

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

May Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS

229 11TH AVENUE WEST

GRINNELL, IA 50112

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REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP

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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 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

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Vice President/President Elect

Steve Haase

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Chris Christinson

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Sophia Loudon

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Amber Carnine

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Pastor Koepp

LWML Board

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Secretary: Pam Haase

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)



WELCOME

May

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A Message from our Pastor



I apologize for my laziness in not writing a separate article for this month. In place of an article, I am sharing with you the Bible Study that I have written for the LWML Spring Rally. Have a blessed May!

Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow

Lutheran Service Book 476: study by Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

Introduction

There are some events that shake us to our core, and not just simply on an individual level. Some are felt deeply across communities. Some are shared nationally, and still others are borne by the world itself. When these major events take place, it is tempting to forego the eighth commandment admonition to put the best construction on everything and instead to gawk retort with disbelief, “Are you the only one who has no idea what is going on? Have you not been paying attention? Everyone is talking about it. Everyone already knows. Have you been living under a rock?”

This is the setting for the disciples on the way to Emmaus. As they were traveling back to Emmaus, they were talking about all these events of the week we know as Holy Week. They were discussing the procession on Palm Sunday, the teachings, the betrayal, the arrest, the trials, the crucifixion and the various accounts of the resurrection. They were trying to understand the pictures that these pieces of the puzzle were conveying.

It seemed as though everyone was stirred up about these past events, and now everyone was left to figure out how to put these pieces together. As they searched and waded through the vast material of information behind them, they are met by a man. It was Jesus, but they did not know that quite yet. He asks a simple question, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?”

Have you ever had to explain to someone something that you just assumed that they already knew, because, “Everyone must already know it, right?” You are in a position where you want to move to interpretation and application to your own life and incorporation into your own story. You think you already have all the right pieces, so who is this other guy who forces you to stop. What are you talking about? How are you going to explain this? What are you going to include? What are you going to leave out? Are you painting an accurate picture, or are you giving your interpretation along with the events? In other words, are you influencing, rightly or wrongly, the truth of the events that have taken place?

This is the task in our text. While the disciples on the way to Emmaus weave the events together, they first think this man is living under a rock. To be sure, He is and so are they. What they will find out is that this rock, who is Christ, has the right and proper interpretation of the events that have transpired. Being fed by Christ, they will be moved under the true rock, and with it, will have their sorrow turned to joy, which lives out in walking together in love.

Exploring the Scriptures

Read Luke 24:13-35

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.

21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” 25 And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

1. Why were their eyes kept from recognizing Jesus? What does it force the disciples to pay closer attention to and what is the significance of that? (v. 16)
2. Reflecting on verse 17, and keeping in mind the introduction, what would cause the disciples to be sad?
3. Look through verses 19-24.
 - a. What pieces of the puzzle, what stories did the disciples include in their retelling of the past events?
 - b. What did they leave out?
 - c. What does that say about how they understood these events? How does this influence their walking together and movement through these past events? In other words, how does this retelling of events inform how they are walking together right now (including their attitude toward and involvement of this apparent stranger?

4. What does Jesus add to their story? What does He do to help them get a better picture of the events?
5. How does this change their attitude and their walk together? (v. 28)
6. After they had listened to His teaching, the disciples are not given to recognize Him until an important event. When do they recognize Him? In His teaching, Jesus had connected the events of Holy Week to the Scriptures, showing just how the words were lived out in important actions of the Christ. How are the words and actions of the Christ to be recognized now? What connection does Jesus make for our understanding?
7. What does this recognition cause the disciples to do? Where do they go? Do they stay by themselves? What does this teach us?
8. What events do they add to their shared story now that was not in their original retelling of the story?

Exploring the Hymn

Herman Stuempfle (1923-2007) was asked to write this hymn, on the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. As Stuempfle read and meditated on the story, he focused on the two men "in mourning, confusion, and despair about what happened on Good Friday," but then, of course, there is "this mysterious third man walking beside them." Typical of his approach to hymns based on biblical narratives, Stuempfle observed that "we all are walking on roads to death," and he used that common experience as the point of departure for identifying the singer with those Emmaus disciples. He retells the story as a means of catechesis, whereby Christ Himself is actively present with His Word, and the singer is led to recognize and receive the risen Lord in the Holy Communion. Not only does Stuempfle write the singer into the song, but the narrative of the hymn moves from the biblical past to the present and then to the future. The hymn opens up from the mourning of death to the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting.

