

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 Eleventh Avenue West
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

July 2021 Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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LET US KNOW...

If you have a change of address, have a loved one ill 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.

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All services are live streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages:

(search for Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp)

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelGrinnell/>

<https://www.youtube.com>

Where

To

Find

Us

Podcast Links

(search for Immanuel Grinnell)

Anchor: <https://anchor.fm/ImmanuelGrinnell>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com>

Google: <https://www.google.com/podcasts>

Pocketcast: <https://pca.st/jkhh18k8>

RadioPublic: <https://radiopublic.com>

Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com>

All links are available on our Church Website:

www.immanuelgrinnell.org



From The Pastor

“What to do for All in Authority”

With July beginning with the celebration of our nations independence, it is a great time to reflect upon the God’s gifts of both civil government and citizens. The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism summarize these gifts by highlighting several Scripture references for living in this world as God’s Children.

Table of Duties

Of Civil Government

Romans 13:1–4, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.”

Of Citizens

Matthew 22:21, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Romans 13:5–7, “Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”

1 Timothy 2:1–3, “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.”

Titus 3:1, “Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.”

1 Peter 2:13–14, “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.”

This July of 2021 I encourage you to reflect on Paul’s words to Timothy, “***First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.***” (1 Timothy 2:1–2)

“They are all a bunch of crooks.” All of us have heard people say that of our government officials. You yourself may have even uttered these or similar words. Surveys show that people in our land do not trust their government. On television broadcasts, we have heard people in other lands express the same opinion.

We also know how difficult it is for some children to submit to parental authority. If you are a teen, or if you remember when you were, you must admit that you chafed under parental authority. When a clash of wills occurs, teens feel animosity for their parents.

Because the concept of individual freedom is so strong in our society, many find it difficult to be subject to authority. Even in the workplace some people resent being told what to do.

Who Are Those for Whom We Should Pray? God’s Word makes it very clear—all people, and for all who are in high positions.

Given the ever escalating and scathing political remarks, genuine prayer for another of a political stripe may prove difficult. You may find it an arduous and often unfruitful task to pray for someone who holds to a different position than you on one or many issues. However, God calls us to pray for the leader of the land, no matter who fills the office. Christians, who believe that God sent His Son to die for all, have a higher reason to pray. Out of love for God, generated by His undeserved love for us, we gladly pray for the spiritual welfare of others, especially those who hold high influential positions—presidents and governors.

Yet, there are many others in authority. There are the members of Congress, federal judges, and other national, state, and local leaders. We are to intercede also for them, and it makes no difference to which political party they belong.

In the state and local governments, the mayor, justices of the peace, and local representatives are among those for whom we pray. The police officer who stops you for a traffic violation is worthy of your respect and prayers. God commands, “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution” (1 Pet 2:13).

Parents have been given authority over their children. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Eph 6:1). All of us know that children do not always find it easy to obey, particularly teenagers.

Our Savior understands that. He experienced all the stages of life, including the teen years. He became our substitute, obeying God’s will in being subject to all authority. The righteousness necessary for eternal life has been earned for us by Christ in all stages of life. God’s Word assures us that in Christ we have the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21).

1 Timothy uses the important word, the plural “kings,” indicating that we are to pray for the rulers in other countries as well. “There is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Rom 13:1), and Jesus said, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Mk 12:17). God’s grace extends toward all people in all places. God so loved the world that He sacrificed His Son, Jesus, for all.

What if the ruler is a tyrant or a dictator? Are we to pray for such an authority also? The two phrases in our text, “all people” and “all,” allow for no exceptions; they include everyone who has been placed by God in a position of authority. The criteria for deciding if we should pray for a certain person in authority is not whether we like them or whether we feel they deserve our prayers. In God’s sight, outside of Christ there are no good people. All have sinned. All deserve nothing but punishment and eternal damnation. Yet God is good to all—“He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Mt 5:45).

