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

July Newsletter

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS 229 11TH AVENUE WEST GRINNELL, IA 50112 OFFICE- 641-236-6691

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

#### LET US KNOW...

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

# DO YOU...

want to put something in the bulletin or newsletter?

Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements?

If so, please submit the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin or newsletter by the deadlines listed below to the church secretary at immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.net.

Deadline for submitting in the weekly bulletin is Thursdays by noon.

Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month.

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

# **2022 Immanuel Officers/Board Members & Contacts**

# **President**

Joel McDonough

# **Vice President/President Elect**

Steve Haase

# Secretary

Kathy Stanek

#### **Treasurer**

Chris Christinson

#### **Elders**

Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, Ken Mergen

#### **Trustees**

Kevin Schultz, Ben Louden, 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

# **Church Secretary**

**Amber Carnine** 

#### **LWML** Board

President: Pam Haase
Treasurer: June Routier
Secretary: Pam Haase
Christian Life: Denise Cadwell

#### **Pianist**

Sophia Louden

# **Sunday School Opening**

Pastor Koepp

#### **Altar Guild**

Helen Thorpe
June Routier
Danielle McDonough
Pam Haase
Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)



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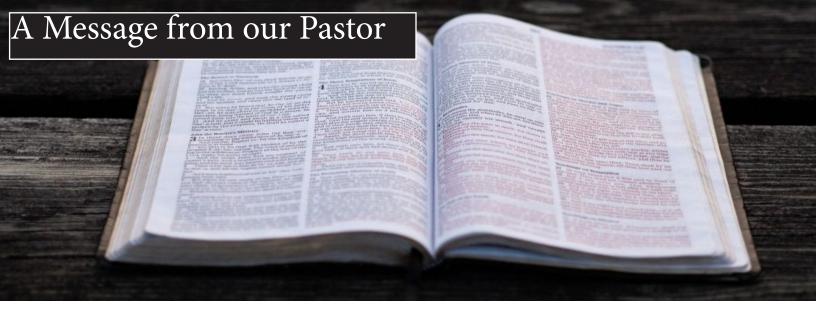
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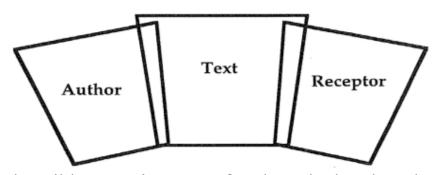
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July marks the celebration of the independence of our nation. Christianity in America is a strange lot. Many of you express your growing frustration with the struggle that entails being a Christian in this country. I hear your frustrations, and what is often overlooked, is this has always been the case. The United States claims to be built on freedom and independence, which for Christians must always ask the questions—from who and from what?

The easy answer is the tyranny of oppressive England. Taxation without representation and the persecution of those wielding political power for their own gain. We celebrate this freedom, but then we take it too far. If we can be free from oppressive governments, why not also church governments? Like I said, Christianity is strange in America. If you read the Scriptures, you are confronted with accounts of kings and oppressive governments, sure; but, you are also challenged by this truth. God has created the world including all creatures, which means you and me. If this is true, then I must owe Him some kind of fidelity; which only makes sense. His rules simply summarized—Love the lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. Seems easy enough, until I read Genesis chapter three. There I quickly learn that I cannot do this simply commands, because now sin corrupts my human nature.

It is this Biblical truth with which many Americans have trouble. We live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. We are known for standing up against tyranny, and this account of God sounds an awful lot like God is a tyrant. Using this frame of reference, some get uncomfortable lodging this complaints at God, so then it must the oppressive and tyrannical church that has changed the word of God. When it comes to reading the Bible, there are three parts of biblical interpretation that are in relationship with each other. There is the author, the text itself, and the receptor (also known as the reader or receiver of the text).