As we have already seen, the text moves from the bitter bread of death to the broken bread of Christ. On the way to His table, hearts distraught with grief begin to burn with His Word and Spirit. For He is the "mysterious third man," who joins us on our journey of death and matches our stride in order to lead us out of death into life. He reveals Himself, His resurrection, and His Gospel also now to us in the Sacrament of His body and His blood. The Lord Jesus still surprises us with His gracious presence. What eye has not seen, nor ear heard, is revealed in His breaking of the bread (Luke 24:30-31, 35). In His Church, each day becomes a new Emmaus.

For having given us new life in Himself, anointing us by His Spirit and granting us to be the children of His God and Father, He feeds us at His table in His house. As disciples, we pray that He would abide with us (Luke 24:29); but He is the host, and we are His guests (Luke 24:30; 22:27).

It is therefore in the Church of the Word and Sacraments that the body of Jesus is found (Luke 24:22-24, 35-43). And where His crucified and risen body is given and received, there He breathes the Spirit of life into those who are burdened by sin and death. Through Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Holy Communion, He raises up disciples from death and despair to newness of life.

Appropriately, the hymn culminates with a transition to the Christian's own calling and place in life in view of the resurrection and the life everlasting. As members of one Body in Christ, baptized into His cross and resurrection, and as those who partake of His body and His blood in the Holy Communion, the disciples of Christ Jesus proceed from "Emmaus" in the confession of the Gospel (Luke 24:33-35). With words and actions, they love and serve their brothers and sisters in His Body, the Church, and they glorify His name as His "servant body," proclaiming Christ's "healing grace" to the entire world (Acts 2:41--47). So the hymn, which begins with the tears and sadness of mourning, concludes with real life and real living; for instead of separation and loneliness, disciples who recognize Jesus in His breaking of the bread live in the communion of His whole Church in heaven and on earth.

Read each stanza one at a time.

1. What portion of the story is being told?
2. What is being said of Christ? Of the disciples? Of us?
3. How does this stanza help our understanding of the person and work of Christ for me?

Making the Connection

If someone were to ask you about Jesus, what would you tell? What stories would you share? What would you leave out?

We have been given a wonderful treasure that is often overlooked in this way. Open your hymnals to pg. 322. What a story is told in these few words. The entire work of God for us through Creation, Redemption, and Sanctification are captured here. If time permits, I can share with you a seminary story of my use of the creed and its meaning in a Fort Wayne bookstore.

Now go back to the hymn, and see how each stanza captures pieces of the Creed. Notice the language and flow of the hymn from creation and its fall to its redemption by Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit as He calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and keeps.

In Closing

As we live through events that seem to shake us to our core, whether in in our individual life or our corporate life, how great to live under THE ROCK. We do not tell our own stories, allowing God to be a part of it. Rather the story is His, and we get to be a part of it.

As you walk from here today, think about how these things can help you to share the story with others. Being fed by Christ, how does this change how you walk and talk? What pieces will you tell? How does this change our attitude towards those whom we might encounter on our walk? How does might this hymn and the creed, help us to share not our own stories, or our own interpretation of the events that transpire; but to give the clear, accurate, historical picture of Christ's life and work?

By God's grace, may we who are fed by Christ, walk together in love.

