our practice. To acquiesce to the threats of punishment for preaching and teaching the Word of God is far more dangerous to the soul than any threats to the body. The Church is the Body of Christ and She has only one mouth. She cannot say anything different than what the Holy Spirit has already recorded through the Apostles and the Prophets.

I think of the Reformers of the 16th century who were persecuted by those who were placed in office to protect their rights. When those rights were taken away the Lutheran Fathers gathered together to put together a comprehensive publication of the correct exhibition of Scripture. It is called the Book of Concord. In the preface to the Book of Concord, page 12, they said:

"As indicated above, our disposition and intention has always been directed toward the goal that no other doctrine be treated and taught in our lands, territories, schools, and churches than that alone which is based on the Holy Scriptures of God and is embodied in the Augsburg Confession and its Apology, correctly understood, and that no doctrine be permitted entrance which is contrary to these."

We will not shrink back from our confession nor will we adopt practices ordered by the Government that are in direct opposition to the Word of God. Might this mean persecution? No doubt. The Church ought to expect persecution. Satan never rests and is beguiling enough to know when to strike against the Church. It seems as though now is one of his efforts. Here is the point: Satan does not win. He has already been defeated. Even if we should be threatened with death the Christian does not bow down to this. Are we not victors over sin and death? Have we not been baptized into the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ? What can death do to us but only serve as the portal to eternal bliss. Not that we look to hasten this but we will not be threatened away from or out of faith in Jesus Christ alone.

History has shown us that in times of persecution the Church has been purified and grown. In a sermon preached on Matthew 22:15-22 Luther once said, "In fact, the more the wisdom of the world rises up against the truth, the purer and clearer the truth becomes." In another sermon preached on Matthew 2:13-23 Luther

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

proclaimed, "When they shed innocent blood, this blood of the Christian is to act as a fertilizer on the field, making it rich and productive. For through persecution Christendom grows; conversely, Christians become lazy and lax when condition are peaceful and quiet."

These are words from a true servant of the Word. A man who went through various persecutions from the state and from the Roman Church. He spoke truth then and it stands as truth today. We fear nothing from the world when it spews forth Satanic directions. Our ears have been addressed by the Living Lord Himself. To Him we cling and with Him we survive this world with the sure and certain hope of everlasting life.

I pray each day that greater wisdom rest on the hearts and minds of those voting on the "Equality Act." I also pray, no matter the outcome, we remain faithful to the only power, strength, and truth we have. In Christ we have a Savior who has overcome all threats and persecutions. Read Acts 5:17-42 again. The Apostles rejoiced when persecuted since that meant they were considered worthy to suffer for He who suffered for them. In Him, we shall overcome as well.

God grant you all peace and joy.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Each of you should use
whatever **gift**
you have received
to *serve others.*
as faithful stewards
of God's grace
in its various forms.

- 1 Peter 4:10

As was decided at the last Voter's Meeting, the elders discussed beginning ushers, servers, and greeters.

We will begin these roles in July.

If you are not wanting to be on these lists, please let the office know by June 1. This will give time for lists to be compiled and published before July 1.

The elders have also discussed the duties of ushers, and beginning July 1, the ushers will have new duties. It will be mostly be back to normal, except we will not have ushers during communion, nor will we use ushers to collect the offering; the offering plate will remain in the back. The ushers will be responsible for hymn boards, greeting at the sanctuary doors, distributing bulletins and ushering out after church.

Thank you for your patience as we have walked together through this past year.



**There have been several scam attempts,
both texting and phone calls, mimicking Pastor
and/or Immanuel Lutheran Church.**

**We have had reports of people using my name
to request gift cards, addresses,
phone numbers and other personal information.
If the number doesn't look familiar, please do not respond.**

**It is always good to double-check.
Instead of calling/texting the number back,
call the church or Pastor at home/cell phone.
Please talk to me and don't leave any
personal information over a message.**

Pastor Koepp

Save the Date!

Fellowship, food & fun

CHURCH

Picnic



Hebrews 10:24-25 says,

“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

To this end, the Board of Evangelism will be hosting
a Church Picnic for the family of Immanuel Lutheran Church
on **June 6th** after the Divine Service.

