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

November Newsletter

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

CHURCH EMAIL- immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.net
WEBSITE- www.immanuelgrinnell.org

REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP EMAIL- koeppj@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 Koepp or the church office.

DO YOU...

want to put something in the bulletin or newsletter?

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

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

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

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

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

2023 Immanuel Officers/Board Members & Contacts

President

Joel McDonough

Vice President/President Elect Steve Haase

Secretary

Kathy Stanek

Treasurer

Chris Christinson

Elders

Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Darlo Kelting, Ken Mergen

Trustees

Kevin Schultz, Ben Louden, Melissa Mintle

Board of Education

Sherry Baker, Danielle McDonough, Markie Koepp

Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe, Pam Sittig, Diane Schultz

Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier, Dianna Kelting, Pam Haase

Organists

Esther Huedepohl & Pam Haase

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

LWML Board

President: Pam Haase Treasurer: June Routier Secretary: Pam Haase

Pianist

Sophia Louden

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe
June Routier
Danielle McDonough
Pam Haase
Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)



In this issue...

Pas 5-8

Pg 20

Pgs 21-22

1 930-0	Mc33agc Holli i astol
Pgs 9-10	President Saunders Article
Pg 11	St. Silas Invitation/Christmas Program
Pgs 12-13	LCMS Ministry Stewardship Article
Pg 14	Confirmation Schedule
Pgs 15-16	Mock Family Update
Pg 17	Church Member Directory
Pg 18	Redeemer Lutheran Church Invite
Pg 19	Thanksgiving Service & Potluck

Orphan Grain Train

September Council Minutes

Message from Pastor

A Message from our Pastor

In the month of November, we observe both the Festival of All Saints and the Day of Thanksgiving. While these take the spotlight, we really celebrate these every Sunday in our Divine Service. In the Divine Service, Holy Communion is surrounded by thanksgiving in the Lutheran Liturgy. In the center we have the Words of Institution. Our Lord gives thanks for the bread and wine. We do well to emulate this, to thank God for the food that we receive and to realize that He provides constantly what we need for this body and life. We aren't dogs begging in the kitchen snatching greedily at the piece of meat that is dropped. We are calm and without fear for our lives because God in on our side and has promised to care for us. So, we pause before we eat and thank God.

Implied in the Lord's thanksgiving at the Institution of the Sacrament of the Altar is that Jesus is also giving thanks for the fellowship that He has with the disciples. He is thanking the Father for allowing Him to love them, to die for them. He has come to reconcile them and us to Himself bat terrible price but He is glad to do it, thankful for the chance to serve, to make them, and us, His bride.

It seems strange at first but the Lord Jesus is thankful for the Holy Communion for therein He enjoys union and intimacy with His Bride. That is an important part of His giving thanks at the Institution of the Supper and it stands in the center of the Lutheran Liturgy's thanskgivings.

Before that we have an explicit call to thanks. As part of the Proper Preface the pastor says or chants "Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God" and we say or chant back "It is meet and right so to do." Then the pastor says or chants that it is always right to give thanks to God and goes on for a bit as to why that it is. The word "preface" here doesn't mean that this is something preliminary but rather that there is a proclamation and a preparation to be made. This is done by an invitation to thanksgiving. The part that changes does so seasonally, giving us reasons to give thanks that are tied to the particular themes of Advent or Christmas or Easter and the like. These reasons could be somewhat endless, but they are all united in the singular gift of justification, that is, that "we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us."

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to God because He has redeemed us, justified us. In the Festival half of the year, that is Advent through Pentecost, the liturgy usually ties our thanksgiving in the Proper Preface to the specific historic acts of Christ in the Incarnation which has wrought our salvation, but so also we could develop themes of God's love, of being members of His family, of being His Bride, of the gifts of Word and Sacrament and so forth. All these things are cause for us to rejoice and give thanks, and it is right for us in all times and places to do so, but all of them are intimately tied and dependent upon His atoning gift on the cross. If we weren't justified there'd be nothing worth giving thanks for. God's grace is distributed to us in various ways, such as through His Word, in the Holy Absolution, and in Holy Baptism. But the means of Grace that is called sometimes the Eucharist, that is in Greek "Thanksgiving," is the Holy Communion.

So it is that after the distribution the pastor says or chants: "O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good" and we respond by saying or chanting "And His mercy endures forever." Then the pastor prays a thanksgiving prayer on our behalf.

