

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 Eleventh Avenue West
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

August 2020 Newsletter

Immanuel News

Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS

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Office hours

Monday through Thursday 8am to 3pm

Let's Get Social



Website

<http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org>



Facebook

Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS



Podcast

<https://anchor.fm/ImmanuelGrinnell>

Worship with Us!

Sundays at Immanuel

Divine Worship 9:00 a.m.
Christian Education 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays

Weekly Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Pg 3-5

Message from Pastor Koepf

Pg 6

President Saunders' Piece for Peace

Pg 7

LWML News

Pg 8

Bowl for Kids' Sake 2020 Update

Pg 9

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Pg 10

Grinnell Food Coalition

Pg 11

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Article

Pg 12

Member Information Needed

Pg 13-16

VBS 2020 Pictures

Pg 17

The Church:

Christ's Army Moving Forward Article

Pg 18

Lutheran Bible Translators:
Sustaining Faith Article

Immanuel News

Reference Information

HAVE YOU...moved? ...changed phone numbers? ...changed email addresses? ...need to update birthday/anniversary dates? Let the office know! Thanks!

LET US KNOW...If you have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if any pastoral need arises.

PRAYER REQUEST...If you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Rev. Dr. Koepf:

Office: 641-236-6691

Email: koepfj@hotmail.com

Cell: 507-829-3901

DO YOU...want to put something in the bulletin or newsletter? Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements? Upcoming events? 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.

Deadlines:

Bulletin – 12 noon of each Wednesday

Newsletter – 15th of each month

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

With the controversy that has arisen with the Star Spangled banner, it got me thinking this month about music. Music is a great gift from God and has been given to His entire creation. This can be witnessed to if one looks anywhere across God's wonderful creation. Music can be heard all throughout the world, and this is no different when it comes to the life of the

Church. In almost every religious denomination, one can hear some type of music. Music is a very important aspect in our lives, and within the Church. In fact, Martin Luther once said, *"We can mention only one point (which experience confirms), namely that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise."* Luther well understood the benefits that music offered to the Church. Music could proclaim the Gospel, teach the Faith, praise God, and comfort the people in need.

This very high view of singing is characteristic of the Lutheran Church. When the Church unites in song, it is proclaiming all that God has done for her. Lutheran Hymnody proclaims the true faith as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and sings concerning the Word and Work of Christ on behalf of His Church. Wilhelm Loehe wrote, *"Hymns express the true faith along with sermon."* Hymns are not separated from of the proclamation of the Gospel and the sermon, they are inextricably intertwined. They naturally flow from each other. Kantor Resch in an essay for the Good Shepherd Institute wrote, *"Solid Hymns do exactly what the sermon does. They expound truths and apply them to lives."*

Using this very high view of singing, what makes a Lutheran Hymn distinctively Lutheran? The subject of the Hymn is precisely the focus of the Gospel. All of Scripture is centered on the life and work of Jesus Christ, and Lutheran Hymns are no different. Lutheran Hymns do not say anything that is not found IN Scripture. These Hymns tell of the wondrous things that He has done for His Church, for You! The center of the Lutheran Hymn is not us, but Christ. The focus is not on our life and works, but on the life and works of our Lord and Savior. Many of the Hymns will express how the salvation won for us by Christ is given to us and applied to our lives, but the center of the Hymn is not us; it is first and foremost about our crucified and risen Lord.

When the Lutheran Church sings these great truths about Christ in our Hymns, we do so as a community. Even when we sing alone in our homes, we are singing with the entire body of Christ. Lutheran Hymns do not sing about “my faith,” but about “the faith.” As Christ is the head of His Church, Lutheran Hymnody centers upon that which is true and applies to His entire body, you included. As the Church sings, she is singing the great confession of the entire Church. The Lutheran Hymn is confessional AND communal.

