

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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September Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS
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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...

have an announcement for 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 lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com
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.



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Pastor's Message

Psalm 90

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- 3 You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
- 6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- 7 For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
- 8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- 9 For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- 11 Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?
- 12 So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- 13 Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

- 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- 15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
- 16 Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
- 17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

The month of September begins with Labor Day, which offers an occasion for a variety of activities: family get-togethers, house chores, yardwork, and travel, just to name a few. The U.S. Congress enacted Labor Day as a national holiday in 1894, ordering its observance on the first Monday of September. At that time, working conditions were miserable for the laborer, and management had unrestricted control. A work schedule of twelve hours per day, seven days per week, was common. Benefit packages didn't exist. There was truth to the worker's ballad, "I owe my soul to the company store."

Whatever the conditions, Christians were and are part of the workforce of our land. Although we have protective work laws today, we still run the risk of allowing our work to define our personhood rather than our God-redeemed personhood to define our work. I challenge you to read Psalm 90 every morning during the month of September, and as you do, may you recognize that God's gracious favor establishes your work. Because of that, you can give credit where credit is due, learn when to say "when," and be eager to get back to our Lord's work.

Genesis is clear on many things, one of them being that that God created us for work, ***"The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."*** (Genesis 2:15). That purposefulness was thwarted by Adam's and Eve's sinful disobedience. Ever since, ***"cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*** (Genesis 3:17-19)

Yet God, in grace, redeems us through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ. In holy love, we are re-created to live as God's people. God retools us in the rhythm of work that anticipates rest and rest that anticipates work. He commands, ***"Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD."*** (Exodus 31:15).

This is hard to do in our contemporary workplaces. Today, the workplace is often plagued by moral and ethical dilemmas, which call for a Christian response. The apostle Paul says in Romans 12:2, ***"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."***

This is difficult to do when the culture pays less attention to matters of moral obligation (personal sacrifice, rules and respect, restraint regarding physical pleasure and sexuality) and more to attitudes accentuating self-expression, individualism, self-realization, and personal choices.

Christians bear the cross of Christ in whatever vocation they perform. The bloody sweat of Christ's cross relates to our blood and sweat and tears. The cross provides the motivation for all that we do. Work for its own sake, apart from the Lord God, is void of meaning and worth. Without Christ, we lament with Solomon, ***"What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?"*** (Ecclesiastes 1:3). In this context, Christ abides with His comforting summons, ***"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*** (Matthew 11:28) His rest is our eternal ***"dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms."*** (Deuteronomy 33:27), which sustain us in our endeavors.

By God's grace, there is purpose to our work. Not to work is to deprive ourselves or others of God's benefits. Each believer gets to ***"labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need."*** (Ephesians 4:28) He uses us in His fields and whatever our field might be, each of us "goes out to his work and to his labor until the evening." (Psalm 104:23)

Whether in the home or in the workplace, at the store or sporting events, Christians work eagerly and live as Peter exhorts, ***“in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”*** (1 Peter 3:15)

Hymn ‘With the Lord Begin Your Task’

LSB 869



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.
 2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise, and ad - o - ra - tion.
 3 With your Sav - ior at your side, Foes need not a - larm you;
 4 If your task be thus be - gun With the Sav - ior's bless - ing,
 5 Thus, Lord Je - sus, ev - 'ry task Be to You com - mend - ed;



For His aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.
 On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is your sal - va - tion.
 In His prom - is - es con - fide, And no ill can harm you.
 Safe - ly then your course will run, Toward the prom - ise press - ing.
 May Your will be done, I ask, Un - til life is end - ed.



Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, And when day is end - ed,
 Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,
 All your trust and hope re - pose In the might - y Mas - ter,
 Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where While you here must wan - der;
 Je - sus, in Your name be - gun Be the day's en - deav - or;



In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him com - mend - ed.
 Save you from the tempt - er's might, With His pres - ence cheer you.
 Who in wis - dom tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.
 You at last the joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.
 Grant that it may well be done To Your praise for - ev - er.

Text: Morgen- und Abend-segen, 1734, Waldenburg; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.

