

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



**NOVEMBER 2024**

**Volume 39, Issue 3**



## From Your Pastor

“Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!” (Psalm 136:1). Later this month we will observe our National Day of Thanksgiving. We Christians certainly will join in the celebrations, but it is also just as certain that we do not need a National Proclamation to do what we rightly do (or should do) every day—give thanks to the Lord! He is good! And with Jeremiah we say, “His mercies are new every morning; great is [His] faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:23).

Now an unbelieving person can be thankful. Anyone can be thankful *for* a blessing received; only Christians know *to Whom* thanksgiving is to be directed! Thanksgiving is to be directed *to God*! The blessings we receive and enjoy don’t just happen! They don’t just fall out of the air! There is a Giver! God is the great Giver, and we give Him thanks!

It is interesting that non-Christian sources will recognize and promote the good and healthful aspects of thanksgiving. One article I read said, “Research has shown that the practice of gratitude is associated with many positive effects in a person’s physical and mental health. Expressing gratitude can improve sleep, mood and immunity, and can decrease depression, anxiety, chronic pain and disease.”<sup>1</sup> Please note we are told “the practice of gratitude is associated with many positive effects...” (emphasis added). Why would we not regularly, increasingly, and joyfully practice gratitude if we can reap all those benefits?

One of the things that really gets in the way of a thankful heart that practices thanksgiving is the sin of coveting. God addresses coveting in both the 9th and 10th commandments, where we are commanded not to covet anything that belongs to our neighbor. Coveting is the sinful desire for something that is not ours. So, you see, instead of focusing on what we have received and being thankful for the blessings we do have, we often fall to a sinful desire for what we do not have! Coveting is a sin of the heart. It comes from not being content with what we have.

Coveting—having the sinful desire for what we do not have—brings us all kinds of trouble! Instead of being content with the cell phone we do have—or the pick-up, or the clothes, or the home—or the \_\_\_\_\_, we covet more expensive items that blow our budget and keep us from paying our bills! Then our lives are filled with more anxiety and stress, and we are grouchier, and our negativity affects our family and friends, and our prayer life is affected—maybe even our worship—and thanksgiving rarely comes to mind, much less crosses our lips!

God knows us. He tells us in His Word, “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’” (Heb. 13:5). Here we have it! Here we have the Source of “every good and perfect gift” (James 1:17). God is the Giver! He knows what we need! He will never leave us nor forsake us! God knows how to meet our needs. He met our greatest need—our need for a Savior and gave us His own Son Jesus. We have His assurance: “He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32).

Thankfulness expresses an attitude toward God. Thankfulness flows from faith in the heart which trusts God to meet our needs. Thankfulness responds to our every complaint by immediately finding a gift from God for which to give thanks. Put your thanks into words—to God and to others! Put your thanks into actions for others—buy a gift card, pay for lunch, write an appreciative note. Put your thanks into worship—after all, we don’t just give thanks *for* the blessings we have, we give thanks *to our great God and Savior* from whom all blessings flow!

*Pastor Mahnken*

<sup>1</sup><https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-lifestyle/mental-health-and-wellbeing/thankfulness-how-gratitude-can-help-your-health>



November 3.....	Cody Johnson
November 4.....	Arrick Clausen
	James Claussen
	Marissa Hatcher
	Sara Lickteig
	Dale Petersen
	Phyllis Schmidt
November 5.....	Coleen Bruhn
November 7.....	Janice Hennings
November 8.....	Alexa Lenhart
	Jett Lundell
	Cody Malone
	Cheri Martinson
November 9.....	Jersey Bral
	Finnley Bremser
	Graham Bremser
	Brenna Bubke
November 10.....	Scott Korner
November 11.....	Ty Jacobson
	Loren Lee
	Lisa Schroeder
	Sandra Voss
November 13.....	Janet Beeck
	Journey Bral
November 15.....	Peggy Aldag
November 16.....	Craig Bogatzke
	Bailey Ellerbeck
	Raymond Jepsen
	Hannah Ogren
	Lyndsy Peters
November 17.....	Carrylee Martinson
November 18.....	James Fredericks Jr.
	Brett Wigg
November 19.....	Don Namanny
	Dick Streck
November 20.....	Koda Jensen
	Sarah Lundell
November 21.....	Pam Jensen
	Jacob Lundell
	Marnee Rohlf
	Spencer Schoenfeld
	Axel Walker
November 22.....	Janice Gierstorf
November 23.....	Tricia Bielenberg
November 24.....	Tyler Quandt
	Marvin Streck
November 27.....	Valarie Hall
	Jason Schultz
November 28.....	Jeff Thompson
November 30.....	Marisol Cruz

