

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

November Newsletter

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS
229 11TH AVENUE WEST
GRINNELL, IA 50112
OFFICE- 641-236-6691
OFFICE EMAIL- lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com
WEBSITE- www.immanuelgrinnell.org

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.



Hello November

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Pastor's Message

With November, many turn their focus to the Day of Thanksgiving, which also marks the end of the Church Year. It is fitting that we end the church year with Thanksgiving, is it not? Luther taught in his catechism, for all this, for everything that God has given to us, it is my duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. Thank you, God, for daily bread.

Israel knew what it meant to pray to God and thank Him for daily bread. Deuteronomy reminds them of the manna in the wilderness. There they were in the wilderness, the desert with no food, and they relied on God to provide for them. They relied on God to support them with all they needed to support their body and life. Did they all believe? Did every single person in the camp have faith in God, maybe, maybe not, but that did not stop God from giving them their daily bread to all, even to the wicked.

In many ways, things are very similar today. Not everyone has faith in God. Not everyone prays to God for their daily bread, but all do rely on Him for that daily bread. All rely on God to provide everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, and so on and so forth. There are many who are in need of these things and we as Christian brothers and sisters are here to help provide those things for others, as we are able.

The issue of daily bread has become lost for many today. When we pray this petition, I pray you take this month to ponder its depth. First this petition is a thanksgiving for daily bread; those things that we need every day. How many of us pray this petition and focus on those many things in the future that if we only had them, then we could be thankful? How many of us pray for more and more, but do not give thanks for what we have?

In the table prayer that is known to many as the “common table prayer,” there is no mention of thanksgiving. Some pray another prayer after that, “O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endures forever,” but we ask Jesus to come, and then don’t give Him thanks? That doesn’t seem quite right.

Luther expands on the depth of the Fourth Petition in his Large Catechism. He writes, *“When you ask for daily bread...you must expand and extend your thoughts to also include the fields and the whole land...our life also requires peace and concord in daily activities...in everything that pertains to our domestic, civil and political affairs. For where these spheres are interfered with and prevented from functioning as they should, there the necessities of life are also interfered with, and life itself cannot be maintained for any length of time...for where dissension, strife, and war prevail, there daily bread is already taken away or at least reduced.”*¹

While this petition focuses mainly on the support and needs of the body, but it is not just our earthly life that we are concerned about, or that needs sustenance. ***“Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”***² Our life is given and sustained, fed and nourished, by the very Word of the Lord Himself; the Word that become flesh and dwelt among us; the incarnate Word that bore the sins of all mankind, suffered, died, was buried and rose again for our life. Our lives are nourished and strengthened as God Himself gives us a feast that forgives us and sustains us to life everlasting. His body and blood and are joined to earthly element of bread and wine. We gather and feast with not just on daily bread, but on bread that give eternal life. What a great way to kick-off into the Advent and Christmas seasons!

Through His Holy Word, we have the strength to be daily bread for others. As we have received our daily bread, we as Christians can live and be daily bread; we can be devout husbands and wives, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers. We can live in peace, have self-control, be good friends and faithful neighbors and the like.

¹ Luther’s Large Catechism, selected sections from The Fourth Petition 71-74

² Deuteronomy 8:3

As you eat and ponder this month, may you remember another feast. St. Ambrose of Milan, who lived in the 300s spoke about another magnificent meal as he preached on Deuteronomy: “It is a good thing that the Word of God should come down on us like the dew. When you sit at the table of that great Man, understand who that great Man is. Set in the paradise of delight and placed at the feast of Wisdom, think of what is put before you! The divine Scriptures are the feast of wisdom, and the single books are the various dishes. Know, first, what dishes the banquet offers, then stretch forth your hand, that those things you read, or which you receive from the Lord you God, you may carry out in action, and so by your duties may show forth the grace that was granted to you.”

Thanks be to God!

Hymn ‘We Praise You, O God’

LSB 785



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.

Tune: Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626, Haarlem

Text and tune: Public domain

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

President's Piece for Peace

November 25

On the 27th of this month I will most likely be sitting at my table with a thankful heart. There on my plate will be a slice of turkey breast (not my favorite), mashed potatoes smothered in gravy (I like it), as well as green beans and cranberries with a warm bun in my hands. Awaiting the end of the meal will be a large (and I mean LARGE) slice of pumpkin pie covered in whipped topping sprayed from a can (that I like).

Around the table will most likely be some of my children along with my grandchildren. Even though it will be noisy I will be glad to hear the tiny voices suggesting we eat the pumpkin shaped cookies first, just in case there isn't enough room left for the other foods.