Tune: Peter Frank, 1616–75

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Tune: Public domain

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

Francis Sheaffer was a Swiss philosopher who was fonder of the theology of Ulrich Zwingli than of Martin Luther. While he was appreciative of the spirit of Luther, he was Reformed in his view of the Means of Grace. As a result, no matter how much he complimented Luther, by the time his theology was fleshed out, he was far from an accurate biblical confession. This only proved his thesis which was known as the "Watershed Theory."

This theory proposed that two positions on any one issue may be side by side, such that it would be hard to notice any difference. But when fleshed out each position would end up miles apart. His illustration of this theory used a mountaintop snowbank. While there would be one bank of snow, the bank would be comprised of millions of individual snowflakes. At the peak of the mountain, two flakes in the snowbank would be side by side such that there would be no noticeable difference. Yet, when the sun would melt the snow, each flake would begin to role down the side of the mountain it rested on until it was miles apart from its former neighbor by the time it rested at the mountain's base.

What is my point of the theory by Schaeffer? It calls to our attention the importance of the effort we make to catechize and teach the children and adults of our congregations. As pastors and teachers, we are trained to know the intricacies of Holy Scripture. We are convinced by study and preparation that our vows of fidelity to the Word of God are exhibited in the Lutheran Confessions. We boldly hold to the truth because it is only the Truth that sets is free from sin, death and the Devil. Not something close to it, but the actual Truth.

Satan is not afraid of that which might look closely like scripture but in reality, isn't. He is the father of lies and rejoices in the teaching of false doctrine. We are Called and installed as pastors by the Church for the purpose of preaching, teaching and administering the sacraments as Christ gives them to us in the Word. Our Called teachers, DCE's, Deaconesses, and all other commissioned offices are the voice God has sent to the sheep of each congregation and school that they may be led into all Truth. Sunday school teachers and confirmation instructors are of the same importance as the young and teenage children of the flock are fed from the pastures of eternal Truth.

Satan is not afraid of that which might look closely like Scripture but in reality, isn't.

I pray we can appreciate how important these responsibilities are. That we take them very seriously and prepare our lessons with a sincere and genuine desire to build the children and adults of our congregations with boys and girls, men and women, who will be able to recognize what might look close to biblical truth but in reality, is far from it. When it comes to the irreplaceable doctrine of justification by grace through faith alone, when it comes to the power of baptism and its salvific gift, when it comes to the real presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus given in the Holy Supper, there is no room for a teaching that sits side by side with truth, it must BE the truth.

To sit side by side leaves our members vulnerable to the wiles and ways of the Devil that only create doubt and despair. I encourage all our members to see to it that their children are in Sunday School and Bible Class. I pray all our catechumens are brought to the course work that they may study under the tutelage of a well-prepared catechist. The fall of the year is the time to gear up for this very important effort. Pray for your pas-

President's Piece for Peace

September 25

tor's, your teachers, your Sunday School instructors and all who assist in the Christian education of the congregation. It is more than important; it is vital to the life of faith. God grant us all the blessing of being fed from the pure and plush pastures of His Holy Word in all Its Truth and purity. Not something close to it, but that which IS the Truth.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders

