

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

June Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS
229 11TH AVENUE WEST
GRINNELL, IA 50112
OFFICE- 641-236-6691
CHURCH EMAIL- immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net
WEBSITE- www.immanuelgrinnell.org

REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP
EMAIL- koeppj@hotmail.com
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.

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)



HELLO JUNE

In this issue...

Pgs 5-10	Message from Pastor
Pg 11	President Saunders' Piece for Peace
Pg 12	Central Iowa Christian School/2023 Immanuel VBS
Pg 13	LWML
Pg 14	IDE Golf Outing
Pg 15	LCMS - Set Apart to Serve
Pg 16	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
Pgs 17-18	LCMS Ministry Stewardship Article
Pg 19	April Council Minutes

A Message from our Pastor



While this article is published in the June edition of the Newsletter, many of you will be getting this probably over Memorial Day Weekend. As you walk through June, which in our nation is bookended by Memorial Day and the 4th of July, I offer for your reflection some thoughts in these regards.

Deuteronomy 6 records, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

(Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Some tourists were visiting a beautiful, quaint village in New England. As they walked by an old man who was sitting beside a fence, one lady, with a patronizing tone, asked, “Tell me, were any important men or women ever born in this village?” The old man hesitated, and then slowly replied, “No. Not a single important man or woman. Only babies have been born here.” Memorial Day is set aside in our country to the more than 1.8 million persons who have died in defense of freedom since 1775.

These are men and women who gave everything they were, and all they would ever be, to their country. They were not born important or conceived as heroes. They were born as babies. It is by virtue of their sacrifice that they achieved prominence.

The earthly resting places of these heroes are in Valley Forge and Guadalcanal, Gettysburg and Da Nang, the Aleutians and Kuwait. They have died on shipboard, sailing the seven seas, and in plane crashes on the other side of the world. When their bodies could be found, these heroes have received for their sacrifices a few square feet of foreign or native soil. The names of these martyrs to freedom are inscribed on the hearts of mothers and fathers, sweethearts, wives and husbands, children and on small markers raised above their graves. All too often their sacrifice has been anonymous, as the markers read "An Unknown Soldier" or a wreath says "Lost at Sea." Their passing may be recorded on a bronze tablet, carved on a black stone wall, or placed in the records where the awarding of posthumous medals is recorded. For them and their families. Thank you.

How tragic it is, as the years pass by, to see the crowds that once thronged to hear the patriotic speeches, see the parades, and mark this as a special day, grow smaller and less interested. How cold we have become to believe this day is only a day to free us from work and school, a day of picnics and barbecues. True, we can do little in practical repayment for those who have given their all. We cannot compensate the parents who still have an aching, hollow spot within them. We cannot console spouses and sweethearts who still search for the love they have lost. We cannot replace, for a growing child, the tender care of a parent who will never return home. We can do little, but does that mean we should do nothing? This Memorial Day, before everyone has forgotten, we Christians need to ask the question: "How can we remember best those who have given so much for us?"

Such a query, although meaningful and beautiful, is a hard one to answer. There have been many different causes for which people have fought. Lives were lost in the wars for freedom from tyranny and slavery. Lives were lost as we have honored our promises or struggled to defeat dictatorial despots.

As we try to remember those who have suffered and died, we will find further confusion. Signs of that confusion are all around us. The U.S. government makes provision for Christian chaplains in the armed forces to minister to those who could lose their lives any day, whose eternal fate—heaven or hell—hangs in the balance. The government has a chaplain for congress who opens the session with prayer. Yet that same government prohibits chaplains and prayer in other realms, such as public schools. Bibles are not allowed in schools, but they are placed in prison cells. Public school students are encouraged to use condoms, but are discouraged from witnessing their faith. Vulgar language and obscene music can be broadcast over the airwaves, but a nativity scene of Christ's birth in the town square is considered offensive. The U.S. Supreme Court has the Ten Commandments inscribed in a wall of their building, but that same court has outlawed the public teaching of the Ten Commandments. Founding documents of the United States, such as the Declaration of Independence, appeal for their validity to God the Creator, yet what kind of reception would a political candidate receive today if, to justify his views, he made that same kind of appeal to God the Creator?

Sin, Satan, and selfish desires have had much success in clouding our commitment, values, morals, and direction. Freedom of religion—the government's constitutional promise not to interfere with the proclamation of Jesus Christ—has become freedom from religion—government efforts to stifle the proclamation of Jesus Christ. The God who governs all things has generously given our country and much of our world an extended time of peace and prosperity, yet in this time of leisure people sit back and relax, forget about God and his abundant blessings and ignore their purpose for living on this earth. Even while these alarm bells are ringing, we should not be surprised, because throughout history many other nations and peoples have forgotten about God.

