

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

***February Newsletter***

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS**

**229 11TH AVENUE WEST**

**GRINNELL, IA 50112**

**OFFICE- 641-236-6691**

**CHURCH EMAIL- [immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net](mailto:immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net)**

**WEBSITE- [www.immanuelgrinnell.org](http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org)**

**REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP**

**EMAIL- [koepj@hotmail.com](mailto:koepj@hotmail.com)**

**CELL PHONE- 507-829-3901**

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

**LET US KNOW...**

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

## 2024 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

**President** Steve Haase

**Vice President/President Elect** Lucas Bayer

**Secretary** Kathy Stanek

**Treasurer** Chris Christinson

**Elders** Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, Ken Mergen

**Trustees** Kevin Schultz, Ben Louden, Dan Huebner

**Board of Education** Sherry Baker, Danielle McDonough, Markie Koepf

**Board of Stewardship** Keith Thorpe, Pam Sittig, Diane Schultz

**Board of Evangelism & Missions** June Routier, Bev Huebner, Dianna Kelting

**Organists** Pam Haase, Amber Bayer, Esther Huedepohl

**Pianist** Sophia Louden

**Church Secretary** Amber Carnine

**Sunday School Opening** Pastor Koepf

**LWML Board** President: Pam Haase    Treasurer: June Routier    Secretary: Pam Haase

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



# Hello February

## *In this issue...*

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# A Message from our Pastor



The month of February will begin our Lenten preparation for Easter. This year we will be spending our Lenten journey through the Penitential Psalms and the Psalms of Lament. From Ash Wednesday through Good Friday, we will walk through Psalms 51, 6, 38, 32, 130, 143, 102, and 22. Some of them might be familiar, some may not be quite as familiar.

These Psalms are important for the life of the Church. We do not always live in happy days, where we can bump the jukebox and simply change the music. We are encouraged to rejoice by Paul, and often find ourselves unable to do so. This creates a great disconnect and often causes Christians great pain. To adapt a line from St. Paul, “The rejoicing that I want to do, I don’t do. The rejoicing that I don’t want to do, that is what I keep on doing.”

While emotions are highly pushed in our current cultural climate as being the authority for all things at all times, what does the church do? Have we been trained to deal appropriately with emotions by the Scriptures? I often joke of the low emotionality of certain groups, like German’s and Norwegians (my background), and we know it is simply a joke. Emotions are part of the human experience. God created us with feelings and emotions, which too are corrupted by sin.

One of the most misquoted verses is 1 Corinthians 10:13, “*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*”

The word for temptation in this verse is one that speaks especially of feelings and emotions. It is speaking to a condition where emotions seize or come upon someone. There is no set of emotions that is unhuman, and this can be any kind of emotion: anger, gladness, fear, or sadness. When these attempt to seize or suddenly rush upon us, what are we to do? Do we react or respond? Are we to give ourselves over to our emotions, following our passions and our desires to whatever end they may lead? Or is there a better way?

We are called to respond, not to react. This takes discipline. It takes teaching and practicing to help curb the sinful flesh. This is one of the main points of Lent. It is a time to take stock of current life practices and re-focus our time and energies. It is a time of forming new habits.

The Penitential Psalms and the Psalms of Lament help us in this habit. It gives us new words, God's words to speak and shape our cries in times of high emotions. As we will see, they are hard Psalms to pray. They do not shy away from pain and fear. They attack it head-on and cry words that we too have cried. This is only half of their beauty. Where they lead us to is not ourselves, but back to God. They discipline emotions to respond in faith towards God and love towards one another. As we pray them and they become part of our vocabulary of faith, we will find our faith strengthened and able to better respond when times of temptation overcome us.

When we are seized by emotions and are tempted to react, may we be disciplined to respond and thus able to endure.

To this end, one more important note concerning our Lenten sermons. They will be different from years past. They will be expository sermons, in which we will go through the Palms (mostly verse by verse) like we do in Bible Study. I promise we will get through a Psalm each week, because we will not be covering the Psalms in as great a detail as we do in Bible Study.

