

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



AUGUST 2026

Volume 40, Issue 10



From Your Pastor

Former U.S. senator and university president Ben Sasse was diagnosed last year with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He says his cancer diagnosis has been a touch of grace. Sasse reflected on what the terminal disease has taught him in an interview with CBS News' *60 Minutes*. Sasse, 54, said he has valued how cancer has forced him to tell the truth to himself.

"The lie I want to tell myself is that I'm the center of everything and I'm going to be around forever," said Sasse, who has been vocal about his faith as a reformed Christian. "And I can work harder, and store up enough, that I can atone for my own brokenness. I can't."

Sasse told *60 Minutes* he was living on extended time—doctors estimated he had only a few months left to live in December. At the time, he learned his cancer metastasized into a total of five cancers. He said a drug called daraxonrasib, which he is taking as part of a clinical trial, has helped give him extra time.

Sasse said his diagnosis was small in the grand scheme of things, and this hasn't come as a surprise to God. He adds he believes God has a plan, as there are "no maverick molecules in the universe."

Pastor Kevin Nelson is one of the men who has shepherded the Sasse family. Pr. Nelson says the Gospel—the Good News of God's redeeming love for us sinners through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus—is not a game with them. They understand the truth that they are sinners deserving condemnation. He went on to say, "So part of how they think about their life is they have gotten far more than they deserve. It's rare to find people who have been so shaped by the Gospel that anything they are experiencing is far better than they deserve. Of course, they hate death. It's not fun. But they have a strong enough theological conviction that it shapes how they live their lives."

Pastor Nelson continues, "There is meaningful work to be done. There are important things that are good, but [the Sasses] never put their hope in this life ... They know that they are here as pilgrims. This is not their home. And yet, it's a life that has all sorts of beautiful God-given callings, and they want to do as much as they can in this life to serve God and glorify Him."

I pray God will be merciful to shape us by His truth, given in His Word, so that it will not take a Stage 4 cancer diagnosis to teach us that we are not the center of everything! I also pray the Holy Spirit will continue to teach us that He has meaningful work for us to do—living outside of ourselves—in His service for the spread of His kingdom. Romans 8:28 teaches us, "We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called *according to His purpose*" (emphasis added). The Psalm writer declares, "For though the LORD is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me. *The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me*; Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of Your hands" (Psalm 138:6-8, emphasis added).

In whatever time of life, in whatever situation, our loving God has placed us there according to His plan for a purpose—His purpose. We fulfill His purpose as we humble ourselves before Him, receive the gift of His forgiveness for all the times we try to live as the center of all things, and allow the Holy Spirit to fill us with every gift of grace to know and do His will. Focusing each day on our Savior Jesus, we strive to do as much as we can to serve and glorify Him!

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

Pastor Mahnken



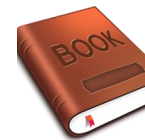
August 1.....	Brenda Brinkley TJ Bubke Jennifer Hennings Kerry Meseck Kandi Teut
August 2.....	Dorothy Pingel Mara Streck Morgan Wood
August 3.....	Trisha Abbe Bennett Lickteig
August 4.....	Whitney Dorhout MacKenzie Jorgensen
August 6.....	Alex Harm
August 8.....	Deidra Brown Larynn Friedrichsen
August 9.....	Carmen Schmidt Jeramie Streck
August 10.....	Justin Johannsen Mariya Streck
August 11.....	JoAnn Clausen Jerry Ernst Joshua Mitchell Calvin Segebart
August 12.....	Tamara Chubb
August 13.....	Mackenzie Teut Carol Walde
August 14.....	Joyce Detlefsen
August 15.....	Jeremy Rohlf Jr.
August 16.....	Jeffery Hummel Roger Prussing
August 17.....	Lori Kragel
August 18.....	Derick Bruhn Andy Hennings Delores Sonksen (92)
August 19.....	Charlotte Ogren
August 21.....	Allan Gierstorf
August 22.....	Coleen Fredericks Aubryana Hoffmeier
August 23.....	Cameron Brown Hailey Brown Cory Martinson Steve Slater Cindy Stoppel Logan Stoppel Weston Stoppel
August 24.....	Austin Otto Joann Riessen Ada Schroeder
August 25.....	Mckinzie Hargens
August 26.....	Francisco Cruz Christine Wunschel
August 28.....	Donna Harm Jeff Kragel Judy Schultz
August 29.....	Amanda Ashbrook Maria Valdez
August 30.....	Dustin Ogren Denice Schultz
August 31.....	Trevor Kline Troy Kline Matthew Wunschel