When approaching the Bible, questions are often launched at the relationship of these three elements. We live in a time where we are mainly focused on the third panel. What is deemed most important is the receptor or the reader. This has caused many to not only look upon the Holy Scriptures with contempt, but also to attempt to change the text itself, so as to make it fit better in the American context. Each individual person is deemed free to decide for himself or herself. Each individual is commanded by our current culture and nation to not only celebrate it, but demand freedom from it. So, the charges are levied, not only at God, but also at the church, and by extension, Christians, "This is a free country. I am free do what I want, when I want. Who are you to judge me?"

In this month, we will hear Jesus in Luke 6 and we will be forced to try and make sense of His words. The related text is found in Matthew 7, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you." (Matthew 7:1-2)

With all of the civil unrest happening in our time, this text bears some reflection. In reaction to the reader-focused orientation, I will spend most of this article now focused on the text. May God open our hearts and minds to have the text speak first as protected in the Third Commandment and for which we pray in the First and Second Petitions of the Lord's Prayer.

Like Luke 6, these verses are some of the most wrongly understood, erroneously applied and grossly misquoted texts in all of God's Holy Word. These words are massacred and twisted beyond their true meaning time and time again. Sadly, they are used as an evil banner of self-justification to do whatever you want.

This often misunderstood and misused phrase has the word judge. It would also be useful to read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, and I would encourage you to do so. The word "judge," has to be determined by its context. Jesus disciples are the subject of the first command, "Do not indeed judge." Given by the context of verses 3-5, Jesus forbids His disciples to reject or criticize a fellow disciple while being blind to their own faults. Arrogance and air of superiority has no place among the relationships that Jesus' followers are to have.

The second verb is in the passive voice, meaning the action is being done to them. God Himself is the implied subject, the agent who is doing the action of the verb, "So that you may not be judged by God." God cannot judge hypocritically. He can judge with an eye that perfectly sees and knows our sins. God is superior in His righteousness and purity. If a Christian thinks he or she can get away with assuming a superior purity or a greater, moral righteousness than a fellow disciple, they run the risk of receiving that same judgment from God.

In this context, the meaning of the two uses of the verbs are the same, and are to be understood this way, "Do not judge, only with a view toward the other person's faults."

Verse 2 helps to deepen our understanding, "For you will be judged by the judgment with which you judge, and it will be measured to you by the measure with which you measure." In the larger setting of this teaching, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is combating a view of self-righteousness. One is not made righteous by their own works of giving alms, praying, or fasting. They cannot add to their own lives, and worry does no good. All humans are on the same basic playing field, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory God."

With this in mind, the reality is all mankind is judged. Deemed guilty by our sin, and confirmed in our thoughts, words, and deeds. The judgment is God's, and His is the only judgment needed. We must not go around and fabricate our own forms and methods of judging. Who can add to God's already perfect judgments?

In John's Gospel Jesus says, "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." (John 7:24) Here Jesus commands us to judge, but it must be done properly. The goal must always be repentance of the erring brother or sister. The admonishing and correcting (judging) is rooted in the objective the sinner being contrite and restored in faith. This does not exclude the fact that some will reject the Word of God, not be sorry for their sin, or even admit, or recognize their actions are sinful. The practical walking through of these steps is directly given in Matthew 18.

In verse 3, a person simply sees. It is absurd to walk around with a large beam of wood protruding from the eye, and it would get in the way of seeing a tiny speck of anything. In verse 5, a person sees in order to help. Rather than a watchful, glaring, staring eye searching for fault for humiliation, the eye now is to be the strange, holy, caring eye of a brother who is a fellow servant of Christ.

Simply put, it is Dad's rules. As fellow creatures, especially as brothers and sisters in Christ, we should approach each other in that manner. We can disagree, but never disrespect. God gets the say. We exhort each other and show each other where we fail to keep Dad's rules. We point them to forgiveness. God through Christ forgives and restores through Word and Sacrament. As brothers and sisters, we then turn to each other a bear one another's burdens in love. "How can I help you remain on the road to repentance? How can we walk together down the right road, doing what Dad commands?"

These commands are given by Jesus so that every believer remains humble, and approaches each other/lives in humility. It is no light matter to rebuke an erring brother or sister. The teaching is given with authority, and only one authority: God's. If done in the proper way, God's way, no further harm will come to either party (the sinner and the sinned against).

