

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 Eleventh Avenue West
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

October 2020 Newsletter

Immanuel News

Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS

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Let's Get Social



Website: <http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org>



Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS



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



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Reference Information

HAVE YOU...moved? ...changed phone numbers? ...changed email addresses? ...need to update birthday/anniversary dates? Let the office know! Thanks!

LET US KNOW...If you have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if any pastoral need arises.

PRAYER REQUEST...If you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Rev. Dr. Koepp:

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DO YOU...want to put something in the bulletin or newsletter? Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements? Upcoming events? If so, please submit the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin or newsletter by the deadlines listed below to the church secretary at immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.net.

Deadlines:

Bulletin – 12 noon of each Wednesday

Newsletter – 15th of each month

For those of you without email access, please call or submit your written request to the church secretary.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Message from Pastor	Pgs 5-8
President Saunder's Piece for Peace	Pgs 9-10
Member Information Needed	Pg 11
"For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free"	Pg 12
"Humbled by the Humble"	Pg 13
"Teacher as Gardener"	Pgs 14-15
"Finding Trust during a Pandemic"	Pg 16
October Confirmation Schedule	Pg 17
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca Storm Damage	Pg 18
LWML News	Pg 19
LCMS Stewardship Ministry Article	Pg 20
January 2020 Voters' Meeting Minutes	Pgs 21-22
June 2020 Council Meeting Minutes	Pg 23
July 2020 Council Meeting Minutes	Pg 24

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR**“Who Cares About The Reformation?”**

It's was only about half a mile walk that a certain monk took from his cell, walked past the university where he was a teacher, and continued to the church doors on the other end of town. When he reached the doors of the Church of All Saints, he affixed a poster on the town's blackboard. If any of the common people passing by were interested enough to take a look, they would soon turn away in disappointment and say, "I don't know what it says, it's in Latin."

It may or may not have happened that way on Oct 31, 1517, in the town of Wittenberg, in the German Principality of Saxony. As Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the church doors, who would have known the effect those hammer blows to post the poster would have. Those hammer blows on the door of the Castle Church would change Western Christianity as well as the course of history.

On October 31, the Church observes the Feast of the Reformation. It is a day in which we reflect on the truth of God's Word being taught in its truth and purity. As important as that day is, it is important to keep it in its proper place. It is important to look at the events of the Reformation, but it is NOT Martin Luther; it's not about the 95 Theses; the Reformation is about the Truth in Christ, the One Truth in Christ.

Why celebrate Reformation at all? Is it different from all the feast days of the Church? Christmas—the birth of Christ. Easter—Christ's blessed resurrection. Pentecost—the Holy Spirit endows Christ's people with true faith. And Reformation? Luther did this; his friends did that; Luther said something; his friends agreed. The shackles of papal rules were thrown off—and many a king, prince, duke, or earl was delighted, because he could now make himself the ruler of the Church. That doesn't sound like something to celebrate.

When Luther issued his 95 call to the Church, he was challenging Christians—no, not just the high and the mighty, like the pope and the bishops and the abbots and the prelates. He was challenging all Christians to come back to the source of faith and hope: the Word of God, the Bible.

Admittedly, at the time, the Church was “doing fine”—if your standard is possession, activity, people involvement, and influence. If you were to have considered the Collegiate Church of All Saints in Wittenberg, better known as the Castle Church, everyone would have been, perhaps even was, full of admiration. A college of seven priests. They were subject to no local bishop but only to the pope in Rome. The church had thousands of visitors a year. They conducted no less than 9,000 masses a year—you heard me right: nine thousand. That provided a sizable income for the clergy. But even more so, people received assurances for the quicker release from purgatory both for themselves and for their family members. It sounds like a good deal all around, and think of the great economic benefit to the city. Then comes this monk and said . . .

Well, what did he say?

Luther did not say: “Don’t listen to the Church; they really don’t have anything to say anyway.” Some have taken that to be the general idea that anybody can believe anything he wants to. Dr. Luther would be horrified. Luther said, preached, wrote (and, were he among us today, would publish on the Internet), “Retro ad fontes.” And he’d say it surely in good old Deutsch, but most often in Chinese, then in English, and in all languages around: “Let’s get back to the source.”

Get back to the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, where we hear Jesus say, **“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”** And how did his listeners respond? **“We are offspring of Abraham.”** In other words, “We have no need to rely on the words of anyone else; we are proud of being descendants of this great prophet” At Luther’s time, the response of Church leaders was simply this: You keep out of this, Martin; we know best.