Sing

Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow LSB 476



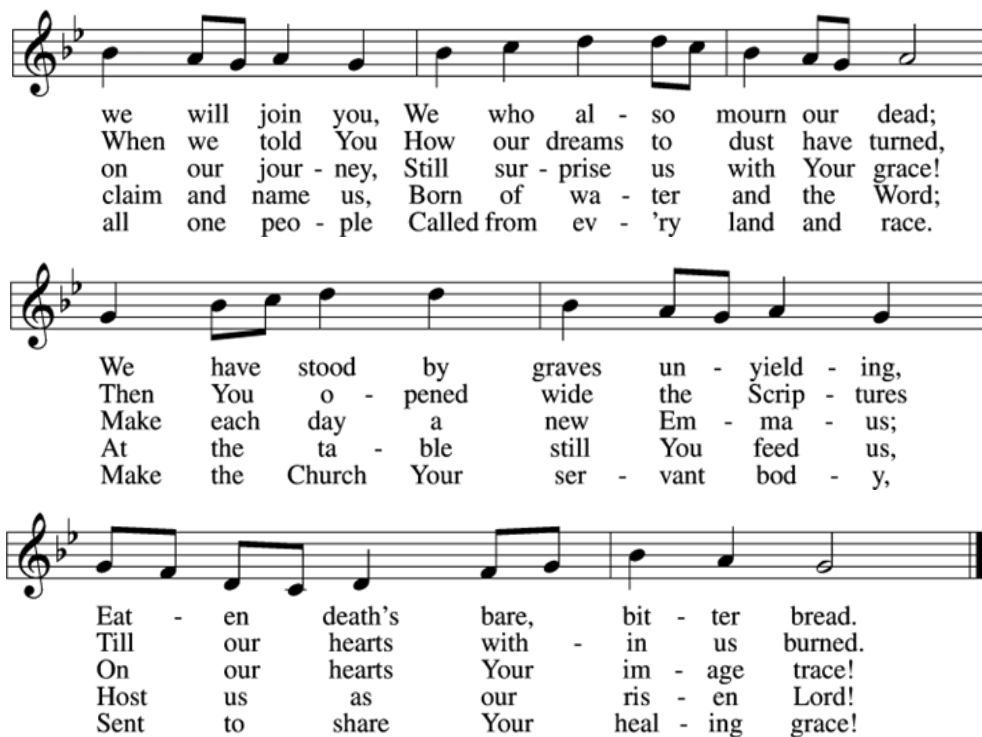
1 Who are you who walk in sor - row Down Em - ma - us'
 2 Who is this who joins our jour - ney, Walk - ing with us
 3 Who are You? Our hearts are o - pened In the break - ing
 4 Who are we who trav - el with You On our way through
 5 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Is the Eas - ter



bar - ren road, Hearts dis - traught and hope de - feat - ed,
 stride by stride? Un - known Strang - er, can You fath - om
 of the bread— Christ the vic - tim, now the vic - tor
 life to death? Wom - en, men, the young, the ag - ing,
 hymn we sing! Take our life, our joy, our wor - ship



Bent be - neath grief's crush - ing load? Name - less mourn - ers,
 Depths of grief for one who died? Then the won - der!
 Liv - ing, ris - en from the dead! Great com - pan - ion
 Wak - ened by the Spir - it's breath! At the font You
 As the gift of love we bring. You have formed us



we will join you, We who al - so mourn our dead;
 When we told You How our dreams to dust have turned,
 on our jour - ney, Still sur - prise us with Your grace!
 claim and name us, Born of wa - ter and the Word;
 all one peo - ple Called from ev - 'ry land and race.

We have stood by graves un - yield - ing,
 Then You o - pened wide the Scrip - tures
 Make each day a new Em - ma - us;
 At the ta - ble still You feed us,
 Make the Church Your ser - vant bod - y,

Eat - en death's bare, bit - ter bread.
 Till our hearts with - in us burned.
 On our hearts Your im - age trace!
 Host us as our ris - en Lord!
 Sent to share Your heal - ing grace!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven. Text: © 2000 National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001879. Tune: Public domain

Concluding Prayer

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

President's Piece for Peace

We most certainly rejoice in the celebration of Christ and His resurrection from the dead. The highest of the High Festivals is this very proclamation by the angels. Have you ever wondered what it meant to them? It may be a question we can't ask nor answer with book, chapter, and verse, but it is one worth considering. What did they know? Angels are powerful but not omnipotent. They are knowledgeable but not omniscient. They are spirit beings that from time to time manifested in physical form but they are not omnipresent. So, what did they know?