Most of the time he prays this: "We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift." The salutary or healthy gift is the Holy Communion. We thank God for refreshing us through this. Then we beseech Him that of His mercy He would strengthen us through the same, that is through the same salutary gift that refreshed us, the Holy communion, that through that He would strengthen us in faith toward Him and in fervent love toward one another, which is to say that His refreshing mercy, which He bestows in the Sacrament, would cause us to love Him with our whole heart and love our neighbors as ourselves. That is all in the form of thanksgiving.

All this to say that which is probably sort of obvious: the most natural way for Lutherans to give thanks to God is for them to receive the Holy Communion. So it is that in the context of our holiday thanksgiving these words of thanks in the liturgy and even the Sacrament itself take on a new import and significance in a way that is similar to the Gloria in Excelsis on Christmas Eve.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we give thanks to God at all times and in all places, in terms of the Sermon on the Mount, this is the opposite of being anxious about our lives, what we will eat or what we will drink. Rather than being anxious — even in evil times and in suffering we give thanks because God has given us His Body to eat and His Blood to drink. That the antidote to anxiety about food. Our God has become a Man to buy and win us and He gives Himself as food, drink, and clothing. So we give thanks as we receive the forgiveness of sins in the Holy Eucharist. And giving thanks there enables us to go forth and give thanks in all other times and places, knowing that whatever the world may throw at us we have His Body to eat and His Blood to drink.

Join me this month is singing with angels, archangels and the whole company of heaven:

For All the Saints

LSB 677



- And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long, Steals on the ear the distant triumph song, And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- The golden evening brightens in the west; Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest; Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day: The saints triumphant rise in bright array; The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.

Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text and tune: Public domain

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

President's Piece for Peace



Karen and I recently attended the Sight and Sound Theater in Branson, Missouri. They are well known for putting on biblical musicals taken from Old Testament narratives. The one we saw recently was Queen Esther.

The talent, setting, sound and presentation are as professional as anything done in Las Vegas or Hollywood. Not that either one of those is a great reference point, but the musicals are very well done.

However, (don't you just love "however's"?) the theology as presented by the musical was full of what we call the "theology of glory" instead of the "theology of the cross." Example: when Haman was put on the gallows, the crowd cheered with delight that such a sinner as he would be put to death. It assumes that all wicked people are worse sinners than good people are sinners. It placed the role of God as conqueror of evil plans and those planning them, because they are the worst people on earth. On the other hand, all good people are victorious with God because the good people would never do the things the bad people do. Oh really? "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There is no one who has not sinned, not even one." "To break one part of the Law is to have broken it all."

The point of Esther was not that good people win all battles because they are good, or at least not as bad as the bad people. The point of Esther is that God preserved a people (completely undeserved) so that through them the Messiah could be born who would deliver all people from the consequence of sin. That means all sins for all time. God did not cheer when Haman was sent to the gallows. The Father sent His Son to redeem men like Haman. It is sad that Haman died as a pagan (as far as we can tell from the book). "God does not delight in the death of the wicked." "He desires that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth."

Even though the book of Esther does not mention the name of God, it is clearly a book resting within the "theology of the cross." The preservation of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, David and others was so that the Son of God could be born in Bethlehem. He ministered in the Galilee, suffered, and died in Jerusalem for the atonement of mankind {even Haman}. His victory was over sin, death, and the Devil. His victory does not gain for the Christian a life of wealth, good health, and fulfilled dreams of success. His victory gains for us redemption and salvation.

By faith and faith alone, in Jesus the Son of the Living God, we have the greatest gift of all. We have the promise of eternal life in heaven. This is because of the cross of Christ, not the deserved merits of "good people."

Every sermon preached, every sacrament administered, every lesson taught brings the glory of the Cross to our lives. God wanted Haman to repent just as He calls for the repentance of all sinners. It is sad, terribly sad, when a sinner dies without faith in Jesus. We do not cheer over the death of the wicked. We cry for them. We rejoice that He who is perfect and holy entered into our context so He could bear the cross in our place. We rejoice that the benefit of the cross becomes ours by the blessed Means of Grace. Preach it, administer it, teach it. The theology of the cross is our only hope, comfort, and stay. God be with you all.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders District President

Invitation from St. Silas Lutheran Church

St. Silas Lutheran Church in North Liberty has purchased a new site to conduct Word and Sacrament ministry in the North Liberty area serving the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids corridor. We are now the proud owners of a storefront location in a North Liberty strip mall, sandwiched between an early childhood development center and two childcare facilities. The new site offers increased visibility to our community as well as much needed

space for our Sunday School.

