

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

***February 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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**CELL PHONE- 507-829-3901**

**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.**

# 2023 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

## **Altar Guild**

Helen Thorpe  
June Routier  
Danielle McDonough  
Pam Haase  
Pam Sittig  
Esther Huedepohl (Backup)



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# A Message From Our Pastor



February is a month of transitions in the church year. We go from Epiphany, through preparations for Lent and end with Ash Wednesday. The world takes one of the days of the church year and twists it into its own festival of self-promotion and chaos. I am speaking of Valentine's Day. In a day that has turned love away from God and into one's self. How fitting that this month is also home this year to what is known as the "Gesima" Sundays.

Gesima is the Latin word for day and so the church embarks on three Sundays of proper preparation for Lent. As Lent is a preparatory time for Easter, this may sound a bit funny; that is, to have a preparation season for a preparation season. Lent however can take a dangerous turn, if not understood rightly. Lent can easily be twisted into a self-justifying exercise where fasting is done to show "just how much I can suffer for Christ." It can be turned away from a proper recognition of sin and prayerful repentance focusing on the suffering and passion of our Lord, and turned into all about me.

Each of the days leading up to Lent are aimed at focusing us on Christ. The confessional principles of the Reformation in Christ alone, by grace alone, Scripture alone, faith alone are highlighted by the text and hymns of each Sunday.

The end of the month ends on a high note of Ash Wednesday. In a day of reflection and prayer, we hear these words, *“on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.”* (LSB Altar Book)

The Church has followed an ancient custom known as the “Imposition of Ashes.” During the service, the sign of the cross is drawn on the forehead (or hand) of those who so desire, while the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” are spoken. This sign of repentance is a reminder of our mortality and that we daily stand in need of God’s mercy, purchased and won by Christ’s death on the cross, which is culminating end of the Lenten Season.

As we enter this time of transition, repentance and prayer, may we do so with our fixed on Jesus. While you plan on ways to show your love to others, may you do so in the light of Christ. I recall for you these words from the book of Hebrews: ***“since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”*** (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Christ has been crucified, died, was buried, and has risen again for you!

May the Lord bless and keep you!  
Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe

# From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

LSB 607



1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and  
2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out  
3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in  
4 And though it tar - ry through the night And till the  
5 Though great our sins, yet great - er still Is God's a -



trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious  
my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest  
mine own mer - it; It rests up - on His  
morn - ing wak - en, My heart shall nev - er  
bun - dant fa - vor; His hand of mer - cy



ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.  
deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.  
faith - ful Word To them of con - trite spir - it  
doubt His might Nor count it - self for - sak - en.  
nev - er will A - ban - don us, nor wa - ver.



If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en  
Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy  
That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort  
O Is - rael, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spir - it  
Our shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His



ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?  
strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.  
and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.  
and the Word, Now wait for His ap - pear - ing.  
Is - rael free From all their sin and sor - row.

*Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.*

*Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

**PRAY FOR** **Cody and Aurelie Mock**  
IT Project Manager  
*Serving the Lord in Latvia*



Cody and Aurelie Mock serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Riga, Latvia. As IT project manager, Cody works alongside the Luther Academy in Riga and the mission team in Eurasia to provide support for various IT systems and services. He also helps identify and implement new technology solutions within the region's projects and provides training for staff on how to use those technologies.

Cody is from Pella, Iowa, and his home congregation is St. John Lutheran Church, Oskaloosa, Iowa. He attended Iowa State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems. Before becoming a missionary, he held several roles in the industry, including help desk technician, web developer, assistant programmer and systems administrator. In his free time, he enjoys tinkering with electronics, fixing and restoring things, and brewing his own beer.

Aurelie was born in Tacoma, Wash. She holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of Nebraska Kearney. She worked for libraries in Kansas for several years before becoming a stay-at-home mother and homeschool teacher for their two daughters, Eva and Moriah. In her free time, Aurelie enjoys taking long walks, gardening, reading, learning languages and collecting books.