They saw Lucifer rebel and fall. They saw Eve deceived and Adam willingly disobeying the Lord. They watched as perfect creation was thrown into the dark depths of death because of sin. They heard the promise of God to send a Redeemer born of a woman to crush the head of Satan. They waited to see that Redeemer.

On a simple night, in the fields of Bethlehem, they were sent with a message that informed them of God's action to fulfill His promise. "Born to you this night, in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord." 30 year later they saw Jesus tempted in the wilderness. They saw Him notch one more victory over and against the Evil One by condemning his temptations. They saw Divine power resist and overcome the Devil himself. They knew Him to be the One God would send to save sinful mankind. They came to Jesus in order to minister to Him in that difficult time.

They watched as He, the Lord of creation was subject to the mockery, beatings, and false accusations made against Him. They saw few, if any, come to His rescue. They saw His band of disciples abandon Him and like Adam and Eve, run and hide. They saw Him take His last breath from the cross, the sun stop shining, His body hung limp. To His Father's hands goes His spirit.

They saw Him taken down from the cross and laid in the tomb, the stone rolled over the opening. This they saw and that is what they know. And then the command to arrive as the announcers they are. That Sunday morning the sun did shine. A thunderous earthquake marks creation giving way to the power of the Creator. Sin having been paid for, Satan having been defeated, and death having been overcome, they announce that of what they now know. "He is not here, He has risen just as He said."

The promise fulfilled, redemption for the world complete, life and hope reign in He who once was dead but now is alive forever. They know what we know. They saw with their capacity to see what our eyes of faith apprehend. Jesus lives. Graves will open and resurrection is the gift for all whose eyes close on earth with faith in the work and merit of Christ for us. The angels know this, we know this. It is true. That is why we can sing along with the angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven: "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty. Heaven and earth are full of Your Glory. Amen, and Amen."

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

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:

*Lord God, heavenly Father, even as we are chiefly bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, so also do we humbly ask that You would send faithful pastors into the harvest field to preach and proclaim Christ as the very Paschal Lamb, Who was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*Lord God, heavenly Father, we are chiefly bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Ever watch over and protect Your holy Church by calling faithful pastors who would proclaim Christ as the very Paschal Lamb, Who was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

More on LCMS Set Apart to Serve here: lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve

Through *Set Apart to Serve*, the LCMS is intentionally working to identify, encourage and form future church workers for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until His return. Visit lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve to learn more.

SET APART TO SERVE
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



Summer Camp 2023: **STAFF NEEDED**

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 10 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 anyone, 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.

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!

SPRING CLEANUP

Saturday, May 6 from 9AM - 4PM



Join us May 6 here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as we get things ready to go for a busy summer camp season. We're going to lean up Mary and Joseph Cabin, and do several landscaping and cleanup projects across the main site. We'll also be looking at updating several things with the Amphitheater area.

That means there is plenty to do for all age groups in coming out to camp. Plus, lunch is included! Email sitemanager@iodiseca.org to let us know that you are coming. We appreciate your help in making Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca beautiful for the upcoming year!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org



CAMP IO-DIS-E-CA

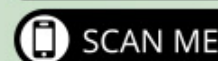
We Need Camp Counselors!

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



May 24: Preaching Workshop

"Plundering the Egyptians: Putting the
Canons of Classical Rhetoric to Work in
Preaching"

May 25-26: Theological Symposium

"The Christian Church in a
Technological Age"

Registration Cost:

(Lay People Welcome)

Full Symposium and Preaching Workshop
with 2 Nights of Lodging/Meals **\$85**

Symposium with Lodging/Meals **\$65**

Symposium without Lodging **\$35**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Location:

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
3271 Sandy Beach Rd NE
Solon, IA 52333
Daniel Sanchez: director@iodiseca.org

Questions?