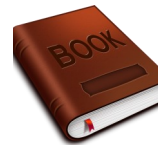


Wyatt & Michelle Anderson .....	November 2, 2019
Brian & Nakia Zavitz .....	November 2, 2007
Justin & Caitlyn Andresen (1st) .....	November 4, 2023
Vern & Karen Wood .....	November 9, 1968
Brian & Bethany Daniel .....	November 11, 2005
Dennis & Judy Gierstorf .....	November 15, 1969
Jason & Marissa Hatcher .....	November 19, 2010
Brandon & Kerry Meseck .....	November 20, 2010
Paul & Jamie Nahnsen .....	November 20, 2021
Gordon & Barb Quandt .....	November 24, 1978
Neil & Kay Wilken .....	November 24, 1973

Please notify the office of any  
omissions or corrections.

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## From the Church Record Book



**Baptized:** *"Let the little children come unto Me...."*

**Jeremy Charles Rohlf Jr.**, August 15, 2024, son of Jeremy and Marnee Rohlf, was baptized on October 13, 2024.

**Marriages:** *"...and the two became one."*

**Cody Clausen and Kelsey Jorgensen** were married at Immanuel on October 12, 2024.

**Thank You** members of Immanuel for remembering us with the encouraging cards and gifts we received in recognition of Clergy Appreciation Month. We serve a loving and merciful God and precious Savior by the empowering work of the Holy Spirit, and we are thankful to be in His service with you. The Lord bless and keep us all!

Pastor Kaiser and Pastor & Chris Mahnken

## TIME CHANGE AND SATURDAY WORSHIP



Remember to change your clocks before you go to bed on November 2 as Daylight Savings Time ends that night!!



Please remember our Saturday p.m. worship time changes to a 4:00 p.m. starting time beginning Saturday, November 9.

Our Saturday worship will begin at this time (4:00 p.m.) throughout these weeks of late fall and winter.

Precious in the sight of  
the Lord is the  
death of his saints.  
Psalms 116:15

## All Saints' Day

We will be observing Sunday,  
November 3 as *All Saints' Sunday*.

On that day, (and the Saturday evening before), we will particularly thank God for His grace and faithful blessings through Jesus our Savior by which He has given the gift of eternal life to those who have lived and died in faith, those whose souls now rest in our Savior's presence in heaven, awaiting the great day of Resurrection.

## Please Join Us for Immanuel's 2024

### HARVEST DINNER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



Staley's Turkey  
with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy,  
Dressing, Corn,  
Salads & Desserts

#### SUGGESTED DONATION \$13 per meal

Proceeds from the meal will go to  
Immanuel's mission projects

*Dine-in or Carry-out*

*Delivery available (in town Schleswig) — Phone 676-2235*

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
501 Glad Street, Schleswig, Iowa



## DOOR OFFERINGS FOR MILITARY BIBLESTICKS

NOVEMBER 2-3 & 9-10, 2024

Military BibleStick Door Offerings will be received the weekends of November 2-3 and 9-10. Please use the labeled box in the Narthex to leave your offering. Military BibleSticks are given to members of our Armed Forces by the organization Faith Comes By Hearing. We have again pledged ourselves to a goal of providing a case of BibleSticks, which costs \$2,500. Please prayerfully consider a donation to this excellent means of getting the word of life, hope, and salvation to the members of our Armed Forces, who stand watch to protect us.

