Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 Eleventh Avenue West
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

February 2021 Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Pastor — Pgs 4—5
- LCMS Stewardship Article — Pg 6
- Letter from President Harrison on COVID Vaccine — Pgs 7—10
- End of Year Financials — Pg 11
- Ash Wednesday/Mid-Week Lent Service Schedule — Pg 12
- Holy Week Service Schedule — Pg 13
- Easter Service Schedule — Pg 14
- February Confirmation Schedule — Pg 15
- Letter from Mid-Iowa Community Action — Pg 16
- Letter from Orphan Grain Train — Pg 17
- November 2020 Church Council Minutes — Pgs 18—19
- December 2020 Church Council Minutes — Pgs 20—21
- July 2020 Voters' Minutes — Pgs 22—23
- October 2020 Voters' Minutes — Pgs 24—25

LET US KNOW...

If you have a change of address, have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Pastor Koepp or the church office.

Church Email: immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.net
Office: 641-236-6691
Pastor's Email: koeppj@hotmail.com
Pastor's Cell: 507-829-3901
Pastor's Home: 641-260-8394

Where To Find Us

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

(search for Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp)

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

https://www.youtube.com

Podcast Links

(search for Immanuel Grinnell)

Anchor: https://anchor.fm/ImmanuelGrinnell

Spotify: https://open.spotify.com

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

Pocketcast: https://pca.st/jkhh18k8

RadioPublic: https://radiopublic.com

Apple: https://podcasts.apple.com

All links are available on our Church Website:

www.immanuelgrinnell.org

From the Mouth of the Enemies of Christ

Sermon Series for the Season of Lent

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

The Eighth Commandment instructs, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." The updated translation reads, "give false testimony," but I prefer bearing false witness. Why? It is more biblical in language. To bear means to carry. To "give false testimony" implies that once you speak a falsity about your neighbor, it is no longer your problem. This is not what the commandment means. There is more than just speaking. To bear one another burdens in love includes fellow reputations; hence to bear is to carry your neighbor's reputation, and they carry your own.

This past election year highlighted problems that have been stewing for quite a long time. Not only has it been deemed ok on all sides of the aisle to speak falsely, it is also been widely disseminated that it is ok to hate and decriminalize those who disagree with you. For many years, there has been a movement away from a right and a wrong, and heavy use of anger lodged at those with whom you deem as your enemies. Many don't just think or speak of "disagreeing;" instead, we talk of adversaries, foes, and enemies. What is often forgotten is these are the very terms used to describe Satan. What is also forgotten is the Eighth Commandment, or it is twisted. Either we are told not to judge, or the best construction is not used.

Paul addresses both these problems, ***"If anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*** *(Galatians 6:1-2)*

This is a reality of the baptismal identity that is given to you as a gift through the Font of water joined to God's Word. This year there are Lenten Devotions for your use that dive more deeply in the reality of baptism. As we bear one another's burdens in love, "We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything." Again, this contains better biblical imagery as we read, ***"As you come to [Jesus], a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*** *(1 Peter 2:4-5)*

In our Lenten preparation this year, we are going to take Paul's admonition to Timothy, ***"Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe."***

We are going to practice the Eighth Commandment by looking at the words spoken by the enemies of Christ. Just who are these enemies? We will hear from Caiaphas, Pilate, those gathered at Jesus' trial and at His cross. We will begin on Ash Wednesday by looking at His enemy that we don't like to talk about.

As we walk through Lent, may the Lord keep ever in our hearts, minds, and lips, ***"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*** *(Matthew 5:44-48)* Then when we see our imperfection, may we hear God's Word to, ***"return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."*** *(Joel 2:12-13)*

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

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

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" *(2 Corinthians 8:8-9)*.

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" *(2 Corinthians 8:7)*. In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

Office of the President
The Reverend Doctor Matthew C. Harris
President of the Synod

January 21, 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent weeks, I have received a number of inquiries from concerned members of the Synod about the COVID-19 vaccines, as they seek to maintain their support for the sanctity of life and for religious freedom. These questions have come not in the interests of politicizing the matter, but out of sincere Christian moral convictions. Having consulted with our district presidents and other agencies of the Synod, I requested that the staff of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, in collaboration with the Office of National Mission's Life Ministry, draft "The LCMS and COVID-19 Vaccines: Facts and Considerations." On the basis of this counsel, let me address a few of your most pressing questions.

