

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
229 Eleventh Avenue West  
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

*February 2020 Newsletter*

# ***Immanuel News***

## **Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS**

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Grinnell, Iowa 50112

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## **Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp**

Cell Ph. 507-829-3901

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## **Office hours**

Monday through Thursday 8am to 3pm

## **Let's Get Social**



<http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org/>



Immanuel Lutheran Church LC-MS



Listen to weekly sermons:  
Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp

## **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.

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## *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. Koepp:

Office: 641-236-6691

Email: koeppj@hotmail.com

Cell: 507-829-3901

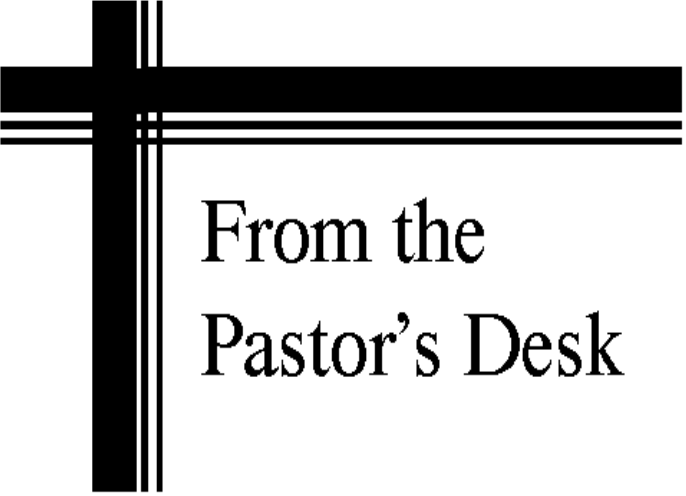
**DO YOU**...want to put something in the bulletin or newsletter? Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements? Upcoming events? If so, please submit the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin or newsletter by the deadlines listed below to the church secretary at [immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.net](mailto:immanuelutheran@iowatelecom.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.



## From the Pastor's Desk

February is a month of transitions in the church year. We go from Epiphany, through preparations for Lent and end with Ash Wednesday. The world takes one of the days of the church year and twists it into its own festival of self-promotion and chaos. I am speaking of Valentine's Day. In a day that has turned love away from God and into one's self. How fitting that this month is also home this year to what is known as the "Gesima" Sundays.

Gesima is the Latin word for day and so the church embarks on three Sundays of proper preparation for Lent. As Lent is a preparatory time for Easter, this may sound a bit funny; that is, to have a preparation season for a preparation season. Lent however can take a dangerous turn, if not understood rightly. Lent can easily be twisted into a self-justifying exercise where fasting is done to show "just how much I can suffer for Christ." It can be turned away from a proper recognition of sin and prayerful repentance focusing on the suffering and passion of our Lord, and turned into all about me.

Each of the days leading up to Lent are aimed at focusing us on Christ. The confessional principles of the Reformation in Christ alone, by grace alone, Scripture alone, faith alone are highlighted by the text and hymns of each Sunday.

The end of the month ends on a high note of Ash Wednesday. In a day of reflection and prayer, we hear these words, *"on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope."* (LSB Altar Book)

The Church has followed an ancient custom known as the “Imposition of Ashes.” During the service, the sign of the cross is drawn on the forehead (or hand) of those who so desire, while the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” are spoken. This sign of repentance is a reminder of our mortality and that we daily stand in need of God’s mercy, purchased and won by Christ’s death on the cross, which is culminating end of the Lenten Season.

As we enter this time of transition, repentance and prayer, may we do so with our fixed on Jesus. While you plan on ways to show your love to others, may you do so in the light of Christ. I recall for you these words from the book of Hebrews: *“since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”* (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Christ has been crucified, died, was buried, and has risen again for you!

May the Lord bless and keep you!

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
Newsletter Article – February 2020*

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part

and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.



A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

*"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."  
(1 Cor. 4:2)*

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (*1 Cor. 9:14*)

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (*Gal. 6:6–7*)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’ ” (*1 Tim. 5:17–18*)

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” (*1 Thess. 5:12–13*)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (*Heb. 13:17*)



We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (*1 Cor. 16:1–2*), proportionally (*1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12*), and generously (*2 Cor. 8:20*) of our first-fruits (*1 Cor. 16:2*) with a spirit of eagerness (*2 Cor. 9:2*), earnestness (*2 Cor. 8:7*), cheerfulness (*2 Cor. 9:7*), and love (*2 Cor. 8:23*).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

Moreover it  
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## Christ Academy: High School

Not sure what to give the theologically-minded high school student in your life? This Christmas, consider giving the gift of Christ Academy: Timothy School (men) or Christ Academy: Phoebe School (women). Split into two different schools, the high school academy takes place on the CTSFW campus for two weeks in early summer, from June 14–27, 2020. Open to high-school-aged students from ages 13-18, the academy is an opportunity for these young men and women to study theology, build lasting friendships with confessional Lutherans their age, and consider whether they would like to begin planning for a future as a pastor or deaconess.