District President



Confirmation

MEMORY WORK SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

5th & 6th Grades Memory Work

Sept. 3 — First 17 Books of the Old Testament

Sept. 10 — All Books of the Old Testament

Sept. 17 — 1st & 2nd Commandments and Meanings

Sept. 24 — 3rd Commandment and Meaning

7th & 8th Grades Memory Work

Sept. 7 — Commandments 1-10

Sept. 14 — Close of the Commandments

Sept. 21— 1st Article and Meaning

Sept. 28 — 1st Article and Meaning



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Labor Day	St. Peter of Elma	St. Peter LWML	Rev. Bruce Miller	St. Peter's of Riceville	St. Peter's LWML
7	8		10	11	12	13
Rev. Matthias Wollberg	Rev. Michael Parris Missionary to China	Trinity of Osage	Trinity Lutheran LWML	Rev. James Rockhill	Immanuel of St. Ansgar	Immanuel Lutheran LWML
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Rev. Mark Squire	Bethlehem Ev. of Mason City	Bethlehem LWML	Rev. Karl Bollhagen	Vicar Tyler Linneman	Sunbeam Childcare and Pre-School	Redeemer of Ventura
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Dorcas Society	Rev. Jesse Burns	Redeemer Pre-School and Daycare	Messiah of Mason City	Rev. Byron Northwick	St. John of Osage	Rev. Byron Northwick
28	29	30				
New Hope of Charles City	New Hope Women in Mission	Rev. Isaac Johnson			LWML Iowa East District Prayer Calendar	Featuring LWML St. Ansgar Zone

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

Hosted by St. John Lutheran Church
2370 Merino Ave | Oskaloosa, IA
641-673-6546



Lutheran
Family Service

All presentations will be held from 9 am to 12 pm (with a break and time for questions), with registration and breakfast from 8:30 to 9 am, and lunch to follow at 12 pm.

Contact Lutheran Family Service today to schedule a presentation like one of these at your congregation, circuit pastors' winkle, LWML rally, or conference! Qualified speakers from LFS love to teach on Scriptural, compassionate and practical topics like grief counseling after miscarriage, adoption, mental health issues, transgender identity, screens / technology, and end of life comfort, including yours truly.

- District Life Coordinator Pastor Alex Post

SEPT 6 | END OF LIFE CARE AND CONSIDERATIONS

How can we prepare to depart this life in peace and meet our Lord Jesus? Advanced directives and funeral service planning are good ways to prepare. Faith and trust in Jesus and His Word with beautiful hymns and prayer are even better. Come join Rev. Alex Post, and the saints at St. John's in Oskaloosa as we discuss the infinite God-given value of every human life especially at its end before our joyful resurrection.

NOV 8 | MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM: CREATION & IDENTITY

Lutheran Family Service walks with the hurting, confused, discouraged, and broken. Through their counseling, teaching, caring, and advocacy, LFS teachers and caregivers confess Christ as they bring Scripture to bear in all things. In this series - Male and Female He Created Them: Creation and Identity - Pastor Jonathan Conner and Mrs. Cassie Beltz (LMHC) address the issue of identity from a Lutheran perspective (incorporating the simple and profound truths confessed in the catechism), giving special attention to the question of gender identity (its provenance, prevalence, and promulgation), as they equip hearers to respond to its false claims and then to appreciate and celebrate God's gift of identity in creation.

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



September 2025

Calling Camp Supporters!

Well Repairs

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca needs your help! Right after summer ended, the well for both Alpha and Omega Lodges stopped working, leaving both lodges without water. Thankfully, we were able to get the well fixed quickly and have running water at the lodges again. However, we now have an unplanned \$13,000 expense to cover. Can we count on your support to help us cover this cost? To donate, you may send a check to 3271 Sandy Beach Rd. NE Solon, IA, 52333 or go to campiodiseca.org/believe/ and note that your donation is intended to go toward this expense.

Horse Lessons & Weekend Trail Rides

This fall, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is launching weekly riding lessons and weekend trail rides! With the success of these new programs, we will be able to offer them next year and beyond! To sign up, and for more information, go to campiodiseca.org/new-horse-programming/. Riding lessons begin September 8, and trail rides begin September 13!

Check Your Inbox!

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca has recently begun using **MailChimp**, a mass email service, to share announcements directly with churches. Many of these announcements are intended to be shared with congregations in the church's weekly bulletins. Previous emails have included announcements about upcoming events, our fall horse programming, and a fundraiser for well repairs. Our MailChimp emails also utilize the image on the right, so you know it's really from Camp! Please be on the lookout for future Camp announcements via MailChimp. We also intend to share announcements directly with Camp supporters beginning January 2026. If that's you or anyone you know, contact us to ensure you're getting all of Camp's updates!