1) Are COVID-19 vaccines related to abortion? The science regarding this is complex. The two vaccines currently approved by the FDA — Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna — were not designed, developed or produced using cell lines derived from aborted human fetal tissue. Other vaccine candidates — including the UK-approved Oxford/AstraZeneca — did use human fetal tissue, however. The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines did perform laboratory tests using cells derived from abortions (one from 1972 and another from 1985) to confirm the final vaccine quality (as, surprisingly, do many other commonly used medications and vaccines). For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines relate to abortion, I encourage you to consult the website of the pro-life bioethicists at the Charlotte Lozier Institute and the list they maintain there: *lozierinstitute.org/an-ethics-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-programs/*. According to their assessment, neither the Pfizer/BioNTech nor Moderna vaccines contain any substance derived from aborted human fetal cells.

2) Does the Synod have a position on the reception of vaccines using human fetal tissue? The Synod does not have an official position on such vaccines at this time. Official decisions of this nature come through the Synod acting in convention, and no convention action has yet been taken. However, our church body remains firmly committed to the sanctify of life, and we continually seek to advocate for pro-life positions in the public square.

3) Can I obtain a religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine? Religious or personal belief exemptions are based on conscientious objection and do not require official support from the denomination. The absence of an official Synod stance does not impact your ability to seek an exemption. Please consult your local lawmakers or public health officials for more information on how to proceed should the need arise.

4) Should I take the COVID-19 vaccine? This is a question only you can answer. Some may choose not to take the vaccine because of concerns over its relation to abortion or fear of possible

health complications. Others may take it in spite of such reservations out of concern for their own health or that of their neighbor. Since neither Scripture nor the Synod has explicitly addressed this issue, it remains a matter of Christian freedom where you must choose according to your individual conscience.

5) How should I talk about the vaccine with others who disagree with my view of it? In a sensitive issue of this nature, we remember the words of St. James: "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19). Listen carefully and openly to the points of others. Consider them. Share your positions patiently and objectively. Reflect upon your own penchant for error. Forgive others where they sin against you and ask for forgiveness where you wrong them.

In this contentious issue, we must respect the consciences of fellow believers who share our same commitment to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as our life together as a Synod. As St. Paul urges us regarding matters of conscience, "let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor" (1 Cor. 10:24), and "let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother" (Rom. 14:13). At a time of cultural upheaval, I would encourage you not to allow disagreement even over undoubtedly important matters such as this to take precedence over the faith that unites us in Christ. In all things, we should heed the call to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

Please study the document mentioned above. It provides a summary of what we know about the COVID-19 vaccines, their relation to the issue of abortion, and what we can (and cannot) say about these matters from the Synod's perspective. I hope it proves useful to you as you wrestle with how to bear Christian witness in this world through your love of both God and neighbor.

"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Heb. 13:20–21).

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

PS: "The LCMS and COVID-19 Vaccines: Facts and Considerations" document is available online at *lcms.org/doc/covid19-vaccines-fact-sheet*.

The LCMS and COVID-19 Vaccines: Facts and Considerations

COVID-19 Vaccines and Abortion

- Reliable information on the sourcing and testing of COVID-19 vaccines from the pro-life researchers of the Charlotte Lozier Institute may be found at *lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/*.
- According to the Lozier Institute, the current FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna) do not use aborted human fetal tissue in the design, development or production of the vaccines.[1 2]
- The current FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines have been *tested* using human fetal cell lines (as are many other medicines, such as the MMR and polio vaccines, as well as treatments for HIV, Parkinson's and diabetes), but the vaccines themselves do not contain any aborted fetal cells.[3]
- Many remaining COVID-19 vaccines in development do use human fetal cell lines and are therefore considered "ethically controversial" (for instance, the UK-approved Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine as well as the one from Janssen/Johnson & Johnson).