Verse 6 concludes this thought with a beautiful allegory. The right and proper judgment, living in humility, and spiritual discipline given and sustained by the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians is a wonderful gift. It is a holy thing. It is a beautiful pearl. It is extremely precious. As such, it must be guarded and nurtured, not destroyed or taken for granted. The motivation and power for such an attitude of humble service comes from Jesus and His promise of the Heavenly Father's care, which in the context, immediately precedes (Matthew 6:25-34) and immediately follows (Matthew 7:7-12) these words of Jesus.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, hang in there. Celebrate freedom this month from the right things. In Christ, we have freedom from sin, death, and the power of the devil. We have freedom from God's wrath against sin. We have freedom to live as His beloved children enjoying all His gifts to the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. LSB 696, O God, My Faithful God is a great prayer I encourage you to sing throughout this month:

# LSB 696, O God, My Faithful God



- Confiding in my Savior;
  By grace receive my soul
  That it may live forever;
  And let my body have
  A quiet resting place
  Within a Christian grave;
  And let it sleep in peace.
- And on that final day
  When all the dead are waking,
  Stretch out Your mighty hand,
  My deathly slumber breaking.
  Then let me hear Your voice,
  Redeem this earthly frame,
  And bid me to rejoice
  With those who love Your name.

Tune and text: Public domain



Immanuel will be having a float in the Grinnell 4th of July parade this year.

If you would like to ride on the float please be there by 4:00pm (along Hamilton Avenue, North end) The parade will initially start from this location at 5:00pm. Look for the blue Immanuel Lutheran banner float.

Note: Nothing will be thrown by walkers this year, but we are looking for people to ride on the float.

This is your chance to witness as Lutherans to your community.

Hope to see you there!

**Board of Evangelism** 



July 18, 19, 20
9am-Ilam
229 IIth Ave W
Grimell, IA
641-236-6691

We would like to remind families that VBS is July 18, 19, 20.

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, downloadable forms are on our website, or you can email the church secretary for a form.

Join us and bring a friend!



Please join the Evangelism Board on

# Sunday, July 17th

after the service

for a Celebration Picnic thanking the congregation for the Building Fund offerings and the Church Renovation.

The Evangelism board will provide sandwiches (ham, Italian beef, and hot dogs) for everyone, but there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway for the side dishes (salads, veggies, etc) and desserts.

Please come and celebrate with us!



The Board of Education is encouraging everyone to prayerfully consider investing in the kids of Immanuel by teaching Sunday School this upcoming year.

For any questions or concerns,
please talk to the Board of Education:

Sherry Baker

Danielle McDonough

Markie Koepp

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me"

Matthew 18:5

#### President's Piece for Peace



I don't know about you, but I have come to detest election years. Whether it is elections in the Church or in Government, it seems to bring out the beast in our culture. It seems like little time is spent campaigning on what a candidate stands for compared to the time and effort spent on demonizing the opponent. Maybe I am getting too sensitive in my older age! Ok, maybe not.

The fact is, there are issues that do need to be addressed, talked about, campaigned on, and discussed. One such topic that has hit the air waves involves the

Church as well as the citizens of our nation. Soon a decision is going to be reached by the Supreme Court on the Roe V Wade decision from the early 1970s. All ears are pealed to hear what is going to be delivered. Both sides of the fence are greatly interested and believe solutions, once and for all, will be the conclusion. To some extent this is true but not to the extent some hope for.

The Church has spoken clearly about the abortion issue because Holy Scripture is the Book of Life and understands who the creator and sustainer of life is. All life is in the hands of the Triune God and is to be honored as He honored it by sending His own Son into the flesh to redeem all flesh. This topic has been written about and studied with exhaustive efforts by our theologians and agencies in the LCMS to protect the life of the unborn. Of this we have no confusion. Now to my point made above. Whatever the Supreme Court hands down in the next weeks, it is not the solution to this problem. The Laws passed by a nation should reflect its values and America ought to reflect value for life. For this reason, good will come from an overturn of the statute. At the same time, it is a law, and the Law cannot convert the heart of any person.