Harry & Kay Riessen.....	August 1, 1987
Ryan & Kara Ferguson	August 2, 2024
Lydell & Lauri Schoenfeld.....	August 2, 2008
Dakin & Mary Lynn Schultz	August 5, 2000
Phillip & Makayla Millar.....	August 10, 2024
Matt & Dana Kolln	August 11, 2018
Lowell & Judy Lee.....	August 11, 1973
Neal & Doris Nahnsen	August 12, 1989
Mike & Melanie Hargens.....	August 14, 2004
Kevin & Jill Andresen.....	August 15, 1987
Troy & Kris Kluender.....	August 15, 1987
Derek & Beth Rothe	August 15, 2020
Dawson & Whitney Dorhout (1st)	August 16, 2025
Rick & Jodi Lorenzen	August 18, 1990
Derick & Amanda Bruhn	August 23, 2003
Craig & K'Lynn Harm	August 24, 1991
Rodney & Shelley Segebart	August 25, 1990
Josh & Ashley Hanke	August 31, 2019

Please notify the office of any
omissions or corrections.

From the Church Record Book



Deaths: "I am the Resurrection..."

Eugene "Gene" Mitchell, age 79, died May 31, 2026, and was buried June 5, 2026 in the Fairview Cemetery, Madrid, Iowa.

Roger Walde, age 83, died June 17, 2026, and services were held June 22, 2026.

✖ ✖ ✖ ✖ ✖ ✖ ✖



August 19

Parent/Confirmant Orientation
Meeting @ 7:00 pm in the
Fellowship Hall

August 24

First Day of Public School

August 25

Preschool Open House @ 4-6 pm

August 26

First Day of p.m. Preschool

August 27

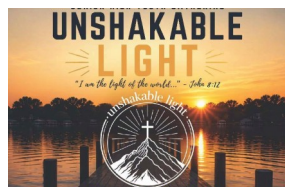
First Day of a.m. Preschool

September 13

Sunday School Rally Day



Iowa District West Youth Gatherings
Registration information will be coming out soon!



Senior Youth Gathering

October 2-4, 2026

Camp Okoboji
Theme: Unshakable Light
Bible Verse: John 8:12



Junior Youth Gathering

October 24-25, 2026

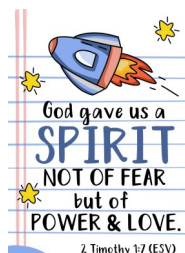
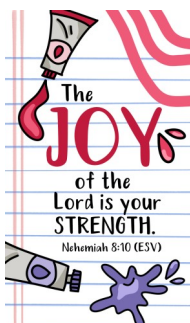
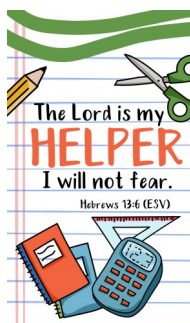
The Sheraton-West Des Moines
Theme: Love God, Love People

**** New Policy for Youth Chaperones ****

For some time, Iowa District West has encouraged background checks for all staff and volunteers who work with minors. Beginning this fall, all volunteers who attend our district youth gatherings must have a background check on file at their church that was completed within the last three years. Congregations that register for our district youth gatherings will receive a form to verify that the required background check has been completed and is on file at the church.

The district Youth Services and Education Committees have been champions of safety policies in our congregations and have encouraged every congregation to conduct background checks for anyone working with minors. This is all in the spirit of protecting God's precious children. Now, the district is requiring background checks for our district youth events, not just encouraging them.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Rhonda Mohr at the district office. If you have questions about where to obtain background checks, please contact the Church Office.



Volunteer opportunity at the Iowa State Fair!

Spend a 3-hour shift at the Lutheran Hour Booth and get free fair admittance for the day. The fair is August 13-23 and shifts begin at 9:00 am.