COVID-19 Vaccines and the Synod

- The Synod in convention has repeatedly adopted resolutions supporting the sanctity of human life and opposing abortion (e.g., 2019 Resolution 3-02A, 2010 Resolution 6-02A, 2007 Resolution 6-02, 2004 Resolution 6-04).
- The Synod in convention has not officially adopted a resolution concerning the use of vaccines developed from or tested using fetal cell lines.
- The absence of an official Synod stance does not impact an individual's ability to seek a religious or personal belief exemption from vaccine requirements. In many states, religious exemptions from vaccine requirements can be obtained by individuals on the basis of conscientious objection.
- Complete consensus does not exist in the pro-life community at-large on the reception of vaccines developed from or tested using fetal cell lines (e.g., the debates within Roman Catholic circles).[4]
- The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has published no report or opinion on vaccines. It has discussed the possibility of addressing it pursuant to 2019 Resolution 11-01A ("To Give Guidance and Encourage Action on Beginning-of-Life Issues"), but work on that has not begun.

What We Can Say

- The Synod remains steadfastly committed to the sanctity of human life and supportive of those institutions and individuals advocating for the unborn.
- Genuine concerns for life exist on both sides of the COVID-19 vaccination question: concern for the use of aborted fetal cells in the design, development, production and testing of vaccines, as well as

concern for the physical well-being of one's neighbor endangered by the virus.

- There is no official Synod position on the use of COVID-19 vaccines (as such positions are ordinarily expressed through a resolution of the Synod in convention).
- Christians should respect the consciences of one another on a question where Scripture and the Synod have not spoken expressly.
- Members of the Synod and Synod congregations are encouraged to:
  - Educate themselves about the vaccines;
  - Consult with trusted health care providers, clergy and those who may be impacted by their decision; and
  - Act on the basis of informed conscience as to receiving the vaccine.

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[1] For this and other information on the use of fetal cell lines in relation to COVID-19 vaccines, see *lozierinstitute.org/an-ethics-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-programs/*. The two cell lines pertinent to COVID-19 vaccines — HEK-293 and PER.C6 — were developed by a Dutch scientist from separate abortions that occurred in 1972 and 1985, respectively, though these abortions were not undertaken for the purpose of medical research. On this, see "Human Cell Strains in Vaccine Development," *The History of Vaccines*, last modified Jan. 10, 2018, *historyofvaccines.org/content/articles/human-cell-strains-vaccine-development*. See also Meredith Wadman, "Abortion Opponents Protest COVID-19 Vaccines' Use of Fetal Cells," *Science*, June 5, 2020, *sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/abortion-opponents-protest-covid-19-vaccines-use-fetal-cells*.

[2] Some objections have been raised within Roman Catholic circles to the status of the Moderna vaccine. See Stacy Trasancos, "Measuring Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine: Now's the Time to Press Hard for Ethical Options," *National Catholic Register*, Nov. 20, 2020, *ncregister.com/news/measuring-moderna-s-covid-19-vaccine-now-s-the-time-to-press-hard-for-ethical-options*.

[3] See Ivan Couronne, "How Fetal Cells from the 1970s Power Medical Innovation Today," *Medical Xpress*, Oct. 20, 2020, *medicalxpress.com/news/2020-10-fetal-cells-1970s-power-medical.html*. See also Carina Storrs, "How Exactly Fetal Tissue Is Used for Medicine," *CNN*, Dec. 8, 2017, *cnn.com/2015/07/17/health/fetal-tissue-explainer/index.html*.

[4] "Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Foetuses," Immunization Action Coalition, June 9, 2005, *immunize.org/talking-about-vaccines/vaticandocument.htm*. "Conscience Exemption for Vaccines Based on Fetal Tissue from Abortions," United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, last modified April 2015, *usccb.org/resources/PL%20Secretariat%20Vaccines-Conscience-Exemption-updated-April-2015_0.pdf*. See also the recent discussion in the *National Review*: Isaac Schorr, "The Facts about the COVID Vaccines and Fetal Cell Lines," *National Review*, Dec. 20, 2020, *nationalreview.com/2020/12/the-facts-about-the-pfizer-and-moderna-vaccines-and-fetal-cell-lines/*.