The solution to this issue and to all moral issues is the pure proclamation of the Gospel. Paul writes to the Romans that "He is not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe it." The Gospel is the power that makes changes, it makes the difference, it changes hearts and minds to love God and love their neighbor. A converted heart will love the child within the womb. It will do its best to raise that child in the love and admonition of the Lord. It will care for and provide for the child as is the responsibility of every parent.

#### President's Piece for Peace

The Church is the only possessor of the Gospel. No one else can proclaim it. No one else can teach it. It is up to us to do this from the pulpit, the lectern, the classroom isle, in the public, and in intentional efforts. The Gospel will do what it promises. The Holy Spirit works through the Gospel to speak the message of God to those who are frightened and confused. The Gospel is, and always has been the solution sent to us from Christ Himself to cure the ills of a sinful society and in particular sinful mankind.

A recent argument by someone defending abortion said it doesn't matter when you think life begins. It only matters when the mother thinks life begins. What about what the baby thinks about its life and the fact it has already begun? The law can't change that person's heart and mind, but the Gospel can. The Gospel will create consideration for others. The Gospel focuses on Jesus and His redemption for the world. The Gospel recognizes that our lives are for the sake of others and not just for ourselves. The Gospel is our answer, it is our cure, it is the power we lean on and trust no matter what the Supreme Court decides.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders District President



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS
Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

# 'New Testament Standard Giving'

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: "How much should I give?" Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus' substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God's favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God's favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for re-proof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, "What should I give?" with the question, "What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?"

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

"At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do." (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the "Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us — like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame — likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God's giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



We are extremely grateful for your donation of 15.4 pounds to Mid-lowa Community Action, Inc. With your support and assistance, we were able to provide food and other items to 94 households throughout Poweshiek County during the month of May 2022. We gave a total of 4,230 pounds! Thank you!

We are pleased to announce our clients who access the MICA Food Pantry no longer need to call ahead for an appointment to obtain food. They may just stop in to pick-up grocery items. Because of that, it might take a little longer to prepare the bags of food for distribution. In addition, we generally have a nice assortment of bread and produce. Most of the time we can offer a milk voucher to Fareway for a gallon of milk. These vouchers are coordinated by Grinnell United Methodist Church.

We have found over the last few months that some of our staples are being received in smaller quantities so your donations are really important. Some of the basics that really help are boxes of mac and cheese, cans of soup, canned fruit and/or fresh fruit, canned and/or fresh vegetables, canned meat, frozen meat, skillet meals, boxes of Kleenex, diapers, feminine products, dish soap, and laundry detergent. Again, thank you for all the donations that you share each month. We truly appreciate your contribution because every donation helps MICA fulfill its missions: Helping People. Changing Lives. Building Communities.



**Higher Things** and **Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca** are pleased to announce the fifth annual Higher Things Confirmation Camp! This year's camp will be held August 2-5, 2022.

It's time to give those catechisms some summer attention! With the busyness of summer, many confirmands go months without picking up their catechism, let alone even thinking on the content they learned in confirmation and catechesis class the year before. Before confirmands know it, they'll be thrust right back into the swing of their confirmation studies in the fall, scrambling to recover and remember what they already went through last year. Higher Things Confirmation Camp is here to give confirmands a refresher and new insight into their Lutheran catechesis life. Over the course of the 4-day camp, Rev. Sam Beltz (St. John Lutheran Church, Oskaloosa, IA) will lead confirmands in their catechism study of the Creed and The Lord's Prayer. This will be a week filled with edifying catechesis, distinctively Lutheran worship, and tons of outdoor fun that you won't want to miss!

At Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, campers will enjoy numerous outdoor activities along with their worship and learning! Participants will spend time in activities such as archery, canoeing, horseback riding, rock climbing, zipping (zip line), disc golf, swimming, large-group games, campfire and s'mores, and many more! Registration is open to both groups and individuals, meaning confirmands can come with their classmates and a chaperone or register individually and be chaperoned by one of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's camp counselors. This event is open to all youth.