Students take classes taught by CTSFW faculty and other ordained ministers, gather four times daily in liturgical, Christ-centered worship in Kramer Chapel, and pack the rest of their hours with fun. Housing and food are provided



on campus, with a handful of mission opportunities and a baseball game that will take them off campus and into the wider Fort Wayne community. The students of both schools take some classes together, but much of their learning is separated to allow them to focus on their specific vocations as young men and women in Christ.

Attendance for the two weeks costs \$650, which is all-inclusive, covering tuition, housing, meals, and all off-campus activities. Returning students are eligible for \$100 discount if they apply by December 31, 2019. As space is limited, students must fill out an application to be considered for admittance. To apply, go to:

Young men: [www.ctsfw.edu/timothyschool](http://www.ctsfw.edu/timothyschool)

Young women: [www.ctsfw.edu/phoebeschool](http://www.ctsfw.edu/phoebeschool)

We'll begin processing applications on January 15, with deadlines closing on May 1, 2020. You can also learn more about the planned activities, opportunities, expectations, general theological concepts taught each day in the classrooms, and more at the above links. For questions or concerns, email [ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu](mailto:ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu) or call (260) 452-3140.

God's blessings to all in this season of Advent—and, soon, a very Merry Christmas!

In Christ's service,  
Rev. Matt Wietfeldt  
Director of Christ Academy

## Foot Washing 101 - Revisited

Jan Doellinger

Assistant to the President, Schools

*"so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him." (John 13:4-5)*

It's hard to believe, but the school year is half over. You know what that means. It's time for a little check-up, or perhaps more importantly, some encouragement. You have been teaching and modeling Foot Washing 101 with your students since Day 1. Your students have been hearing from you about serving God through their thoughts, words and actions each and every day, through daily devotions, Bible study, weekly chapel time, Religion classes (or "Jesus time" depending on the grade level), and confirmation instruction. And we mustn't forget about all the opportunities you've had of integrating the faith into all of their other classes, in addition to their behavior at lunch, recess, and other school related activities.



Usually by this time of the school year, the winter doldrums have set in – not just for students, but for yourself as well. We're tired of being cooped up. Patience, tolerance, and getting along with one another becomes more of a challenge. You have after school activities and a family to care for. There's always a stack of papers to grade. Your spiritual tank is hovering closer to the "Empty" side of servant leader than the "Full" side. It's hard to be a foot washer at this time of the school year. But fear not! God does provide by giving us examples of servant leaders in the Bible who we can look to for encouragement and wisdom.

One of those servant leaders was Moses. One of his foot washing opportunities happened when God came to him in the flames of fire of a burning bush recorded in Exodus 3. God was about to have a great responsibility put on Moses' shoulders. Here was an opportunity for his faith to be put to the test, to be a servant leader. This 80-year-old man was out tending the flocks of his father-in-law when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the flames of fire of a burning bush. This was no ordinary burning bush – it wasn't being consumed. Moses, who must have been 12 years old at some time in his life and hadn't yet outgrown it, gets this incredible "middle school" type thought, "I will go over and check this out!" As he's walking the bush speaks to him and tells him to take off his shoes for he was standing on "holy ground" (vs 5b). Whoa! Something unusual is happening.

The Lord identifies himself and tells Moses what he wants him to do. Go to Pharaoh, He says, and lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt (vs 10). Thus begins the "Q and A" between the Lord and Moses regarding his ability to carry out this overwhelming task. Take a moment here and reflect, how are you feeling at this time of the school year, my brothers and sisters in Christ, about the day in and day out opportunities for servant leadership, aka foot washing? Do you hear yourself in Moses' first question to God in 3:11, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" Why do I get stuck dealing with that little stinker or this helicopter parent every day?

Maybe Moses' second question is closer to how your days are going. "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, "What is his name?" Then what shall I tell them?" (3:13) Is it *my* responsibility to tell everyone about Jesus? They're not going to listen anyway.

Moses and the Lord go back and forth two more times. Each time the Lord makes it abundantly clear that God was going to be with Moses, that He would reveal Himself, and give him what he needed to do to deliver the Children of Israel out of the hand of the Egyptians. Finally, in 4:13 Moses makes the final request, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." By this time, God's righteous anger is burning, and not because of the heat from the bush, but because of Moses' attitude and excuses. Yet, God was able to use Moses to be the servant leader He chose to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt.

Later, we read about how Moses' actions spoke louder than his words. His example becomes our example of 'faith without works is dead' (James 2:14-17). His example is one for us as servant leaders in our classrooms, schools, and congregations of how God uses ordinary human beings, excuses and all, to still accomplish His will. Moses had flaws, but God still used him.