END OF YEAR FINANCIALS

January 1—Dec 31, 2020

General Fund $176,950.75

Missions

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca	$477.00
IDE Student Aid	$499.00
LCMS World Relief & Human Care	$517.00
Lutheran Hour Ministries	$567.00
MICA	$342.00
Orphan Grain Train	$507.00
Pregnancy Resource Center of Iowa	$350.00

Other

LWML Noisy Bucket for Mites	$72.82
VBS Snacks/Supplies	$40.00
Dwight Huedepohl Memorial	$615.00

Account Balances as of December 31, 2020

Bank Accounts	**Balance**
Building and Grounds Fund	5869.52
Checking	67,893.21
LCEF Savings	29,677.28
Missions	562.24
Savings	5.00
TOTAL Bank Accounts	104,007.25

Cash Accounts	**Balance**
Camp Fund	6875.45
TOTAL Cash Accounts	6875.45

OVERALL TOTAL	**110,882.70**

Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion February 17 • 6:30pm

"You Made Me This Way! — We are God's Enemies and Blame Him For Our Sins"

Mid-Week Lent Services • 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 24
"Let Another Take His Office"

Wednesday, March 3
"It Is Better That One Man Die Than The Whole Nation Perish!"

Wednesday, March 10
"This One Was With Jesus of Nazareth"

Wednesday, March 17
"What Is Truth?"

Wednesday, March 24
"I Find No Guilt In This Man...Take Him and Kill Him"

Services are livestreamed on our Facebook page & Youtube channel.

All links are on our Church Website
http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org/

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 28 • 9:00am

Monday, March 29 • Noon Prayer Service

Tuesday, March 30 • Noon Prayer Service

Wednesday, March 31 • Noon Prayer Service

Holy Thursday w/ Holy Communion, April 1 • 6:30pm

"His Blood Be On Us And Our Children!"

Good Friday w/ Holy Communion, April 2 • 6:30pm

"He Saved Others: He Cannot Save Himself!"

Holy Saturday, April 3 • Noon Prayer Service

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil w/ Holy Communion, April 3 • 6:30pm

The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Dawn

with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 4 • 6:30am

The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 4 • 9:00am

Confirmation Schedule for February

5th Grade

Feb 3	Lord's Prayer: First Petition & Meaning
Feb 10	Lord's Prayer: Second Petition & Meaning
Feb 17	Lord's Prayer: Third Petition & Meaning
Feb 24	Lord's Prayer: Fourth Petition & Meaning

7th Grade

Feb 3	Second Article & Meaning
Feb 10	Second Article & Meaning
Feb 17	Third Article & Meaning
Feb 24	Third Article & Meaning

Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

Poweshiek County Family Development Center

January, 2021

Dear Friends at Immanuel Lutheran Church,

We are extremely grateful for your donation of 22.6 pounds to Mid-Iowa Communnity Action, Inc. (MICA) Poweshiek County Emergency Food Pantry. With your support and assistance, we were able to provide food and other items to 104 households throughout Poweshiek County during the month of December 2020. However, since families are eligible to obtain food twice a month, 119 food boxes were distributed.

Additionally, due to a donation from a local organization, Christmas boxes were given to 50 families which included potatoes, a ham, rolls, and non-perishable food items for a total of approximately 931.45 pounds for Christmas! Our families are very appreciative.

Little did we know that 2020 would see so many changes at MICA! A major remodeling project of the west half of the building was finished. The SATUCI offices were able to move into their own private area on the northwest corner of the building. Adjacent to that is a large conference room with a small kitchenette and storage space for both MICA and Head Start. Beyond this planned project, COVID19 hit! Because of that, we needed to move to scheduled appointments to pick up food from the food pantry curbside. Unfortunately, for the time being, we are no longer able to utilize a shopping pantry, but we know in the future the shopping pantry will once again be the norm. For now, clients are able to enter just inside the front door to drop off or pickup forms. There is also a box next to the outside mailbox with applications for LIHEAP. Completed applications can be placed in the secured mailbox, too. Donations are still being accepted in the northeast corner of the building entering through the alley. Family Development Specialists continue to work with their families — just in a different way. We do hope that 2021 will see many changes again!