Because Hymns are about Christ, and because they sing of nothing outside of Scripture, Lutheran Hymns are a teacher of the faith. Hymns not only proclaim to us about Christ, but Hymns teach about Christ. They teach about His Work, about His Life, and they also teach how that is applied to our lives. Hymns were one of the ways in which Luther used to teach the faith during the Reformation. The children would be learning Hymns and singing them to their parents, the Kantors and Choirs would be singing the truths of the faith, and the adults themselves would be singing these truths. When one thinks of the words to “Savior of the Nations Come” (LSB #332) or “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” (LSB #656), the teaching element can clearly be seen. These Hymns do not simply tell us about Christ, but they teach us about who He is and what He has done for us.



Music has a very strong resonance within our lives. This powerful element of song is a clear one even in our own time. How many times have you gone home after Church and remembered what the sermon was about? Now how many times have you gone home and remembered one of the Hymns? Many times I have left the sanctuary humming or singing a tune, but I am not able to remember the exact words that I preached on. The truth is music stays with us. When the great truths of Christ, are placed with a great tune, this can and does have a great impact in our lives.

Another element of Lutheran Hymnody is its ability to comfort us in any situation. The ability of a Hymn to do this very thing, has to do with who is at the center. As I previously stated, it is Christ who is at the center of Lutheran Hymnody. We are comforted in these Hymns, because it is Christ who is there with us. It is Him who comes to us giving us His comfort and peace which surpasses all our human understanding.

In every situation of our lives, Christ is our Savior, Redeemer, and Comforter. Because of what He has done, we can have peace. Our Hymns speak to us in our sinful condition. We as Christians, as human beings, are battered everyday by the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh. Hymns show us our sin, and proclaim Christ to us who pulls us up out of that sin. They give us comfort in the only One where true comfort can be found.

Music is wonderful gift from God and the Lutheran Church has wonderful Hymns that use that wonderful gift. The Music of the Church is not for entertainment, and the Hymns are not centered and focused on the body of Christ, on us, and upon our works. The Lutheran Hymns have their center on the Head of the Church, on the life and work of Christ, and what He has done for His Body, the Church. Hymns proclaim and teach the entire life and work of Christ and the salvation that He has won for us upon the Cross. Because Christ is at the center, when the Church sings, she sings as an entire community that has been purchased and won, and knows that her Lord is with her always, in every situation.

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe



President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

After having spent the last week in Ft. Wayne teaching a D. Min. course at the seminary I returned home to switch seats. I spent a couple of days sitting at the feet of one of our professors and being fed a delight of healthy theology. One of the books he assigned to prepare for this class is one I wish to recommend to you as well. You may already have it, but if you don't it is a true gem of a read.

The title of the book is "Love Thy Body" by Nancy R. Pearcey. It is printed by BakerBooks. She is not a member of a Lutheran Church but seems to indicate she was at one time. That being said she puts together a rather complete and exhaustive argument from Scripture and Natural Law in defense of life and the biblical order for marriage.

Her premise is the dichotomy of modern thinking that elevates the immaterial over the material. She talks about the two plains by which our culture is conditioned to think. The one (thought, feelings, mind, emotions, etc.) are superior to the lower plain (body, physical, earthly, etc.). As a result the body and what is done with it is not as important as what we desire, wish, and want to do with the body. It effects a person's view of themselves as well as effects their view of others.

In very understandable terms she spells out the dangers of this new way of thinking and how counter-biblical it is. This is a very good primer for being able to understand the satanic nature of abusing sex, body, life and death. She pulls no punches and backs her positions with a plethora of resources.

If you have read it I would recommend reading it again. There is so much information in it that it is difficult to comprehend it all. If you haven't read it I think it is a good resource for teaching and pastoral care of the flock. I commend this book to you hoping you have discovered as much or even more than I have by reading it. This book is a very good summer read and one worth keeping in your library.

Blessings to you all as you rest up this summer after a very trying time this winter and spring. We pray we are all able to gather in assembly together sooner rather than later and enjoy the fellowship God has granted us in the Church. I pray safety upon you all and care from our Lord as He has sent you to care for His sheep.