I encourage you to pray the Psalm for the week for the whole week. The schedule for our Psalms will be as follows:

Ash Wednesday: February 14 – Psalm 51  
 Mid-Week 1: February 21 – Psalm 6  
 Mid-Week 2: February 28 – Psalm 38  
 Mid-Week 3: March 6 – Psalm 32  
 Mid-Week 4: March 13 – Psalm 130  
 Mid-Week 5: March 20 – Psalm 143  
 Holy Thursday: March 28 – Psalm 102  
 Good Friday: March 29 – Psalm 22

As you pray through the Psalms, I also encourage you begin by singing:

**'Savior, When in Dust to Thee'**

*LSB 419*



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

*Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.*

*Tune: Joseph Parry, 1841–1903*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

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

Just prior to typing out this article I was putting information together so my accountant can figure out and file my 2023 taxes. After he files he then estimates quarterly payments for 2024. The task of gathering receipts, forms, and information to fill out the tax preparers packet is a headache in itself. While doing this it cannot be missed just how much of the year is dedicated to paying for taxes. It seems as though there is a tax on everything, I wonder when a tax will be levied on the air we breath.

I know, I know. Everyone is saddled with this responsibility so quit your complaining. You are right. I have no room to complain, nor should I complain. In some senses, when I do that, it demonstrates a lack of appreciation for what God has ordained. Taxes are not foreign to the Holy Scripture. It is not as though the Devil is behind taxes and that they are an evil intrusion into the lives of God's Children. Romans 13 lets us know that God has established the government for good purpose. God ordained order and to retain order He has set in place public authorities to keep society safe and allow for beneficial acts one to another.

***We are a nation of debate and discussion so that we can openly defend the Gospel and proclaim Christ in whatever vocation we have.***

I also hear the voices reading this crying out, "But what of the misspent dollars on foolish and unnecessary things? What about expenditures that support unbiblical behaviors?" True enough. Such things are irritating, unethical, and make us angry. I get it. I can't defend any of that. It is good and ample reason for us to lift all our elected public servants to the Throne of Grace in prayer for God's wisdom and guidance as they carry out duties of their elected offices. Prayer and the ballot box are our most effective means to make the kind of changes we believe are needed for the kind of society Romans 13 intends. There is also strong support for Christians to hold public office for the betterment of all mankind.

So we pay our taxes, maybe begrudgingly, but nonetheless we pay them. We pay them with the gratitude we live in a nation that allows us to worship where we choose, where we are for the most part protected from invasion of enemies. We have freedoms many nations around the world do not enjoy. Imperfect as our system is, and as much as we may disagree with decisions and policies of certain officials, we are still blessed beyond what we deserve. We are still a nation of plenty for the sake of assisting those who have so little. We are a nation of debate and discussion so that we can openly defend the Gospel and proclaim Christ in whatever vocation we have.

I have visited the LCMS senators and representatives in the Iowa State House many times. I have found them to be very dedicated, caring, smart, hard-working and biblically ethical in their dealings with the entire congress. They greatly appreciate our prayers on their behalf and encouraging words of support. Send them notes of thanks and pray for them. Continue to preach and teach and catechize what they also believe is Truth from Eternity to Eternity. The Triune God is their Lord as well as ours. He loves them dearly and gives them biblical validation for their public vocation. So rather than complaining about taxes (which also pay the salaries of those who serve the public), appreciate what God has ordained for our good, for our safety, for our free ability to worship our Lord in Peace and harmony. God be with you all.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President



# Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



February 2024

## Summer Camp Registration Now Open 2024 Summer Camp Theme: Immanuel– God With US

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." - John 1:14*

There are many times in our lives where we may feel alone, and that makes sense because our sin separates us from God. Thankfully, God does not desire this separation. In fact, he desires to be with us, so that we are not alone. How do we know this? This summer, campers will learn the love of God for us in a few special ways. First, through His promises and presence in the Old Testament. Then, in Jesus Christ, who is Immanuel, God with us. Jesus was conceived, born, and lived among his people on earth, knowing what it's like to be human, and experiencing joy but also pain, suffering, and loneliness. In Christ's death and resurrection, the sins of the world are fully paid for and forgiven. And finally, through the Church, where he daily and richly forgives the sins of all believers. This forgiveness makes us right with God and brings us into His family. No longer separated from God, we go through life knowing that we have *God With Us*.

