

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

***September 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- [koeppj@hotmail.com](mailto: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 [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.**

# **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 Loudon, 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

## **Pianist**

Sophia Loudon

## **Church Secretary**

Amber Carnine

## **Sunday School Opening**

Pastor Koepp

## **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 *September*

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# *A Message from our Pastor*



## **Marshalltown Circuit Report of the LC-MS Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**Saturday July 29 - Thursday August 3, 2023**

*Submitted by Rev. Samuel G. Beltz, St. John Ev. Lutheran  
of Oskaloosa, Iowa*

Greetings in Our Lord Jesus Christ! The LCMS Convention has concluded its work and what follows is a report based on the best recollection of the events.

Our Convention began with the normal procedures and protocols. On Saturday morning final floor committee meetings took place followed by delegate orientation. These initial matters gave way to the opening Divine Service of the 68th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison preached a sermon from Hosea 6.1-6, which was sadly interrupted towards its conclusion with an Amber Alert signal ringing through the hall.

After the Convention photograph, the Convention was called to order by President Harrison and the Walther memorial gavel. This initial session was marred by several technical malfunctions, which bogged down proceedings. Nevertheless, President Harrison gave his Presidential report, and the convention passed several pieces of business before recessing for lunch.

In the second session of Sunday's business the delegation elected a slate of candidates for the Synodical Presidium. It was announced that Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison had been reelected to serve another triennium as Synodical President. The Vice-Presidential elections resulted as follows: Peter Lange (1st VP), Ben Ball (2nd VP), Scott Murray (3rd VP), Nabil Nour, (4th VP), Christopher Esget (5th VP) John Wohlrabe, (6th VP). The Delegation then heard a series of presentations from various groups before taking up the matter of declaring Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with various Church bodies in foreign lands.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod voted unanimously to establish Altar and Pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan and Sudan, The Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, The Lutheran Church of Uganda, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine, and to recognize the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka as a new partner Church working toward Altar and Pulpit Fellowship. Concluding our vote to recognize Altar & Pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine, Bishop Serge Maschewski presented Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison with a helmet that had saved Bishop Maschewski's life when his vehicle was struck by a Russian missile as he was making calls on his war-ravaged congregation behind Russian lines. The helmet had been purchased and supplied to the Ukrainian Church by the LC-MS. The helmet had also saved the life of another Ukrainian pastor only a few days after the bishop's life was saved.

Monday's business began with greetings from Concordia Publishing House and then quickly moved into various housekeeping resolutions. These resolutions were to amend structure and administration within the LC-MS. The Convention then moved to another round of Elections. John Sias was reelected to Synodical secretary as well as several elections for LC-MC Board of Directors. Following these elections, the delegation voted on several resolutions for our National Mission including resolutions for the care and retention of clergy, as well as the promotion of increased national mission efforts to immigrant communities.

The afternoon's business was mainly occupied with the breaking of Altar & Pulpit Fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Japan. This was truly a sad, but necessary, resolution as the Lutheran Church of Japan had abandoned the clear Word of God and its teaching by ordaining women into the Office of the Ministry. The afternoon's business wrapped-up with several other overtures for Thanksgiving as well as housekeeping resolutions to amend certain aspects of Synodical administration.

The business for Tuesday, August 1 began with another weighty resolution, To Call Concordia University Texas Leadership to Repentance. If the reader is unaware of the context for this Resolution, please seek information from your pastor or circuit visitor. After passionate discussion and debate, as well as an address from current serving CTX President Don Christian, the convention voted to Call the CTX leadership to repentance for their actions. This weighty matter was followed by another round of voting for various positions and boards within the Synod. Again, later Tuesday morning the Synod voted to reaffirm its committal to in-person communion. This was in response to the practice of so-called “digital” communion practice during the COVID pandemic. The resolution was adopted overwhelmingly.

Tuesday’s afternoon business brought us an address from Finnish member of parliament Paivi M. Rasanen, who is being legally prosecuted because of her public opposition to homosexual marriage and other sexual ideologies contrary to the Word of God. Following this address, and a few others, the Synod took up the topic of the pastoral shortage facing our Synod. Several delegates petitioned and sought amendment to various resolutions encouraging men to be Pastorally formed through our seminaries. Several delegates from salt-water districts sought to move the LC-MS toward more alternate paths for Pastoral formation. These overtures were resoundingly voted down. The LC-MS wants its pastor shaped and educated by our Seminaries.