Israel forgot. God had redeemed them from Egypt. Not only did he give them freedom, he also gave them his grace and salvation. Of all the nations on the earth, they alone were God's elect people. But their many grumblings in the wilderness showed how quickly a nation can forget. God gave them the Promised Land, but they became lazy and neglected to drive out all of the idolatrous pagans as God commanded. In the land flowing with milk and honey, God still blessed them abundantly, yet they forgot. To refresh their memories of their dependence upon him and his mercy, he allowed enemies to discipline them. Then, when his people remembered how much they needed his forgiveness and protection, God raised up leaders, judges, prophets, kings—to deliver them.

But always, always, the memory of God's people remains short. Having diagnosed their chronic amnesia, it is little wonder that God tried to tie a string around their finger so they wouldn't forget. When the Israelites were about to enter the land he had promised to them hundreds of years before, God said, ***"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."*** (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

What is God saying here? Simply this: Don't forget me. Remember me in the morning, the evening, and throughout the day. Remember me when you're on vacation, when you're playing, when you're eating, when you leave home for work, and when you come home. Remember to tell your children about me, so they grow up knowing my love and mercy. This request by God is not rocket science; it is a simple request. But it was soon a forgotten request.

The same request by God comes through the sacred Scriptures to us Christians today: ***Fathers...bring up [your children] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*** (Ephesians 6:4) Through Jesus Christ, God's only-begotten Son, we have been given deeper insight into God's saving love and forgiveness, a fuller revelation than Israel enjoyed. ***"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*** (2 Corinthians 4:6)

When we are called upon to remember, what does this mean? We do well first to confess how much and how often we forget. So many live with no knowledge of the greatest truths: creation and the fall; sin and redemption; the cross and the resurrection; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. These are the most important facts for this life and for eternity. This is the knowledge that makes us ***"wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."*** (2 Timothy 3:15)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, may we follow real wisdom and truth. May we listen to the Lord and impress His words upon our children. May we talk of God's love when we sit at home and when we walk along the road. When we lie down and when we get up, may our thoughts be of thanksgiving to God, who has, by grace and through the sacrificial death of his Son, saved us from everlasting damnation. We walk through June, from Memorial Day to Independence Day giving remembering and giving thanks for our freedoms in this country and those who gave their lives in its defense. They died to win limited liberty and temporal peace for our land, and it is right that we do these things. May we, in an even greater way, live every day as a Christian "memorial day"—a day to remember our Lord Jesus Christ, who sacrificed his life to win complete freedom and eternal life for all people in every age and in every land.

During the Second World War, many French people collaborated with the Germans and betrayed their Jewish neighbors into death. But that did not happen in the little village of Le Chambon. That small town was distinguished by the fact that every person there was a hero—every person risked his or her life to save their friends. After the war, researchers went to this nondescript little hamlet to find out what special quality resided there. They wanted to know, "Is the entire village filled with great people?" Investigation revealed no such inborn qualities. No great men or women had been born there. Only babies had ever been born in Le Chambon. The only distinctive feature was that they went to church—faithfully. Over the previous decades, they remembered over and over that Jesus had sacrificed everything for them.

Strong in the faith, they also remembered that the day might come when God would ask them to risk their own lives in showing Christian love toward their neighbor. That truth, preached by the pastor and handed down from grandparents to parents to children, became part of each family. One little old lady, who had distinguished herself by faking a heart attack when the Nazis came to search her house, summed up everyone's attitude when she said, "Pastor always taught us that there are times in every life when a person is asked to do something out of love for Jesus. When our time came, we remembered what he did for us, and what we should do for him."

This June, we pray, Merciful Father, whose dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, rose victoriously over death and the grave, we remember with thanksgiving Your faithful people who have trusted in Christ, whose tears are gone, and whose sorrows You have turned to joy. We humbly implore You to strengthen us in the confident hope of the Resurrection of the dead and of the life of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

“Keep watch over yourselves and the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.” This is Paul’s admonition to the pastors in the city of Ephesus. The emphasis in that verse is that it is the Holy Spirit who makes pastors, and it is the Holy Spirit that sends them to serve the flock in a local pasture.

By the time this article reaches all of you, the Holy Spirit will once again have prepared and placed men into the Holy Office of the Ministry. Even though we are dreadfully short on men to serve all the vacancies in Synod, we rejoice that the Lord of the Harvest sends out shepherds to tend His sheep.

Right now, there is some anxiety in the hearts and minds of these candidates, as well as wonderment with their wives, as to where they will be sent and with whom they will interact in the parish. Will it be near their parents, will there be ample housing and/or shopping? What about the school system if the congregation doesn’t have a school attached to it? Will the elders be kind and supportive, will the congregation adjust to the new man and his family?