We look forward to another fantastic and safe summer at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca! Registration is available at our website where you can select between online registration or downloading and mailing in a registration form with your deposit. Be sure to keep an eye out for summer camp brochures at your church or school, as well! If your family is new to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, Family's First Camper is a scholarship program that brings down the cost of campers coming from families who have never sent children to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, so be sure to claim that if applicable! Additional financial aid is available for those needing assistance, but be sure to have the camp scholarship application in by May 1, 2024.



Registrations have already started coming in, so be sure to get signed up for Camp today by heading over to our website at <https://campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/registration/> or scanning the QR Code with your smartphone! We look forward to seeing you on camp this summer!

As we gear up for summer, we're looking for all of the components that make a great camp experience, and that starts with summer staff! We need college-aged young adults to serve as Christian role models, teachers, activity leaders, and friends to the children that pass through our gates. Head to our website at <https://campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/staff/> for more information and to get started on completing an application.

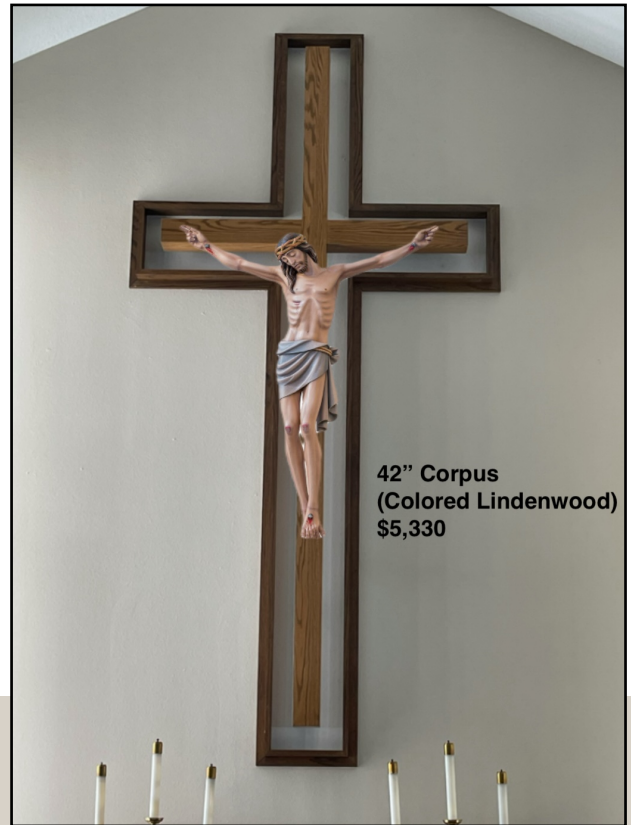
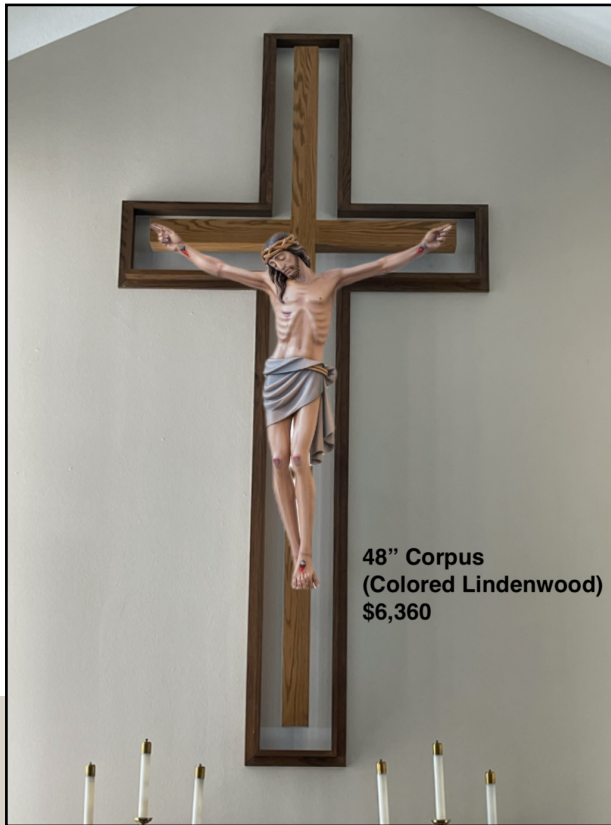
3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org)