Pray for the Mock family as they serve in Riga. Ask God to help them successfully integrate into the community and serve Him to the best of their ability. Pray that God would give Cody wisdom to leverage technology in ways that help the mission team clearly communicate the Gospel throughout the region. Let us give thanks that the Mocks are serving God's children in this part of the world.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Cody — Aug. 31,  
Aurelie — March 10, Eva — July 7,  
Moriah — Nov. 25

**ANNIVERSARY:** March 23

**HOME DISTRICT:** Iowa East



**Pray daily for Cody and Aurelie** – and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit [lcms.org/mock](http://lcms.org/mock)

**Learn about LCMS international work** at [international.lcms.org](http://international.lcms.org)

**Support an international worker.** Call 888-930-4438



# MY GIFT

in support of the LCMS through the work of  
**Cody and Aurelie Mock**



## ELECTRONIC GIVING:

To give securely online, scan the QR code or visit [lcms.org/mock](https://lcms.org/mock)

## GIVE BY MAIL:

To mail your gift, please fill out the form below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Type of Gift:

A recurring gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the duration of Cody and Aurelie's service. (Please choose the frequency from the choices listed below.)

A per-year pledge commitment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be fulfilled:

Frequency schedule:  monthly  quarterly  semi-annually  annually

A special gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

## I/We would like to make my/our gifts by:

**Check** — Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
Write **Mock-Latvia Support** on memo line.

**Automatic Withdrawal** — Please include a VOIDED ORIGINAL CHECK.

I/we hereby authorize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to initiate automatic debits to my/our account at the financial institution named below. I/we acknowledge that the origination of direct debit (ACH) transactions to my/our account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law. This agreement will remain in effect until The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receives a written notice of cancellation from me or my financial institution.

Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • P.O. Box 66861 • St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

To give using your credit/debit card, call 888-930-4438 or email us at [mission.giving@lcms.org](mailto:mission.giving@lcms.org).

To learn more about how the LCMS respects your intent for each donation and administers all voluntary charitable gifts, visit [lcms.org/makeagift/faqs](https://lcms.org/makeagift/faqs).

**Acct # A10798-69496**



## 2022 Giving Totals

<b>General Fund</b>	\$232,312.94
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$9325.00
<b>Missions</b>	
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca	\$455.00
Iowa Lutheran School	\$375.00
MICA	\$190.00
IDE Student Aide	\$1413.00
Lutheran Hour Ministries	\$707.00
Orphan Grain Train	\$761.00
LC-MS World Relief	\$510.10
<b>LWML Noisy Bucket</b>	\$385.67
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	
Carmen Wiebold	\$325.00
Dorothy Latcham	\$100.00
Lyle Latcham	\$100.00
Kathy Mergen	\$100.00
<b>Thrivent</b>	\$220.00



**February 22**

**Meal served at 5:00pm**

**Divine Service at 6:30pm**

**Midweek Lenten Services**

**Wednesdays**

**March 1 through March 29**

**Meals served at 5:00pm**

**Evening Prayer begins at 6:30pm**



# ***Palm Sunday & Holy Week***

**April 2**

**9:00am Palm Sunday**

**April 3, 4, 5**

**Noon Prayer & Preaching Service**

**April 6**

**6:30pm Holy Thursday Divine Service**

**April 7**

**6:30pm Good Friday Divine Service**

**April 8**

**Noon Holy Saturday Prayer & Preaching Service**

**6:30pm Easter Vigil Service**

*He is  
Risen*

**April 9**

**Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Dawn Divine Service**

**6:30am**

**Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day Divine Service**

**9:00am**



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

### ***Don't Replace "And" with "Or"***

We've all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. As we confess in the Small Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed, God gives us everything we have and enjoy. First we confess that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses" (SC II). Then we confess that He gives us material things. The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanks giving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word and with the word or. It is always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolls that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents or treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents and treasure to our families, our society, our church and our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents and treasure together.

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

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

## MEMORY WORK FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

### **5th & 6th Grades Confirmation Memory Work Classtime Wednesdays 4:00pm — 5:30pm**

- Feb 1 Second Article of the Creed and meaning (all of it)
- Feb 8 Second Article of the Creed and meaning (all of it)
- Feb 15 Third Article of the Creed and meaning (all of it)
- Feb 22 Third Article of the Creed and meaning (all of it)

### **7th & 8th Grades Confirmation Memory Work Classtime Wednesdays 5:30pm — 7:00pm**

- Feb 1 Second Article and meaning (all of it)
- Feb 8 Second Article and meaning (all of it)
- Feb 15 Second Article and meaning (all of it)
- Feb 22 Third Article and meaning (all of it)

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Voters Assembly Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, October 16th, 2022**

The quarterly meeting of the Church Voters was held on Sunday, October 16th, 2022.