Wednesday, August 2 saw significantly less passionate topics arise. The convention received several reports and greetings from various boards and organizations, including Concordia Historical Institute. The Convention then adopted several resolutions: Rejecting all forms of Racism, Opposing the Mandatory draft of Women, and creating a task force to address the increasingly hostile relationship between the Church and State in America. These matters we followed by another round of elections for various committees and boards before lunch recess.

The Wednesday afternoon session was likewise rather tranquil in business. The Convention passed several resolutions from the Committee on Theology and Church relations before entering yet another round of elections for Synodical boards and committees. The delegation heard several more reports as well as greetings from various organizations and missionaries before recessing for the evening.



# President's Piece for Peace

At the time of this writing the Synod will be meeting in convention come July 29- August 3. The place of convention is Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As in all conventions there will be much excitement over declaration of fellowship with church bodies who are in Scriptural and Confessional unity with the LCMS. That is always a great joy. I have the honor and privilege to be chairman of the floor committee (CTCR) which presents these resolutions to the convention. We will be declaring fellowship with five churches this year. At the same time, I will also be presenting a sad resolution declaring the fact that we are no longer in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Japan. After years of teaching with great effort to instruct Japan's leaders in the orthodox understanding of Holy Scripture, they have decided to embrace the higher critical means of biblical interpretation which has led them to proclaim and practice false doctrine. Fellowship can only exist with a common confession of the Word of God.

Other pertinent resolutions from my floor committee will affirm Closed Communion for the sake of proper reception of the Lord's Body and Blood. We are also addressing the need for the Lord's Supper to be conducted in person, not on-line. One more resolution out of the 15 we will be presenting is a reaffirmation of the Synod's biblical position on marriage and sexuality. These are all good resolutions for harmony and faithfulness in the Church.

Conventions are the time when elections will be held. Already in June the Synod re-elected Matthew Harrison to a 5<sup>th</sup> term as president. We do well to pray for him frequently that he remains strong and courageous as he leads us with a commitment to the Word of God and Its correct exposition, the Lutheran Confessions. Elections at the convention will be for the 6 vice-presidents, secretary, members of various boards and commissions, and regent members for our Concordia University institutions, along with other positions.

All things considered the greatest blessing of any convention is the frequent orders of worship conducted throughout the convention. They range from Divine Service to Matins and Vespers. It is wonderful to sing the hymns of the Church along with the liturgy which aligns with the Holy Word. Sermons are well-prepared and delivered with clarity. Prayers are offered up to the Throne of Grace for all in attendance and for the saving Gospel to reach the unreached. Truth be told, the worship elements of convention are my favorite.

So, as you can see, much will be taking place in Milwaukee and more. I covet your prayers for President Harrison and the praesidium, for the Council of District Presidents, for the floor committees, and for all things associated with the convention. May we conduct ourselves with steadfastness and gentleness. May the face of Christ shine from our faces that the world may see Christ through us. May the real image of the Church be demonstrated among the delegates at convention and then taken home to be revealed in their congregations and communities. Please join us with prayer. I will report on how it all went next month. God be with you all.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President



## ***LWML—IOWA EAST DISTRICT NEWS***

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### **2023 LWML IED Fall Retreat Invitation**

**The Lutheran Women in Mission of the Dubuque Zone invite  
you to join us for the Fall Retreat**

**Where: Io-Dis-E-Ca**

**When: September 8 & 9**

**Theme: Christ Above All**

**Verse: Colossians 1:15-17**

**Bible Studies led by Rev. Caleb Schewe, St. John's, Monticello,  
Dubuque Zone Counselor**

**Please bring: Bibles, snacks to share, flashlight, and essentials  
for Friday night as needed and your heart for mission work of  
all kinds.**

**In Gathering (donation items or \$\$) for Camp**

**Children are welcome**

# Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



## Summer Camp 2023 HEAR OUR PRAYER

*"Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!" - Psalm 143:1*

Summer camp has finished! Thanks be to God for beautiful weather this week as we enjoyed His wonderful creation here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Nearly 500 campers attended this summer. Thanks be to God, we were able to find staff and do summer as we wrote it down, though several campers were unable to get off of the waitlist.



