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

October Newsletter

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

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REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP EMAIL- koeppj@hotmail.com

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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The month of October brings celebration of many things. Before we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, we walk through a time of reflection of our own mortality culminating in two days: October 31 and November 1 – Reformation Day and All Saints Day. Both of these days are important proclamations of the truth of the Gospel. In one of Dr. Luther's most famous lines he spoke, "Here I stand, and I can do no other." Luther was willing to stake everything on the truth that was contained in Scripture. He stood upon the Word of God, and it is there that he placed his trust. Why?

In Romans, St. Paul leaves us no wiggle room, "For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:22-23) There is no getting around it. We can try and build ourselves up. We can set these walls around us and pretend that we are better than others. Many will go to great lengths to cover-up their faults, their failings, their sins, and the effects that sin has our minds, bodies, and relationships. We try and cover them up, to look good to others; because we do not want others to know that we sin. We don't even want God to know sometimes, do we? What if He finds out?

But who are we really lying to? God already knows. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. There is nothing that you can do that is so great that God will forgive you for anything that you have done. You cannot cover up your sins. It is here with Luther that we stand before God and say, "Here I stand; I can do no other. I am a sinner. I have failed to love you and my neighbor. I am a slave to sin."

It is to poor, miserable sinners that God has made an important, everlasting promise. God in His everlasting grace and mercy has sent His Son to die for you and for your sins. St. Paul continues in Romans, "[we] are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24) God has given you wonderful gifts. His has given you Himself, His Name, His Word, other saints, life, marriage, possessions, reputation, and contentment. These are all wonderful and great gifts that you are free to live with and live in. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have been set free to enjoy those gifts. You have been made right with God, and in these gifts you can stand with Luther and say in a much more glorious light, "Here I stand, I can do no other." You speak in Love where God's Word guides you with your friends and family.

For all of our earthly gifts, Satan is out there trying to get you to doubt God's grace and goodness. Satan wants you to question the mercy of God. As reminders of our own mortality fill the yards and stores throughout this month from the silly to the scary, we have a different confession. By God's gracious hand, we boldly sing,

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Some of you have had some of these gifts wrenched away from you; remember they cannot win the day. The victory has already been won in Christ, and that victory is yours! Join me this month in singing:

Hymn 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'

LSB 656



Text: tr. composite

Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Text and tune: Public domain

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

President's Piece for Peace - Standing on Guard

October 25

A presentation was made last month at our September Council of Presidents meeting. The presentation was an exegetical study on 2 Timothy 5:1-5, which usually doesn't get a great deal of attention. It was a very good presentation, and I appreciated the work that went into it. There was one word from those set of verses that jumped off the page for me when it came to preparedness to serve in the Church.

In verse 2 Paul uses 5 imperatives giving Timothy instruction to the ministry and the work and the duties therein. He says, "Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine." It was the word "prepared" that I found interesting. The Greek word is episthqi (epistathy) which has a broader meaning that to be prepared. It is often used when referring to a military post where a guard stands with weapon in hand to protect the base he belongs to. This presupposes an enemy is lurking about trying to invade or launch attacks to do harm and cause mayhem.

Timothy was charged with the responsibility of standing guard, with weapon in hand, ready to fend off the demonic attacks launched by Satan against the congregations he was Called to serve. Since the attacks would be from a vicious and tireless foe, Timothy needed to be ready at opportune times and inopportune times. The next question was, what is the weapon Timothy had to defend the sheep?

The next verse told Timothy that "sound doctrine" was the weapon and the defense. Men with itching ears will stack up for themselves teachers who would ignore sound doctrine and teach myths (the opposite of the Truth) and that which matched human desires rather than God's will. So where did Timothy get this weapon of sound doctrine? It was taught him in his youth by his mother and grandmother. A continuation of that training took place under the elder pastors of the Church who finally put their approval on Timothy by laying their hands on him, ordaining him into the Office by which he was called and installed.

God's pure Word is the only weapon Satan is afraid of.

Unless there is sound doctrine in the hands of those who preach and those who teach, the tireless foe will have his way with assaults, attacks, misleading lies, and destruction of faith. That is why we have the intense and thorough preparation we have in our LCMS institutions preparing servants of the Church who protect the flock and defend the Faith. It is God's pure Word that is the Truth, it is no myth. It is the only weapon Satan is afraid of, for it has already defeated him and is always the power of God unto salvation.