What about today? “I’ve been a member of the LCMS all my life, and I’m proud of it,” some may say. Dare I ask you about your faith in Christ or your faithfulness to God’s Word? Because that is what the Reformation events were all about. That is what the celebration of Reformation Day is all about. Not about German hero named Luther, but about God’s grace that helped us recover the hidden, the falsified, the changed, and glossed-over Word of God, in which you have God’s mercy, packed in words, and the whole Christ, crucified and risen for you, speaking to you his full message of repentance and salvation.

I know the struggle. There are many who claim the name “Lutheran,” people who started with the same events of the Reformation, with the same translated Bible for daily use and preaching in the Church, and yet their proclamation differs so much from ours that you might begin to wonder what “Lutheran” means these days. These days there seem to be—even in the Church—so many different views, opinions, philosophies, and convictions that others begin to ask: What does the Christian Church stand for?

“If you abide in”—listen, it says; stick to, remain with, hang on to—“my Word, you are truly my disciples.” The best medicine prescribed by the doctor will be of no use to you if you don’t take it! I didn’t make this up; Jesus himself makes this claim and issues this invitation: abiding in his Word.

How many Baptisms have taken place in this congregation during your lifetime! And yet, do you see all of those so blessed “by water and the Word” sitting here in the pew with you? How many confirmands have vowed their fidelity to Christ and their loyalty to the Church at this altar! Where are they now, and do you care? Just moving to the next town, okay; no problem. But leaving the faith—that’s the tragedy every pastor and every congregation faces.

John 8:31–32
John 8:33

And how do you stick with it; how do you “abide”? It would be difficult for me to overestimate the importance of Christian education, catechism instruction, and regular worship attendance for the survival of each Lutheran in his Christian faith. For what other reason than “abiding” would Christ have made this the second yet inseparable part of the Great Commission: “Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you”?

It is nothing but life threatening, a threat to your spiritual survival, to disregard the Word of God or to separate from it. And churches and preachers who do that, who seek the approval of the majority instead of submitting to and upholding Christ’s Word, will put the faith of their listeners in jeopardy. In the end, they will have to give an account for every soul lost. With our faith based on the Holy Scriptures, we cannot hasten to embrace convictions contrary to the Bible. With the content of the Bible firm and clear, preachers have no right—and certainly the Church has no authority whatsoever—to “reinterpret” the proclamation contrary to the Bible so that it might better “fit” modern views.

To insist on the one scriptural truth will not be appreciated everywhere or by everyone, even in the realm of Christendom. There will be debate, disagreement, and contention. But then, was that different at Jesus’ time? Jesus says in John, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. . . . I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. . . . You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning.”* “You are sinners; you are slaves; you seek to kill me; you are followers of Satan!”

An unmistakable message. Jesus minced no words when he spoke with those who relied on themselves, prided themselves in their condition, and rejected him and his Word. Strong words. And let me add: teachers in the Church who do not preach and teach the truth; those who aim to simply cover up all sorts of spiritual mess, that don’t uncover sin, that do not show us our fundamental need for spiritual healing and restoration, are to be admonished and corrected by the Word of God. They are doing themselves no favors, and are harming their hearers. Protect us from this Heavenly Father!

Perhaps what I’ve said so far is not exactly setting a happy note. Perhaps you had hoped to find this month’s article in praises of Martin Luther, or a way to hear about other great men and women of the Reformation: about Philip Melanchthon, Justus Jonas, Elizabeth Kreuziger, and many others. This article is focused on one thing, *“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* That truth we learned from men like Pastor Luther. And from those following him, including the teachers and preachers in our Church who expound the truth of Christ. And that truth says: You cannot free yourself from what you are. The sinner, says Jesus, the sinner—you and I and all around us—is a slave, bound, tied up, loaded down. But that truth says above all:

Matthew 28:20
John 8: 34, 37, 44
John 8:32

Christ Jesus, God's truth, is the truth that frees us.

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life,” Jesus said. For Christians, truth is not a theory nor a philosophy nor an ideological “ism.” The truth embraced by Christians and expounded by the Church centers in a person as God's final and saving promise to each of us. The promise is nothing less than true life, life in eternity, life constant and joyous in God's presence. What do you have to do to realize that promise? Memorize the Small Catechism or Luther's Ninety-five Theses? Know your way around the LCMS Handbook or be involved in all groups of parish life? None of the above! Jesus says, ***“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*** And the Son has set you free! By Jesus' death on the cross for all your sins, you are free! Indeed!

As the smell of pumpkin spice and the sounds of harvest fill the air, we are truly in a position to give thanks—even in 2020. Without any merit on our part, Christ declares us free and loose from sin's bondage through the words of absolution. With all of the talks of “my truth and your truth” in this world, there is only One Truth. That truth has died for the sins of all creation. My sins and yours have been paid for in full on the cross by Lord Jesus Christ. This truth, who is the only way to the Father, who is life Himself, gives this freedom to you.