**Small, safe, and strong.** The Military BibleStick is a small, matte-black, weather-resistant digital audio player designed expressly for the safety of deployed troops.

**Pure Word of God.** The Military BibleStick contains nothing except God's Word. Each service member and veteran receives the New Testament and select Psalms in dramatized, multi-voice audio (English and Spanish versions available).

**Family outreach.** Along with the Military BibleStick, each service member and veteran has the opportunity to send a free MP3 Bible on disc to their family, so that all may be disciplined in God's Word.



## The Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 1 at 11:15 am

### Decorate the Church



## Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, November 27  
at 6 p.m.

*Offerings received at this service will be  
used for Home Mission projects.*



## Upcoming Sunday School

### Christmas Program practice



In addition to practicing during the Sunday School hour, the following extra practices are scheduled...please mark your calendars!

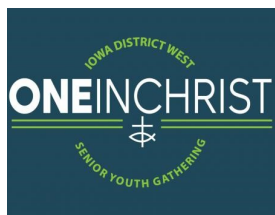
\*December 4 (5th-8th grade) 5:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

\*December 11 (5th-8th grade) 5:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

\*December 14 (all children) 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

The children's Christmas program will be presented Saturday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m. with a soup supper to follow.





2024 IDW Sr. Youth Gathering had a different look this year. It was held at Camp Okobojo October 5-6. The youth from Immanuel who went were: Clayton Stoppel, Brody Morgan, Charlie Beeck and Tyson Stoppel. Pastor Mahnken chaperoned the boys for their weekend of camping, worship and service.

According to the Iowa District West-LCMS Facebook page: "The Senior High youth enjoyed a weekend of learning how we are all 'ONE in Christ' while growing in faith, building relationships with one another, serving Camp Okobojo through helping with fall clean-up, and enjoying our beautiful camp in Iowa District West."

While at Camp Okobojo, part of the attendees time was used towards a service project of Camp Clean-Up. FEMA right now uses \$25/hour as the "gift value" for volunteer work. At the Senior Youth Gathering our work value to Camp Okobojo was "\$4,500!!



It was a special day on September 28, 2024 when close to 100 women (and men) of our Iowa District West LWML came to Mission Central for their Fall Rally! These mission-minded ladies came to celebrate together and to hear an exciting report from Ashley Lehr, one of our special missionaries serving in Puerto Rico. Ashley had such a wonderful presentation with beautiful stories and pictures. What a great blessing it is for us to host this annual LWML event!



**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Voter's Meeting Minutes  
October 21, 2024**

**I. Opening Devotion and Prayer**

Led by Pastor Mahnken on the texts of Mark 10 and Ephesians 3 which deal with the concept of the Church as a family, a brotherhood/sisterhood.

**II. Reading/Approval of Minutes and Agenda**

Minutes from the July 14 Voters' Meeting were shared. The minutes were approved as was the agenda for tonight's meeting.

**III. Reports of Officers and Boards****A. Elders (Curtis Korner)**

Nothing at this portion of the meeting.

**B. Trustees (Ryan Ernst)**

A new tree, donated by the Gaylord Boeck family, was planted. There are bats coming in where the belltower was located. Railing was painted.

**C. Treasurer/Stewardship/Finance (Larry Abbe)**

Currently, Immanuel is behind \$10,291.05 for 2024. Winter fuel has been paid for the season. Larry also noted the donation of \$42,000 to the Immanuel Endowment fund by the Gaylord Boeck family.

Larry reported the following changes pertaining to the insurance coverage at Immanuel: "The new premium for the year is \$18,335 annually. Changes in coverage include: Reducing water damage coverage from \$10,000 to \$2,500; reducing medical payments to the public from \$10,000 to \$5,000; the property deductible is \$5,000; the deductible for windstorm and/or hail is now 1% of the property coverage."