email [office@iodiseca.org](mailto:office@iodiseca.org)

# Proposed Corpus Project



## Proposal

One of our younger congregational members has presented a proposal to turn our main cross into a crucifix by adding the Corpus of Christ onto our pre-existing cross.

Why: A cross can represent anything nowadays. Many people wear it just as something to match their outfit without really knowing what it is meant to represent.

By putting the Corpus on our church's cross, we could better represent our shared belief in Jesus's crucifixion, sacrifice and fulfillment of the covenant.

- ▶ Has been approved by Board of Elders
- ▶ Has been approved by Church Council
- ▶ Is under discussion by Church Voters
- ▶ Needs congregational consideration and approval
- ▶ Will be reviewed and voted upon by Church Voters at the next quarterly meeting in April 2024

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Pastor Koepp or a church elder.



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

### ***Caring for My Neighbor***

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

*You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)*

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and support him in every physical need*” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

– **LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)**



**MEMORY WORK  
FOR THE  
MONTH OF  
FEBRUARY**

**5th & 6th Grades Memory Work**

7th: Sacrament of the Altar: *What is the benefit of this eating & drinking?*

14th: Sacrament of the Altar: *How can bodily eating & drinking do such great things?*

21st: Sacrament of the Altar: *Who receives this sacrament worthily?*

28th: Daily Prayers: *Luther's Morning Prayer "I thank You...Amen."*

**7th & 8th Grades Memory Work**

7th: Questioning Books

14th: Questioning Books

21st: Questioning Books

28th: Questioning Books



# *Ash* WEDNESDAY

**February 14**

**Meal served at 5:00pm**

**Divine Service at 6:30pm**

# LENT



**February 21, 28**

**March 6, 13, 20**

**Meal served at 5:00pm**

**Evening Prayer Service  
at 6:30pm**

## End of Year Financials ~ January 1—Dec 31, 2023

**General Fund** \$262,477.17

**Building and Grounds Fund** \$93,604.71

### **Missions**

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca \$430.00

MICA \$925.00

Orphan Grain Train \$640.00

Lutheran Heritage Foundation \$435.00

LCMS Office of International Mission:Cody & Aurelie Mock \$1895.00

Global Seminary Initiative \$550.00