October 31—while the world celebrates death and goes between the extremes of fright and frivolity, the Church celebrates the death of Christ. His death sets us free, and you are free indeed. Free from bearing the burden for sin; free from everlasting death. Jesus is life, and His life is the light of men. He is, ***“The light [that] shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”***

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

We are not only asking "what next", we may also be asking "how"? With 2020 has come the experience of a lifetime. They stack atop of each other. COVID, DERECHO, and a contentious election year. This year is one for the books; that is for sure. We may very well be a little anxious about what we have had to endure as well as wonder what is yet in store. While apprehension is one thing, dealing with this as servants in the Church is another.

One of the characteristics of a Lutheran Church Worker is compassion, caring, and a "fix it" aptitude. These are wonderful attributes the Lord of the Church has given us and they make for excellent shepherding and teaching. At the same time such deep compassion that wants to fix that which is broken can lead to deeper anxiety. When we run into members who have contracted COVID or any other illness for that matter, we want to be able to fix it for them. When we are not able to do that, it is frustrating. The same applies to our members who have suffered damage to building and property from the storm of August 10th. We see the carnage, the loss of roofs and the use of facilities. We are saddened by the corn fields where stalks now lay on their side. It hurts us as we perceive the pain of members who have farmed for a vocation that may not be able to continue in that line of work.

All of these things and many more turn on the "fix it" button in our desire to serve them. I know this frustration and have wrestled with it for over 30 years in the ministry. Each and every time I am challenged with this I only place myself in the company of the frustrated. So what do we do for them? How do we help them? How do we continue to minister to them? What about the classrooms and the students who have to practice social distancing along with having to wear masks? How do we care for those who are quarantined? How can we encourage our sheep to come and gather with one another in the assembly of the Saints to receive God's Holy Word and Blessed Sacrament?

First of all, we adjust, don't we? We have no other alternative but to make adjustments. Adjustments does not mean compromise. We do not, nor will we ever compromise what we believe, teach and confess is true. We just have to adjust as to how we teach it, bestow and receive it. This we have done remarkably well and I have admiration for all you IDE Servants. There will be more adjustments ahead. We must realize that and prepare for it. The adjustments as a result of DRECHO will be financial as much as physical. The crops lost to this storm will result in the millions of dollars across Iowa. We pray insurance and federal assistance will fill the gaps but there will be adjustments to people's lives that we are most recently not used to making.

Second, it is most helpful for you, the Servant of Christ, to know that these are things you cannot "fix". You are not equipped with resources nor training to repair roof tops, grain bins, fallen trees, siding, and etc. If you do own a saw and can use it skillfully go right ahead. If you can drive a tractor or combine and are able to assist, that is fine. All in all these are not going to fix the situation. Buildings are still damaged and crops are still lost. Members are still hurting and wondering, "what is next," and, "how do we deal with this."

It is most helpful for you, the Servant of Christ, to remember your Call and what the Lord has given you to exercise the Call. He has given you His Word, a powerful Absolution, the Sacraments and an office through which these are given. We are theologians of the Cross. We don't lead our members to the Land of Oz promising them God will shower buckets of money down on them, or miraculously rebuild grain bins overnight. We must refrain from presenting Jesus as a Santa Claus who comes with presents for all those who have been good throughout the year.

Amidst all this that has brought unwelcome change is the Word of God that does not change. That is what you have been given. Take them to the cross of Christ Jesus who took upon Himself the storm of our sin and death. There He endured the fires of hell in order to defeat Satan and his minions. Holding on to the cross shows us the One who went the extreme length to redeem us from the darkness and wind of eternal death. Going to the Sacrament is a participation in His victory revealed through His resurrection.

While we may want to fix the loss of buildings and income, we cannot. It is beyond our training, resource, and skill as called workers in the Church. What we can do is give them a Good Word. We can direct them to Christ and bring Christ to their hurting souls. He is never in short supply. Jesus is always present where He has promised to be. Christ is with us full of mercy. We serve our members and students by bring Christ to them in every situation and in every need. God bless you my fellow servants. God grant you strength and courage to trust what He has given to His Church that they may not only know Him but also know that He knows them.