**D. Education/Youth (Rachel Jacobson)**

In a couple weeks the youth will be gearing up for the Christmas program. There is also discussion about revamping the Prayer Partnership Program to foster more discourse between confirmands and their "Prayer."

**E. Preschool (Barb Quandt)**

Currently at full capacity. Barb thanked those who donated their Choice Dollars to the Preschool as well as supporting the Preschool via other means.

**F. Mission/Fellowship (Judy Gierstorf)**

\$2,000 was given to Mission Central to fund mission projects. \$1,000 was given to Mission Central to support Hurricane Helene relief response efforts.

\$1,000 was given to Iowa District West for flood relief efforts in Spencer.

The Mission Board will host the Harvest Dinner on November 17. Last year, they planned for 325 but served over 500. Judy is working on streamlining the serving process and take-out system to maximize efficiency.

**G. Memorial (Lodean Voss)**

There was nothing to report at this time

**H. Pastor's Report**

Pastor shared a variety of statistics with the voters. The rest of his report is located elsewhere in the Messenger. Pastor renewed his request to faithfully pray for each other in this time of unrest and rampant evil in the world.

**IV. Old Business****V. New Business****A. Approve Use of Advent Suppers (12/4, 12/11, 12/18) and Harvest Dinner (11/17) Proceeds**

Motion was made by Leroy Hight to allow the entity serving the Advent meals as well as the Harvest Dinner to direct the proceeds in the funding of the church's mission. Rachel Mentink seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the voting assembly.

**B. Budget for 2025****1. Salaries**

- a. **Secretaries:** The Elders recommended and the Council supported a \$1.25/hr raise for Val Teut and a \$1.00/hr raise for Amanda Bruhn.
- b. **Organist:** Elders recommend and Council supported a freeze on this wage at \$85/service.
- c. **Pastors:** The Elders recommended and Council supported a \$1,500 annual raise for Pastor Mahnken and a \$1,000 annual raise for Pastor Kaiser.
- d. **Janitor:** The Trustees suggest a wage freeze on this position.
- e. **Groundskeeper**
- f. **Snow Removal**

It was noted that items (e) and (f) are done by Ryan Jepsen and he does a lot of this work on a free gratis basis as a means of supporting Immanuel, therefore, when he does submit a bill, it shall be paid in full at his requested rate. Thanks to Ryan for this act of stewardship.

Deb Green made a motion to approve the wage recommendations made by the Elders, the Trustees, and supported by the Council. Joann Riessen seconded the motion and the voters approved it unanimously.

**2. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Adopt-A-Student**  
(\$1,000 annual support)**3. Crossroads of Crawford County**  
(\$4,000 annual support)**4. Lutheran Family Services** (\$2,250 annual support)**5. Approve Recipient of Our Together in Mission Support (African Radio Ministry)**  
(\$2,000 annual support)**6. Approve Recipient of Portion of our District Support (Amigos en Cristo-Pr. Pedro Lopez)**  
(\$5,875 annual support)

Leroy Hight made a motion to fund items 2-6 at the suggested rates. Motion was seconded by Deb Green and approved unanimously by the voting assembly.

Leroy Hight made a motion to approve the 2025 budget pending the updated salaries and insurance premiums. Lodean Voss seconded this motion and the voting assembly approved it unanimously.

**C. Ballot**

1. **Education: (needs 3)** Angela Korner and Rachel Jacobson for 2nd term. Dustin Ogren 2nd term?
2. **Finance: (needs 1)** Leroy Hight
3. **Elders: (needs 2)** Derick Bruhn and Eric Schneider (2nd term)
4. **Preschool: (needs 1)** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Trustees: (needs 2)** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
6. **Secretary:** Craig Bogatzke
7. **Vice-President:** \_\_\_\_\_

A motion was made by Curtis Korner to accept the ballot as presented. Motion was seconded by Larry Abbe and approved unanimously by the voting assembly. Individuals to fill vacant positions will be actively recruited.