Contact Rev. Sam Beltz: 870-476-0028

**THE IOWA
THEOLOGICAL
SYMPOSIUM:**

The Christian(Church)
in a Technological Age

May 24-26, 2023

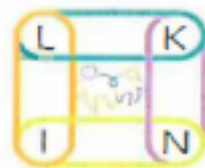
PLENARY PRESENTERS

DR. ZACHARY FARREL
THE RISE OF SCIENTISM
AGAINST SCIENCE

REV. DR. GREGORY SCHULZ
EVIL MEDIA: HOW TECHNOLOGY
ENFRAMES US

REV. DR. JOEL OKAMOTO
HOW CHRISTIANS CAN LIVE
BETTER WITH TECHNOLOGY

SECTIONAL PRESENTATIONS TBA



LINK
LEAD. INSPIRE. NURTURE. KEEP.
children educated, enriched, and engaged

March 7, 2023

Sponsorship Receipt
60216

Immanuel Lutheran
Steve Haase
229 11th Ave.
Grinnell, IA 50112

Thank you for your sponsorship!

Process Date: 02/28/2023

Amount: \$300.00

Designation: LINK Mentoring Program

LINK Grinnell was formed as a 501(c)(3) organization to address families' needs for child care with the initial development of an after-school program. The organization aims to support the community's long-term and ongoing efforts of childcare and youth development in Grinnell.

The mission is to **lead, inspire, nurture** and **keep** children educated, enriched and engaged in the Grinnell community. Founding board members have worked to secure partnerships and collaborations with area employers, and worked with the Grinnell-Newburg School District to house the after-school, summer and mentoring programs.

LINK's tax-exempt number is #84-2131856

*Thank you so much for your continued
generous support!*

Francesca Cunningham

P.O. Box 284 • Grinnell, IA 50112 • 641-236-5518 • LINKgrinnell@gmail.com



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

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



**MEMORY WORK
FOR THE
MONTH OF MAY**

**5th & 6th Grades Confirmation Memory Work
Classtime Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm**

May 3rd: Lord's Prayer: Seventh Petition, Conclusion to the Lord's Prayer and meanings

**7th Grade Confirmation Memory Work
Classtime Wednesdays 4:00-5:30pm**

May 3rd: Lord's Prayer: Bring your tests completed with the last questions also from the workbook.



Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

Poweshiek County Family Development Center

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 11th Ave. W
Grinnell, IA 50112

April, 2023

Dear Friends at Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. (MICA) Poweshiek County Emergency Food Pantry is sending you a huge **THANK YOU** for your donation of 34.5 pounds during the month of **March, 2023**! From your help, we were able to provide food and other necessities to 259 households with 363 visits to the food pantry (households are eligible to use the pantry twice a month).

The need is great and continues to grow! We gave to 245 households last month/345 visits. **THANK YOU** for continuing to support the MICA food pantry here in Grinnell by donating a **total of 5,181.7 pounds** in March!

THANK YOU to the volunteers who are hard at work here at Poweshiek County MICA! Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 16-22, and the staff is saying "thank you" to its volunteers for all they do through the week! Volunteers work when they are able and stay as long as they have time. Currently, they stock the food pantry shelves and the shelves in the work room, maintain the produce and bread on the front shelves, weigh donations, obtain donations from Hy-Vee, Fareway, and Walmart, file, type, write thank yous, work with clients, assist at Head Start, and the list goes on. Currently, volunteers work anywhere from an hour to ten hours a week. Staff members appreciate all they do to help MICA do what it does best: *Help People. Change Lives. Build Communities.* In the words of anthologist Terri Guillemets, "The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers." More volunteers are always needed!

Your help is needed: Postage continues to climb for all of us, and that includes MICA! If you, as a donor, do not find a thank you necessary, please tell the person who greets you to take your donation that a thank you is not needed. OR, if you prefer an email thank you, please email us at mindy.clayton@micaonline.org to indicate your wishes.

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

Sincerely,

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

Helping People. Changing Lives. Building Communities.

611 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa 50112 • Phone: 641-236-3923 • Fax: 641-236-8704

God's Work in Latvia

A Mock Family Newsletter

April 2023

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your continued interest in God's work in Latvia. We hope and pray these updates encourage you as much as you are an encouragement to us.

Why us?

As we have been giving our presentation about our upcoming work as missionaries, we've been sharing a verse from Romans that we think very clearly explains what Luther Academy's online program is doing and how we are incorporated into that work.