The television will be in eye shot so I can watch the football game. Yep, good food, family, and football. All of which give me reason to be thankful on Thanksgiving Day. How American of me, to give thanks for the things I like and the things I want. What if the situation was different? What if there was little food, no family, and no entertainment on the tube? Would I then be able to give thanks?

The Apostle Paul writes to the congregation in Philippi these words, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:6-7)

It is interesting to note that Paul writes this epistle while being held in house arrest in the city of Rome. He would have had very little to be thankful for, yet he gives thanks. He could not work, he could not earn a wage. Food, clothing, and supplies would have come from those who came to visit him, and many did just that. Paul was thankful for the fact his imprisonment gave him opportunity to preach and teach many a listener the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul was not giving thanks so much for the material things he had so little of, although he certainly was grateful for whatever was brought to him. He was thankful for the blessing of preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ, God's Son, man's Savior.

Preaching and teaching is what I will be receiving prior to sitting down at my table for dinner. I can, as you can, always give thanks during any circumstance, because the grace of God through Jesus' victorious atonement has set us free from the prison of sin, death, and the Devil. The meal we receive at the chancel is better than any pumpkin pie desert. The Body and Blood of Jesus is given us to eat and to drink granting the forgiveness of our sins and the certainty of eternal life.

Paul gave thanks wherever he was, in all situations, pleasant and unpleasant. He had the promise of life in Christ now and of Life Eternal. There is nothing topping that. It is true for Paul, and it is true for you and me as well. God bless you this Thanksgiving Day with thankful hearts. May you be thankful for the privilege to preach and to teach the Gospel, and thankful for what we have been given by the gracious open hand of our Lord.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Paul was thankful for the fact his imprisonment gave him opportunity to preach and teach many a listener the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



November 2025

End-of-Year Fundraising Projects

This fall, Camp is fundraising for a couple different projects that we will be working to complete in 2026. The first and major project is the road. As you can see in the image below, our road is eroding quickly. Most of this erosion has taken place in just the past two years. The cost to repair it is an estimated \$30,000. Additionally, we would also like to spruce up our landscaping. We plan to add another layer of rocks and bricks to the Omega Lodge rock bed in order to give it a more clear visual barrier. Around Alpha Lodge, we will be adding a patio outside of the activity hall, giving it a more modern and welcoming appearance as well as improving the space for occasional outdoor dining! The total for the landscaping project is around \$7,500. To make a donation, you may go to <https://campiodiseca.org/believe/> or mail a check and let us know which project you'd like your donation to go toward. Your support with these projects is greatly appreciated and will improve our guest experience!



Use of MailChimp

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca has recently begun using MailChimp, a mass email service, to share announcements directly with churches in the Iowa District East. Beginning in January 2026, we plan to share Camp announcements directly with individuals who support Camp! Our MailChimp emails will utilize the image on the right, so you know it's really from Camp. If you, or anyone you know, would like to make sure you're getting all of Camp's updates, please email programdirector@iodiseca.org! Thank you for your support, and we look forward to keeping you posted!



Coming Soon:
SUMMER 2026
Theme Announcement
Registration will open at 1:00pm on January 19th!