Contact John Tews at 641-740-0126 or valleyinsjt@gmail.com.

Dear brothers and sisters in Lutheran Mission,

Your Ferry family partners have been living and working in Romania for over six months now.

A highlight of life lately was to hear Cassandra (12) and Chloe (10) make a firm and clear confession of the faith. They made this confession in



Romanian during the Pentecost Day Divine Service, along with two other young people in the congregation. What a joy for them to encourage the local members by making this confession of the Truth of God's Word!

Their catechesis is a life-long process, as it is for all of us. We rejoice in the opportunity you're giving us through this partnership to not only confess, but to *build up others* to make the same confession of Christ: as Lord, as Savior, as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world.

Thank you for your continued prayers, trust, love, and support as we move ahead together to proclaim Jesus in Romania and all throughout the LCMS Eurasia region.

Yours very gratefully in Him,

The Ferry Family
www.lcms.org/ferry

Charles
Chloe
Caitlin
Cassie
Caylee
Charlotte

~ THE LWML INVITES ALL LADIES ~



At our July meeting we began discussing the several projects and activities that will be coming up this fall.

In September the Calf Show Dinner will be held. Chris will have more to share at the August meeting.

At the October meeting, we will have election of officers. We will be electing President and Secretary. Karen Wood is forming a nominating committee.

Also in October, Immanuel will host the Pastor's Conference. A coffee and lunch will be served.

It will be a busy fall as we make plans for these upcoming events and continue with our regular activities.

~Submitted by Donna Harm, Secretary



LWML Convention

The 41st Biennial Convention was held June 11-13, 2026 at Camp Okoboji with the theme "Share the Light of Christ" from the verse "But you are a chosen people, priests of a King, a holy nation, a people to be saved to be His own and to tell of the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." ~ 1 Peter 2:9

The Convention, hosted by the Denison and Council Bluffs zones, had 253 in attendance!



From Your library . . . "Have we got a book for you!"



Last Light by Terri Blackstock

Imagine one day the world as we know it, will end. No need to turn out the lights, because there is no electricity. Your car stalls and you can't get it started. You can't call for help because cell phones don't work and that is just the beginning.

This is the situation the Doug Branning family and the people of their community find themselves in. The conveniences they look for granted are a thing of the past.

With no running water, what do they do for washing and drinking water? The store shelves are empty, what do they do as their food supplies dwindle?

Why is this happening? Is it something caused by nature? Is it a reminder that there is more to life than hurry, stress and work? A reminder that God is the only one to be trusted, the only constant in life?

This was a good read and part of Terri Blackstock's restoration series. We have many other books by her. Stop in and browse through our library, many good books for all interests.

—Submitted by Elaine Teut



LCMS Family Ministry

1 Thess. 5:11 — *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

August is a crazy time. Kids are going back to school, with all the activities and bustle. Parents are trying to make sure that their kids have all the things that they need to succeed in this new school year. In the midst of this time of new beginnings and transitions, it can be a challenge for a family to have meaningful connections with each other. Eating meals together can be a wonderful way to spend time together. In the midst of all the bustle and busyness, it is helpful to be intentional about having time as a family where you can connect. At the beginning of each week, plan what meals you will eat together as a family. Make the most of them by having a family devotion, encouraging each other, building one another up, or having a time of prayer.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Voter's Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by Kent Bornhoft in the absence of Harry Riessen with 37 members present.

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer

Led by Pastor Mahnken

II. Reading/Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The minutes from April were presented to the voters. Tim Stoppel made a motion to approve the minutes, Loren Jepsen seconded the motion, and the voters unanimously approved the minutes.

III. Reports of Officers and Boards

A. Elders (No Report)

B. Trustees (No Report)

C. Treasurer/Stewardship/Finance (Larry Abbe)

It was reported that Immanuel was ahead \$10,786 after the second quarter of the year. The Endowment Fund Committee reports that there is \$6,700 that can be dispersed from interest taken off the principal balance. They recommend the following uses of the funds:

- Camp Okoboji: \$1,000
- Jonathan Schulz (Seminarist): \$1,000
- Lutheran Family Services: \$1,000 to help Immanuel members who need services but need financial assistance.
- Immanuel Preschool: \$1,000 to financially assist families struggling to meet tuition.