Throughout the summer, campers learned about the love of God in Christ through our theme of Here Our Prayer. As we dug through Scripture, we answered the questions of when to pray, where to pray, how God answers prayer, and perhaps most importantly, what prayer teaches us about God and who He is. Jesus himself teaches us how and what to pray for. In our greatest joys and our deepest sorrows and despair, we learn that we have a God, Our Father in Heaven, who is eager to hear from us, His children. As God's children our campers can, with all boldness and confidence say, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

We pray that our campers has had a fantastic time with us here at Camp Io-Dis-E -Ca! It's been a blessing to have them here experiencing the beautiful outdoors, making new friends, and learning about Jesus!

## 2023-2024 Youth Retreats @ Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

**October 13-14 - IDE Confirmation Retreat**

**November 17-18 - Sr. High Retreat**

**January 26-27 - IDE Middle School Retreat & Snowlympics**

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)

## Fall Rally

### “LIVING IN JOY”

St John Lutheran Church  
2370 Merino Ave.  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

October 7, 2023  
9:15am—3:00pm

Registration \$5.00

Speaker: Wanda Pritzel  
Lutheran Family Services

RSVP by October 1, 2023  
RSVP to [office@stjohnosky.org](mailto:office@stjohnosky.org)  
Or 641-673-6546





# Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

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## Poweshiek County Family Development Center

Dear Friends at Immanuel Lutheran Church,

We are extremely grateful for your donation of 5.0 pounds to Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. (MICA) Poweshiek County Emergency Food Pantry. With your support and assistance, we were able to provide 371 boxes to 275 households for 567 individuals throughout Poweshiek County during the month of July, 2023. This totaled 12,226.82 pounds of food, and other items, given to clients! YOU are so appreciated!

How fortunate we are here at MICA to be on the receiving end of so many beautiful fruits and vegetables which so many of you are able to donate. This time of year our coolers and bins are rarely empty. Our clients enjoy and appreciate the quality and wonderful variety which supplement the non-perishables. These fruits and vegetables certainly help the families through the summer months when children are home from school. Thank you for all your contributions!

We truly appreciate your contribution because every donations helps MICA fulfill its mission: Helping people. Changing lives. Building communities.

Sincerely,

Mindy Clayton

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





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

### ***Stewardship in the First Commandment***

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.  
(SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

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



**MEMORY WORK  
FOR THE  
MONTH OF  
SEPTEMBER**

**5th & 6th Grades Confirmation Memory Work  
Classtime Wednesdays 4:00pm — 5:30pm**

Sept 6: First 17 Books of the Old Testament

Sept 13: All Books of the Old Testament

Sept 20: Baptism: *Which is that Word of God?*

Sept 27: Baptism: *What benefits does Baptism give?*

**7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Memory Work  
Classtime Wednesdays 5:30pm — 7:00pm**

Sept 6: Baptism: 1st Part

Sept 13: Baptism: 2nd Part

Sept 20: Baptism: 3rd Part

Sept 27: Baptism 4th Part

# **God's Work in Latvia**

## **A Mock Family Newsletter**

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

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

### **We have a visa appointment and we are in Prague!**

The last two weeks have been a whirlwind of preparations both in St. Louis and in Prague after we heard of our upcoming visa appointment for the Czech Republic. We will be traveling to the consulate in Germany in a few days to submit our application. Praise the Lord! We are greatly indebted to the work of many people both in the States and in Eurasia for getting us here so quickly. Thank you for your prayers!

The girls traveled very well for their first-ever flights. We were delayed quite a bit out of St. Louis which meant our connecting flight in Germany was missed. Thankfully it was rebooked by our airline, but with a much shorter layover—a quick bathroom break and we were late to our boarding call! Also due to the short layover was the unfortunate reality that our 10 checked bags didn't make it with us to Prague—a blessing in disguise as it made going through customs and finding a taxi very easy! Thankfully, our bags were delivered to us later that night. Arriving at the airport in Prague, we were greeted by our fellow missionaries, Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster, Cindy Wrucke, and Herman Strozier. What a warm welcome after a long voyage! They took us to our place and helped get us settled.

Since then, we have bought some groceries, figured out how to use our stove and oven, started to navigate public transportation, registered with the foreign police, and begun additional preparations for our visa appointment. Staying busy has helped us adjust well to the seven-hour time difference.

Prior to leaving for Prague, Aurélie and I started our Latvian language classes. In the morning, while in St. Louis, we would sit in front of our laptop and use video conferencing software to communicate with our tutor who was halfway across the world in Latvia. The eight-hour time difference meant it was already past dinner time for our tutor while we were still drinking our coffee. Oh, and we need the coffee!