Your preparation has been lengthy and at times, difficult. But look at how important it is since you are able to stand guard with confidence that you have what it takes to feed your sheep and lambs with the Truth that carries them all the way to eternal life.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders District President

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca





October 2025

Well Update!

Thanks to your generous support, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca has raised enough money to cover expenses for not just one, but two well repairs. Initially, we had asked for your support to help cover the cost of the well for both of our primary lodges as the well stopped working two days after summer camp ended. Between then and now, the motor for the campground well also died and needed replace. Thanks to your support though, we were able to cover over \$16,000 of well repairs in about one month, and all of Camp's wells are fully up and working again!

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.



Fall Workday - November 1

Camp needs your help! Come out to our Fall Workday on Saturday, November 1 from 9AM to 3PM.

This fall workday, we are continuing to improve to our horse facilities! We will be building a new retaining wall around the tack shed. The tack shed is used to store our horse equipment and also has attached bathrooms for which we have future plans to renovate as well. This new retaining wall will improve accessibility into and out of the tack shed and bathrooms. Any help with this project will be greatly appreciated! Please RSVP to dylan@iodiseca.org as soon as you know you can attend. Remember, lunch is provided!







We will be clearing out this brush and replacing it with the retaining wall.

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333



MEMORY WORK SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

5th & 6th Grades Memory Work

Oct 1 — 4th Commandment & Meaning

Oct 8 — 5th & 6th Commandments & Meanings

Oct 15 — 7th Commandment & Meaning

Oct 22 — 8th Commandment & Meaning

Oct 29 — 9th Commandment & Meaning

7th & 8th Grades Memory Work

Oct 1 — 1st Article & Meaning

Oct 8 — 1st Article & Meaning

Oct 15 — 2nd Article & Meaning

Oct 22 — 2nd Article & Meaning

Oct 29 — 3rd Article & Meaning



un	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
† LW lowa East Dis	/ML		VALLEY LUTHERAN SCHOOL - CEDAR FALLS	COLLEGE HILL - CEDAR FALLS	COLLEGE HILL- CEDAR FALLS + EVENING GUILD	4 COLLEGE HILL - CEDAR FALLS+ REV JOHN WEGENER
5 LWML SUNDAY	IMMANUEL - CEDAR FALLS	7 IMMANUEL-CF+ DORCAS SOCIETY	8 IMMANUEL- CF+REV GERALD KAPANKA	OUR REDEEMER- CEDAR FALLS	OUR REDEEMER- CF+MARY-MARTHA GUILD	OUR REDEEMER- CF+REV MATTHEW BAKER
ST JOHN-DENVER	ST JOHN- DENVER+LWML	ST JOHN- DENVER+REV JESSE SHILIE	ST PAUL- EVANSDALE	ST PAUL- EVANSDALE+REV DAVID HASSELBROOK	ST JOHN-REINBECK	ST JOHN- REINBECK+ DORCAS SOCIETY
ST JOHN- REINBECK+REV KEVIN RICHTER	PEACE-SHELL ROCK	PEACE-SHELL ROCK+LADIES AID	PEACE-SHELL ROCK+REV MATTHEW BAKER	FAITH-WATERLOO 23	24 FAITH - WATERLOO+ WOMEN OF FAITH	WATERLOO ZONE FALL GATHERING+ FAITH-Waterloo
26 FAITH- WATERLOO+REV DAVID MENET	GRACE-WATERLOO 27	28 GRACE- WATERLOO+ HANNAH SOCIETY	GRACE- WATERLOO+REV JUSTIN KANE	ALL IOWA EAST DISTRICT LWML-ERS	LWML MISSION GRANTS+IED AND NATIONAL	



Immanuel would like to have a seasonal Choir - Accepting Male and Female voices. Ages 10 and up.