President Saunders

LWML News

While we haven't had any LWML meetings since March here at Immanuel, the Iowa East District LWML have elected some new officers, chosen new Mission Grants for the 2020-2022 biennium, and adopted new by-laws. Susan Schoen and June Routier were Immanuel's two delegates that voted on these issues. New to the District Board are: Vice President of Organizational Resources



- Carolyn Zimmermann, Vice President of Human Care - Angela Banko, Vice President of Communications - Helen Huedepohl, Treasurer - Rebecca Gluesing, and Junior Pastoral Counselor - Rev. Chris Roepke. The new Mission Grants have been posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen. The grant proposal that Immanuel LWML submitted for the Orphan Grain Train was one of those approved!

There is still time to sign up for the Convention Celebration that will be held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on September 12. This will take the place of the Convention that was supposed to have been in June. There will be speakers, Bible study, skits, servant events, and fellowship all in one day. Registration forms are also on the bulletin board by the kitchen. The deadline for registration is August 1st.

The fall rally for our Marshalltown Zone will be held on October 3rd, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lacona. Gary Thies, from Mission Central near Mapleton, IA, is scheduled to be the speaker in the morning and Pastor Hyatt will lead a Bible study in the afternoon. You will want to be there, I promise.

Save the date!!

Pam Haase



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters.**
OF CENTRAL IOWA

It is with heavy hearts that the Grinnell Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Board has made the decision to cancel Bowl For Kids' Sake 2020 (Originally scheduled for April 25th with the hope to postpone to late summer/early fall). Safety remains our number one priority. With case numbers for Covid 19 continuing to rise in our state, we know this is the best decision for all those involved.

Now more than ever mentoring is important to those children in the Grinnell community who already face societal barriers, opportunity gaps and adversities. Social isolation is a big concern for

many. Our mentor coordinators continue to work diligently to support our mentors and their mentees. Positive mentoring relationships are important to give kids the confidence and resilience they need to withstand the current situation as well as the future challenges life brings.

We don't know exactly what mentoring will look like this Fall. We do know that our advisory board and our mentor coordinators are committed to providing mentoring services to kids in our community in a safe and responsible manner now and into the future.

We are deeply grateful that you chose to support Bowl For Kids' Sake 2020 either with a monetary donation or by bowling. If you choose to have your donation refunded, please contact Francesca Cunningham through email at bbbsfrancesca@gmail.com or by phone at 641-990-0567.

Thank you and take care.

The Grinnell Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Board

Bill Kostow- Event chair

Felicity Meads- Event co-chair

Ashley Grundler- Mentor Coordinator

Sandy Motta- Mentor Coordinator

Nikki Armstead

Doug Cameron

Francesca Cunningham

Barbara Hansen

Carol Kaisand

Sue Kolbe

Summer is in swing here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca! It's maybe not the full-swing we were hoping for, but it's been a blessing to host our day campers and our family day pass guests this summer. With only a few weeks of camp remaining, we'd normally be preparing for our Auction Fundraiser, where so many who believe in the mission of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca donate quilts and other craft items to be auctioned off in financial support. It's a big deal as this helps us to offset the big expenses of the summer as we head into the fall.

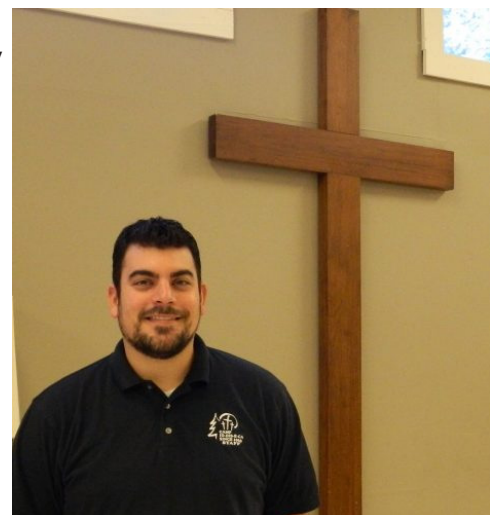
Unfortunately this year's auction is cancelled. The COVID-19 pandemic has not allowed for enough items to be donated and availability of bidders has also been reduced. The good news is that your camp staff is putting together an all-new fundraiser in support of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Camp Director Daniel Sanchez, Program Director Andrew Folkmann, and Site Manager Dylan Lampe will be doing the Hot Sauce Challenge that will be streamed live through Facebook and on our website via YouTube. Join in to watch them endure 10 progressively spicy hot sauces while they answer questions and complete absurd challenges. Some of our summer staff may even join in!