IDE Confirmation Retreat - October 10-11

The **IDE Fall Confirmation Retreat** is scheduled for October 10-11, 2025 and will be held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Registration is now open! Pastor Aaron Hambleton from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora will be teaching on Baptism! The retreat will take place beginning on Friday, October 10th at 7pm and going through approximately 3pm on Saturday the 11th. Registration is \$55 per youth and \$30 per chaperone. This retreat includes a pizza snack on Friday evening and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. You can register online or download a registration form and find more information at www.lcmside.org.



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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Work and Keep

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

Genesis chapters one and two are familiar to us. We know them best as the Creation Account. Chapter one is where we hear the familiar, “let there be...and there was” directives. Chapter two gives us the account of Adam (the man) being formed from the “Adamah” (the dust) and becoming a living being when he receives the breath of life in his nostrils. Because of this, it would be quite easy to simply lump these two chapters into the category of creation accounts.

But do not be too hasty in this! While these two chapters do faithfully relate to us the account of creation, they also give us the creation of the “office” of steward. The man, created in the image of God in Genesis 1 and formed from the dust in Genesis 2, is created for a distinct purpose. He is created to be a steward of the perfect and beautiful creation that the Lord has made! In fact, this is THE reason that man was made. He — and we — were created in the image of God to be stewards of God’s creation.

This purpose is spelled out in verse 15 of Genesis 2. The steward has one job, with two purposes. It is fitting that in the month that our nation marks Labor Day, we consider the task of steward. The first purpose of the job of steward is to work. The steward is the caretaker of the Garden. Being a steward is work! Before the fall into sin, this was not an onerous task. But it was an active thing.

Imagine being a farmer in the Garden of Eden! Work would be only harvest. No plowing. No planting. No cultivating. No weeding. The perfect garden that the Lord had made would simply produce automatically to provide for man, woman, and all living beings!

But there is a second task in verse fifteen. The word “keep” is not just a synonym for work. This second task is related to defending. This garden, holy by virtue of its being called into existence by a holy God, needed to be defended. Here is where the vocation of steward becomes priestly. The steward was to defend the perfect and holy garden from that which was unholy. Later in the Old Testament, this was the task of the priests in the tabernacle and temple. They were to defend with their lives the Holy of Holies. This too is the labor of stewardship. It is a labor that calls the steward to be willing to put the garden before life!

Stewardship was always work. It only got burdensome after the original steward, Adam, failed to defend the garden from the alien word of the serpent. But this was not a failure of harvest. It was a failure to defend the garden! As a result, all work that followed that failure became burdensome.

The steward failed but was never fired. That is why we have such an issue with stewardship to this day. We continue to live out a pre-fall vocation in a fallen world as failed stewards. That is why we in the church need to be reminded of our vocational call to be stewards. We so easily forget that this world is not ours to do with as we please. Nothing is ours. We are but stewards entrusted with managing the creation for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor.

It is a daunting task. But it is the one to which we have been called. We cannot do it on our own. Apart from the grace of God shared with us through Jesus, we would be burdened to the point of temporal and eternal death. But the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel! This Gospel connects us to the fertile garden of Christ’s Work on our behalf. Now we are stewards of that grace! The Holy Spirit works this in and through us today and every day.

This is the work of the church. It is also the work of the individual steward. The Lord has placed us in the “garden” with the same two-fold purpose: work and keep! Enjoy your labor. For in the Lord, our labor is never in vain!

LWML MARSHALLTOWN ZONE FALL RALLY

Trinity Lutheran Church, Knoxville

September 20, 2025

We will be doing a service project: assembling personal care kits for Orphan Grain Train. Please bring any of the following items to include in the kits.

Each Personal Care Kit will contain:

- Towel
- Wash cloth
- Tooth brush
- Bar of soap
- Soap box
- 6 Band-Aids
- Nail clippers
- Pack of tissues
- Comb

Items do not need to be individually packaged. You can purchase them in multi packs to be split up. All left over items will be given to Orphan Grain Train.

*****Donations may be placed in the box under the information table by September 14th.**

*****Patterns to make fabric eye glass cases are on the information table. These will be taken to the LWML Rally in Knoxville on September 20th to go to the Iowa District East group going to Belize in November.**