### **Other**

Jim Schultz Memorial Fund \$70.00

LWML Noisy Bucket \$270.00

Thrivent Choice Deposits \$215.00

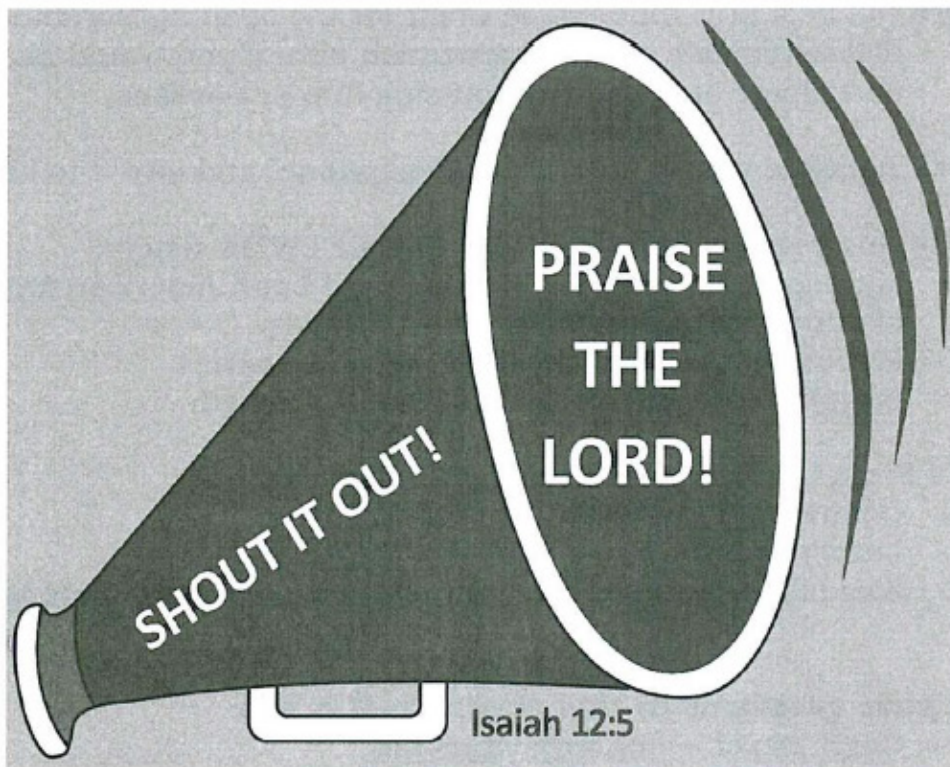
## **Account Balances as of December 31, 2023**

<b><u>Bank Accounts</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>
CD- 13 Month	40,268.27
Building and Grounds Fund	11,072.00
CD	40,844.11
CD- 14 Month	41,735.18
Checking	51,274.23
LCEF Savings	29,991.08
Missions	6,368.84
Savings	1,073.66
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>222,627.37</b>
<b><u>Cash Accounts</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>
Camp Fund	7,512.98
<b>TOTAL Cash Accounts</b>	<b>7,512.98</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>230,140.35</b>

**LWML—IOWA EAST DISTRICT NEWS**

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**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
2024 LWML - Iowa East District Convention  
June 21-22, 2024**



*Sing praise to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;  
let this be made known to all the earth (Isaiah 12:5 ESV).*

**\*Registration packets are on the entryway table\***



## **“SHOUT IT OUT! PRAISE THE LORD!”**

Ladies, are you ready to celebrate our oneness in Christ and His plans for our Mission Work? Check out this impressive itinerary!

- Praise Light Memorial page
- Registration to Convention page
- Link to make hotel reservations at the Radisson on Registration page
- List of “extra” hotels in the area
  - ◊ Holiday Inn Express – 319-294-9407
  - ◊ Hampton Inn & Suites – 319-832-1130
  - ◊ Homewood Suites – 319-378-1140
- Erin Alter, Lutheran Ladies Lounge, will be the Keynote Speaker  
(Anyone who remembers her from the National Convention knows she will be an inspiring speaker!)
- There will be a first-time Praise Choir for the opening worship.  
Please indicate on the registration form if you would like to participate and whether you sing Alto or Soprano.
- Mite Challenge will be to “Fill the Megaphone” and give it to IED Mites!
- Enjoy this year’s servant events with your LWML sisters:
  - ◊ Making bookmarks for hymnals and Latin American Missions
  - ◊ Making greeting cards for Phil’s Friends
  - ◊ Making Witness Bracelets for Most Ministries
  - ◊ Supplies for these projects will be furnished
- Gifts From the Heart will be given to
  - ◊ Community Lutheran School – Readlyn
  - ◊ Lutheran Interparish School – Williamsburg
  - ◊ Swaddling Clothes – St. John Lutheran Church, Marengo, IA