President Saunders

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)

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Christine	Carstensen		
Clinton	Hagedorn		
Dennis	Hagedorn		
Patrick	Harms		
Eric	Heimsoth		
Sara	Heimsoth		
William	Nagel		
Kiara	Petersen		
Travis	Puls		
Tyler	Puls		
Alicia	Routier	Sully	IA
April	Routier	Sully	IA
Tyler	Routier	Sully	IA
Hannah	Smith		
Matthew	Smith		
Nathan	Smith		
Samantha	Smith		
Jenna	Tanner		
Lydia	Tanner		

Lutheran Bible Translators - For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free

One night several years ago, when we were living in the village of Koaka in the Kono area of Sierra Leone, our neighbor's house was struck by lightning. As the flames burned the grass roof and climbed higher into the sky, I joined the crowd that was gathering to watch. When the people began to comment among themselves about the fire, I was struck by the difference in outlook between my culture and theirs.

If the same situation happened in America, the people who gathered would be commenting on what a shame it was that the family lost their home, what a tragedy. But that night in Kono, people were saying, "I wonder what they did? I wonder what they did to anger the spirits to cause their home to be struck by lightning?"

So many people in Kono live in fear of the spirits who they believe control their lives. They are always concerned about whether or not they have made the right sacrifices or done the right things to protect themselves and their families....

Jim and Susan Kaiser related this story in 1996 while they were serving with the Kono New Testament translation team. Twelve years later the completed New Testament was presented to the Kono people. It was the culmination of over twenty years of dedicated service and partnership between missionaries, translation team staff, the Kono community, and prayer and financial supporters here in the U.S. Having Scripture in their hands was cause for much rejoicing among the Kono. At last there was an opportunity to learn about the one true faithful and loving God!

But the story doesn't end there.

Translating God's Word is just the beginning of the process. If people don't engage with Scripture—read it, listen to it, share in the church and at home—it is meaningless. Today, the Kono Literacy and Scripture Engagement Program continues to promote God's Word through literacy, translation and training.

The Kono have come a long way, but there is much work still to be done. Click [here](#) to read more about the Kono and the New Testament dedication in 2008. To learn how you can help the Kono community continue its walk of faith today click [here](#).

by Linda Gari
Lutheran Bible Translators

Humbled by the Humble!

At 12:20pm on Monday August 10th my wife received a text message from the maid of honor from our wedding. It read: "You are about to get hit by strong winds." Lynette has a 19 year old son who is a weather guru and should be a TV weatherman someday. Crist, the weather guru, was letting us know what we would experience beginning in about 10 minutes. The derecho did arrive and the rest is history. It gave us a firsthand experience in the best and worst of people. People came to help. Others came to scam and price gouge.

Two neighbors arrived with hand saws and clippers to begin the task of cutting my work car out from under the canopy of our maple tree which covered it. The car was unscathed other than the deer alarms which need to be glued on. Help continued to arrive over the next week. The disaster crew from the Southern District arrived and were able to help many people in Cedar Rapids and in Benton County, which was devastated.

You can only do so much sawing and hauling of trees that you need a break. I had heard that Benton County had been hard hit so on Wednesday August 12th I drove to the churches throughout the County along with Central Lutheran School to assess damage. The next day I covered most of the churches in the Cedar Rapids metro area. The damage varied from place to place.

I am serving the vacancy at St. Mark Lutheran in Garrison and Zion Lutheran in Shellsburg. Even though neither place had power on August 16th the Divine Service was held in both places, one with piano and the other a capella. During the sermon at Garrison I came to the verse in my sermon where Jesus says: "Come unto Me, all who are weak and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." I could go no further and had to stop and collect myself. Dealing with the events of the past week had really drained me, and I was heavy-laden and I needed the rest that only Christ Jesus could give unto me through His Word and Sacrament. It was the very Word I was privileged to proclaim and the real body and blood of Christ Jesus that I was able to distribute in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of the faith of those receiving it and myself that brought me rest.

To see part of our home destroyed was tough to handle. There is a loss and a grieving process which goes with it. As I go around and assess projects I see and hear the stories of others and witness their loss. I had one person come over and help put the initial tarps on my roof where trees had punctured holes in my roof. We also removed as much as we safely could from my room. I ran into this person a week or so later and asked how he was doing. He replied with a smile, "Fine." I then asked about his home and he said, "Okay, other than the two limbs on my roof." I was truly humbled by this humble servant. He was more concerned with helping others than for his own needs. We got those limbs off his roof the next day.

Last month I wrote about serving, this month I was humbled to be served by so many others. Such is the love of Christ being shown to others amidst the unexpected trials. I am thankful not only for God's love in Christ Jesus in redeeming me but for people helping and serving me and many others after this derecho!

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild
Assistant to the President

Teacher as Gardener

³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow."⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears,^[a] let him hear." Matthew 13:3-9 ESV

Last month I told you about a young person who, when she was 13 years old, invented a hollow flashlight that was battery free. Ann's reason for the invention was to assist her relatives in studying at night. I encouraged you to be that "light" in the lives of your new students this school year. Whatever type of learning you and your students are adjusting to, I pray that Jesus is using you to be His light in your time together.