I have had these conversations with former vicars who are preparing to receive a Divine Call. My only answer is the same as Paul gave to the pastors of Ephesus. It is the Holy Spirit who is making this decision, He does so through the Church. In as much as it is the Holy Spirit who makes pastors and sends them, it is the place God determines for you to serve. He has not nor will He ever make a mistake for His shepherds or for His sheep. Wherever it is you are sent, everything you need will already be there. Go with God, go with joy. Serve Him gladly, serve Him faithfully.

Iowa District East had three requests for candidates this year. With the shortage of men available I didn’t know for sure if any requests would be filled. Lo and behold, God has filled all three. We are so thankful for His mercy to our district and congregations. I ask you to join the Church at large in thanking the Lord of the Harvest for all the men who will be joining us here in Iowa District East.

St. John’s Newhall will be receiving Rev. Nicholas Palmer, St. Paul’s Latimer will be receiving Rev. Peter Wagner, and Our Redeemer Dubuque will be receiving Rev. Mark Zieroth. We praise God for their fine preparation, examination, Call, and soon ordination with installation. Please lift them to the Throne of Grace in support of the Holy Spirit making these men His shepherds.

We will also be receiving all four of our vicar requests. We are blessed! I don’t have the information yet concerning any DCE’s and Lutheran School Teachers that will be coming to serve our schools and congregations. I do ask you to lift these men and women in prayer along with the pastors being placed. Should the Lord so choose we will also be having some new pastors come our way from the field. Many Calls are being sent out in the next few weeks for men to come and fill our vacant congregations. These men and families need our prayers for clarity and deliberation that the Lord’s will be done.

When we pray, we must pray for all pastors and teachers’ faithfulness to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. Pray for the congregation’s willingness to learn from their pastors and teachers. Pray that the new relationships would be blessed with symbiosis, the willingness to sacrifice for the sake of the other that both may live in blessed righteousness. Pray for their families and all that accompanies adjustments and sacrifices. Pray for the strength of the Holy Spirit to carry out their vocations with peace, calm, and joy. God be with you all, my fellow Servants.



Did you know that your student's tuition could be paid for?

Accepting New Students!
Kindergarten
through
Eighth Grades

With the **Iowa School Choice Bill**, families are eligible for an Education Savings Account that will fund education expenses at CICS.

For details, please visit

www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/students-first-education-savings-accounts

To Schedule a visit:

(641)236-3000

www.centraliowachristianschool.org



Monday July 17th • 9:00am-11:00am

Tuesday July 18th • 9:00am-11:00am

Wednesday July 19th • 9:00am-11:00am

Please let the Board of Education know if any parents or grandparents plan to have their children and/or grandchildren attending so we can properly prepare. Even if they are only doing one or two of the three days, please sign-up and inform the Board of Education.

Registration forms are on the entryway table at church.



At our LWML meeting this month, we decided to support a couple of LCMS service organizations that will be represented at the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI, from June 22-25 this summer.

We will be collecting new and like-new eyeglasses for MOST Ministries who will provide eyeglasses to developing nations around the world; and the following items for Phil's Friends: puzzle books, journals, playing cards (regular), fuzzy socks, and hats (knit, crochet, baseball). Phil's Friends sends these items in care packages to child and adult cancer victims. Both Phil's Friends and MOST Ministries are Recognized Service Organizations for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

If you would like to contribute any of these items, please put them in the tub marked LWML Gifts from the Heart by June 18th. Thank you so much for your participation.

IDE GOLF OUTING

FAWN CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

ANAMOSA, IA

Monday, June 26, 2023

Arrive by 8:30am; Tee-Off at 9:00am



All IDE Professional Church Workers, Pastors, Teachers, Staff and spouses are invited to join us for a day of golf at Fawn Creek Country Club.

Prizes awarded and
Lunch provided.

In case of inclement weather, call
Fawn Creek—319-462-4115 or
Sherry Brendes—319-560-3587



- Who:** All Professional Church Workers, Pastors, Staff, and Spouses
- What:** Annual Two-Person Best Shot Golf Tournament
9 Holes—Bring your own partner, or we will pair you up
- When:** Monday, June 26, 2023
Arrive by 8:30am; Tee-off at 9:00am
- Where:** Fawn Creek Country Club
1601 130th Street (right along US Hwy 151)
Anamosa, IA 52205
- Cost:** \$25.00 Green Fees & Cart Rental
(payable to Fawn Creek at golf outing)

Registration is open. You can register online through our website [Lcmiside.org/golf](https://lcmiside.org/golf). Please contact the District Office at 319-373-2112 with any questions.