**D. Designation of Part of Salaries for Housing Allowance**

It was moved by Sandy Bubke to allow Pastor Mahnken to designate \$2,400 of his annual salary to be classified as a "housing allowance" and therefore exempt from taxation. In addition, Pastor Kaiser will designate his entire salary (\$8,500 for 2025) as "housing allowance" and thus be exempt from taxation. Rachel Mentink seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved by the voting assembly.

**E. Circuit Visitor Nomination for '25-'27**

Curtis Korner made a motion to accept Pastor Mahnken's suggestion and nominate Pastor Chad Trunkhill to this post. The motion was seconded by Deb Green and unanimously approved by the voting assembly.

**F. Request Voters for Subsidy from Home Mission Fund to pay registration cost for couples to attend 2025 Weekend to Remember marriage conference. \$300/couple (regularly \$350—this early bird price is 20% off)**  
Omaha, NE: March 14-16 at Hilton \$151/night per room (price good until February 28)

Des Moines, IA: April 4-6 at Marriott Downtown \$132/night per room (price good until February 24)

Lincoln, NE: May 30-June 1 at The Cornhusker Hotel \$124/night per room (price good until May 9)

Weekends also available in Minneapolis and Branson.

<https://www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember#where>

**G. Military BibleSticks**

A case of 100 BibleSticks can be provided at a cost of \$2,500 and Immanuel wishes to fund the purchase of 1 case. Sandy Bubke made a motion to allow two door offerings to be collected on the first two weekends of November to help fund this. She amended her motion to say that if the door offerings fall short, the shortfall will be made up from Home Missions. Rachel Mentink seconded the motion and the voting assembly unanimously approved the motion.

**VI. Adjourn with Prayer 2 (Pastor Mahnken)**

Pastor led us in *The Prayer at the Close of the Day* which was spoken responsively.

Submitted by Craig Bogatzke, Secretary

### Pastor Mahnken's Report Voters' Meeting--October 21, 2024

We began 2024 with 623 baptized members and 514 communicant members on the books. So far this year we have nine members who have died—Elaine Friedrichsen, Gaylord Boeck, Kathy Korner, Tom Bubke, Jim Aldag, Roger Chisholm, Guenter Detlefsen, Marlene Hight, and Gloria Schmidt. We also had the funeral for Carson Baer, Grandson of Jerrie & Glenn Wigg. We have had four baptisms; one member added by affirmation of faith, and two transfers in. Four members (2 communicants & 2 children) have asked to be released to join a non-Lutheran church. We had eight baptized members who became communicant members by Jr. Confirmation. As of today we have 617 baptized members and 514 communicant members on our roll.

We are thankful to have been invited to lead the worship at our community's 125th celebration, thankful to all of you who may have sang in the choir, and thankful for all those who attended. The attendance certainly exceeded my expectations. It was a beautiful morning and we are glad to be a part of it.

Peggy Wunschel, our LWML President thanked all who helped at dinner we sponsored and supported that Saturday of the 125th. I join her in thanking all who participated in any way. It was a big effort in planning and following through on all the details. We are thankful we had a huge turn-out and God richly blessed our effort.

The first weekend in October you will remember I was gone with four of our high school young men to the Youth Gathering at Camp Okoboji. It was a good Saturday and Sunday morning. We were able to participate in a servant event to help get things put away and cleaned up around camp, getting ready for winter. FEMA allows \$25/hour as "gift" value for volunteer labor, so those in attendance that day gave service hours worth \$4,500! The Gathering topic was led by Pastor Paul Dare of Immanuel, Spirit Lake and addressed the theme of *One in Christ* to show that we have our identity in Christ. He addressed what the Bible says in response to the false teachings of Marxism and Socialism that are rampant on our public university campuses.

Please remember our Saturday worship time will change after Saturday, November 2. Beginning November 9, we will have our Saturday worship beginning at 4 p.m.

