

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
229 11TH AVE W  
GRINNELL IA 50112-8217

***December Newsletter***

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS**

**229 11TH AVENUE WEST**

**GRINNELL, IA 50112**

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**REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**ALL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE  
SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK**

**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](mailto: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.**

# 2022 Immanuel Officers/Board Members & Contacts

## **President**

Joel McDonough

## **Vice President/President Elect**

Steve Haase

## **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)



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# A Message From Our Pastor



This December, the Children's Christmas program is based upon the hymn Silent Night. Silent Night is one of the most popular Christmas carols in America. It was written by Joseph Mohr, in 1818, for the Christmas celebration in his church that year. The tune "Stille Nacht" was composed by Franz Gruber, organist, who was schoolmaster at Arnsdorf, a village not far from Oberndorf, where Mohr served as pastor. It was first played on a guitar in the church study of Joseph Mohr at Oberndorf, where Pastor Mohr, who wrote the text and, in a sense, provided the poetic impulse of the music, was the vicar.

The story behind the hymn is rather interesting. Pastor Mohr and Gruber had been friends for a long time. Gruber was the organist and choir-master in the neighboring village of Arnsdorf, and they often visited each other, usually for the purpose of singing hymns and sometimes, when other singers could be brought in, the more difficult motets (which is a shorter sacred piece of choral music, often sung with no accompaniment).

On one of these occasions, just a week or two before Christmas of 1818, Gruber had said to Mohr, "Do you know, Pastor, the true Christmas song is yet to be written?"

Gruber was looking out into the deep, serene, snow-clad Alpine reaches when he spoke, and Mohr, following his gaze, agreed. Pastor Mohr, pondering the thought of a perfect Christmas song, was called on Christmas Eve to the hut of a wood-chopper whose wife had just borne a child. Face to face with the mystery of life, Pastor Mohr, after performing appropriate offices for the family, returned through the snow-drifts to his house and almost automatically began to write since that was the most effective way he could think of to give expression to his mood and his sensibilities.

He stopped writing at 4 o'clock on Christmas morning—and the poem of “Silent Night” had been written. After a few hours of sleep, he arose at 9, hurried to the home of his friend Gruber in Arnsdorf, presented him with the text, and returned to his own home. Later in the day Gruber came to Oberndorf with the notes sketched in. The organ in the pastor’s study was broken, so Gruber took a guitar from the wall, played the music through once, and then the two sang it together. It was no more than half an hour before the Christmas services were to begin, but Pastor Mohr quickly assembled his choir, Herr Gruber sang the tune, they followed, and by the time the congregation had filled the church, they were ready to give it to the world.

In 1897, a memorial tablet was placed on the schoolhouse in Arndorf with this inscription:

Silent night! Holy night!  
Who composed thee, hymn divine?  
Mohr it was who wrote each line,  
Gruber found my tune sublime.—  
Teacher together with preach.

After its first revealing that Christmas Day, it soon became popular. A music-loving family of glovemakers, the Strassers, sang it in their concert tours at German trade fairs during the early 1830s. The text originally had six stanzas, and the carol as contained in most hymnals today contains stanzas 1, 6, and 2 of the original.

LSB contains both the German text and an English translation, and also provides an alternate German first stanza found in Missouri Synod Sunday School hymnals in German from the early twentieth century.

“Silent Night” was introduced to the United States by the Rainer family, a group of folk singers who toured the country from 1839-1843. A report indicates that the family sang “Stille Nacht” in New York on Christmas Day in 1839 before the Alexander Hamilton memorial in the cemetery of Trinity Church, Wall Street; this may have been the first performance in the New World.

The three stanzas of “Silent Night” contained in LSB are those known universally today. The first reflects upon the birth of Jesus, the second remembers the visit of the shepherds, and the third reminds all that this baby is the Son of God. This carol is often accompanied today with the singing of this on Christmas Eve by candlelight. Often overlooked is the hymn’s theology: that the infant child Jesus, born of a virgin mother, is not only a human but also the very Son of God, Christ, the Savior and Lord of the world.

May this history and background add to your Christmas celebration as you sing this hymn!