On October 29th at 3:00PM our friends, neighbors, and volunteers will gather to join us for a Reformation Festival in our new home. The Rev. Max Mons, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel, Iowa City, our mother congregation, will be the preacher. We invite you to join us and celebrate God's blessings with us on the 29th and anytime at 70 Circle Drive, #C, North Liberty. Desserts and beverages will follow. The site is located just north of Cherry Street and immediately east of the recreation center and swimming pool.



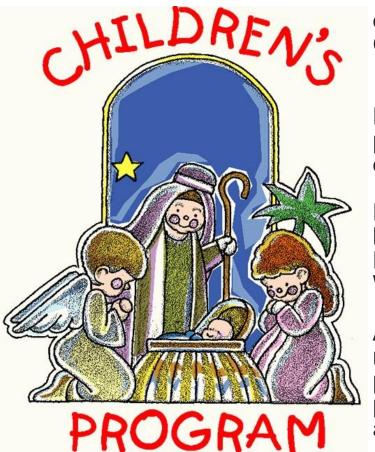
Calling families and children from 12th grade and younger. The Board of Education is beginning to plan for the Christmas Program which will be Dec. 17 at 10:30am.

Practices will begin Nov. 19 and will take place during Sunday school time, with one more practice Sat., Dec.16.

Please let us know if you are wanting to be a part of the program or not before Nov. 11, so we can plan accordingly. We will be assigning parts Nov. 12.

Also, if you are wanting to play an instrument for the pre-program music that day, please let us know that as well. To best prepare, let the Board of Education know as soon as possible.

Thank you!





The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



MEMORY WORK FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

5th & 6th Grades Memory Work

Nov 1 Confession: What is Confession? What sins should we confess? Which are these?

Nov 8 Confession: What sins should we confess?

Nov 15 Confession: Which are these?

Nov 22 No Class

Nov 29 Confession: What is the Office of the Keys? AND Christmas Program Pieces

7th & 8th Grades Memory Work

Nov 1 Lord's Supper: What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Where is this written?

Nov 8 Lord's Supper: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

Nov 15 Lord's Supper: How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Nov 22 No class

Nov 29 Lord's Supper: Who receives this sacrament worthily?

God's Work in Latvia A Mock Family Newsletter October 2023

The Next Few Weeks

While not a requirement for travelers with U.S. passports, one of the requirements for citizens of other countries that enter the Schengen Area (most countries in Europe) is a roundtrip itinerary. Thankfully for us, we aren't held to this requirement but, at the same time, a roundtrip ticket is often less expensive than purchasing one-way tickets. While hoping for the best, we were unsure how long our Czech Republic visas would take to process. In the event things were on the slower side, we booked a roundtrip ticket back in July to bring us back if our visa applications weren't approved before the 90-day limit of our current tourist visa. That return flight is scheduled for a few days from now and is rapidly approaching!

As I write this, sitting in our apartment in Prague, we still have a few hours left before the workweek comes to a close. We are anxiously waiting to hear if we are approved at the last moment so we can stay in Prague. We continue to pack while keeping an ear out for any changes to our application status. But, if you've received this newsletter, it unfortunately means that the status of our visa applications remained unchanged and we had to make use of our roundtrip tickets. So, for the next few weeks, our plan is to stay in the U.S. until we receive a decision on our applications. As we pack to return back to the States, we may wonder, "Why do we do all this?" We do this so that the Gospel may be preached, heard, and believed in (Romans 10:14)!

In other news, it's not only our scenery that is changing, but also our day-today routine. We have just wrapped up the last week of our intensive Latvian language classes and I (Cody) will now start transiting to IT-related duties. Aurélie and I will continue to take Latvian language classes, but at a less intense pace.

Thank you for your continued prayers for us, our visa applications, and for our Latvian language study.

Mock Family Update

The girls, especially Moriah, are excited to get back on an airplane. We will see how well that holds up!

Eva lost her first tooth while in Prague!