Now that your year is underway, let's talk about gardening. How are you going to keep your crop of students growing in the days ahead? If you have your own garden, you know that it takes more than light to produce a crop. Even if you've only grown one plant, you can see parallels between gardening and classroom leadership. Here are six pieces of advice to consider as you plough your way through 2020-2021.*



Growing things is fun! It's exciting to see little plants burst forth from the soil in search of sunlight. Maybe all you see is dirt for a few days. Soon, however, you've got plants popping up all over the place. Over the next few weeks and months you measure growth and enjoy watching the changes. Pretty soon comes the harvest, and you enjoy the tomatoes in a salad. And so it is for teachers. You love to see your students grow, and there is a sense of accomplishment when the learning clicks. Enjoy the highs! Celebrate them during the year with your students, parents, and co-workers. Most importantly, celebrate growing in faith in Jesus!

Tend the soil. Iowa has some of the best soil in the world. Las Vegas, when I lived there, proved differently. You can have the soil tested by ISU's Master Gardeners to see what you need to do to improve the soil environment. Then follow their advice for the best kind of fertilizer, weed killer, or transplanting. Jesus talked about this in His parable. Depending where the seed falls will determine its future. Emerging plants need attention. They can't fix the problem themselves. So, get involved. Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty. Keep your eyes and ears open to the needs of your students.

Check your local climate. Corn grows really well in Iowa because we have a great climate. If you want to grow grapes in Iowa, you have to find the right variety for our climate. To get a successful crop, you have to plant plants that will grow in your climate. Likewise, in the climate we find ourselves today, all of us need to be sensitive to our student's needs, make adjustments in your classroom climate, adjust to the various learning styles when necessary, and be flexible in your planning.

Watch for intruders. Weeds. Insects. Rabbits and deer. Wind. If you sow some seeds in May, and then ignore them until June, one if not all these intruders will disrupt your plan for a fruitful harvest. As classroom gardeners, we need to be vigilant against intruders that come to invade our tender crop. Some of these in-

truders are not as dangerous as others. Others may appear to be harmless, even beautiful or cute, but can harm and even destroy plants quickly. And sometimes, when you pull a weed, if you're not careful, you'll pull out a plant or two. Be vigilant about disruptive influences that upset relationships and learning, and be ready to take action.

Don't let your plants spread. I was watching a video the other day where a gardener was giving advice on cutting back petunias so that the plant can thrive producing more blooms. On the other hand, some plants, like cucumbers and pumpkins, need to roam. It takes a skilled gardener to know when to prune and when not to prune. Grow with your students to learn what makes them flourish at times and wilt at other times. Each one of your students is a person uniquely created by God. Provide for their needs, even it takes some pruning.

Enjoy the harvest. At the end of the day, it's all about the harvest. You enjoy seeing vegetables grow and mature, but that experience pales in comparison to eating those vegetables. Gardening is about results. Throughout the school year you will be assessing student progress, testing formally and informally. You'll know how each of them is doing in all of the subjects, but that's not the final outcome. Ultimately, you'll be talking to your students about Jesus, eternal life, forgiveness, and encouraging them to tell others about Him. *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear"*, says Jesus. Our progress and growth expectations don't always go the way we would like, but when we all get to heaven, it won't matter anyway.

Effective gardeners are never entirely content with their product. Maybe with a higher quality of soil or a different watering system, they could still do better. So it is with effective teachers. We know we need to keep tinkering, evaluating, and improving our methods because our world keeps changing. Teaching is a calling, and when we see progress and growth we celebrate. The Lord will provide you with what you need to grow the students in your care. I've heard talking to plants helps them grow. Talk to your Heavenly Father. He's the Master Gardener!

*Thank you to Richard Blackaby in "The Leader as Gardener".

Note from Jan: As you can tell, I wrote this article before the August 10 derecho. We've seen damage that has been incomprehensible to gardens, trees, crops, and other forms of vegetation. Hours and years of tending and caring for this part of God's creation was ruined and lost in a matter of minutes. Despite this loss, we know the Master Gardener is seeing us through this disaster because He knows exactly what we need and He is a keeper of promises. Even now, new shoots are springing up, and what was once old is made new. So, too, in your classrooms. Your students are more precious than the "lilies of the field". Tend to them with what they need to grow in their faith and love towards one another. Take care of them and yourself!