John the Baptist said of Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (Jn 1:29). Jesus came to take upon Himself your sins. He has paid the price for your disobedience and rebellion against God. “God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). The Roman Caesar was a tyrant and a pagan. Nevertheless, God said through Paul, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Rom 13:1). The apostle Peter also wrote, “Honor the emperor” (1 Pet 2:17). Therefore, whether good or bad, kind or harsh, rulers need our prayers.

Jesus prayed for those who were treating Him harshly and unfairly. In reality, we were the ones responsible for His suffering and death. As His love and compassion for us penetrates our inmost being, we are led to pray for those who hate and persecute us. Jesus taught, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Mt 5:44). Even if a person in authority becomes our enemy or persecutes us, Christ asks us to pray for that individual.

Why Pray for Those in Authority? What need do authorities have for our prayers? They are in the driver’s seat. Scripture urges us to pray for those in authority so that we can live quiet and peaceful lives. It is the task of government to maintain order so that the Church can carry out our Lord’s commission to make disciples of all nations. Without government, which has the authority to punish evildoers, society would be in chaos. Swift and certain punishment helps keep evildoers from committing crimes. For our own sake, therefore, we need to pray that our government officials enact and execute just laws and maintain law and order.

Those who have been entrusted with authority do not always administer fairly. Indeed, one finds many complaints in the Old Testament regarding injustice. “You who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate” (Amos 5:12). If you have been the victim of injustice administered by some level of government, you know how frustrating that can be. We need to pray for justice in the land for all. God is interested in our temporal as well as our spiritual and eternal welfare.

Sometimes those in authority, be they government, parents, or supervisors in the workplace, act unfairly—by ignorance or by malevolent design. It is not always possible to make the right decisions, especially in difficult cases. It is not possible in every instance to know all the facts. Not all those in authority have the wisdom of Solomon. But we pray for wisdom for those in authority so that they may make decisions that are fair and benefit all of society.

Those in authority often are pressured by rich and powerful people to make decisions favorable to their cause. Most of us are acquainted with such favoritism and conflicts of interest. God complained about the leaders in ancient Israel for giving in to such temptation: “Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts” (Is 1:23). “Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely,” so the higher the authority, the more our prayers are needed. Pride precedes a fall. Those in authority need our prayers to help them avoid falling for such temptations and injuring society. When we remember that God desires that those in authority be a benefit to us, we are eager to pray that they govern according to His will. As sons and daughters of a merciful God, with His Spirit in us, we desire to help those in authority do their job so that we can do ours—proclaim Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

We may not be inclined to pray regularly for those in authority. However, as we remember the blessings that authority brings to our lives, we will find it easier to pray for such people. Look at the many blessings that we have in our country through our form of government. While not perfect, our country has prospered, and the Christian Church has largely been free to go about the task of making disciples of all nations. Imagine what your life would be like without authority. Even those we may dislike and resent the most—whether bosses, parents, or government leaders—are good and necessary. As many children have said in their later years, “At the time I did not appreciate my parents and what they did for me, but now I do.”

As we hear and believe that God loves us in Jesus despite our unworthiness, we are moved to respond. God sends the Holy Spirit to empower us to do so. In reverence for God, we submit to His will and walk in His ways. God, in His loving care for us, has provided authorities for our individual good and the good of His Church. May we thank Him joyfully, today and always!

Prayer for Responsible Leaders

O merciful Father in heaven, from You comes all rule and authority over the nations of the world for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well. Graciously regard Your servants, those who make, administer, and judge the laws of this nation, and look in mercy upon all the rulers of the earth. Grant that all who receive the sword as Your servants may bear it according to Your command. Enlighten and defend them, and grant them wisdom and understanding that under their peaceable governance Your people may be guarded and directed in righteousness, quietness, and unity. Protect and prolong their lives that we with them may show forth the praise of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Good Government

Eternal Lord, ruler of all, graciously regard those who have been set in positions of authority among us that, guided by Your Spirit, they may be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution, and unwavering in duty, that under them we may be governed quietly and peaceably; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Citizenship

Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est green,
4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;
5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive land



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor-ship Him a - lone. Cast down
From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo - rious band, A count -



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
less throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

Tune and text: Public domain

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders

District President

As I travel around our district, and in some cases around the country, I see more and more of a return to some sense of normalcy. After spending a year and a half in isolation, facial coverings, distancing, and working from home, we seem to be crawling out from under the rock of oppression. Athletic fields are occupied by fans and not just participants. It is nice to hear other voices in public places as well as the noise of hustle and bustle. What was once an annoyance is now a pleasure.