We have also been looking into options for our girls to get involved with some activities with other kids their age. We'll continue doing so after our return to Prague.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we work to bring the Gospel to Eurasia.

Cody, Aurélie, Eva and Moriah



Aboard our flight back to the U.S.

Cody and Aurélie Mock serve the Lord through the LCMS in Riga, Latvia. As IT project manager, Cody works alongside the Luther Academy in Riga and the mission team in Eurasia to provide support for various IT systems and services.

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



church directory

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

Please submit any changes in your address, phone or email to the church secretary at immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.net by November 5th

Thank you.



Snowbirds:

For those of you that head for warmer weather for the winter and would like the monthly newsletter mailed to you, please submit your address, date departing and date returning to the church secretary. Even those that have submitted their address in the past, please do so again to make sure we have the correct address.

The newsletter and calendar are also published on our website at www.immanuelgrinnell.org

FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR AND EPIPHANY MUSIC AT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 3:00PM

The saints at Grinnell are invited to sing with us at Redeemer on Sunday, December 3 at 3pm. Pass this invitation to your organists and let me know by the end of the month if they'd like to perform an instrumental piece, or accompany a hymn that we'll sing together, or one of both.

Thank you, Alex Post Redeemer Lutheran Church 1600 S Center St Marshalltown, IA 50158 (641)753-9565 alexpost1226@gmail.com



LISTEN TO BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY VOICES, ORGAN,
TRUMPET, BELLS, AND OTHER INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC,
AND SING FAVORITE HYMNS WITH US!



Day of Thanksgiving/Harvest Service

Wednesday, November 15 at 6:30pm

Potluck Supper before the service at 5:00pm

There is a sign-up sheet on the entryway table if you would like to bring a dish.



Orphan Grain Train, Inc. Central Iowa Branch 23 302 Bevin St., PO Box 120 Clemons, IA 50051

October19, 2023

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus from Orphan Grain Train, Central Iowa Branch 23, Clemons, Iowa!

Commence with the first the south was suit a country of the property 大学 100 CONTROL TO THE TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TO THE TOTAL THE TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TO THE T

Dear Friends at Immanuel,

Thank you! for your generous donation to Orphan Grain Train. Our latest shipment was April 29th to Lithuania. We are sending our next load Tuesday, October 31 to the Ukraine. Your donation will help defray the cost of that shipment. We are also focusing on working with local charities donating quilts and other needed items. We have also been working on improving our facilities here at Clemons. Several dead ash trees have been removed and new cement for easier unloading is also being explored. We continue our mission of serving our Lord by providing for the needs of peoples all over the world, both in other countries and here at home. This is only possible because of individuals and groups like you who support us materially, financially, and prayerfully. Please continue to include us in your prayers and we pray that God will bless you as you serve your Lord. We always welcome visitors. We are here every Tuesday morning from 8:00-12:00. Coffee is at 10:00 sharp.

In His Love and Service,

Bonnie Berrey, Secretary

Branch Manager: Trisha Adams (641) 751-2479 Assistant Branch Manager: Richard Hartwig (515) 708-6234

Secretary: Bonnie Berrey (641) 477-8222 Treasurer: Julie Wengert (641) 488-2325

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on September 10, at 8:00 AM.

Present: Pastor Koepp, Joel McDonough, Steve Haase, Keith Thorpe, Diane Schultz, Kevin 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 August 13th meeting were presented for approval. Keith motioned to approve – Diane 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

• Continue to work on membership items and devotions.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- The cross lights should be fixed soon.
- Received the final insurance check for the hail damage.

Board of Evangelism: Dianna Kelting

• Finalizing 2024 budget and choosing what missions to support. Will present them to the council in October.

Board of Education: Markie Koepp

Sunday School is starting today.

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

Unfi	nished Business:
•	Steve provided a list of candidates that have agreed to be on the
	ballot for the 2024 council board. Elections will be held October 15
	2023, at the voter's meeting.
	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 to discuss meeting was adjourned and Pastor closed in prayer.

Council Meeting: Oct 8, 2023, 8:00 AM Voters Meeting: Oct 15, 2023, 10:30 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek Council Secretary







Electronic Giving: Fast, easy, & secure

Leave your checkbook at home.
Give electronically instead!
Electronic Giving is a convenient and secure way to provide consistent financial support to our church.

Pick up an authorization form on the entryway table and return to the church secretary.