You do not have to bring anything but your appetites, as all will be
provided and served by the Board of Evangelism.

If you enjoy Good Food, good conversation, hamburgers, hot dogs,
sides and fixins, please plan to come for the Divine Service at 9:00
to be fed spiritually, and stay to be fed physically.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – June 2021

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

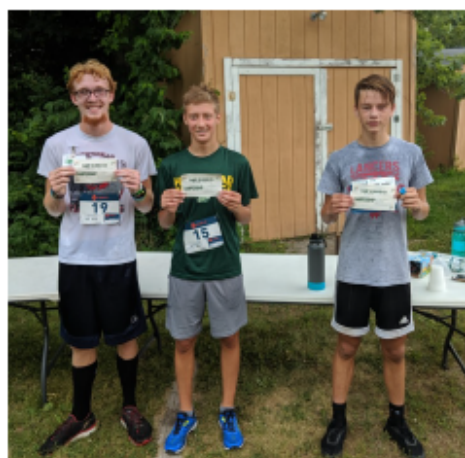
Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



Support Needed Fundraiser Auction & Camp Scholarships

Summer is happening, and that is great news for our campers and their families! We've already noticed how much being out at Camp for retreats and outdoor education how much campers miss being outdoors having that extra bit of fun and learning. We need your help as we get back to doing what only we do best at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. The first is that we are ahead of this year's goal for summer campers, and that is great news indeed! On the flip side, that means we are currently up to \$3,000 short of a fully funded Camp Scholarship fund. Campers and their families depend on financial support so that they can have the extra bit of Christian fun and learning that they have been missing over the course of the pandemic.

We are also happy to announce that our Fundraiser Auction will be held on Saturday, July 31! This is always a special day where friends of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca are able to come and celebrate the completion of another summer of sharing Christ with our campers and guests. As always, we need donations such as quilts, crafts, and other unique items to auction off for the benefit of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, and we'll also need bidders! Earlier that day we are also hoping to have our 1-mile and 5K runs, where the top three placers in each race win camp scholarships towards next year's camps.

We are very excited about this summer and all the joy that comes with our mission of providing Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration for all of our campers and guests.



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org

Camp Presentations

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



THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2020, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received nearly \$9,009 in Thrivent Choice contributions! Thank you donors for making this program a success for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Will you help make 2021 an even better year in Thrivent Choice giving?

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

Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Needs List

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

Important Dates

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, these retreats are subject to change, postpone, or cancel.

June 16

First Day of Summer Camp

July 31

I Believe in Camp

FUNDRAISER AUCTION

August 3-6

Higher Things Confirmation Camp

September 10-11

LWML Fall Retreat

October 3-4

IDE Fall Pastors' Conference

October 8-9

IDE Fall Confirmation Retreat

2021 Camp Summer Staff

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is looking for college-aged young adults to make a difference in the lives of children. We still need fill out our staff with a few more counselors and support staff. The opportunity to serve at a camp awaits. Go to www.nloma.org to start your summer service profile today!

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca also needs Junior Counselors (JC's) to assist the summer program. Applicants should be at least 15 years old. JCs spend the week with a cabin group enjoying the many camp activities and serving as a positive role model and motivator for younger campers while helping the cabin counselors supervise younger campers. It's a great experience for only \$100 per week. Please contact Camp Director, Daniel Sanchez by emailing director@iodiseca.org for more information or to receive an application.



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

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web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org

Jesus said to His disciples, ***“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*** (Mark 16:15-16) Paul wrote to Timothy, ***“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”*** (1 Tim. 4:16)

In effort to preach the Gospel to the members of Immanuel, the Pastor and elder’s are tasked with keeping close watch on both the teaching and its hearers. There are several members of Immanuel for whom we have either no contact information, or not the correct contact information. If you do, we are asking you to pass it along to either Pastor or the Board of Elders (Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, and Ken Mergen), so that we can, ***“consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”*** (Hebrew 10:24-25)

***If we have no contact information for these members by the Voter’s Meeting in July, their names will be brought forward for self-exclusion.**