Jan Doellinger
Assistant to the President, Schools

Parish Nurse—Finding TRUST During a Pandemic

*Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.
Psalm 9:10 NIV*

As I write this article, the COVID-19 virus case numbers in my state of Missouri are increasing and it is now considered a COVID red state. Our governor and local authorities have recommended, but not mandated, masks and social distancing. We struggle for answers to keep people safe while respecting their freedom and opinions. At the local food bank, clients and volunteers wear masks and use hand sanitizer frequently. In other settings of our community, little has changed from prior practices to COVID-19.

Do I trust my neighbor to self-identify and take proper measures if exposed to COVID-19? One would hope so, but the virus continues to spread. Can we trust the scientific community to develop a successful vaccine? Are current treatment options for COVID-19 trustworthy?

According to Merriam-Webster, the definition of the noun trust is a firm belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, etc. A synonym of trust is faith and an antonym is doubt or skepticism. How to find trust in this chaos? For us as Christians, the foundation of trust is in knowing that God is in control. He works through bad situations for His ultimate good. Being in God's Word is essential to finding and building trust in our relationship with God. Prayer and meditation are important ways to discipline our minds as we talk to God and then listen to Him. These are tools for finding trust not only during this pandemic but always.

Six weeks ago, after Phase One of the quarantine, our congregation resumed services in the church building. Three weeks ago, one of the fire sprinklers flooded the sanctuary necessitating a move to the Fellowship Hall for Sunday services. There have been challenges in securing the needed repair parts. While the repairmen were working in the ceiling it was noted that we also need a new roof on an older section of the church. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall for the foreseeable future. Our pastor recently reminded us that no place in the Bible does it say that God will not give us more than we can bear; what He promises is that He will always be with us! Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on our own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

Taken from Parish Nursing Notes Vol. 2 Issue 1
by Carol Broemmer, RN, MA
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Submitted by Ronda Anderson, RN
LCMS Iowa District East Parish Nurse Representative

CONFIRMATION SCHEUDLE FOR OCTOBER

5th/6th Grades

October 7

MEMORY WORK: 7th and 8th Commandments and Meanings

LESSON TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS: Lesson 5

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 6-7

October 14

MEMORY WORK: 9th and 10th Commandments and Meanings

LESSON TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS: Lesson 6

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 8-9

October 21

MEMORY WORK: Close of the Commandments and Meaning

LESSON TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS: Lesson 7

BIBLE LESSON: Matthew 10-11

October 28

LUTHER MOVIE

7th/8th Grades

October 7

MEMORY WORK: 4th Commandment

READING ASSIGNMENT DUE BEFORE CLASS: Large Catechism 370-378

LESSON IN CLASS: SCQ 54-58

October 14

MEMORY WORK: 5th Commandment

READING ASSIGNMENT DUE BEFORE CLASS: Large Catechism 378-381

LESSON IN CLASS: SCQ 59-64

October 21

MEMORY WORK: 6th Commandment

READING ASSIGNMENT DUE BEFORE CLASS: Large Catechism 381-384

LESSON IN CLASS: SCQ 65-77

October 28

LUTHER MOVIE

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



September 2020

DAMAGE REPORT!

At our staff meeting on the morning of Monday, August 10, we reviewed our summer and looked ahead to a bit of quiet for the remainder of the month. Though not a "normal" summer, it has been hectic and chaotic year since the pandemic hit in March. We talked about and planned out inexpensive projects and improvements that would make things safer in the age of COVID-19 as the family reunion on Camp prepared for a cool dip in the swimming pool. But our plans for rest and ease were about to change.

By 12:30PM, the derecho storm had arrived and a host of destruction with it. By the grace of God, everyone on Camp was safe throughout and after the storm, and no major damage occurred to Camp facilities. The afternoon was spent clearing the road for the family reunion to evacuate Camp. Aside from downed trees and debris everywhere, we had electrical lines both downed and uprooted. After a few days of wonderful volunteer help, we were able to get our infrastructure accessible so that we could haul logs and brush to the horse pasture as we built massive burn piles. Around 80 trees and large limbs have come down across camp, but we expect to find out more damage once the leaves come down in the fall. A month later, the vast majority of the main cleanup is done, though the damage from the storm can still be noticed.

Electricity fully returned to Camp on Saturday, August 15 and, with that, we began hosting volunteers the very next day. With the Iowa District East office in Marion out of commission due to the storm Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca became a center for LCMS Disaster Response efforts across Eastern Iowa for a few weeks. Dozens of highly trained volunteers came from all across the country with equipment and provided aid to areas significantly impacted by the storm, doing work ranging from chainsawing and dropping trees to removing trees and branches from homes.