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org



Confirmation

MEMORY WORK SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

**Shortened class time*

5th & 6th Grades Memory Work

Nov. 5 — Tenth Commandment and Meaning

Nov. 12 — Close of Commandments & Meaning

*Nov. 19 — 1st Article & Meaning

Nov. 26 — No Class

7th & 8th Grades Memory Work

Nov. 5 — 3rd Article and Meaning

Nov. 12 — 3rd Article and Meaning

*Nov. 19 — The Lord's Prayer

Nov. 26 — No Class



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 All Saints' Day THANKS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
2 ST JOHN-FAIRBANK REV TAPKEN	3 OUR REDEEMER- INDEPENDENCE REV WEIDEMAN	4 Election Day OUR REDEEMER- NEWLY STARTED SUNDAY SCHOOL	5 GRACE-JESUP REV TAPKEN	6 PEACE-OELWEIN REV WEIDEMAN	7 IMMANUEL- KLINGER REV GONZALEZ FELICIANO	8 ST PAUL-READLYN REV GONZALEZ FELICIANO
9 ST JOHN-SPRING FOUNTAIN REV POST	10 ST PAUL-SUMNER REV POST	11 Veterans Day VETERANS & THOSE SERVING IN ACTIVE DUTY	12 ST JOHN-WAVERLY REV ELLINGWORTH	13 ST PAUL-ARTESIAN REV VOLKERT, VANCANCY	14 GRACE-FAYETTE REV PECK	15 ST PETER- WESTGATE REV PECK
16 LWML IED BELIZE MISSION TRIP (15th-22nd)	17 ST PAUL-FRED- ERICKSBURG REV KOCH	18 LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWML) WESTGATE ZONE	19 COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL-Readlyn Staff & Students	20 WORD OF HOPE & LUTHERANS FOR LIFE	21 YOUNG WOMEN Representatives (YWR)	22 PUBLIC SAFETY & FIRST RESPONDERS
23 CAREGIVERS	24 THOSE GRIEVING LOSSES	25 WESTGATE ZONE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP	26 MISSIONARY TO CHINA REV PARRIS	27 Thanksgiving Day THANKS FOR HARVEST & GOD'S BLESSINGS	28 FAMILIES OF WESTGATE ZONE PASTORS	29 RESIDENTS IN CARE CENTERS & UNDER HOSPICE CARE
30 First Sunday in Advent LCMS U				WESTGATE ZONE		



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Calling families and children from 12th grade and younger. The Board of Education is beginning to plan for the Christmas Program which will be Sunday, December 14 at 10:30am. Practices will begin November 16 and will take place during Sunday school time, with one more practice Saturday, December 13. Please let us know if you are wanting to be a part of the program or not, so we can plan accordingly. Also, if you are wanting to play an instrument for the pre-program music that day, please let us know that as well. To best prepare, let the Board of Education know as soon as possible.

Thank you!



The Board of Evangelism's Christmas Share this year will run through the months of November and December. Immanuel will be collecting food and hygiene products for MICA. The need to help aid in this program is greater than ever this year. The items listed below will be collected up until December 21st. *(Please make sure items you bring are not outdated.)*

PANTRY ITEMS

Peanut Butter *(always requested)*
Jelly
Soup (all kinds)
Ramen Noodles *(most requested)*
Pancake Mix/Syrup
Oatmeal
Cereal
Canned Goods
Mac and Cheese boxes

HYGIENE ITEMS

Toilet Paper
Laundry Soap *(always requested)*
Dish Soap
Shower Gel
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Bath Soap Bars

***If you have questions, please see any
member of the Board of Evangelism.
Dianna K. June R. Bev H.***



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

Pointing to the Rock of Ages

*Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. (LSB
761:2)*

While the classic hymn “Rock of Ages” shows up in the Lutheran Service Book in the “Hope and Comfort” section, it can also teach us a valuable lesson about Christian stewardship. If that surprises you, stay with me on this one.

No Lutheran would ever dispute the fact that our work does not save us. Ephesians 2 makes it truly clear that we are dead in our trespasses and sins and would remain in that state until Christ raises us by grace. There is not a ladder on which we can climb out of the grave that our sins have dug for us. No blood, sweat nor tears will be able to rescue us. We all know this.

Our works do not save. Christ's work on the cross of Calvary does! He bore human flesh. He carried the burden of our sin to the cross. His body was beaten, bruised and bloodied for us. He has indeed atoned for us! This is more than enough reason for this hymn to be bouncing around in your head all day today!

But our work has a place. The place is in response to what the Father has done for us in Jesus. The Rock of Ages, who is Jesus, becomes the foundation on which our lives of faith are built. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to make us God's workmanship that Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:10.

Our workmanship does not display our power or prowess. Like the heavens declare the handiwork of the Creator, the works of a redeemed sinner point others to the salvation that is worked only by Jesus alone. Our work is a response to and reflection of a grace and glory that we ourselves could never accomplish or achieve.

We become stewards of the treasure that is the Gospel. When we faithfully support the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our financial support, we are doing the work which points to the One who alone atones. When we come alongside a struggling sister or brother for whom Christ died and we share the stewardship work of compassion and care, we en flesh the treasure of God's love and redemption. When we make it a weekly priority to arrange our schedule to be in the Lord's House with other stewards of the Gospel to receive again and again the Gospel's precious gift, we are stewards of the Body of Christ in the congregation that points even more people to Jesus.

We cannot do this. Jesus does it through us. We are simply stewards of this precious treasure!