- Michael Cadwell
- Christine Carstensen
- Clinton Hagedorn
- Dennis Hagedorn
- Patrick Harms
- Eric Heimsoth
- Sara Heimsoth
- William Nagel
- Kiara Petersen
- Travis Puls
- Tyler Puls
- Alicia Routier
- April Routier
- Tyler Routier
- Hannah Smith
- Matthew Smith
- Nathan Smith
- Samantha Smith
- Jenna Tanner
- Lydia Tanner

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Voters' Assembly Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 17th, 2021

The quarterly meeting of the Church Voters was held on Sunday January 17th, 2021. Members Present: Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp, Steve Haase, Kathy Stanek, Dewey Murken, Chris Christinson, Richard Huedepohl, Esther Huedepohl, Marrina Kaloupek, Susan Ford, Jan Mergen, Ken Mergen, Kevin S. Schultz, Diane L. Schultz, Marvin Honold, Ruth Honold, Joel McDonough, Keith N. Thorpe, Helen Thorpe, Tammy Smith, June Routier, Tim Sittig, Terry M. Stanek, Amber Carnine, Diane Carnine, Pam Haase and Markie Koepp.

President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor opened with prayer.

New Voting Members: None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- Minutes of the October 18th, 2020 quarterly meeting were distributed for review and comment. Helen Thorpe motioned to approve the July minutes – Tammy Smith 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

- Information will be sent out soon regarding Lenten serves.
- Everything is smooth with no major concerns.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Expecting a date from contractor when damage to siding from Derecho will be repaired.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- The board finalized the missions Immanuel will support in 2021. They will be much the same as 2020.
- Discussing a cookout at the church in April or May.
- Hoping there will be a 4th of July parade.

Board of Education: Markie Koepp

- The Christmas program in December went very well and the kids liked staying on the stage without moving up and down from the pews.
- The Sunday school program has been scheduled and prepared through spring.

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe

- 2021 yearly giving statements have been distributed.

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.
- Official Acts include 4 Baptisms, 2 Rite of First Communion and Confirmation, and 1 Profession of Faith.
- 2020 Summary and copies of Immanuel's constitution sent to the district.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report.
- Financially the church is in excellent standing.
- The 2021 budget was presented for review and discussion. Ken Mergen motioned to approve the 2021 budget and Joel McDonough 2nd. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Susan Ford motioned to approve Joel McDonough as Immanuel's Delegate for the 2021 District Convention with Steve Haase as the alternate. Diane Schultz 2nd. Motion carried.
- Presidents of the LCMS are recommending moving the Synodical convention from 2022 to 2023. This will allow districts who could not meet due to restrictions from Covid-19 to reschedule. Those currently in an office will hold their positions for another year. If congregations vote no, the Synod will not be allowed to take care of all certain business requirements. One-fourth of congregations in the district must vote yes to move forward with this proposal. Steve Haase entertained a motion be made to vote yes and move the Synodical Convention out for 1 year. Helen Thorpe motioned and Marvin Honold 2nd. Motion carried.
- Anyone interested in becoming a nominee for the LCMS Convention please contact Steve Haase or Pastor Koepp before April's voter meeting.
- Pastor Koepp submitted a request allowing him to attend a program at the St. Louis Seminary to receive his academic/practical Ph.D. in Homiletics (preaching). With the big changes churches are facing over the next 10 to 20 years we should want to consider following:
 1. Adding a Ph.D. in academics opens the opportunity to teach college courses. If Immanuel and another church ever combined we would be ready with a teacher in place and a pastor to support both churches.
 2. The class schedule includes traveling to St. Louis for 2 weeks in January and 2 weeks in June 2022. All other classes/work would be done at Immanuel.
 3. Pastor Koepp is only asking for some of his time to be freed up to complete this program.
 4. Tuition will be covered by academic grants.

Helen Thorpe motioned to approve Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp pursuing an academic/practical PH.D through the St. Louis Seminary starting in January 2022. Pam Haase 2nd. Motion carried.

- The 2020 audit will be completed by Helen Thorpe, Pam Haase, and Daniel McDonough.