We hope to continue to host more volunteers throughout September and October as we have availability. It has been a blessing to serve our district, congregations, God's people, and our communities from Belle Plaine to Olin in August, and we look forward to participating in this mission going forward. You can support this effort. Donating to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's Disaster Response allows us to house, feed, and host volunteers **FOR FREE** as we utilize their efforts to help Eastern Iowa recover from this disaster. Email director@iodiseca.org or call 319-848-4187 to see how you can support an upcoming volunteer group!



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org

LWML News

After taking a break from LWML because of COVID-19, LWML decided to meet on August 10th, not knowing what God had planned for that day. Needless to say we all left the church as soon as possible, before the wind really started blowing. All of us got home safely – it just took some a little longer than others. We thank God for keeping us all safe.



At our meeting on September 14th, we discussed LWML Sunday (Oct. 4th), and received permission to have a NOISY BUCKET Change Collection for our MITE projects and Mission Grants. Bring your change (pennies, nickels, dimes, etc) to church October 4th (Folded money is also accepted)!! We also learned more about the National Mission Grant for the University Lutheran Chapel in Lincoln, NE as they seek to add on rooms for counseling and encouraging students who may be suffering from depression and thinking about suicide. Did you know that suicide is the second highest cause of death in college students? Pastor Koeppe also led a Bible study titled Civility and Conviction based on Acts 2. We had great discussion about how to talk with people who believe differently than us.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 12th at 11:30 at church. Bring your lunch and enjoy some time with us in God's Word and learning about Mission Projects that are happening in Iowa and around the world.

Pam Haase

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – October 2020

We celebrate the Reformation at the end of each October. The Reformation began on All Saints' Eve in 1517, which was when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let's hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God's family, the Church. Under the heading "What Hearers Owe Their Pastors," Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

- "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14)
- "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Gal. 6:6–7)
- "The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages.'" (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

"When Paul says 'all good things,' this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. ... The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: 'God is not mocked.' ... All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one's hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: 'Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages'; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13–14): 'Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel.' It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages ... it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office." (LW 27:125–126)

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Voters Assembly Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 26th, 2020

The quarterly meeting of the Church Voters was held on Sunday January 26th, 2020. Members Present: Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp, Joel McDonough, Chris Christinson, Ken Mergen, Jan Mergen, Keith N. Thorpe, Helen Thorpe, Marrina Kaloupek, Ruth Honold, Marvin A. Honold, Diane Carnine, Amber Carnine, Sharon Krumm, Dianna Kelting, Darlo Kelting, Markie Koepp and Kathy Stanek.

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

New Voting Members: None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the October 20, 2020 quarterly meeting were distributed for review and comment. Motion made by Marinna Kaloupek to approve – Helen Thorpe 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

- Continue to review the active member list and remove/release those who have responded to do so.
- Completed the devotional bible study series.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report.
- Presented the 2020 budget for review and discussion.

Board of Trustees: Joel McDonough for the board

- The furnace in the Sunday school wing was repaired and the in the sanctuary furnace was cleaned.

Board of Evangelism: Dianna Kelting

- Bowling event will be held in April. Date is to be determined.
- Preparing a list of missions to support in 2020.

Board of Education: Markie Koepp

- Reviewing curriculums for new Sunday lessons starting fall 2020.
- Beginning discussions for Vacation Bible School.

Board of Stewardship: Sharon Krumm

- 4th quarter and year end giving statements have been sent to members.

Board of Fellowship: Not active

Church Secretary: Amber Carnine

- Preparing and submitting year end reports, updating official acts, membership lists, directory, etc.
- The city of Grinnell sent a letter stating they are reviewing Immanuel's request for a directional sign on 11th Ave.

Pastor Koepp's Report:

- Pastor reported that St. John's Lutheran church in State Center is closing. Requesting our prayers during this difficult time and that members will find new church homes.
- Lenten Services begin on Ash Wednesday February 26th. Pastors of 5 Missouri Synod churches will rotate churches each Wednesday during the remaining Wednesday Lent services.
- Providing spiritual leadership to members of Immanuel church, preparing weekly sermons, preaching and conducting worship services. Leading Confirmation and Bible Study classes.
- Counseling/home visits, attending board meetings, visiting sick/shut-ins and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Constitution Committee Steve Haase, Keith Thorpe, & Ken Mergen

- Ken Mergen motioned to approve the ratification to Immanuel's Synod constitution. Changes include language and legal descriptions for marriages, funerals, and use of church facilities. Helen Thorpe 2nd. Motion approved and ratified by 100%. Ratified constitution will be sent to the district for final approval/ratification.