Of course this does not mean we throw caution to the wind and to be careless with your own health, or anyone else's either. If we have learned one thing among many over the past year and a half it is that we can be more considerate of others when we ourselves have any kind of illness. The basics of not sneezing in the presence of others, covering your mouth when you cough and then washing hands soon thereafter are simply common sense. If illness does have you down for a little bit, remain home until you are over the sickness. It is not to anyone's advantage to be a "sturdy soldier" and go to work regardless of how your health is. You do this to get better and also out of respect for your neighbor.

Now to my point: We need relief. It has been a tense-filled period of time with major adjustments that I for one am glad to see come to an end. We need a breather. Jesus frequently took a breather from the tense conditions of His life. It is often that we read in the Gospels that Jesus went off privately to pray. He rested from His labors and from the onslaught of stress. Jesus rested by having conversations with His Father. When we are given that rare glimpse into the very words that Jesus prayed we can find that He prayed from the Psalms or what is known to us as the Psalter.

“As life opens back up to more normalcy it is a good time to converse in the Psalms with He who is Lord of heaven and earth.”

The Psalms were the prayer book, or maybe better known as the hymn book of the People Israel. The order of their services as well as major festival days was built around the Psalms. The Psalms are verses that the Holy Spirit inspired men to record for the sake of properly praying to the Lord Almighty. The Psalms remind the person praying who God is. They also remind us of who we are and how needy our lives are. The Psalms are not short in identifying enemies who would do us harm. They allow us to pray ardently for God's intervention to defeat the enemies.

These are prayers of strength, comfort, and support. God does not forget about us. He does not abandon us nor does He turn a blind eye to our needs. "He opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living being." That desire, of course, is to be in concord with His desire.

Prayer is not an effort on our part. It is a privilege granted from the Holy Lord. It is refreshing and relieving to spend time with God the Father in prayer. As life opens back up to more normalcy it is a good time to converse in the Psalms with He who is Lord of heaven and earth. We will not only be reminded that we have not been forgotten, but also that we are safe and secure in the hands of He who gave His own life so that our lives could be returned to the Father.

President's Piece for Peace

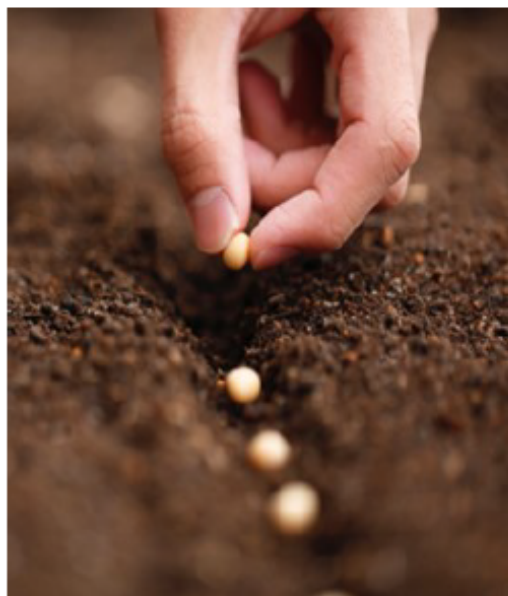
Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Throughout this last year and a half we have bore witness to the world what we believe is true. We have remained steadfast in worship and in commitment to the Church. Now it is time to inform others what we have and invite them to come and meet our pastor. He will greet them and teach them what it means to have a Savior. The Holy Spirit will bring great relief to their lives and grant them a peace they have not had before. Soon they who come will enjoy praying the Psalter with you and learning the proper words by which we can speak to He who is victor over death and the grave. Even there we will not be forgotten but always remembered. Our names are written in the Book of Life, and as such we can expect relief and rescue for eternity.