With no other business to discuss meeting was adjourned by singing the Doxology.

Next Voters Meeting: April 18th, 2021.

Submitted by:
Kathy Stanek



Monday July 19th • 9:00am-11:00am
Tuesday July 20th • 9:00am-11:00am
Wednesday July 21st • 9:00am-11:00am

To sign-up for VBS, registration forms are available at the church, download the form off our church website, or email or call the church office. Submit completed forms to the church by mail, email or leave in Pastor's box at church.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

229 11th Ave W

Grinnell, IA 50112

Office: 641-236-6691

Email: immanuelgrinnell@iowatelecom.net

Website: www.immanuelgrinnell.org

Please register by July 1st so the Board of Education can plan to have enough supplies for snacks, crafts, etc.

Vacation Bible School Registration

Child's Name: _____ (One form per child please)

Grade Completed: _____ Birthday: _____ / _____ / _____ Age: _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Alternate Phone: (_____) _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Alternate Phone: (_____) _____

Food Allergies: ☐ Yes ☐ No - If yes, list: _____

Medical Concerns: ☐ Yes ☐ No - If yes, explain: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Doctor's Phone: (_____) _____

Siblings Attending VBS (Names and Ages):

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |
| 2. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |
| 3. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |
| 4. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |
| 5. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |
| 6. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |
| 7. Name: _____ | Age: _____ |

Church Affiliation: _____ Church Membership At: _____

Person(s) Name(s) Who May Pick up the Child:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Name: _____ | Phone: _____ |
| 2. Name: _____ | Phone: _____ |

Transportation Needed: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Vacation Bible School (VBS) leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor(s) designated above for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guiding Star Marshalltown, located at 2501 South Center Street in the Nicholas Center, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing compassionate care to women and their families. Our vision is a society where life is supported at every stage and the family is the foundation for future generations.

Guiding Star Marshalltown partners with professionals in the community who are Birth Doulas, Lactation Specialists, Fertility Care Practitioners, and many more to provide a wholistic approach for mind, body, and soul. We support teens, women with unplanned pregnancies, couples working through infertility, and those seeking health care on other stages along the journey.

For more information visit our website:
www.guidingstarmarshalltown.org

Calling all men (ages 18-108) to attend our 1st Annual Men's Night at Guiding Star Marshalltown, 2501 South Center Street, in the Nicholas Center. Thursday, July 8, 6:30-8:30pm Stop in and find out what Guiding Star Marshalltown is all about and meet our partners.

Mary Mauk, Director
2501 South Center St, Ste Q
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Phone: 641-351-4041
guidingstarmarshalltown.org





Marshalltown is seeking a part time director (20 hours/week) who will share duties with the interim director. This candidate will be responsible for the marketing, advertising, and operations of all programs which includes classes and support groups offered at Guiding Star.

Knowledge of website and social media platforms, grant writing, and fundraising experience with excellent written and oral skills, are preferred.

Guiding Star Marshalltown is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that envisions a society where life is supported at every stage and the family is the foundation for future generations. If you have a passion for helping women and can align with the Guiding Star Philosophy Statement, please send cover letter and resume to: Guiding Star Marshalltown, Attn Mary Mauk, 2501 South Center Street, Ste Q, Marshalltown, IA 50158 or email: director@guidingstarmarshalltown.org

Please call 641-351-4041 to pick up a copy of the Philosophy Statement during business hours.

2021 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

President

Steve Haase

LWML President

Pam Haase

Vice President

Joel McDonough

LWML Treasurer

June Routier

Secretary

Kathy Stanek

LWML Secretary

Pam Haase

Treasurer

Chris Christinson

LWML Christian Life

Denise Cadwell

Elders

Joel McDonough

Steve Haase

Darlo Kelting

Ken Mergen

Organist

Pam Haase

Esther Huedepohl

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Kevin Schultz

Ben Loudon

Melissa Mintle

Pianist

Sophia Loudon

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

Board of Education

Sherry Baker

Danielle McDonough

Markie Koepp

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)

Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe

Pamela Sittig

Diane Schultz

Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier

Dianna Kelting

Pam Haase