NEW BUSINESS: 2020 Immanuel Officer's & Board Member Election

- Chris Christinson presented 2020 budget information. Joel McDonough opened it up for discussion.
- Helen Thorpe motioned to approve the 2020 budget and Darlo Kelting 2nd. Motion carried.
- Kathy Stanek volunteered to be on the 2019 Audit committee. Three members are required to be part of the audit. Kathy and Joel will ask Tammy Smith and Danielle McDonough to be on this committee.
- The following members were approved individually for self-exclusion. This does not mean they are not Christian just simply saying they no longer are part of Immanuel Lutheran church.

1. Joseph & Anita Allwood
2. Brown Family
3. Pat Starett
4. Chris Starett
5. Doug Hammelman
6. Carole & Joseph Adams
7. Jessica Van Tomme
8. Christopher Long
9. Michael Long
10. Troy and Tammy Long

- Pastor led a prayer asking for Christ to stay in their hearts and find new church homes.

With no other business to discuss Helen Thorpe motioned to adjourn and Marina Kaloupek 2nd. Meeting adjourned reciting "The Lord's Prayer".

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
Council Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, June 14th, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on June 14th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Chris Christinson, Kevin Schultz, Sherri Baker, and Kathy Stanek. Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. Minutes of the March 2020 regular monthly meetings were distributed. Chris motioned to approve the minutes – Sherri 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Steve Haase

- Continue to search for absentee member addresses and reach out to them.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.
- Received \$10,150 PPP loan to assist the cost of secretary's salary.
- Giving has continued to be good during the March –April "stay at home" government directive.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Air conditioners were serviced
- Contractor for the lawn mowing has been doing a good job

Board of Evangelism: Pastor Koepp for the Board

- 4th of July parade has been cancelled

Board of Education: Sherri Baker

- Preparing a "Return to Learn" plan for Sunday School classes
- VBS will be July 13th – 15th
- Sunday school offerings will be used to purchase a new tree for the property.

Board of Stewardship: No report

Board of Fellowship: Not Active

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

- Pastor and his family will be on vacation July 21st – 26th.
- St. Johns in State Center is closing their doors and the last worship service will be held July 28th.

Unfinished Business:

- Changes/corrections to Immanuel's constitution will be presented to members for approval/ratification at the next voter's meeting.

New Business:

- Established guidelines per CDC guidelines to resume church services/functions.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Voter's Meeting: April 19th, 2020 - 10:30 AM

Council Meeting: July 11th, 2020 - 8:00 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek

Church Council Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, July 12th, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on July 12th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Chris Christinson, Keith Thorpe, and Kathy Stanek. Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer.

Minutes of the June 2020 regular monthly meetings were distributed. Steve motioned to approve the minutes – Kathy 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Steve Haase

- Continue to search for absentee member addresses and reach out to them.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.
- Working on the forgiveness portion of the PPP loan that was received earlier this year.

Board of Trustees: Steve Haase for the Board

- Air conditioner rebate which will cover ½ of the cost of servicing has been submitted.

Board of Evangelism: No Report

Board of Education: Pastor Koepp for the Board

- Sunday School kickoff will be held August 30th, and classes will officially start Sunday, September 14th.
- VBS Dates: Monday – Wednesday July 13 – 15th. Lessons will be sent to the homes of students unable to attend.
- Practice for the Christmas program will start one week earlier in November this year.

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe

- 2nd quarter statements are being sent out.

Board of Fellowship: Not Active

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

- Pastor's report provided listing official acts and Pastoral Duties including: Counseling/home visits, attending board meetings, visiting sick/shut-ins and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.
- Rite of First communion for Sophia Loudon and Ellie Mintle Sunday, July 12, 2020.

Unfinished Business:

- Changes/corrections to Immanuel's constitution will be presented to members for approval/ratification at Sunday, July 19th Voter's meeting.

New Business:

- Received transfer request from Harold and Susan Schoen to Cedar Rapids church. Kathy motioned to approve. Chris 2nd. Motion carried.

Pastor Koepp closed with prayer.

Voter's Meeting: July 19th, 2020 - 10:30 AM

Council Meeting: August 9th, 2020 - 8:00 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
Church Council Secretary

2020 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

President

Steve Haase

LWML President

Pam Haase

Vice President

Joel McDonough

LWML Treasurer

Susan Schoen

Secretary

Kathy Stanek

LWML Secretary

Pam Haase

Treasurer

Chris Christinson

LWML Christian Life

Denise Cadwell

Elders

Joel McDonough~Chairman

Steve Haase

Darlo Kelting

Ken Mergen

Organist

Esther Huedepohl/Pam Haase

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

Trustees

Kevin Schultz

Ben Louden

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

Board of Education

Sherry Baker~Chairman

Megan Schutt

Markie Koepp

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)

Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe

Pamela Sittig

Cindy Cloyed

Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier~Chairman

Dianna Kelting

Sandy Koch