Several people have told us that Latvian would be a difficult language to learn and they were right! As we settle back into Prague, we begin our Latvian studies again, but with only a one-hour difference instead of eight. Prayers are appreciated for understanding of grammar, clarity of pronunciation, and vocabulary acquisition.

In between our Latvian classes and our visa appointment preparations, we are also looking for an apartment to rent. We have our first showing later this week and are excited to see where we might possibly be living for the next year!



*First family photo in Prague!  
Vltava River, Charles Bridge, and Prague Castle in the background.*

Thank you for your continued prayers as we get settled in Prague and begin our work as missionaries in Eurasia!

— Cody, Aurélie, Eva and Moriah

# LCMS - Set Apart to Serve

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:36-38*

In response to Overture 1.01 of the 2018 Iowa District East—LCMS District Convention, a district task force has been commissioned to, within the Iowa District East, to aid efforts to recruit and retain church workers in the LCMS. The synod has also launched Set Apart to Serve, an initiative of the LCMS to recruit church workers. This IDE Task force met in May, September, and October of 2022 and has developed the following vision statement:

*We pray for God, through the intentional efforts of faithful mentors and ministries, to raise up and sustain well-qualified Lutheran church workers who are full of the love of God and are supported in their physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual well-being so that they may joyfully serve Christ and His church in their lifelong professional and personal vocations.*

In addition, three initial goals were established: 1) Congregations, schools, ministries, families, and individuals regularly pray the Lord would send workers into the harvest; 2) All church workers view themselves as mentors; and 3) Cultivate a culture of well-supported workers. Achieving these goals will happen over time, but beginning with the Professional Packet, we hope to provide resources aimed recruiting and retaining church workers, beginning with providing prayers to be included for use in Divine service, school assemblies, classrooms, staff meetings, or at home.

## This month's prayers for worship, school, and home:

Lord Jesus Christ, you command your Church to beware false prophets who come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. Bless your churches with wisdom to recognize truth from error, to embrace the good and to mark and avoid the false. Provide faithful teachers of Your Word who preach the true Prophet, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, through the working of Your Spirit you grant varieties of gifts, varieties of service, all to the glory of the One Lord, Jesus Christ. Continue to call more men into the Office of the Holy Ministry; impart on them the utterance of wisdom and knowledge, that in their preaching and teaching they extol the confession, "Jesus is Lord." Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For more workers in the Lord's harvest, that the Holy Spirit would continue to grant varieties of gifts and service, faithful vocations to men and women, that through hearing the wisdom and knowledge of Christ all would boldly confess, "Jesus is Lord," let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

More on LCMS Set Apart to Serve here: [lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve](https://lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve)

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

**SET APART TO SERVE**  
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT





## Parish Nurse - Loneliness Affects the Brain

We all may experience passing moments of loneliness during our lifetimes, but when loneliness becomes chronic or severe, the long-term effects can be detrimental to our health.

### **Loneliness Can Contribute to Cognitive Decline**

Social interactions keep our brains stimulated. Living in solitude does the opposite. In a study of more than 11,000 people, scientists found that those who reported high levels of social isolation had above-average decline in cognitive function when it came to tests of memory recall.

### **Loneliness May Make Us Pessimistic**

Researchers have found that hostility often emerges as a defense mechanism because lonely people fear further rejection. Unfortunately, that fear doesn't encourage seeking companionship, but instead leads to pushing people further away. Researchers call this a "self-reinforcing loop" of feeling lonely, criticizing friendships, and isolating from others.

### **Feeling Lonely May Make Us Less Likely to Trust Others**

Lonely people, who often become hyper-vigilant to potential rejection, develop higher levels of distrust in others. "This is one of the more worrisome signs of loneliness — when you're paranoid that people you don't even know are out to give you a hard time. It's a sign you've spent too much time alone," says Jacqueline Olds, MD, a psychiatry consultant at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Here are ideas for staying connected:

- **Volunteer.** As you work with others for a common cause, doing so will give you a sense of purpose and you'll feel better helping others.
- **Make a "stay in touch calendar"** with reminders to regularly reach out to family and friends either in-person, by video chat, or by phone.
- **Go for walks or consider adopting a dog** to walk with you (a dog can get you outside your house). During your walks you may run into neighbors also out for a stroll. Strike up a conversation even if it's just about the weather.

Submitted by Ronda Anderson, IDE Parish Nurse Representative

Source: Everyday Health and Journals of Gerontology, Better Health Summer 2023