*Silent Night* LSB 363



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love’s pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
 Heav’n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863 Text and tune: Public domain*

+Soli Deo Gloria+  
 Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe

## *President's Piece for Peace*



When Luther wrote his explanations in the Large Catechism he was writing from experience. This gave him a keen sense of reality and excellent insight into the lives of his readers. He makes a comment concerning the 6th petition of the Lord's Prayer: "And lead us not into temptation." He says: "To feel temptation is quite different from consenting and yielding to it. We must all feel it, though not all to the same degree; some have more frequent and severe temptations than oth-

ers. Youths, for example, are tempted chiefly by the flesh; older people are tempted by the world. Others, who are concerned with spiritual matter (that is, strong Christians) are tempted by the devil. But we cannot be harmed by the mere feeling of temptation as long as it is contrary to our will, and we would prefer to be rid of it."

It is disconcerting to us who serve in the Church (the strong Christians) that we are the target of the devil. So, what does Scripture say to us (the strong) when assaulted by the Evil One? The Scriptures tell us to be what it is that makes us victims of such temptations. We are told to: "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let the Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:7-9).

Who of us has not been assaulted? Each of us, for the sake of upholding the Holy Word of God, have been assaulted. Sadly, this often comes through the lips of those we are sent to teach, tend, feed, and care for. How easy, when this happens, is it to become afraid and melt at the feet of criticism and disappreciation?

Moses knew what temptations were in store for Joshua, as Joshua would take over the leadership of Israel.



Moses handed over the responsibility to Joshua to cross the Jordan and bring the people of God home to the land they were promised. They would be met with satanic foes and Moses' words to Joshua were the same ones God gave to him (Deut. 31:6-7). When assaulted, hold onto the Word of God, which is God with you always, with power and authority. Do not listen to the fallen world and the voices expressing its godless chatter. Listen only to the Word and by such you will be successful and prosperous.

This was not an equation for the Theology of Glory. God did not say they would not run into danger or even loss of life in their battles. He only said hold onto my Word. In my Word is victory over sin, death and the devil. Success and prosperity are not measurable by earthly standards. They are only apprehended by faith in Jesus and His victory over all evil, including the Evil One.

When King David was going to hand over the royal throne to his son Solomon, he gave Solomon the same words of encouragement (I Chron. 22:13, 28:20) that God gave Moses, and Moses gave Joshua. The Pastoral Office stands by the command and in the stead of Christ Jesus. He passes on to us the same words we have read in Deut., Joshua, and I Chron. Stand by the Word as it is exposed to us in the Lutheran Confessions. Stand there and do not move one iota from its proclamation. Yes, you will be assaulted. Just remember, the assaults come from the Devil. Ignore him and direct your sheep to the Word of God and do not swerve to the right or to the left. Let it speak as it was recorded for us, revealing Divine Truth.

The battle rages on and will until Jesus' return. We are baptized into Him therefore we stand on the side of the Victor. Luther expresses this so well in the famous Reformation hymn: "This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him."

Be strong and courageous my fellow servants of Christ. Guard your students and parishioners from the snares and pitfalls set by Satan. Hold to the Word and hold your congregations to the Word. For in the Word is success and prosperity. God be with you all.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President



## Wednesday Mid-Week Advent Services

A meal will be served from 5:00-6:15pm  
Service begins at 6:30pm

November 30th  
December 7th  
December 14th  
December 21st



**CHILDREN'S**  
**Christmas**  
**PROGRAM**

*Sunday, December 18 at 10:30am  
(after the Divine Service)*



**Christmas Eve**

**Service of Lessons & Carols**

Saturday, December 24th — 4:00pm

**The Nativity of Our Lord**

**Christmas Day Divine Service**

Sunday, December 25th — 9:00am

**New Year's Eve Divine Service**

Saturday, December 31st — 4:00pm



The Sunday School service project on November 13th  
**THANK YOU** for all your donations to MICA!