The remaining \$2,700 is undesignated at this point. Sandy Bubke moved to accept the recommended use of these funds.

Deb Green seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Education/Youth (Ross Wood)

VBS is complete. 24 kids participated in the program. The list of volunteers was printed on the back of the bulletin so if you see these people, thank them for their service! Work has begun to take shape for confirmation classes that will begin in the fall.

E. Preschool (Nancy Bielenberg)

The budget is very tight so fundraising opportunities are being considered.

Trustees are looking into radon mitigation. Security (cameras) are a growing concern.

F. Mission/Fellowship (Judy Gierstorf)

Thanks to all who helped at the church garage sale! Thanks to those that helped AFTER the garage sale to prepare unsold items to be taken to New Hope in Carroll.

The Harvest Dinner is tentatively scheduled for November 9.

The proceeds from Rachel's plant sales will be given to Unity Ridge.

G. Memorial (No report)

H. Pastor's Report (Pastor Mahnken)

Pastor Mahnken thanked those who helped with/attended his ordination anniversary recognition, as did Pastor Schulz.

Pastor shared congregational membership data.

IV. Old Business

A. New Constitution for Immanuel

Pastor Mahnken, Nancy Bielenberg and Sandy Bubke are undertaking the overhaul of Immanuel's Constitution.

The Constitution/By-Laws need congregational approval to be changed.

A policy manual does not need congregational action to amend.

Pastor Mahnken read through the newly proposed document. Some minor punctuation and grammar edits were made but a motion to accept the first reading of the proposed new constitution was made by Nancy Bielenberg and seconded by Rachel Mentink. The vote was unanimous to approve the first reading of the new constitution.

B. Other

V. New Business

A. Approve Recommendation of Endowment Fund Committee

A new Endowment Fund Committee was formed. It was moved by Jerry Ernst, seconded by Sandy Bubke, and unanimously approved by the voters to accept the following slate:

Leroy Hight (3 year term)
Janice Jepsen (2 year term)
Alan Weiss (2 year term)
Lowell Lee (1 year term).

B. Immanuel (Osceola's) Special Need

There is a significant mold issue in the parsonage at Immanuel Lutheran in Osceola, Iowa. The cost of repairs and cleanup are approximately \$150,000. An appeal went out to help raise funds to cover these costs. Lucas Bornhoft made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the cause. Loren Jepsen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved to take this money from Home Missions.

VI. Adjourn With Prayer

Pastor Mahnken led us in a closing prayer!

~Submitted by Craig Bogatzke, Secretary

"Everyone should be eager to advance the teaching and study of the Word for his own salvation and the glory of God."
Martin Luther



QUARTERLY
Meeting

Pastor Mahnken's Report Voters' Meeting—July 12, 2026

We began 2025 with 620 Baptized members and 512 Communicant members on the books.

In 2026 six of our members have died—Shannon Henningsen, Janet Beeck, Jay Fink, Lillie Petersen, Gene Mitchell, and Roger Walde.

One member has been added by Holy Baptism. One communicant member has transferred in from another LCMS congregation.

One communicant member was released because of no reply to available contact information. One communicant member was transferred to another LCMS congregation. Five baptized members became communicant members at their Confirmation; another previously baptized member at a sister congregation became a communicant member through Junior Confirmation. As of today we have 614 Baptized members and 511 Communicant members on our roll.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the special meal and gathering for the observance of the 35th anniversary of my ordination. It was a very special day and a lot of fun. I am especially thankful that you allowed me to designate the recipient of the amount donated above the meal cost. It was rounded up to \$1,000 which has been given to support Unity Ridge Lutheran School in Denison.

John Stacy will be ordained and installed as the pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Mapleton at 2 p.m. this afternoon. We are thankful with our brothers and sisters there that the Lord has blessed them with a pastor.

Faith Lutheran Church in Deloit has voted to close. Closure of a church is always a very difficult and emotional decision. Please pray for the members of Faith as they go through these coming weeks and address the details before them. No final service has yet been set.