LCMS - Set Apart to Serve

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:36-38

In response to Overture 1.01 of the 2018 Iowa District East—LCMS District Convention, a district task force has been commissioned to, within the Iowa District East, to aid efforts to recruit and retain church workers in the LCMS. The synod has also launched Set Apart to Serve, an initiative of the LCMS to recruit church workers. This IDE Task force met in May, September, and October of 2022 and has developed the following vision statement:

We pray for God, through the intentional efforts of faithful mentors and ministries, to raise up and sustain well-qualified Lutheran church workers who are full of the love of God and are supported in their physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual well-being so that they may joyfully serve Christ and His church in their lifelong professional and personal vocations.

In addition, three initial goals were established: 1) Congregations, schools, ministries, families, and individuals regularly pray the Lord would send workers into the harvest; 2) All church workers view themselves as mentors; and 3) Cultivate a culture of well-supported workers. Achieving these goals will happen over time, but beginning with the Professional Packet, we hope to provide resources aimed recruiting and retaining church workers, beginning with providing prayers to be included for use in Divine service, school assemblies, classrooms, staff meetings, or at home.

This month's prayers for worship, school, and home:

Heavenly Father, your Son commanded us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching all things whatsoever He commanded. Make this happen for us now. Give us more pastors: men who exude fidelity to Your Word. Increase in our day teachers, DCE's, deaconesses, and all church workers, so that through the rebuke, instruction, comfort, and encouragement of Your Word, Christ would have His way among us and through us. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For blessing of Your Word, that faithful pastors would preach, teach, and administer the holy sacraments, trusting that all things whatsoever Christ commanded are needful in our day, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For an increase in church workers, men and women called to various labor in teaching and acts of mercy, that the Holy Spirit equip them for every task and give them confidence because their labor in the Lord is never in vain, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

CAMP IO-DIS-E-CA

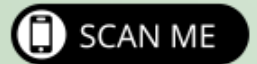
We Need Camp Counselors!

A rewarding summer job experience where you can achieve personal and professional growth. Camp staff serve as Christian role models and teachers of the faith for our campers. Apply today!

GROW IN LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, RESILIENCY, CHARACTER, & FAITH



(319) 848 4187
alec@iodiseca.org
campiodiseca.org



Summer Camp 2023

STAFF NEEDED - PAY INCREASED by \$500

Registrations for the 2023 summer camp season have been pouring in! We're on pace for another great year, but in order to make sure our campers can be accommodated, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca needs summer staff, especially camp counselors. Last year, 50 campers remained on waiting lists unable to make it into camp due to too few staff. **We anticipate needing up to 7 more counselors to accommodate the amount of campers getting registered! PLEASE HELP!!!!**

Who are we looking for? We're primarily looking for LC-MS college-aged young adults over the age of 18 to serve as counselors in overnight and day camp settings. Working on a camp summer staff is a fantastic professional growth opportunity for any- one, not just people who might be considering church-work. Young people today need Christian role models in their lives, and year after year our summer staff provide our campers with summer camp experience filled with safety, fun, friendship, adventure, and Christian learning. If you're wondering if whether or not you or someone you know is camp staff material, don't! We'll train you in all you need to know for leading campers in a rewarding work environment. Can't work for a full summer? We'll work with your schedule in seeing which weeks you can work!

To get started with the application process, head over to www.nloma.org and complete a summer service profile. Be sure to list Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as your first-choice camp! You can also speak with Alec Deppe by calling 319-848-4187 or by emailing programdirector@iodiseca.org. We look forward to assembling a great team for 2023!



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord's sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, April 16, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on April 16 at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Sherry Baker, Chris Christinson, Diane Schultz, Kevin Schultz, June Routier, Steve Haase, Keith Thorpe. Steve called the meeting to order, and Pastor opened with prayer. The March minutes were presented and approved.

Reports of Officers and Boards

Board of Elders: Steve reported that they are working on contacting all members.

Treasurer's Report: Chris presented a written report. All bills are paid, and current balances included.

Board of Trustees: Kevin reported that the church parking only sign has been installed. Outside cross lights are still in the process of getting fixed.

Board of Evangelism: June reported that they will continue to help with treats at the library this summer and they will send the cards to Caden after next Sunday.

Board of Education: Sherry reported that Sunday school for this school year will be ending in May, and are working on plans for VBS.

Board of Stewardship: Keith reported that the giving continues to be good and that the first quarter statements are in the mailboxes.

Pastor's Report: Pastor presented his monthly and quarterly reports.

Unfinished Business: Steve reminded the council that we all need to look for people who would be willing to serve on the boards and as officers.

Steve adjourned the meeting and Pastor closed with prayer.

Next Council Meeting: May 14, 2023 at 8:00 am
Next Voters meeting: April 23, 2023 at 10:30 am

Minutes by Steve Haase