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

***Anxiety vs. Trust***

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: “I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell.” Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25–33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matt. 6:33). God’s kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

WISDOM  
understanding  
counsel knowledge  
*Confirmation*  
fortitude piety fear of the Lord



**MEMORY WORK FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**

**5th & 6th Grades Confirmation Memory Work  
Classtime Wednesdays 4:00pm — 5:00pm**

**Dec 7: 10th Commandment & meaning; Christmas Program Piece**

**Dec 14: Close of the Commandments and meaning;  
Christmas Program Piece**

**Dec 21: First Article of the Creed and meaning (all of it)**

**Dec 28: No Class**

**7th & 8th Grades Confirmation Memory Work  
Classtime Wednesdays 5:00pm — 6:00pm**

**Dec 7: 1st Article and Meaning; Christmas Program Piece**

**Dec 14: 1st Article and Meaning; Christmas Program Piece**

**Dec 21: 1st Article and Meaning; Christmas Program Piece**

**Dec 28: No Class**



Christmas Giving...The Evangelism Board will not be doing Christmas Share with Second Mile this year. They have 114 families and all of their needs have been filled in a matter of days.

***Wonderful! Awesome!***

Great news though, Immanuel will be having a Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall starting December 1st to collect 'Children's' stocking hats for Orphan Grain Train. All hats need to be collected by **December 18th** for distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact the Board of Evangelism~

Dianna Kelting  
June Routier  
Pam Haase







**It's that time of year again! Every year we adorn our altar area with poinsettias for Christmas. A poinsettia may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. The poinsettias will be displayed for the Christmas Eve Service. You may take the plant(s) you ordered home after the Christmas Eve Service.**

**Orders need to be placed by December 11th**

**Poinsettias are \$15 each.**

**Checks should be made payable to 'Immanuel Lutheran Church' with 'Poinsettia' in the memo line.**

**Place your order by filling out the order form along with payment and return in the offering basket at church by Dec. 11th. Order forms are available on the entryway table.**



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Monthly Meeting of the Church Council**  
**Sunday, October 9th, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on October 9th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Joel McDonough, Chris Christinson, Keith Thorpe, Diane Schultz, Kevin Schultz, June Routier, Steve Haase, and Kathy Stanek.

Joel called the meeting to order, and Pastor Koepp opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the September 11th meeting were presented for approval. Diane motioned to approve and Keith 2nd. Motion carried.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

- Continue to contact members who no longer attend. Two families will be voted for self-exclusion at the October Voter's meeting. Madren and Cloyed families.
- Will decide after the 1st of the year if there will be an "Usher Committee" for Sunday services.
- There will be a few full printed bulletins each Sunday which will have the church service from beginning to end. This will help visitors, new members, etc.
- Will begin home meetings with members in the future.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

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

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Hedges have been trimmed.
- Discussing what pictures will be hung back now that the painting is done. Will discuss further at the October Voter's meeting.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- Will provide treats to after school special events held at the Drake Library.
- Preparing 50 more backpacks for the Orphan Grain Train
- Thanksgiving potluck will be held the Wednesday, November 16 before worship service.

Board of Education: Joel for the Board

- Sunday school has officially started, and the board, teachers, and Pastor are beginning to work on the Christmas program.
- Students will sing the 2nd communion hymn on the last Sunday of each month.

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe

- 3rd quarter giving states have been sent and new envelopes for 2023 distributed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

- 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 as allowed and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.
- 1 Baptism – John Kennelly
- 2 Professions of Faith – John and Angela Kennelly

Unfinished Business:

- Diane motioned to accept the Slate of candidates for the 2023 elections that will be voted on at the October 9 voter's meeting. Chris 2nd. Motion carried.
- o Slate of Candidates:
  - Secretary 2-year Term: Kathy Stanek
  - Elders 3-year Term: Joel McDonough (vote for 2)  
Darlo Kelting
  - Trustee 3-year term: Ben Louden
  - Stewardship 3-year term: Keith Thorpe

New Business:

- Joel asked Pastor to leave the room to discuss the 2023 housing allowance Immanuel provides. The board's decision will be presented to the voter's at next week's meeting for approval.

With no other business to discuss Chris motioned to adjourn the meeting – Diane 2nd. Pastor closed in prayer.

Council Meeting: November 13, 2022 8:00 AM

Submitted by: Kathy Stanek, Council Secretary