We truly appreciate your contribution because every donation helps MICA fulfill its missions: Helping People. Changing Lives. Building Communities.

Sincerely,

Mindy Clayton

Poweshiek County Family Development Center
Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

609 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa 50112 Phone: 641-236-3923 Fax: 641-236-8704

Orphan Grain Train
Central Iowa Branch 23
PO Box 120
Clemons, Iowa 50051
641-477-8263

January 7, 2021

Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for all you do for Orphan Grain Train.

We are open Tuesdays from 8:00am to Noon at Clemons to accept items for the destitute people of the world. Because of people like you, we have shipped 17 large shipments to all over the world and all shipping costs have paid for thanks to people like you.

We do not accept glassware but we do need donated clothing.

Please realize all the people you have helped. Thank you again for all you have done.

God is Good.

John L. Maddick

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, November 9th, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on November 9th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Chris Christinson, Ken Mergen, Pam Sittig, June Routier, Megan Schutt, Kevin Schultz, and Kathy Stanek. President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer.

Minutes from the October 11th, 2020 council minutes were presented approval. Pam motioned to approve and Ken 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Ken Mergen – No Report due to no meeting this month.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written reports attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.
- Monthly Giving during Pandemic has been good.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- The roof damage from Derecho should be repaired before the end of year.
- Looking at spring 2021 timeline for the last removal of trees.
- 20/21 furnace inspection, cleaning, and maintenance complete.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- Discussing the amount of dollars to send to Christmas Share program
- Sending $100 to food pantry
- Waiting to hear from Drake Library what will replace putting up and decorating Christmas trees. One idea is to cut out trees and put them in the windows.

Board of Education: Megan Schutt

- Christmas program will be Sunday December 13th.
- Free will donations for Christmas goodie bags will be accepted after church worship services.

Board of Stewardship: Pam Sittig – Nothing to report at this time.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

- Pastor's report provided listing official acts and Pastoral Duties including the Windsor Manor Nursing Home is still not allowing visitors.
- Performed 4 Baptisms.

Unfinished Business:

- There will be no Thanksgiving or Advent meals in November and December, 2020.
- Ken motioned to accept Diane Schultz as a member of the Board of Stewardship. June 2nd. Motion approved.

New Business:

- Chris will prepare 2021 budget information for approval at the December council meeting.
- Immanuel's constitution was approved by the District
- Immanuel will provide the District with a signed copy and the District will file on behalf of the Synod.
- 3 member transfers into Immanuel: Nancy Landuyt, Kadera Wyatt, and Amanda Wyatt.

With no other business to discuss meeting was adjourned. Pastor closed with prayer.

Next Council Meeting: December 13th, 2020 - 8:00 AM.

Submitted by

Kathy Stanek
Church Council Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, December 13th, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on December 13th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Joel McDonough, Chris Christinson, Kevin Schultz, Sherri Baker, Cindy Cloyed, and via conference call Kathy Stanek. President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. Minutes from the November 9th, 2020 council minutes were presented approval. Sherri motioned to approve and Cindy 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough
- Sunday services are going well and attendance is steady

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson
- Written reports attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.
- Monthly Giving during Pandemic has been good

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz
- BAU with maintenance of small issues.
- Furnace filters have been changed.

Board of Evangelism: Pastor Koepp
- Sent monies to food pantries and Christmas Share
- Schedule for 2021 missions selected by month

Board of Education: Sherri Baker
- The children's Christmas program will be after worship today and it is a great program that Pastor put together for them.
- Thank you to everyone for the free will donations for Christmas goodie bags.

Board of Stewardship: Cindy Cloyed
- Preparing year end reports to be sent out.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp
- Pastor's report provided listing official acts and Pastoral Duties including the Windsor Manor Nursing Home is still not allowing visitors.