**Direct your questions to this year’s Co-M & M’s:**

Carol Meyer – [cmeyer@netins.net](mailto:cmeyer@netins.net)

Nancy Maurer – [gnmaurer@gmail.com](mailto:gnmaurer@gmail.com)

**We will have more details and reminders in upcoming issues of our own Iowa East District’s ALIVE newsletter.**

**Tentative Agenda for the  
LWML IED Convention  
June 21-22, 2024**

**Hosted by Westgate & Williamsburg Zones**



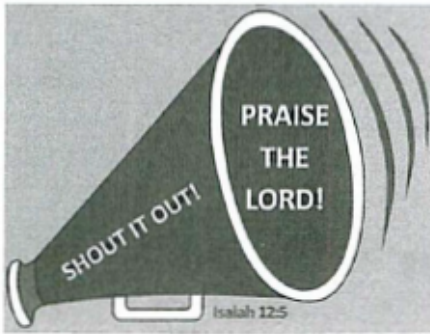
*Sing praise to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;  
let this be made known to all the earth (Isaiah 12:5 ESV).*

**Schedule: Friday, June 21**

- 8:00 AM Registration/Gifts From the Heart  
9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal, Servant Events, Exhibits  
10:00 AM Delegate & YWR Orientations  
11:30 AM Pastor's Luncheon
- 12:00 PM Box Lunch
- 1:00 PM Opening Worship / Banner Processional  
Session I - Call to Order
- 6:30 PM Banquet and Program  
Banquet Speaker: Erin Alter
- 9:00 PM Exhibits Open

**Schedule: Saturday, June 22**

- 7:00 AM Registration, Gifts From the Heart, Exhibits  
7:45 AM Group Singing  
8:00 AM **Session II**
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM **Session III**
- 3:00 PM Closing Service



# Praise Light Memorial

We are going to give our LWML sisters the opportunity to memorialize all those faithful women whose faith shined brightly during their lives. We remember their witness of how to "Shout It Out and Praise the Lord" in their everyday lives.

These women, who now rest in the peace and safety of heaven, have been our role models by their faith and service. There will be a Praise Light Memorial display at the 2024 LWML Iowa East District Convention, remembering these faithful servants.

- \* You are invited to send a \$20 IED mites donation for each woman that you would like to include in the Praise Light Memorial.
- \* Please send honorees name, a 4x6 photo, and one line about their LWML service. Also, include who has given the memorial.
- \* Example: Jane Doe, LWML President 1975-1979, St. John's Lutheran Church, Victor, by St. John's Ladies Aid.
- \* Example: Jane Doe, LWML mentor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Victor, By Susan Doe, granddaughter
- Mail picture, small article, and your check payable to:  
LWML Iowa East District Mites to Anne Axmear,  
10118 225th Ave, North English, IA, 52316
- \* If you would like your photo back, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

## **YWR's YOUNG WOMEN'S LUNCH - Join in the fellowship!**

To: ALL Young Women of the LWML including all previous YWR's.

\*YOU are invited to grab your box lunch on Friday of convention for lunch from 11:30 am-12:30 pm and join us!

\*Bring a friend!

\*More details are being planned at this time--contact Karen Boehme for more information and to register as soon as possible.

Hope to see you then!      Serving the Lord with gladness!

LWML IED Member Development Committee: Misty Lutz, Hilary Weiss, and Karen Boehme [boehmekj@msn.com](mailto:boehmekj@msn.com) 319-239-3463

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### **PASTOR'S LUNCHEON**

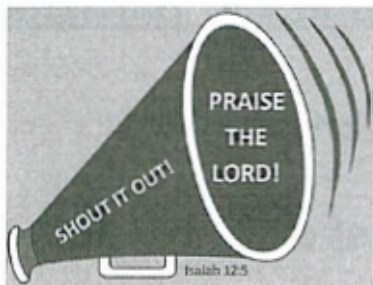
Please encourage YOUR pastor to attend the Pastor's luncheon on Friday, June 21st at 11:30am!