God is using each of you, chosen to do His precious work of telling students about Jesus each and every day. Some days are easier than others. Some tasks are more challenging. Nevertheless, you are in that classroom because that's where God wants you to be. I can tell you that Jesus loves you, and that His death on the cross erases away the stains and hurts that come along in the teaching profession. We spend time in Foot washing 101 because it isn't about us, it's about Jesus. Thank God we're not saved by our actions and deeds. That's already been done. Now it's our opportunity to respond with a heart that is centered on the cross and the price Christ paid. With great joy and excitement finish the year with this foot washing reminder, in the hope and assurance of eternal life for you and your students!



## IDE LHM District Convention—April 4, 2020 “The Cost of Free”



Iowa District East Lutheran Hour Ministries annual convention is **Saturday, April 4, 2020** at Camp Lo-Dis-E-Ca, 3271 Sandy Beach Rd. NE, Solon, IA 52333.

Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook, *Vice President, Global Ministries*. He will be sharing how global outreach efforts are reaching others with the Gospel message. All are invited to attend.

**Registration:** Registration open at 9:00AM

Convention starts at 10:00 AM and conclude at 4:00 PM.

Registration is \$12 (\$15 at the door), includes a noon meal and snacks. Please register by March 29, 2020 to allow time for meal planning. (Extra restrooms available.)

**Directions:** Take I-380 until exit 10 (Swisher, Shueyville) and head east on 120<sup>th</sup> St. [F12] until stop sign. Turn right onto NE Curtis Bridge Rd. and follow it until Sandy Beach Rd. Turn left onto Sandy Beach Rd. and follow it to the Camp. Watch for Camp signs.



Booklets help strengthen sick woman's faith in Madagascar



LHM-Kenya VBS Reaches 100 Children



Homeless girl finds hope at puppet show in Myanmar

To register, complete this form, enclose check and mail to:  
Dick Hoelz, 3519 Heatheridge Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-7624.  
Make checks payable to: IDE LLL

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_







## Pattern for Love



Dear Sally, "We both know we've been drifting apart for a long time. And let's face it, I don't see you or anything between us changing. You may as well know that I'm seeing someone else. I think I love her.

"Let's make this as easy as possible on the kids. It doesn't have to be a big thing unless we make it one. I don't love you any more. I've already had my attorney draw up the papers. I'll be back next week to pick up my things."



Have you ever read a note like this? Or maybe wrote one? More than likely you know someone who has been through the pain this kind of letter causes. Sally and her mate were happy and in love when they got married. What happened?

Love has to be one of the most confusing words in our society. We love pizza. We love our brother. We love our spouse. We make love. Those statements cannot all mean the same thing. So what does "I love you" mean?

To many people love is a feeling. "I really, really like you." Unfortunately, circumstances can change feelings. Anything from bad breath to forgetting an anniversary can do it.

The Bible describes real love. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 John 3:16). That's more than feelings. That's a conscious decision, with corresponding helpful actions.

Jesus Christ really loved us and is our pattern for love.

Elmer knows that. He lives in a retirement home, and his wife is in a nursing home. Until a few months ago they enjoyed a two-bedroom apartment together in a beautiful complex. That's changed as her Alzheimer's has worsened. But not his love.



When Ruth had to move, Elmer decided to also. He wanted to be close to his wife. He found a place about five minutes from her. Every afternoon he goes to visit her.

All through their sixty-some years of marriage, Elmer and Ruth have been close to each other. The reason: Their loving Savior has been close to them.

Come and worship every week with us. Each divine service is a story of God's sacrificial love.

## **Ash Wednesday**

February 26

Meal will be served at 5:15pm followed by the service at 6:30pm

## **Mid-Week Evening Prayer Services**

Wednesday, March 4

Wednesday, March 11

Wednesday, March 18

Wednesday, April 1

Meal will be served at 5:15pm followed by the service at 6:30pm

## **The Annunciation of Our Lord Evening Prayer Service**

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30pm

## **Palm Sunday/Confirmation**

April 5

## **Holy Week Prayer Services**

Monday, April 6 at noon

Tuesday, April 7 at noon

Wednesday, April 8 at noon

## **Holy Thursday**

April 9 at 6:30pm

## **Good Friday**

April 10 at 6:30pm

## **Holy Saturday Prayer Service**

April 11 at noon

## **Easter Vigil Service**

April 11 at 6:30pm

## **Easter Sunrise Service**

April 12 at 6:30am

## **Ressurrection of Our Lord**

April 12 at 9:00am



## **2020 Immanuel Officers & Board Members**

### **President**

Steve Haase

### **LWML President**

Maralee Kruse

### **Vice President**

Joel McDonough

### **LWML Treasurer**

Susan Schoen

### **Secretary**

Kathy Stanek

### **LWML Secretary**

Pam Haase

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Chris Christinson

### **LWML Christian Life**

Denise Cadwell

### **Elders**

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Steve Haase

Darlo Kelting

Ken Mergen

### **Organist**

Esther Huedepohl/Pam Haase

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Amber Carnine

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Ben Loudon

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Pastor Koepp

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Megan Schutt

Markie Koepp

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Susan Schoen

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)

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