Our congregation will be facing a big change when I retire at the end of this year. When a pastor leaves a congregation needs to be more aware and active to insure details are covered that many times have been left to the pastor. There are physical plant details that need careful attention, such as turning off all lights, adjustment of thermostats, and locking of doors. It may not seem like much, but, living across the street, there have been many times when I've seen a light on and returned to turn it off and adjusted thermostats to preserve

energy consumption. If the A.C. is set low in summer or the heat is set high in winter when no one is in the building, that is wasteful. Someone will need to be designated to lock and unlock doors at the proper times. Most days I unlock the doors and check to see that they are locked at night. Communication with the Church Office and the Vacancy Pastor will be very important. There are the many set-up details for funerals and weddings, making sure items are on the schedule in a timely way.

Most likely, one of Immanuel's members will be leading the Bible Study or Studies. It may be that a Vacancy Pastor can lead a study, but probably will not be leading it on Sunday a.m. as he will be doing a service at his home church, traveling, and leading worship here. Who the Vacancy Pastor will be will be set later this year.

Hospitalizations and births need to be communicated promptly so the Vacancy Pastor will be able to follow up. The parsonage will need to be gone through thoroughly after we move and then carefully watched, along with the lawn.

I have an article: *Top 5 Concerns Of Pastors' Wives And Ways Congregations Can Support Them*, which I am going to share with our Elders, and this copy I'm giving to our LWML President. It will be so important to also remember the new Pastor's wife (if he is married!).

More than ever it will be so important for each of you as members of Immanuel to be looking out for each other and encouraging each other during the time of vacancy. It is so easy for people and their situations to be overlooked. A vacancy is a great time to be actively living and caring as the body of Christ!

Finally, communicate, communicate, communicate! Never assume! Be patient, and "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph 4:32). Immanuel has not been through a vacancy in 30 years! It will be a blessed time as you seek and live in the Lord and by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

Lastly, a Bible passage God has laid on my heart recently in all kinds of situations is this one: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid" (Psalm 56:3-4).

Please keep Chris and me in your prayers; you are in ours!



I am sitting with a bit of a grin on my face this morning. Why? Well, it was just a couple of weeks ago that had you said the word "school," I would quite likely have frowned at you and said "shh." I just wasn't quite ready to think about surrendering the freedom of summer vacation. However, it appears God is preparing my heart and today I'm able to think about it with joy. He is such a gracious Father!

By the time you are reading our update, things will be well into preparation mode. We have a new board in place, and I am grateful for the "behind the scenes" work they are already pouring into the preschool. They are greatly appreciated! The staff will be attending the Iowa District West Early Childhood Conference in early August. It is such a gift to spend the day with other Jesus-loving educators. Professional development can be incredibly helpful to an educator, but to be able to have things wrapped up and delivered from a Christian perspective makes it much more applicable to our environment.

We will hit the ground running with 27 students (this tends to change before school starts). Each one uniquely designed by God with talents, gifts, and hearts yearning to know the Savior. If you find Holy Spirit prompting you to pray, please know those prayers are welcomed and appreciated. It is your prayer covering that helps our children (and parents) adapt to the school year. Okay, teachers too! Smile. If you reflect a moment upon Elijah, we are reminded that it didn't rain for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years because God answered his prayer. You are just as special to the Lord. He hears our prayers! He loves it when we come to Him with our joys, sorrows, requests, and just to visit about our day.

Home visits, Supply Drop-Off Night, and our first days will be the end of August. You'll see more activity in the halls as preparation gets under way once August arrives. Until then, I hope the children will continue to enjoy warm days and sun-kissed cheeks! We'll see you soon!

Serving Him with you,
Mrs. Gustafson



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS at Immanuel was held July 6-9 with the theme "Tropical Trek."

THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way whether in gifts of your time, talents, money, donations of snacks or crafts, and especially your prayers, we appreciate and thank you!