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

- Romans 10:14

Luther Academy's online program is forming pastors who will preach the Gospel so that people may hear and believe in Christ. With this work being online, it relies on technology. And with the theological educators not being IT professionals, they need someone with an information technology (IT) background to help them as issues arise and to make sure they are using the technology to its full potential.

Technology can be intimidating and frustrating—especially when it is new and constantly changing. When working properly, it can be wielded in powerful ways to solve complex problems and overcome difficult barriers. It brings me great joy to help others utilize technology so that it fades into the background and can be used to advance the Gospel into the dark places. My (Cody) background in IT is well suited for the task. I have a degree in IT, along with 12 years of experience, mostly supporting education in an IT capacity. Over the years, I have been exposed to a broad variety of technologies. I've tamed many technology beasts, and I'm excited to be able to use my past experience in IT to help "connect" others to the Gospel!

Luther Academy Sign



This sign (in Latvian), at the entrance of the seminary reads:

"Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, Luther Academy"

Please Pray

- We are at the cusp of our deployment. We eagerly await our destination and the work ahead. Please pray for all logistics to go smoothly to take us there.
- Thanksgiving for the last six months of safe travels, trainings, preparations, and the many encouraging connections made with local congregations and individuals.
- Continued prayer for the work being done for our Latvian visas, along with our continued thanks for all those with the LCMS working on our behalf to this end.

Mock Family Update

Thank you for your prayers for our visas! Unfortunately, our visas for Latvia are going to take longer than anticipated. The LCMS and the Eurasia team are working to deploy us somewhere in Eurasia while we wait for our Latvian visas. Our plans to learn Latvian and begin our work with Luther Academy remain unchanged.

In addition to this, a few weeks ago, Aurélie received her jury duty summons for the month of May—the month we were set to depart for Latvia. God has a sense of humor! With this news, our new departure date has been pushed back a few weeks and is now set for early June. Thank you for your continued prayers as we wrap things up State-side and prepare to depart for Eurasia!

Thank you for all your care and support!
— Cody, Aurélie, Eva and Moriah



Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Cody and Aurélie Mock.

Make checks payable to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo include Mock-Latvia

Give securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mock

Call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438



Thank you so much to the whole congregation from the youngest to the oldest, for helping our LWML ladies host the Marshalltown Zone Gathering on Saturday. We appreciated all the prayers, help, support, and contributions that each of you gave us.

We also thank Pastor Koepp for the day's Bible Study, and keeping us on track for the last four or five months, and Amber for all the notices in the bulletins and newsletters, making posters, and ordering the supplies we used.
To God be the glory!!
LWML Ladies

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
Sunday, March 12th, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on March 12th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Markie Koepp, Chris Christinson, Keith Thorpe, Diane Schultz, Kevin Schultz, Dianna Kelting, Steve Haase, and Kathy Stanek.

Steve called the meeting to order, and Pastor Koepp opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the February 2023 meeting were presented for approval. Keith motioned to approve and Diane 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Steve Haase

- The congregation has been divided into four groups and assigned an elder. They will be reaching out to members to schedule home visits.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Written reports attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.
- The new furnace has been paid for.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- The City of Grinnell replaced the post supporting the mailbox. It will be painted in spring.
- The storeroom has been cleaned and all unused items are on the entryway table to be picked up by anyone who can use them. They will be there until the end of March.

Board of Evangelism: Dianna Kelting

- Continue to provide treats to Drake Library once a month.

Board of Education: Markie Koepp

- Sunday school is going well.
- VBS dates are set for July 17th, 18th, & 19th, 2023.

Board of Stewardship: Diane Schultz

- Giving is steady with no issues to report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Koeppe

- 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 as allowed and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Pastor asked the council if a benevolence fund might be set up for church members who might need monetary assistance for unforeseen bills, emergencies, etc. Chris said it could be put as a line item in the budget. Steve will include it on the April Voter's meeting agenda.
- Chris will discuss the 2022 audit committee with Joel and the date to be completed.

With no other business to discuss Pastor closed in prayer.

Council Meeting (moved 1 week due to Easter): April 16, 2023 8:00 AM
Voter's Meeting: (moved 1 week due to Easter): April 23, 2023 10:30 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
Council Secretary