Give Thanks



Day of Thanksgiving/Harvest Service

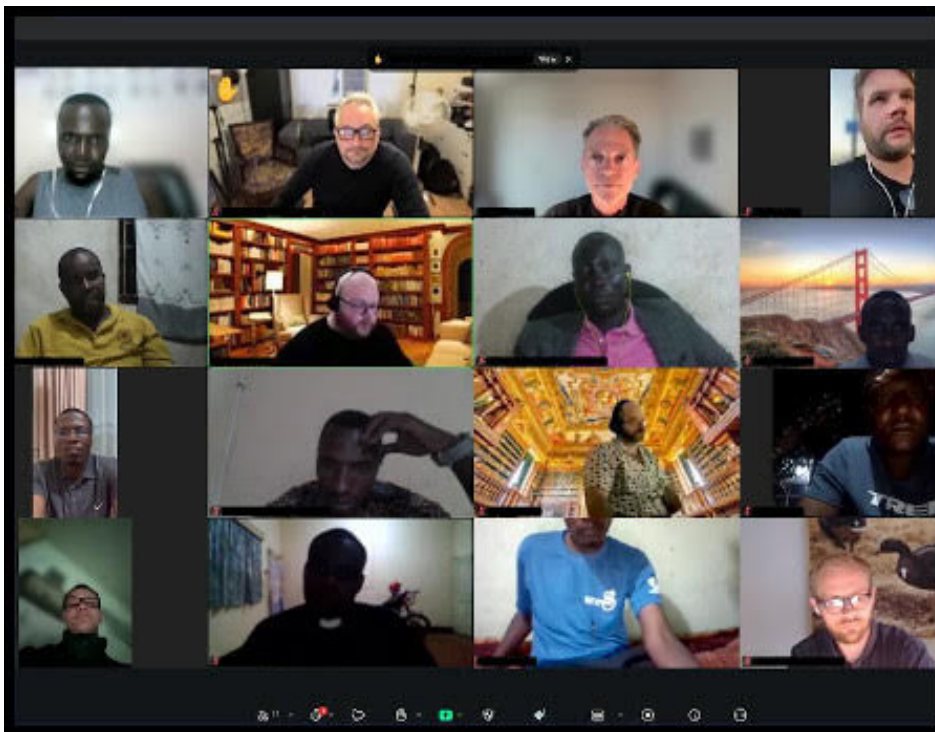
Wednesday, November 19th at 6:30pm

Potluck Supper before the service at 5:15pm

There is a sign-up sheet on the entryway table if you would like to bring a dish.

God's Work in Eurasia A Mock Family Newsletter

Classes Have Resumed!



Riga Luther Academy by the Numbers:

- 2nd largest incoming class (19)
- Total of 41 students across 22 countries (not including auditors)
- 7 professors from 4 countries (and 2 continents!)
- 12 courses

In cooperation with the OIM Africa Region, a majority of our incoming first year students are from Africa.

Much has changed in the administrative makeup of Riga Luther Academy (RLA) since the start of last semester. With the departure of the Professor Cundiff and Professor Bobby this summer, we needed to back-fill both theological instruction and administrative duties. Thankfully, RLA has a great relationship with Församlingsfakulteten in Gothenburg, Sweden and we now have three of their theological educators assisting with courses this year as well as two instructors from our seminaries in the U.S. Administratively, we are without our much esteemed Lindsay Cundiff, who volunteered her time and talents to take care of many of the administrative tasks related to our online learning platform, Canvas. From the macro level of putting together courses on Canvas to the minutia—but very crucial work—of providing feedback to students regarding their adherence to academic guidelines. This work has been handed over to me (Cody) where, as I now get a deeper understanding of how RLA utilizes Canvas, I can continue to serve RLA by applying my background in IT to automate some of these administrative tasks.

It has been a heavy workload, but we continue to make improvements that help return our time and attention back to the theological education and formation of our students. Though many things have changed—and continue to change—what remains the same is our labor of preparing the next generation of confessional Lutheran pastors and church workers to serve Christ's church.

Thank you so much for your prayers as we continue in the work that God has set before us, that the Gospel of Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world may be proclaimed.

– Cody, Aurélie, Eva and Moriah

Please Pray

We have just begun our planning for our home service this coming spring. Pray for all logistics and travel mercies—especially for our kiddos. We hope to see you!

Give Thanks

We were finally able to attend our first regional retreat! After two years of false starts, we were finally able to meet our fellow Eurasia missionaries in person. It was most encouraging.

Additional students, visitors, expats, and locals continue to enter the doors of St. Michael in Prague.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Cody and Aurélie Mock.

Make checks payable to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo include Mock-Czech Republic

Give securely from any device:
lcms.org/givenow/mock
Call a donor care representative:
888-930-4438