Registration for each camper is \$295. The registration fee includes all meals throughout the duration of camp as well as all activities, classes, and lodging at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. You may contact Andrew Folkmann, Director of Programs and Retreats at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca at (319) 848-4187 or program director@iodiseca.org to email you an information packet. The Camper Profile, Health Form, Health Screening Form, and Release of Liability must be completed for each camper. To register a group please follow the registration instructions located on the website as well as the informational packet. Groups and individuals should register online or by mailing the Camp Registration Packet to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca by July 22nd.

Higher Things is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. Its mission is to make the gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. Higher Things accomplishes this through conferences, retreats, and various print and online media. For more information about Higher Things, please visit www.higherthings.org or contact Tana McKenna, Retreat Coordinator. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is a mission of the Iowa District East of the LCMS. Leveraging a best-in-class outdoor recreational and camping environment, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca exists to promote and provide Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration for individuals and groups of all ages. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca offers year-round, Christ-centered programs that support the ministries of local congregations, nurture the faith of individuals and families, and motivate people toward congregational involvement and living in their God-given vocations.

#### Retreat Contacts:

Andrew Folkmann
Director of Programs and Retreats at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
(319)-848-4187
programdirector@iodiseca.org

Tana McKenna Higher Things Retreat Coordinator (888) 482-6630 ext.4 retreats@higherthings.org



# Roe v. Wade is Overturned!

Today, the highest court in the land has ruled in favor of protecting the vulnerable. We are grateful to see this historic day, the culmination of countless prayers and tireless work by so many. At Lutheran Family Service we have and will continue to advocate for law change that protects life at all stages, including the pre-born. All human lives have equal and infinite value, a value that comes from our Creator.

While Lutheran Family Service is a voice in the public square on life issues, more importantly, we are doing the work necessary to walk with women in unplanned pregnancy - offering them hope, a friend, financial support, case management, parenting training, pre-natal care referrals, transportation, spiritual care, and the possibility of adoption services when needed.

We at Lutheran Family Service are grateful for all laws that protect human life because they are laws that follow God's commands. God's Word also tells us we need to love our neighbor and to care for the widow and orphan. The Pregnancy Counseling Program at Lutheran Family Service strives to do just that - to love women right where they are in all of the difficult circumstances, and to walk with them throughout. The support from our individual and congregational partners is what allows us to meet the needs of our clients in need, and we thank you. Please continue to pray for life-affirming legislation and laws in our state and nation!

Kim Laube Executive Director of Life Ministries Lutheran Family Service



"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Today is a monumental day, a day on which we simultaneously rejoice, pray, give thanks, lament, repent and weep. The Supreme Court reversed Roe v. Wade and returned the responsibility for protecting life to the states. "Held: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives" (SCOTUS, Dobbs v. Jackson, 1).

"[The Lord] has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate" (Luke 1:52).

Today is also the Church's feast day, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. These two events are a happy convergence.

Today we celebrate the birth of the one who, before he was born, leaped in joyful Spirit-inspired confession when his mother met the mother of his unborn Lord. Today we take comfort in our Lord's unborn forerunner and in the unborn Savior. We also rejoice at the resounding victory for life in the United States. Many of us long doubted it would ever come. The Lord has had mercy upon us, even us, sinners all, even in these times.

Today we continue to speak out against the evil of abortion, which many will continue to practice and advocate in states bent on death. Many who have been misled by the father of lies and the culture of death greet this day with weeping and gnashing of teeth. Today we continue to sing that the Lord "has visited and redeemed his people" (Luke 1:68).

Today we pray for unborn children who remain unprotected in many states. Today, in many places, the abortion industry continues to kill unborn children and welcomes those from states where such killing is illegal. Today we take comfort that by the Lord's hand "we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us" (Luke 1:71).

Today we repent of our own lack of love for the least, the last and the lost, for mothers in need and families facing crises. Today we celebrate God's gift of the one He sent to "go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins" (Luke 1:76–77).