At our January Voters' Meeting we will be nominating for District Offices. This is President Turner's last term, as it is for our District Treasurer Scott Ernst. Both have served our District very well. We will also be nominating for other positions on our District Board of Directors.

Zion in Denison is still in the process of calling a new Pastor. Please keep them in your prayers, and keep in prayer also all the pastors who are assisting them with their worship.

You will remember, we have a Confirmation Prayer Team. We have an adult member of Immanuel praying for each of our confirmands. Many of you participate and have for years. Right now we are in need of one gal to pray for a young lady who is in my class. If you would like to join in this loving service, please let me know. We do provide a few resources for you and in the coming weeks we will also be sharing the names of our Pray-ers with our students and they will also be praying for you.

Almost a year ago we approved a committee to prepare a new constitution for Immanuel. We have not yet met, but tonight I have some pages to give those on our committee to consider as we make our beginning. Accountability is a good thing, and we'll be pressing on.

Later, we will be asking your permission to have a door offering again the first 2 weeks in November to support Military Bible Sticks. I'm just saying this now so we don't overlook it; it's not on our printed agenda.

Finally, I again ask that you please continue to pray that the Lord would bless us with the working of His Holy Spirit through His Word—all of us, no matter what age. Pray for one another as St. Paul prayed for the Thessalonians: "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints" (1 Th. 4:12-13). We are called to be salt and light in our world and we are continually needing God's forgiving and strengthening grace. "The Word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:25).



~ THE LWML INVITES  
ALL LADIES ~



Thankful, thankful! God's Word reminds to "Be joyful always, pray continuously, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

At our October meeting we talked about how thankful we are for all of the support we received at the Calf Show dinner, making it a success. We discussed how we can best use the profits for our congregation. No decisions were made and we will furnish updates. As in other years, we made a 10% donation to missions through Mission Central.

October 13th was LWML Sunday. We are also thankful for the congregation's donations to the many LWML District and National grants.

We are thankful for another crop harvest and prayed for favorable weather and safety as it is gathered in.

We have many reasons to be joyful and thankful and Pastor reminded us in our Bible Study to keep on praying, God can do great things. God's Word will endure forever.

Donna Harm, Secretary



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



*A Teacher's Heart*

This book contains four historical stories by four different authors. The first book is "Lessons of the Heart" by Terri J. Haynes, taking place in 1864, near Washington D.C. After fleeing slavery, Sgt. Elim Smith must teach the first colored infantry's newest soldiers to read. A school teacher, Adeline Barris comes south searching for her still enslaved mother and brother. When she volunteers to help Elim, will they learn the lessons of loss and love in the middle of war?

The second book is "Courting the Doctor" by Cecelia Dowdy. Deborah was in love with Timothy years ago but he married her twin sister Eve instead. Deborah is a school teacher and widower. Timothy is back as the town doctor. As he helps her study for a college entrance exam, her feelings are rekindled. Will Timothy feel the same way? This book takes place in Pennsylvania in 1870.

The third story is "Schooling Mr. Mason" by Lynette Sowell. This takes place in Massachusetts in 1895. Caroline Parker thought she was a shoo-in for the director of the prestigious Wickham's Academy for Young Ladies. Old Mrs. Wickham brings her nephew, Stephen Mason, who is new to teaching. She promises the position to the teacher whose team wins the academic challenge. Is she trying to do some match making?

The fourth book is "Lessons of Love" by Lynn A. Coleman. It takes place in 1899 in Eastern Tennessee. Helen Jones and Daniel Moore have very different methods of teaching. Learning their own life lessons is a lot more difficult for both of them. Romance is a lesson neither one of them is ready to take. Life keeps pushing them together. What will happen? You won't know until you read the book.

If you like history, you will love this book.

—Submitted by Carol Neddermeyer



## Preschool News

As I'm prepping for Parent-Teacher conferences, it's hard to actually grasp that our year is almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  complete already. I have no words for where the time has gone. It's a bit sobering to consider how quickly time can pass and how short our opportunities are to be used to pour into someone's life. We are grateful and thankful God has given us these children to love this year.