AFRICAN RADIO MINISTRIES—NEWS

Dear Mission friends,

—Ethiopia Updates—

64 Inmates Confirmed: Rev. Mengistu and seven ministry team members visited the Shashemene Prison carrying inmate donations from Ayat ME Church, including six sacks of clothing, 65 Oromo-language Bibles, and tissue paper. A graduation ceremony was held for 64 inmates who completed the discipleship training. Each graduate received a certificate and a Bible. Prison officials thanked the team for traveling 250 km to encourage the inmates and provide generous gifts. The prison leaders also expressed gratitude to God, presenting WCEM with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Church Plant in Need of a Trained Pastor: Rev. Melkamu recently visited the Wolmera preaching station in Jinka. The most pressing need is for a resident pastor to provide pastoral care and discipleship. To address this need, Rev. Melkamu is training several leaders and has distributed discipleship training manuals. Due to the young church's remote location, he is only able to visit bi-monthly. This training has positively impacted the church's growth, with young leaders showing significant development. However, having a permanently trained ministry worker would greatly benefit the church. Your generous gift will help fund the training of an evangelist at a local Bible College.

—West Africa Updates—

Liberian Church Leaders Empowered Through God's Word: There is a significant need for lay-led Sunday School leader training, as many pastors must focus on adult Bible studies. Dr. John Juedes and Dr. Victoria Waufle from the PSD-LCMS spent a month in Lofa County, training church leaders. They trained 60 women and now two months later, ten churches hold children's SS throughout Lofa County. "Dr. John" trained 60 male pastors/evangelists in preaching, teaching, Bible interpretation and the full range of leadership skills. He focused on leading Bible studies using audio rather than print New Testaments, since the literacy rate is low in rural areas.

Plentiful Harvest, Incoming Harvesters!: Mr. Kamanou traveled for one hour to visit the church in Guinea. He said, "I am one of the listeners from Koundou and needed to connect with the Lutheran pastors. I am very pleased to listen to the messages about Salvation through Jesus. I pray that the Holy Spirit continuously transforms my life and that God will convert my family and make my wife's life usable for His glory. Every month, listeners call requesting that a pastor come teach them the Word of God. Several villages of new believers worship without a pastor. The Guinea Lutheran Church has six seminarians beginning their vicarage. They ask for your prayers.

Your partners in the harvest,

Missionary Linda Kurtz and
John & Kathy Duitsman

Life is good? Even with the cancer? Yes, we are learning to trust more and more in our Lord Jesus who walks beside us. We canned 21 jars of pomegranate jelly for gifts. We are thanking God for another good day and for your prayers. Kathy's latest doctor-advised treatment involves sea urchin venom! God bless you! ~ John & Kathy

¡AMIGOS EN CRISTO and GRACIA!

News from *Las Iglesias Evangélicas Luteranas*
Amigos en Cristo in Denison and Gracia in Storm Lake
Pastor Pedro Lopez

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! On this Pentecost season, I pray that you are encouraged and strengthened in your walk of faith. We give thanks to the Lord for the many ways He continues to bless our ministry.

Here are a few recent updates from the communities where we are serving and building relationships.

We are excited to share that we will partner with St. Paul Lutheran Church and sister churches in Council Bluffs to reach out to the Hispanic community. St. Paul has opened it's Learning Center for us to use for Hispanic ministry. In early May, we met with the pastors and a group of future volunteers, and we began inviting people by volunteering with their Swaddling Clothes program. We are very excited about this new outreach and will keep you updated with dates.

At St. Paul-Carroll, our ESL classes ended on June 9. We are thankful for our dedicated teacher volunteers and the hard work they put into serving our students. One teacher had the wonderful idea of teaching while volunteering with students to do yard work at the church. We welcomed two new students, Angelo and Clemencia, who faithfully attended class. We also advertised basic guitar lessons, though no one has joined yet. Our Carroll members and friends, along with Julie from the district office, served a taco meal that became a very nice gathering. The funds raised will help cover the cost of our participation in the national Hispanic Convention. Our Sunday evenings of praise, prayer, and Bible study continue to be a meaningful time together, and we also enjoy our monthly fellowship gatherings.

At St. John-Storm Lake, we continue supporting the Swaddling Clothes program on the second Saturday of each month. Through this service, we have opportunities to meet families and invite them to our Sunday worship service at Grace.

Home Bible studies with families also continue, and it is a blessing to spend time together in God's Word.