Today we recommit to love all, unborn and born. Today we receive the sunrise from on high, "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death" (Luke 1:79).

Today we proclaim: Repent and believe the Good News that Jesus Christ, conceived by the Spirit, formed in the womb and born of the virgin Mary, died and rose for sinners. That includes all of us. Today we give thanks for John who preached repentance and pointed to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Today we lovingly invite all to listen to Jesus' call, "repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). If you have caused an abortion, the taking of life, there is forgiveness in Jesus! Don't be hardened in sin or advocate for more sins. Today you have hope in the One whose way John the Baptist prepared. Jesus is for sinners. Come join the rest of us forgiven sinners! Jesus is for you! You need not have a bad conscience! Repent and believe the Good News of God's love for you in Jesus.

Today we lament that the U.S. Supreme Court continues to deny the unborn the legally recognized right to life. Even though Roe v. Wade has fallen, states can still allow the killing of unborn children. Today we pray that more unborn will leap for joy in the womb, as St. John did.

Today, even as we rejoice, we weep that U.S. policy continues to promote abortion globally. Today we bend our knees in prayer.

O Lord, "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream" (Amos 5:24). The Lord preceded His Son, our Savior, with a forerunner. We pray that today's decision points ahead to the day when every state advances the cause of life and expands protections for unborn children.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Matthew C. Harrison President The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Monthly Meeting of the Church Council Sunday, March 13th, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on March 13th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Joel McDonough, Chris Christinson, Diane Schultz, Kevin Schultz, Markie Koepp, and Kathy Stanek. President Joel McDonough called the meeting to order, and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. Minutes from February 2022 council meeting was presented for approval. Diane motioned to approve and Chris 2nd. Motion carried.

#### REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

• Working on the members list

• Pastor Koepp is running for Vice President for the District. This position will not affect his position at Immanuel.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

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

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz & Diane Schultz

- CNK is hired to remove all church pews before painting contractors begin on May 2nd. Pews will be stored in an enclosed trailer in the parking lot.
- The final selection on carpeting samples have been selected and are on display in the Fellowship Hall. The committee will order the flooring and will be installed after painting is complete.
- Will continue with the same lawn care provider for 2022.

Board of Evangelism: Steve Haase for the Board

• Working on idea for summer events

Board of Education: Markie KoeppAttendance has been good

Preparing a curriculum for summer Vacation Bible School

Board of Stewardship: Diane Schultz

• BAU – Giving is steady

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

• Pastor's report provided listing official acts and Pastoral Duties.

• Carmen Wiebold's funeral service will be Saturday 3/19/22, 10:30am at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell.

Unfinished Business: None

#### **New Business:**

• The Council and Voter's meetings in April have been moved up one week due to Palm Sunday and Easter services.

With no other business to discuss Joel McDonough adjourned the meeting and Pastor closed with prayer.

Council Meeting: April 3rd, 2022 – 8:00 AM Voters Meeting: April 24, 2022 – 10:30 AM

Submitted by: Kathy Stanek

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Monthly Meeting of the Church Council Sunday, April 3rd, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on April 3rd, at 8:00 AM.

Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Joel McDonough, Chris Christinson, Sherry Baker, Diane Schultz, Kevin Schultz, and June Routier. President Joel McDonough called the meeting to order, and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. The March council minutes will be presented at the May meeting.

#### REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

• Joel reported on the schedules for Confirmation, Holy Week, and Easter.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

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

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

• Kevin gave an update on the painting and carpet projects.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

• June reported they are planning a picnic after the remodel and have not received information from the city for the 4th of July parade.

Board of Education: Sherry Baker

• Sunday school will be celebrating Baptism birthdays and they have started plans for VBS.

Board of Stewardship: Diane Schultz

• BAU – Giving continues to be good.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp

• Pastor's report provided listing official acts and Pastoral Duties.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Next Voters Meeting: April 24, 2022 – 10:30 AM

Council Meeting: May 8th, 2022 – 8:00 AM

Submitted by:

Steve Haase



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