Though the auction is cancelled, we are still welcoming donations. It's possible we may do an online auction at a later time this year, so if you still have a donation to send in, please do so in support of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. We need all the financial help we can get this year!

Be sure to tune in on August 1 at 1PM to watch Daniel, Andrew, Dylan, and company endure the heat as we put hot sauce on wings and tacos! Again, you'll be able to watch it broadcasted on our website and on our Facebook page. You can donate to the campaign through our Facebook fundraiser, on our website, or even by mailing in your donation. We hope you'll tune in for an exciting and fun day to support Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as we navigate this challenging year!

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Daniel Sanchez
Camp Director
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
319-848-4187
www.campiodiseca.org





So many people have been affected by the coronavirus, including people who have suffered financial loss due to unemployment and disruption of normal life. The Grinnell Food Coalition wants to make sure everyone in our community gets the food they need for themselves and their family. If you, or someone you know, is struggling financially, we can provide vouchers to use at local grocery stores. As long as funds last, we mail vouchers on a bi-weekly schedule to people who sign up.

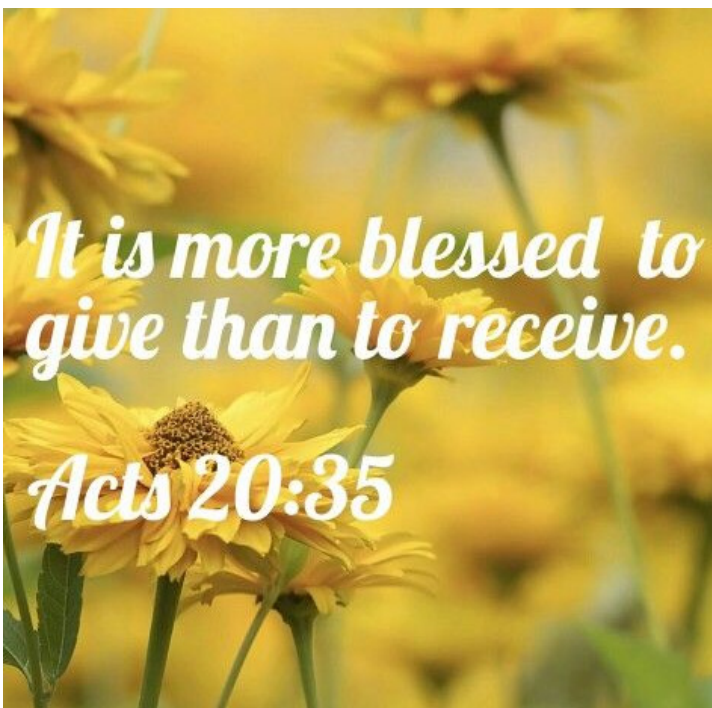
***To sign up or get more information,
go to <https://ahrensfamilyfoundation.org/local-resources/>,
or call 641-236-5518 ext. 109.***

***Rev. Jessica Margrave Schirm, M.Div
Pastor - Grinnell UCC Congregational
Cell: 319-883-1375
jessica@grinnellucc.org
www.grinnellucc.org***

***The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – August 2020***

Winston Churchill reportedly said, “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.



As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?” to “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Jesus said to His disciples, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (*Mark 16:15-16*) Paul wrote to Timothy, “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.” (*1 Tim. 4:16*)

In effort to preach the Gospel to the members of Immanuel, the Pastor and elder’s are tasked with keeping close watch on both the teaching and its hearers. There are several members of Immanuel for whom we have either no contact information, or not the correct contact information. If you do, we are asking you to pass it along to either Pastor or the Board of Elders (Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, and Ken Mergen), so that we can, “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (*Hebrew 10:24-25*)

Alivia Brown

Travis Puls

Dan Sears

Tyler Puls

Christine Carstensen

Nicole Puls

Jenna Tanner

Lydia Tanner

Cara Ford Padgett

Alicia Routier

Carey Ford

April Routier

Corey Ford

Tyler Routier

Dennis Hagedorn

Aaron Schultz

Aeja Schultz

Patrick Harms

Alec Schultz

Alexi Schultz

Eric Heimsoth

Brian Schultz

Sara Heimsoth

Shannon Schultz

Valerie Schultz

Bill Nagel

VBS 2020

Game ON!