God be with you all,

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!



13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.” - Matthew 13:1-9

A few weeks ago, around Easter, on one of my zoom meetings with the IDE Early Childhood Directors, I asked them to share one thing they

were concerned about and one thing they were excited about. Many of the “concerns” revolved around COVID, getting to the end of the year, next year’s enrollment, and so on. To be sure, these were, and are, real concerns.

As for the items they were excited about, several Directors talked about how their “littles” seemed to be more aware and engaged in Bible stories this year. They wanted to hear stories over and over again. How exciting to hear how Jesus is at work through our IDE preschools and daycares! Kari Markla, our IDE Early Childhood Consultant (Redeemer, Ventura) shared a story a parent told her son, one of Kari’s students. Mom and her kids were going somewhere or doing something outside when she caught her son looking directly up at the sun. Mom told her son, “Don’t look at the sun, it will make you go blind.” To which her son matter-of-factly replied, “I’m not worried Mom because I know Jesus can heal me. He’ll just put some mud on my eye and I’ll be able to see!”

Now, I doubt that you’ll see any “mud” tables in our Early Childhood centers where kiddos can practice mud healing. But even though this little one has a few stages to go through in his faith development, you have to smile at his understanding, application, and verbalization of a Bible story told during “Jesus Time”. Even when we think students aren’t paying attention or totally engaged, they come up with the greatest insights! I’ve observed that sometimes it’s the student you least expect to make the astute faith observation or connection from Bible story to real life. No matter the age, the Word is going to come back to us.

Your classroom (and school) this year is an example of what Jesus was talking about in His parable of the Sower. Throughout each day you were sowing the Word through your lessons, classroom management, and relationships. There were many “aha” moments and yes, distractions. Yet you kept on planting. Just when you thought no one was listening or no one cared, our Heavenly Father reminded you that His Word would prevail. He was faithful. You, through Him, were sowing seeds that were producing *a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown*. You were blessed to see the harvest. Some of the seeds will produce a crop that you will never know or witness.

If you are a hymn nerd, you no doubt recognize the name Martin Franzmann. And, if you listener to the podcast “Lutheran Ladies Lounge”, episode #78 was devoted entirely to him. Franzmann (1907-1976) is one

Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!

of the most beloved hymn writers of the twentieth century. “Thy Strong Word” (LSB 578) is one of the five hymns that are in *Lutheran Service Book*.

Are you familiar with LSB 586 “*Preach You the Word*”? This hymn, with lyrics by Franzmann, is based on the Parable of the Sower. It was written in 1973 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Springfield seminary, now known as the Ft. Wayne Seminary. Though probably intended for pastors, preaching the Word has application for Lutheran educators, too.

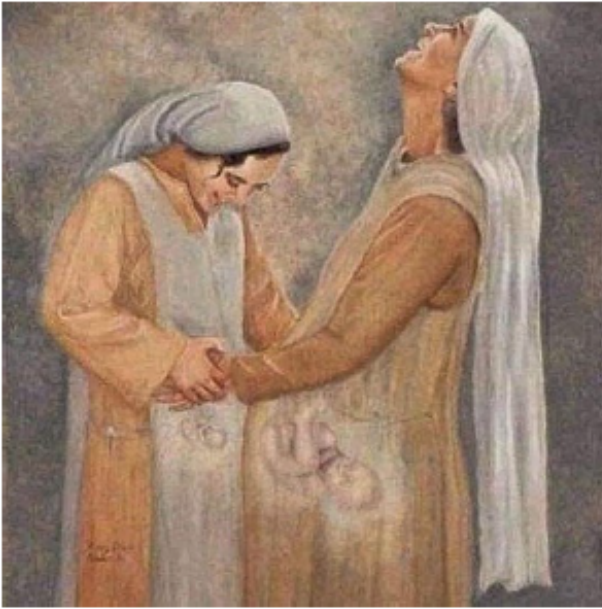
The entire hymn is rich in text, but certain phrases stand out to me. Verse 3 begins with, “The sower sows; his reckless love Scatters abroad the goodly seed,” In the spring of the year, you see farmers in their fields with giant tractors and planters drilling the individual corn and bean seeds in nice straight rows so many inches apart. Farmers may be sowing with love, but it’s not reckless. It’s precise and intentional. Quite different from our parable. Yet, neither the farmer in the parable or today’s farmer have any control over what happens to the seed after it hits the ground. In verse 4, we sing, “The sower sows; his heart cries out, ‘Oh what of that, and what of that’”? It is the power of Christ that will enable that seed to grow, nothing of our doing.