Unfinished Business:
- Chris is preparing the 2021 budget and asked if anyone had items they wished to include. Proposal of the 2021 budget will be presented at the January 17th, 2021 Voters' meeting for approval.

New Business:

- The District Convention is currently scheduled for 2021. A delegate from Immanuel will be required and we need to decide if we would like to nominate officers.
- The Synod is asking congregations to voice their opinion on the following:

  Should we move the Synodical convention back 1 year?
  Everything is on a 3 year schedule and this will give extra time.
  District conventions need to be held the year prior to the Synodical convention and some churches are choosing to skip 2021 due to the pandemic.
  Voting yes: Circuits will meet in 2021, District will meet in 2022, and Synodical will meet in 2023.
  This happened one other time when a year was skipped during WWII.
  Immanuel will receive an official voting form the first part of January and will discuss and voice our choice at the January voters meeting.

New Business cont:

- Pastor Koepp submitted a request to the Elders to consider their input for him to get his PHD in an academic/practical degree. The elders discussed and are taking it to the Voters' meeting for their input. With the big changes churches are facing over the next 10 to 20 years we might want to consider following:
  - Pastor currently has a Theological degree and would like to receive an academic/practical PHD. Having a PHD in academic opens up the teaching degree which would help with college teaching and if Immanuel and another church ever combined we would be ready with a teacher in place.
    The class timeline would start in 2022 going to St. Louis for 2 weeks in January and June. All other classes/work would be done at Immanuel.
    Pastor Koepp is only asking for some of his time to be freed up to complete this program and with the pandemic he is doing less in-house visits and more zoom and phone calls.
    Tuition will be covered by academic grants and ½ due to needs.

Pastor closed with prayer and left the meeting. Bonuses: Sherri motioned to approve 2020 monetary bonuses for Pastor, secretaries and organist's. Cindy 2nd Motion carried. Raises: Pastor Koepp's salary is based on the District salary schedule.

Next Council Meeting: January 10th, 2021 - 8:00 AM
Voters Meeting: January 17th, 2021 - 10:30 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
Church Council Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Voters' Assembly Meeting Minutes
Sunday July 19th, 2020

The quarterly meeting of the Church Voters was held on Sunday July 19th, 2020. Members Present: Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp, Chris Christinson, Ken Mergen, Jan Mergen, Keith N. Thorpe, Helen Thorpe, Richard Huedepohl, Esther Huedepohl, Marrina Kaloupek, Diane Schultz, Kevin Schultz, Tim Sittig, Pam Sittig, Tammy Smith, June Routier, Markie Koepp, Pam Haase and Kathy Stanek. President Steve Haase 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 January 26th, 2020 quarterly meeting were distributed for review and comment. Due to Covid-19 no April meeting was held. Jan Mergen motioned to approve the January minutes – Helen Thorpe 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Steve Haase

- Continue to review the active member list and remove/release those who have responded to do so.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report.
- Immanuel has used all the monies received from the PPP Loan and is working on the forgiveness application.
- Steve thanked the members who continued to send in checks and support Immanuel during the Corona Virus/Covid-19 shut down.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- The City of Grinnell accepted a bid to fix the water drainage problem across the north lot and contractors will start soon with repairs.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- Nothing to report at this time.

Board of Education: Markie Koepp

- 2020 VBS was a lot of fun
- August 30th is the kick-off for Sunday school classes with lessons starting after Labor Day. Lesson packets will be sent to homes of students who are not able to attend in person.

Board of Stewardship: Pam Sittig

- 2nd quarter statements have been given to members.

Pastor Koepp's Report:

- Sermons are sent via email to the Windsor Manor Activities Director who provides a time for Carmen and Susan to listen to them.
- 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

- The District asked Immanuel to change some wording on a few items within the constitution. Changes will be discussed at the October Voter's meeting and members will vote for approval/denial. If approved a ratified constitution will be sent to the district for final approval/ratification.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Steve informed members the Church Council approved a request from Harold and Susan Schoen to transfer their membership to a Cedar Rapids congregation.