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**"GIFTS FROM THE HEART"** donations will be given to:

- ◊ Community Lutheran School - Readlyn
- ◊ Lutheran Interparish School - Williamsburg
- ◊ Swaddling Clothes - St. John Lutheran Church, Marengo, IA

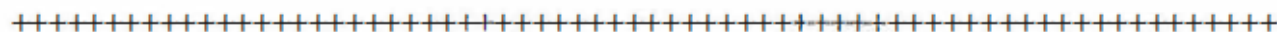
\*\*Watch for a listing of items to donate in the Spring Issue of ALIVE\*\*



**"Fill the Megaphone" Challenge:**

Be sure to bring your "Mites" to help us to "Fill the Megaphone" while at the LWML IED Convention in June!

Let's raise additional donations towards IED Mite Offerings!



**BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM**

**Book your room right at the Radisson of Cedar Rapids:**

Event Summary: Lutheran Women Missionary League, Iowa East District 2024

Event Group Rate: \$132.00 per night

Event Start Date: Friday, June 21, 2024

Event End Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024

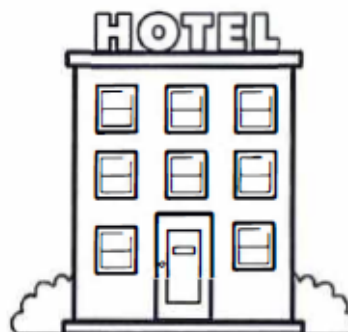
Last Day to Book: Thursday, June 6, 2024

The link to make your reservation:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/G9657416>

Additional hotels available in the area, if needed, are:

- ◊Holiday Inn Express – 319-294-9407
- ◊Hampton Inn & Suites – 319-832-1130
- ◊Homewood Suites – 319-378-1140



**God's Work in Latvia**  
**A Mock Family Newsletter**  
**January 2024**

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### **Back In Prague!**

After a two-month stay in the U.S., all four of our visa approvals came through! We have since traveled back to Prague and then to Germany to pick up our visas. We are so thankful for their approval and for your prayers. We now have just a few remaining documentary items to complete. Most excitingly, we can now begin to establish ourselves in Prague with things like opening a local bank account and also finally visiting Latvia to see Riga and Luther Academy. We very much look forward to meeting our fellow missionaries in Latvia and also those who have worked so hard on the English Stream of Luther Academy.

### **Luther Academy**

The spring semester has started at Luther Academy! I (Cody) have been actively assisting with the technology needs of the seminary since before we arrived back in Prague. From updating content on their website (lut.edu.lv), creating posters for conferences to raise awareness of the seminary, researching and implementing new technologies to aid in the training of pastors and church workers in an online environment, to training and assisting theological educators and students with these technologies. There is much to be done that can ultimately help our theological educators teach and the students learn how to proclaim Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world. All the work comes down to this mission—Christ's mission.

### **Mock Family Update**

It goes without saying that the church is a blessing, and that certainly has been true for us as a family. We are thankful for all those who support us back home, and we are thankful for the congregation that has taken us in here in Prague. We have been so blessed by the preaching of Christ crucified for our sins and the distribution of the Lord's supper. God continues to bless us through His church. They have helped us tremendously as we settle in Prague. Aurélie is looking forward to a women's group starting back up. I (Cody) have been able to assist with the service in a lay capacity.



Assisting with the Divine Service

In other news, Eva lost another tooth! Eva and Moriah are doing well and enjoy living in Prague. Now that we are back, we are starting back up our search for some activities with kids their age that they can get involved in. Thank you for your continued prayers as we work to bring the Gospel to Eurasia.