The Church: Christ's Army Moving Forward!

"Like a mighty army moves the Church of God," wrote Sabine Baring-Gould in the hymn, Onward Christian Soldiers. What a wonderful opportunity we have been given as we move forward following the pandemic. If we remain hunkered down and with reservations required what kind of message are we sending to the unbelieving world around us? We are losing opportunities as we let fear dominate in our approach to ministry.

One has to ask, "Do we really believe the Word of God that we confess, preach and teach?" Are we letting the salt of the media season us with fear or are we letting the power of God's Word shape how we approach the culture in which we live? I would like to think that we live from the power of Christ's death and resurrection for us and for our salvation!

There was death before the pandemic hit, about 8,000 people die on the average each day in the United States. There are people who have died during and as a result of Covid 19. There will be people who die after the pandemic has ended, it will average about 8,000 per day in our country. We cannot stop death! It happens as a result of sin. It will come to all people. Hear what the Word of God declares: "For the wages of sin is death, For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23a.Romans 3:23. No one is immune and the cause is the same. But the message continues: "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; but the free gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 3:24/6:23b.

The Church knows how the story ends. It ends in victory because Christ Jesus was crucified for our salvation and rose for our justification. The 42% of people in Iowa who are unchurched need to hear that message from the Church which is moving forward. We either move forward in that battle or we retreat. The Church in retreat is not what we are called to be. "Crowns and throne may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane, But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain. Gates of hell can never Gainst that Church prevail; We have Christ's own promise And that cannot fail." "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Cor. 15:57.

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild
Assistant to the President

Lutheran Bible Translators - Sustaining Faith

He sealed the booklets in an oil drum.

Missionaries serving with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) in West Africa recently wrote about meeting a gentleman I'll call John. Many years ago, John worked with another missionary to produce Biblical short stories and literacy primers in John's language. At that point in time, John's language community "was not yet fully mobilized to seek God through His Word." John hoped that in the future things would change. He took the books he'd helped produce and sealed them in an oil drum to keep them safe from mice and rain.

Nearly 40 years later, John met with the LBT missionaries who have come to assist with Bible translation and showed them the contents of the oil drum. "These books will help us do a deeper language study analysis as we can observe how the language has changed over time," the missionaries report. "We praise God for the faith John showed 40 years ago, and that his people are now ready and eager to have the Bible in their language."

Sometimes the future appears uncertain. John could not know if there would ever be another opportunity to have God's Word in his language. But he had faith, never losing hope that he would be able to hear and read Scripture in his mother tongue.

Today, the world is experiencing uncertainty. COVID-19 is impacting all our lives and will certainly impact the future. We do not know what tomorrow will bring. But our faith in Christ brings comfort and hope, the promise of life beyond the troubles of today and an eternal dwelling place in heaven.

Like you, LBT staff and missionaries are practicing social distancing. But we're still working, still translating, still communicating with our partners and donors. Go to <https://lbt.org/project/subula/> to learn more.

by Linda Gari
Lutheran Bible Translators

2020 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

President

Steve Haase

LWML President

Pam Haase

Vice President

Joel McDonough

LWML Treasurer

Susan Schoen

Secretary

Kathy Stanek

LWML Secretary

Pam Haase

Treasurer

Chris Christinson

LWML Christian Life

Denise Cadwell

Elders

Joel McDonough~Chairman

Steve Haase

Darlo Kelting

Ken Mergen

Organist

Esther Huedepohl/Pam Haase

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

Trustees

Kevin Schultz

Ben Loudon

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

Board of Education

Sherry Baker~Chairman

Megan Schutt

Markie Koepp

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)

Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe

Pamela Sittig

Cindy Cloyed

Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier~Chairman

Dianna Kelting

Sandy Koch