The first and last verse begins with the phrase, “Preach you the Word and plant it home”. Your first and most important task is to tell your students about Jesus for you may be the only faith contact your student will ever have all year. “Integrate the faith” is not cliché. It’s what you’ve been trained to do. Embrace it. Plan with it. Pray about it. Secondly, it is the Lord’s Word, not ours. “Who gave the sower seed to sow will watch and tend His planted Word.” (verse 6) God’s Word will work for His purposes, not ours. It will produce in spite of us, and sometimes we just have to get out of the way.

This summer, get some gas back in your tank. Fill it up with the Word that grows in your heart and mind so that you can be re-energized to work on planting another crop of seedlings next year. May you be able to witness a harvest a hundredfold and sing, “Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!” (verse 5) To God be the glory forever and ever!

Jan Doellinger
Assistant to the President, Schools

District Life Coordinator



Pastor Jim Lamb had some wonderful comments on this special feast day:

“June 24 is the Nativity of John the Baptist. John’s nativity followed the course of most Jewish births at the time I suppose. The age of his parents, however, indicated that his conception was miraculous. Not miraculous like Jesus who had no earthly father, but miraculous because both Elizabeth and Zechariah were “advanced in years” and Elizabeth was barren (Luke 1:7). Thus, friends and relatives, recognizing God’s hand in all of this, buzzed about John’s future. **“What then will this child be?”** (1:66)

Zechariah knew. Through the power of the Holy Spirit he prophesied, **“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways”** (1:76).

John knew. The Holy Spirit filled him too, **“even from his mother’s womb”**(1:15). At the very least, he knew when Jesus was present. At six months old, he “leaped for joy” (1:44) in his mother’s womb when the dot-sized embryo that was Jesus showed up in Mary’s womb. Babies as old as John leap frequently in wombs. But John does so with the very human emotion of joy.

We can learn from this embryo to fetus encounter. The Nativity of John the Baptist teaches us of the humanity and personhood of the unborn. I find it difficult to apply words like “glob of cells” or “non-sentient being” to the Spirit-filled, joyful, and leaping-in-the-presence-of-his-Savior John. Such things happen only to a fully human person.

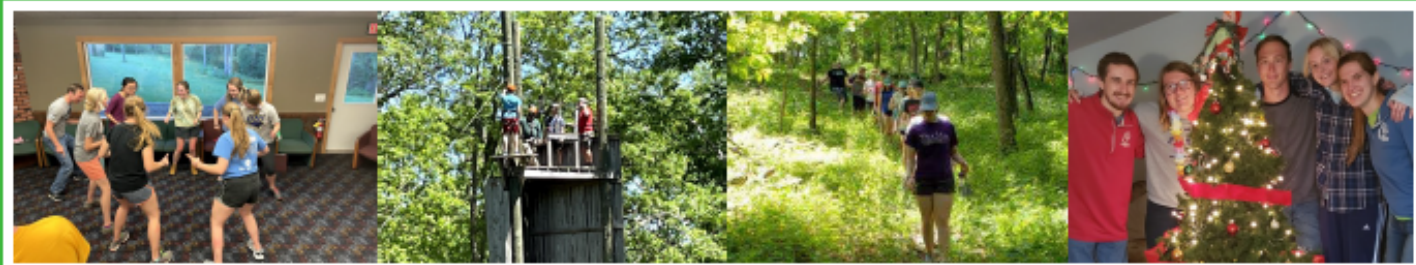
The Nativity of John the Baptist gives affirmation to the science of human embryology and fetal development. Unborn babies feel pain and respond to touch and light and sound. They leap and kick and swim and walk. They suck their thumbs, take naps, and “go potty.” They recognize their mother’s voice and daddy’s too if he talks to them. They love classical music, but good luck getting a teen to admit to this!