– Cody, Aurélie, Eva and Moriah

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Voters Assembly Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

The quarterly meeting of the Church Voters was held on Sunday, October 15, 2023.

Members Present: Rev. Dr. Joel G Koepp, Joel McDonough, Chris Christinson, Richard Huedepohl, Esther Huedepohl, Dan Huebner, Bev Huebner, Keith Thorpe, Helen Thorpe, Marcia Tarvin, June Routier, Tim Sittig, Pam Sittig, Darlo Kelting, Markie Koepp, Pam Haase, Luke Bayer, Joe Wyckoff, Lindsey Wyckoff, Danielle McDonough, Jan Mergen, Ken Mergen, Diane Schultz, Kevin S. Schultz, and Kathy Stanek.

Elder Darlo Kelting called the meeting and opened with prayer.

New Voting Members: None

Approval of April minutes: Keith motioned to approve and Helen 2nd.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Joel McDonough

- Continuing to schedule home visits and working on devotions.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Christinson

- Written report attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected on the report.
- Moved some money into CDs with a higher interest rate.

**Board of Trustees:** Kevin Schultz

- Installation of the steel shingled roof is complete. The final cost did go 15% over the estimated quote.

**Board of Evangelism:** June Routier

- Planning a congregational picnic scheduled for July 23 after worship service.
- Choosing the groups/organizations to donate to using the 2nd plate offerings in 2024.

**Board of Education:** Danielle McDonough

- Preparing for the Christmas Program and signing students up for parts.
- Continuing popcorn Sundays.



**Board of Stewardship:** Keith N Thorpe

- 3rd quarter statements have been delivered.

**Pastor Koepp’s Report:**

- Continue to provide spiritual leadership to members of Immanuel church, preparing weekly sermons, preaching, and conducting worship services. Preparing/Leading Confirmation and Bible Study classes.
- Counseling/home visits, attending board meetings, visiting sick/shut-ins, and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Joel asked if there were any other nominations or volunteers to be added to the 2024 Council election ballot.
- Helen motioned to accept the election ballot and slate of candidates as is written with no changes – Pam 2nd. Motion carried.  
Tim motioned to accept the ballot and vote with one vote to elect all candidates – Darlo 2nd. Motion carried.

The following members were elected to the 2024 Church Council:

- Vice Chairman Lucas Bayer two-year term, +two years as Chair
- Treasurer Chris Christinson two-year term
- Trustees Daniel Huebner three-year term
- Board of Education Danielle McDonough three-year term
- Board of Education Markie Koepp two-year term
- Board of Stewardship Diane Schultz three-year term
- Evangelism Beverly Huebner three-year term

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

With no other business Helen motioned to adjourn and Jan 2nd. Pastor closed in prayer.

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek  
Council Secretary

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Monthly Meeting of the Church Council**  
**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on December 11th at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Keith Thorpe, Chris Christinson, Diane Schultz, Dianna Kelting, Markie Koepp, and Kathy Stanek.

Joel called the meeting to order, and Pastor Koepp opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the November 12th meeting was presented for approval. Keith motioned to approve and Diane 2nd.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Joel McDonough

- The Elders are conducting worship service January 14th
- Preparing for installation of officers and voters meeting in January 2024.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Christinson

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

**Board of Trustees:** No Report

**Board of Evangelism:** Dianna Kelting

- Decorated a tree at the Drake Library with a religious theme.
- Collecting food for MICA.

**Board of Education:** Markie Koepp

- "Peace on Earth" is the Christmas program theme and students are practicing their parts.

**Board of Stewardship:** Keith Thorpe

- Giving is steady with no issues to report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Koepp

- 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.
- Our Savior in Newton has made a call for a Pastor and are waiting to hear back. Keith will provide Our Savior with a copy of Immanuel By-Laws.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer.

Council Meeting:        January 14th, 2024 8:00 AM  
Voters Meeting:        January 21st, 2024 10:30 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek,  
Council Secretary