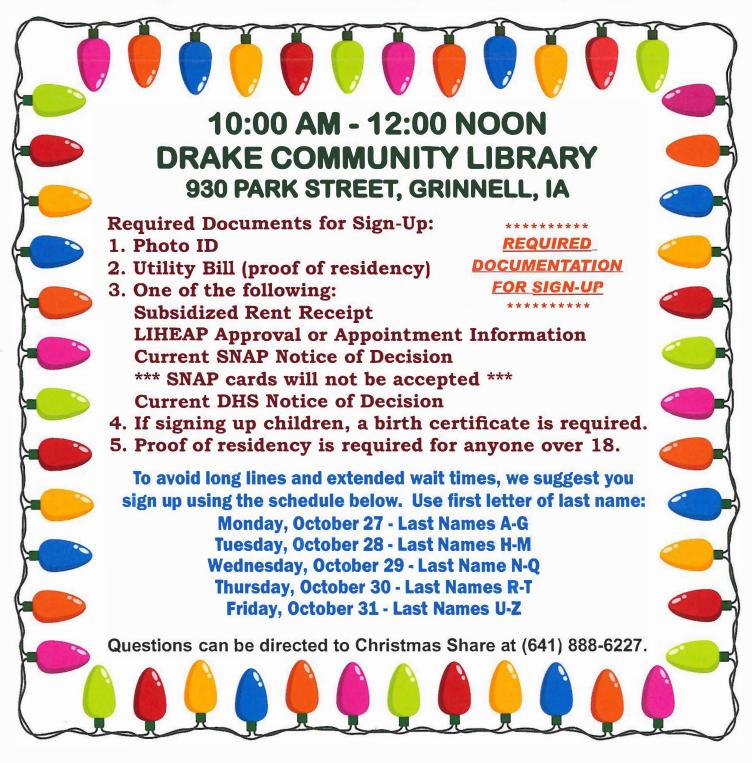
Please email or text/call Amber Bayer if you are interested. Please leave your name. (include your cell phone or contact information)

Our first performance will be during Advent Season and Christmas Eve. Practice to be determined.

** Also note if you are willing to sing a Solo or Duet, as we can schedule those during Advent/Lenten seasons.

POWESHIEK COUNTY CHRISTMAS SHARE SIGN-UP!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27 THROUGH FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025





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

Harmonious Stewardship

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing.

This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to "carry the tune" for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing need-ful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!



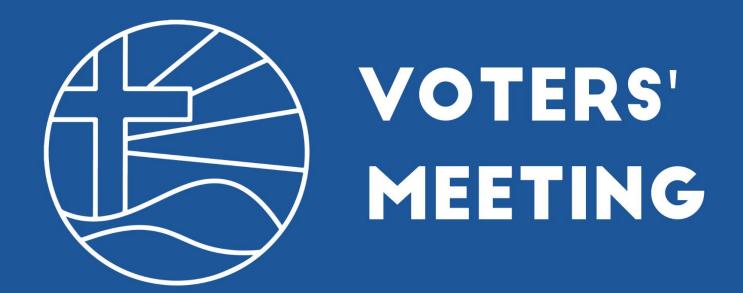
October is national "Clergy Appreciation Month" and October 12 is Pastor Appreciation Day

"This provides a wonderful opportunity for congregations and members to commit to pray for and encourage their pastor," says Rev. David Muench, executive director of the LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support.

Muench urges members to "think creatively about what you can do to recognize the significant work of your pastor, and how you might honor him and his family. Share the idea of celebrating Clergy Appreciation Sunday — and Month — and challenge others in your congregation to join you in this opportunity for support and affirmation of these faithful servants of God."

He says pastors "can't help but be encouraged" by such affirmation.

"The typical pastor works long hours and is not a stranger to criticism," Muench told Reporter. "As a result, he may be one of the loneliest people in the church. Feelings of disappointment, discouragement, and defeat can begin to plague even the best pastors.



Sunday, Oct. 19th after the Divine Service

If you are not a member and desire to become one:

- 4.3.1 Definition: Voting members are communicants who have reached the age of 18 years and who have been received by the Voters' Assembly.
- 4.3.2 Reception: Applicants for voting membership shall have received a copy of the constitution and be given time to review it. They shall be received as voting members by presenting themselves at a meeting of the Voters' Assembly and signing the constitution.
- 4.3.3 Duties: Voting members shall attend the meetings of the Voters' Assembly regularly, participate in the work of the congregation, and willingly accept responsibility according to their ability.

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

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



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

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.