We also continue working with a family we met during our ESL class in Deloit. I was honored to take part in their daughter's Quinceanera, where I shared the Word of God with her, her family, and friends—about 100 people in all.

Prayer Requests:

- Our Hispanic ministries and the communities we serve. Your faithful support is a great encouragement, and we give thanks to the Lord for each of you.
- For our new work in Council Bluffs; for the new contacts we are meeting, and for the Lord to draw them into a closer relationship with Him.
- My wife and me, that the Lord would graciously guide, strengthen, and equip us for the work He has entrusted to us.

Bendiciones,
Pastor Lopez

Congratulations on 35 years!



On Sunday, June 28, we recognized Pastor Mahnken's 35th anniversary of his ordination into the office of Pastoral Ministry. His sermon for the day was based on John 21:15-22 with the theme of "You, Follow Me!"

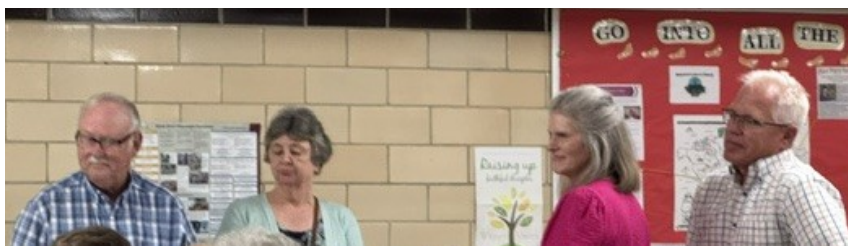
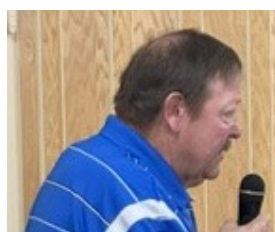
Staley's catered a noon meal and the following program was filled with many guests speaking about Pastor Mahnken and his years in the Ministry. The Men's Choir, joined by Chris' brothers, sang an a cappella tune. Members of Grace Lutheran Church, Wayne, Nebraska, also joined us as that is the first church Pastor Mahnken was installed as Pastor.

Pastor Schulz was also recognized during this time for his 35 years as they were both ordained together!



Pastor Mahnken: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 118:29). Thank you for being one of God's continuing means to show His love to me, as shown by your great kindness in celebrating the 35th anniversary of my ordination into the Pastoral Ministry. Thank you to all who organized the celebration, all who brought food, all who gave cards and gifts, all who came, and all who expressed such kind words. I am blessed to serve with you as the dearly loved children of God through Jesus our Savior, who daily calls to us in the wonder of His love, "You, follow Me!" (John 21:22)

Pastor Schulz: No words can truly express the deep feelings of gratitude that I have for all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ at Immanuel. The Lord has so richly blessed me through your love and friendship. Your beautiful cards and generous gifts at the celebration of our 35th anniversary of ordination means so much to me. Thank you for including me in your celebration. Your care, concern, and encouraging words are very much appreciated, and I trust that our Savior Jesus will continue to watch over you and keep you in His tender care as we rejoice together in His wondrous grace and love. To Him be the glory!



“CAN I BE JUST A GOOD CHRISTIAN AND NOT GO TO CHURCH?”

Many times you have heard that SATANIC EXPRESSION and possibly wanted some reference points to go to. Please allow us to share some with you now.

NUMBER ONE: “I BAPTIZE YOU in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” These are special words for all of us. These words are God’s words to us at our baptism. They are also God’s Good News for us today! God has called each of us INTO HIS FAMILY. We are Christians; children of God. One by one God has touched each of us with His forgiving love. This is why we worship God both PERSONALLY AND PUBLICLY. We are not alone—we are part of a Christian family. We live and grow in the church. The joy of CELEBRATING OUR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP in Christ is what Sunday worship is all about.

NUMBER TWO: Perhaps you say that you could read the Bible and listen to sermons on the radio and television. If all people would do the same then in a few years, more likely in a “few months,” there would be NO GOOD GOSPEL SERMONS OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION. WHY? Because pastors have been trained and EDUCATED IN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AND SEMINARIES which are built and supported by Christians who go to church. They combine their mission resources to “reach the gospel to every creature;” which includes building seminaries. I FYOU HOLD YOURSELF ALOOF FROM THE CHURCH, YOU ARE OBLIGATED TO TRAIN ALL PASTORS BY YOURSELF. You can see the obvious results.