Members Present: Joel McDonough, Kevin L. Schultz, Diane L Schultz, Bev Huebner, Dan Huebner, Jan Mergen, Ken Mergen, June Routier, Tammy Smith, Helen Thorpe, Keith N. Thorpe, Marvin Honold, Ruth Honold, Luke Bayer, Amber Bayer, Danielle McDonough, Marrina Kaloupek, Pam Haase, Chris Christinson, Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp, Markie Koepp and Kathy Stanek.

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

**New Voting Members:** None

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

Diane motioned to accept the July 24, 2022 minutes – Helen 2nd. Motion carried.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Joel McDonough

- Continue to work on the membership list by making phone calls, sending emails, and certified letters. If no response, they will be included in the exclusion list for members to vote on.
- Will begin home visits after the 1st of the year to show more exposure to members and talking with them one on one. The Elders would like to make themselves more available to members.
- The question was asked if a member has a death in the family can it be put in the bulletins or newsletters. It may be a privacy issue and the Elders/Pastor will review it.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report.
- Opened a 13-month CD at the credit union.

**Board of Trustees:** Kevin Schultz

- Usual maintenance (trimming hedges, etc.)

**Board of Evangelism:** June Routier

- Assembled 100 backpacks for the Orphan Grain Train.
- Provide treats to students the first Tuesday of each month at Drake Library. There is a signup sheet for those who wish to donate. All treats must be in a wrapper.

**Board of Education:** Markie Koepp

- Sunday school is off to a good start.
- Pastor Koepp created the script for the Christmas program and the teachers are assigning parts. The will be performed December 18th.

**Board of Stewardship:** Keith N Thorpe

- 3rd quarter statements have been sent to members along with the giving envelopes.

**Pastor Koepp's Report:**

- Providing spiritual leadership to members of Immanuel church, preparing weekly sermons, preaching, and conducting worship services. Leading Confirmation and Bible Study classes.
- Counseling/home visits, attending board meetings, visiting sick/shut-ins, and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Danielle McDonough, Luke Bayer, Amber Bayer, Diane Schultz, and Markie Koepp volunteered to be on a committee to decide how many TV's to install for bulletin boards, announcements, and pictures. Keith motioned to approve a bulletin board budget of \$1500.00 and Pam 2nd. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Helen motioned to send Joel McDonough as Immanuel's representative for the district convention that will be held in Grinnell November 19th – Danielle 2nd. Motion carried.
- Joel requested members to prayerfully consider volunteering to serve as Lay Delegate at the Synod convention held in Milwaukee July 2023.

## **Council Member Election Ballot:**

<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Kathy Stanek</b>	<b>2-year term</b>
<b>Elders – Vote 2:</b>	<b>Joel McDonough</b>	<b>3-year term</b>
	<b>Darlo Kelting</b>	<b>3-year term</b>
<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Ben Louden</b>	<b>3-year term</b>
<b>Stewardship:</b>	<b>Keith Thorpe</b>	<b>3-year term</b>

Helen motioned to accept the ballot as presented – Bev 2nd. Motion carried.  
Diane motioned to verbally vote the acceptance of all board members listed on the ballot. Danielle 2nd. Motion carried.

Board of Elders Self-Exclusion Member List: Self-exclusion means they are no longer a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church but are always welcome to return. The following people have not been to church, responded to letters, emails, or phone calls.

**Joel recommended the following people be released for self-exclusion:**

- 1. Duane Cloyed**
- 2. Cindy Cloyed**
- 3. Jordon Cloyed**
- 4. Allison Madren**
- 5. Emma Madren**
- 6. Piper Madren**
- 7. Lilly Madren**
- 8. Violet Madren**

**All voting members voted Aye with no Nay's.**

With no other business to discuss Darlo motioned to adjourn and Marvin 2nd.  
Pastor closed in prayer.

Next Voters Meeting: January 15, 2023 @ 10:30 AM.

Submitted by:  
Kathy Stanek