Philosophers, politicians, movie stars, judges, and sometimes theologians come up with all kinds of illogic, verbiage, sob stories, rulings, and heresy trying to minimize or deny the humanity and personhood of the unborn. But the basics of biology and the Bible bests them every time. When you celebrate the Nativity of John the Baptist, you not only celebrate the birth of the way-preparer, you affirm life and humanness and personhood.

And that’s not such a bad way to describe Lutherans for Life and what you support with your monthly gifts. We affirm life and humanness and personhood regardless of size or location or stage of development or condition of health. We strive to energize and equip individuals, educators, pastors, and congregations to do the same. We do so based on the Word of God, centered in the cross of Christ, and flowing from our love for Him and the humanity He has redeemed.”

Submitted by Rev. Alex Post, Redeemer Lutheran - Marshalltown, IA

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



Important Dates

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, these retreats are subject to change, postpone, or cancel.

June 16

First Day of Summer Camp

July 31

*I Believe in Camp
FUNDRAISER AUCTION*

August 3-6

Higher Things Confirmation Camp

September 10-11

LWML Fall Retreat

October 3-4

IDE Fall Pastors' Conference

October 8-9

IDE Fall Confirmation Retreat

Needs List

Lawn Tractor; Paper Towels; Toilet Paper; First Class Postage Stamps; Batteries: 9v, AA, AAA; Cleaning Supplies: window cleaner, all-purpose cleaner. **Please see our web site for a complete list:**
www.campiodiseca.org.



Support Needed

Fundraiser Auction & Camp Scholarships

Summer is happening, and that is great news for our campers and their families! We've already noticed how much being out at Camp for retreats and outdoor education how much campers miss being outdoors having that extra bit of fun and learning. We need your help as we get back to doing what only we do best at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. The first is that we are ahead of this year's goal for summer campers, and that is great news indeed! On the flip side, that means we are currently up to \$3,000 short of a fully funded Camp Scholarship fund. Campers and their families depend on financial support so that they can have the extra bit of Christian fun and learning that they have been missing over the course of the pandemic.

We are also happy to announce that our Fundraiser Auction will be held on Saturday, July 31! This is always a special day where friends of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca are able to come and celebrate the completion of another summer of sharing Christ with our campers and guests. As always, we need donations such as quilts, crafts, and other unique items to auction off for the benefit of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, and we'll also need bidders! Earlier that day we are also hoping to have our 1-mile and 5K runs, where the top three placers in each race win camp scholarships towards next year's camps.

We are very excited about this summer and all the joy that comes with our mission of providing Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration for all of our campers and guests.

THRIVENT CHOICE



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL

In 2020, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received nearly \$9,009 in Thrivent Choice contributions! Thank you donors for making this program a success for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Will you help make 2021 an even better year in Thrivent Choice giving?

Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice" to designate your choice dollars for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca today. Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!



**There have been several scam attempts,
both texting and phone calls, mimicking Pastor
and/or Immanuel Lutheran Church.**

**We have had reports of people using my name
to request gift cards, addresses,
phone numbers and other personal information.
If the number doesn't look familiar, please do not respond.**

**It is always good to double-check.
Instead of calling/texting the number back,
call the church or Pastor at home/cell phone.
Please talk to me and don't leave any
personal information over a message.**

Pastor Koepp



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – July 2021

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



Immanuel Lutheran will
again be in the Grinnell
4th of July Parade
which starts at 5:00pm

Volunteers will be needed to walk and ride the float
and to hand out candy. Let someone on the
Board of Evangelism know if you can help out.