NUMBER THREE: Jesus says, “If you love Me keep My commandments!” Christ reiterated the third commandment to sanctify the Holy Day. Coud you really call yourself a Christian if you CONTINUED TO DISOBEY HIS THIRD COMMANDMENT month after month about the JOINT WORSHIP and furthermore about Holy Communion?

FURTHERMORE, the Bible tells us “not to forsake the assembling of ourselves, together, but we should encourage each other to love and do good works in our assembling together, exhorting each other, so much the more as we see the day approaching.” That is found in Hebrews 10:24-25.

NUMBER FOUR: COME AND GET IT! The table has been prepared. The feast is ready! We have all been given invitations to the greatest banquet ever served. This banquet is called THE LORD’S SUPPER. This is the super supper given to us by Christ. It is a time for all of us as Christinas to GATHER AROUND GOD’S TABLE and receive His promise of forgiveness. When we come forward to receive Christ’s body and blood, we are drawn closer to God and to each other. We come to church and celebrate the Lord’s Supper precisely because God is calling us to do these things. It is “for you,” and it is to be CELEBRATED WITH OTHERS, the church.

NUMBER FIVE: Jesus Christ in Luke 10:16 says, “He that hears you hears Me, and he that despises you despises Me.” That is Christ speaking about His pastors. Supposing Christ were back on earth and YOU KNEW THAT HE WOULD PREACH IN A CERTAIN CHURCH. WOULD YOU GO?! He tells you that He IS still preaching today through His ministers who preach the Scripture.

“He that hears you hears Me.” Is it wise to “despise Christ” by neglecting the preaching He has ordained?

May these words help you to make plans on Saturday for your Sunday worship. You cannot afford to ignore or despise Jesus Christ, the world’s only SAVIOR. JESUS SAID, “BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND KEEP IT.” Luke 11:28



Covering
our schools
in prayer.

Sat

Preschool: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8 a.m.— 3 p.m. Wed. 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m. Confirmation: Wednesday's 5th & 6th grade: 3:30-5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15-8:00 p.m.				September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		1							
2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC						6:30 Bible Study		1:30 p.m. LWML				5 p.m. Worship w/HC	
9		10		11		12		13		14		15	
9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC						6:30 Bible Study		9 a.m. Quilting				Hollinger/ Clausen wedding 5 p.m. Worship w/HC	
16		17		18		19		20		21		22	
9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC		Eventide Annual Mtg.		Messenger Deadline for September issue 		6:30 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Orientation Mtg.		5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal		Bruhn/Boettger wedding		5 p.m. Worship w/HC	
23		24		25		26		27		28		29	
9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC		First Day of Public School 				First Day of p.m. Preschool 6:30 Bible Study		First Day of a.m. Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting					
30		31				Confirmation classes begin						5 p.m. Worship w/HC	
9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC		Preschool		4:00—6:00 p.m. Preschool Open House									

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Schleswig, Iowa
Permit No. 19

Change Service
Requested

TO EVERYONE IN THE HOME OF:



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461
Office: 712-676-2235

Saturday Worship at 5 p.m. w/HC;
Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. HC on first & third Sundays
Sunday School and Bible Classes at 10:15 a.m.

+++++

E-mail: immansch@iowatelecom.net
or: markey@iowatelecom.net
Website: www.immanuelschleswig.com
"Like" us on Facebook

Pastor: Merle F. Mahnken
Home Ph.: 712-676-2242 Cell Ph.: 712-269-6364
Assisting Pastor: Kurt Kaiser
Cell Ph.: 712-269-8452

Office: Amanda Bruhn and Jodi Lorenzen
Preschool: Leslie Gustafson
Organist: Nancy Bielenberg

Snow Removal and Lawn Care:
Ryan Jepsen 712-790-1603
Loren and Janice Jepsen

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



**OUR MISSION
STATEMENT:**
*"Together in Christ,
we grow through the
Word and
Sacraments, serving
our Lord and
sharing His saving
grace with all
people."*