With no other business to discuss meeting was adjourned and Pastor closed in prayer with everyone reciting "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Voters' Assembly Meeting Minutes
Sunday October 18th, 2020

The quarterly meeting of the Church Voters was held on Sunday October 18th 2020. Members Present: Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp, Chris Christinson, Ken Mergen, Jan Mergen, Dwight Murken, Diane Carnine, Marvin Honold, Ruth Honold, Joel McDonough, Tim Baker, Sherry Baker, Keith N. Thorpe, Helen Thorpe, Marinna Kaloupek, Diane Schultz, Kevin Schultz, Tim Sittig, Pam Sittig, Tammy Smith, Markie Koepp, Pam Haase, and Steve Haase. President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

New Voting Members: None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the July 19th, 2020 quarterly meeting were distributed for review and comment. Ken Mergen motioned to approve the July minutes – 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. Thanksgiving service will be Wednesday, November 18th.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report.
- Other income is insurance money for storm repair
- Ken Mergen asked to note our appreciation for Chris' work as treasurer.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Roof is repaired from August storm. (Kevin Schultz and Steve Haase made the repairs)
- Waiting on contractor to repair the remaining areas
- Waiting on bids for tree removal – Ken Mergen suggested starting a tree fund

Board of Evangelism: Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp

- Not much that can be done at this time due to the pandemic.
- Will review missions for next year
- Likely won't be a tree at the library this year

Board of Education: Markie Koepp & Sherry Baker

- Preparing for Christmas Program
- Plan to purchase a tree from the Sunday School offerings

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe

- 3rd quarter statements have been given to members
- Electronic giving is appreciated

Pastor Koepp's Report:

- Sermons are sent via email to the Windsor Manor Activities Director who provides a time for Carmen and Susan to listen to them.
- 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.

Election of Officers: Joel McDonough

Pam Haase motioned to approve the slate of candidates – Diane Schultz 2nd. Motion carried.
Board Secretary: Kathy Stanek – two year term
Trustee: Melissa Mintle – three year term
Board of Education: Markie Koepp and Danielle McDonough – three year term – elect two
Board of Stewardship: No candidates – will continue to work to secure a candidate
Board of Evangelism and Mission: Pam Haase – three year term

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

- The District asked Immanuel to change some wording on a few items within the constitution. The first vote was held in July with approval. A second vote was held and the changes were approved. A ratified constitution will be sent to the district for final approval/ratification.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Circuit Forum in November – Joel McDonough volunteered to be lay person; will discuss circuit visitor
- Joint Seminary Fund – part of Synod and collects funds to give scholarships to seminary students. Discussed whether to put in budget or give to Evangelism Board for decision. Ken Mergen motioned we give to Evangelism Board for a decision – Joel McDonough 2nd. Motion carried.
- District Convention – at January meeting we need to elect Lay delegate and alternate. Note: if one district can't meet, no other district can meet. It is scheduled for June.

With no other business to discuss meeting was adjourned and Pastor closed in prayer with everyone reciting "The Lord's Prayer".

Submitted by: Pam Sittig

2021 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

President
Steve Haase

Vice President
Joel McDonough

Secretary
Kathy Stanek

Treasurer
Chris Christinson

Elders
Joel McDonough~Chairman
Steve Haase
Darlo Kelting
Ken Mergen

Trustees
Kevin Schultz
Ben Louden
Melissa Mintle

Board of Education
Sherry Baker~Chairman
Danielle McDonough
Markie Koepp

Board of Stewardship
Keith Thorpe
Pamela Sittig
Diane Schultz

Board of Evangelism & Missions
June Routier~Chairman
Dianna Kelting
Pam Haase

LWML President
Pam Haase

LWML Treasurer
June Routier

LWML Secretary
Pam Haase

LWML Christian Life
Denise Cadwell

Organist
Pam Haase
Esther Huedepohl

Pianist
Sophia Louden

Church Secretary
Amber Carnine

Sunday School Opening
Pastor Koepp

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