A donation box for parade candy will be in
back by the Orphan Grain Train boxes.

We need everyone's help and this is
your chance to witness for our church.

Volunteers to walk or ride will line up at 4:30pm on
Hamilton Avenue directly East of Davis Elementary.
Look for our float (trailer with blue Immanuel banner)

*In Him,
Board of Evangelism & Missions
Dianna Kelting
June Routier
Pam Haase*

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

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

***If we have no contact information for these members by the Voter’s Meeting in July, their names will be brought forward for self-exclusion.**

- Michael Cadwell
- Christine Carstensen
- Clinton Hagedorn
- Dennis Hagedorn
- Patrick Harms
- Eric Heimsoth
- Sara Heimsoth
- William Nagel
- Kiara Petersen
- Travis Puls
- Tyler Puls
- Michael Welcher
- Hannah Smith
- Matthew Smith
- Nathan Smith
- Samantha Smith
- Jenna Tanner
- Lydia Tanner

Guiding Star Marshalltown, located at 2501 South Center Street in the Nicholas Center, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing compassionate care to women and their families. Our vision is a society where life is supported at every stage and the family is the foundation for future generations.

Guiding Star Marshalltown partners with professionals in the community who are Birth Doulas, Lactation Specialists, Fertility Care Practitioners, and many more to provide a wholistic approach for mind, body, and soul. We support teens, women with unplanned pregnancies, couples working through infertility, and those seeking health care on other stages along the journey.

For more information visit our website:
www.guidingstarmarshalltown.org

Calling all men (ages 18-108) to attend our 1st Annual Men's Night at Guiding Star Marshalltown, 2501 South Center Street, in the Nicholas Center. Thursday, July 8, 6:30-8:30pm Stop in and find out what Guiding Star Marshalltown is all about and meet our partners.

Mary Mauk, Director
2501 South Center St, Ste Q
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Phone: 641-351-4041
guidingstarmarshalltown.org



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
April 11th, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on April 11th, 2021 at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Chris Christinson, Kevin Schultz, Diane Schultz, Joel McDonough, Danielle McDonough, Keith Thorpe, June Routier, and Kathy Stanek.

President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. Minutes from the March 14th, 2021 council meeting were presented for approval. Diane motioned to approve and Chris 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough

- Joel apologized explaining the elders have not had the opportunity to meet this month due to Easter but will meet soon.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Treasurer's report discussed. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Trustees are asking the Sunday School board what kind of trees they would like them to purchase and plant with their donation for 2 trees? Flowering? Maple? Etc.?
- The end of April is the siding contractors date to finish Immanuel's siding repair.

Board of Evangelism: June Routier

- Save the date on June 6th to attend an Immanuel picnic. The theme is Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, beans & cookies!
- The 4th of July parade is currently on hold by the City of Grinnell.

Board of Education: Danielle McDonough

- Vacation Bible School dates are July 19-21 with expectations of extra students. Pastor Koepp is creating this year's curriculum.
- Discussing scholarships for Camp Io-DIS-E-Ca and Christ Academy tuition.

Board of Stewardship: Keith Thorpe

- 1st quarter giving statements will be sent out soon.

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.
- After 1 year with no church services allowed at Windsor Manor, Immanuel is now scheduled to hold services once a month. Pastor provided an in-person service last week.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

With no other business to discuss Steve thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Voters Meeting: April 18, 2021 - 10:30 AM

Council Meeting: May 9th, 2021 - 8:00 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
Church Council Secretary

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Monthly Meeting of the Church Council
May 9th, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on May 9th, 2021 at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Chris Christinson, Kevin Schultz, Diane Schultz, Joel McDonough, Darlo Kelting, Dianna Kelting and Kathy Stanek.

President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. Minutes from the April 11th, 2021 council meeting were presented for approval. Chris motioned to approve and Darlo 2nd. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Board of Elders: Joel McDonough, Darlo Kelting

- Ushers have not been scheduled to assist with worship service since the pandemic started but will begin again in July.
- Continuing to work on the membership list.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Christinson

- Treasurer's report discussed. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.

Board of Trustees: Kevin Schultz

- Repairs to the siding peak is complete and the contractor is waiting on supplies to repair the soffit and fascia damage from Derecho.
- Tree removal is complete and new trees have been planted. Quaking Aspens, requested by the Sunday school students, were planted near the playground.
- The property drainage problem that was completed last year continues to back up water. Darlo spoke with the city and they have visited the property to discuss what should be done next.

Board of Evangelism: Dianna Kelting

- Preparations are being planned for the June 6th Immanuel picnic. The theme is Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, beans & cookies!
- Service Guide booklets have been ordered to be included with welcome packages.

Board of Education: Pastor Koepp for the Board

- VBS plans are in the process of being implemented.
- The last day of Sunday school for the 20/21 season was May 9th.

Board of Stewardship: Diane Schultz

- Everything is good and nothing new 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.
- Received a letter from the District Synod that the resolution has been passed to move everything out for another year. Current officers will serve for one more year.
- Nursing home visits and sermons are going well.

Unfinished Business:

- Pastor Brandt is partnering with "Trees for Grinnell" and is asking Immanuel youth if they would like to help plant trees again this year.
- Dianna read the documentation regarding tuition to camp scholarships and it is "not" written specifically for Camp Io-DIS-E-CA. Chris motioned to include Christ Academy along with Camp Io-DIS-E-CA for all Immanuel students who attend either camp and pay 50% of their tuition. Diane Schultz 2nd. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Alpha Media "KGRN" radio station contacted Immanuel and asked if they would like to sponsor commercials on Memorial Day weekend honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Immanuel's name and address will be included in the 30 second commercial. Darlo motioned to approve the 30 second Memorial Day radio ads for the entire weekend. Diane Schultz 2nd. Motion carried.

With no other business to discuss Steve thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Council Meeting: June 14th, 2021 - 8:00 AM

Submitted by:

Kathy Stanek
Church Council Secretary



The Board of Education is asking for help with finishing their list with some food items for VBS. If you would like to donate any items listed below, a sign-up sheet is in the entryway at church. These supplies are needed by July 15th. Thank you!

- 2 packages big marshmallows
- 2 boxes Graham crackers
- 2 packages of whole fresh strawberries-not frozen
- box of toothpicks
- 2 jars caramel sauce
- 24 round sugar cookies for decorating (*baked or purchased*)
- various jars of frosting & sprinkles (*anything to decorate cookies*)
- 20 empty and clean 2 liter pop bottles
- 1gallon vanilla ice cream
- 1quart/box mint chocolate chip ice cream

SERVING DUTIES RESUMING

As was decided at the last Voter's Meeting, the elders discussed and agreed to resume ushers, servers, & greeters.

We will begin these roles Sunday, July 4th.

All serving schedules have been published and are final. The deadline to have contacted the office for request to be removed from any list was June 1st.

The ushers will have new duties beginning Sunday, July 4th and with modified duties, only one usher will be scheduled each Sunday instead of two.

A complete list of the Usher Duties is on the back of the 2021 Usher Schedule.

Thank you,

Amber Carnine

Church Secretary

2021 Immanuel Officers & Board Members

President

Steve Haase

LWML President

Pam Haase

Vice President

Joel McDonough

LWML Treasurer

June Routier

Secretary

Kathy Stanek

LWML Secretary

Pam Haase

Treasurer

Chris Christinson

LWML Christian Life

Denise Cadwell

Elders

Joel McDonough

Steve Haase

Darlo Kelting

Ken Mergen

Organist

Pam Haase

Esther Huedepohl

Trustees

Kevin Schultz

Ben Loudon

Melissa Mintle

Pianist

Sophia Loudon

Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

Board of Education

Sherry Baker

Danielle McDonough

Markie Koepp

Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)

Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe

Pamela Sittig

Diane Schultz

Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier

Dianna Kelting

Pam Haase