If I were to look for a word to describe the preschoolers this year, I think it might be hungry. No, not physically hungry rather spiritually hungry. It almost brings tears to my eyes when I pause and close my eyes and snapshot their eyes as the accounts of Jesus are read. There is a sparkle and glow as they absorb the truths of God's love. Oh, the Scripture sometimes gets a little altered by the time it arrives home. (One grandmother told me her grandson shared he had learned on Day 4 God created t.v., football, and school. He rested on Day 7.) Yet the amazing thing is, he was sharing! He knows God is Creator.

Another parent told me her son had been singing "God's not dead" over and over as he played. She said it wasn't long before his little sister was singing it too. My heart was leaping inside as I heard this was happening. Just imagine! This amazing and significant truth is being spoken over and over in this home. We know God's Word has power. It is sharper than any two-edged sword. We know it will not return void. And my favorite is that he was sharing it with his little sister. Praise Jesus!

The morning children will be completing their three week study of the life of Moses and the Israelites entrance into the Promised Land this week. I had to go pull my Bible out this morning to double check some of the details of Rahab and the hiding of the spies. I mean, seriously, who wouldn't love hearing the Word. If you're three years old and learning about spies, risk takers, and soldiers, what could be better? I've seen various pictures in children's books over the years, and I especially wanted to

refresh my memory as to what the spies were hiding under and details regarding the scarlet cord. (The spies were hiding under flax stalks in case you're wondering.) I'm just in awe of this entire story. If you'll recall, God begins by protecting the life of Moses already as an infant. He not only saves his life but arranges it so his mother (who was obedient) gets to raise him and get paid to do it. Moses is then called by God to help lead the Israelites out of captivity (so much obedience required in this process). Upon his death, Joshua takes over.

First, God promised Joshua "...no man will be able to stand against you as long as you live...." There's a promise that would be fun to receive! Of course, there will be many many steps of obedience required of Joshua. Joshua sent spies into Jericho to scout things out. A prostitute (I didn't share this detail regarding her profession with the children) hid the spies and assisted them in escaping to safety. As a result, her entire family was saved when Jericho was destroyed. The angel of the Lord showed up and gave Joshua the Lord's strategy for conquering Jericho. Joshua and the Israelites obeyed and experienced victory.

Why am I sharing all these details with you this month? I suppose it's because I'm a little bit convicted regarding the importance of living a life of trust and obedience. I pray that is a piece of truth the littles take away. Moses' mother trusted and obeyed. Miriam trusted and obeyed. Moses trusted and obeyed. Joshua trusted and obeyed. Rahab trusted and obeyed. God showed up Every. Single. Time. Since God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, we know He will show up for us too. Trust and obedience isn't easy. It's a stretch every time God asks us to do something new. It's a stretch every time He asks us to walk through a hard thing. Sometimes, it can even be a stretch to receive the good things He wants to give us. However, a life of following Him is priceless. It's eternal. It's forever. It's His best for us. Isn't God just so much more than we could ever ask, think, or even imagine?

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the preschool. Our year is going well. The two new staff are excellent. The children are eager and excited to be there. And best of all, the Lord is faithful. He provides. He can be trusted.

Serving Him with you,  
Mrs. Gustafson



**AFRICAN RADIO MINISTRIES—NEWS**

We celebrate God's work through you, the African Radio Ministries partners and the saints serving in God's vineyard in Africa.

**September Kingdom Growth:**

♦ New Converts:	45	♦ Listening Groups:	4
♦ Baptized:	29	♦ Callers:	90
♦ Confirmed:	98	♦ Bibles/Booklets	72
♦ Inmates in Confirmation Classes: 420!			

**Ethiopia: Hosanna Prison Visitation**

Rev. Mengistu traveled to the Hosanna Prison to preach, teach and take part in the Confirmation of inmates. It was a joyous day as six male inmates proclaimed their new faith in Jesus, 60 people were confirmed, five people were baptized and 72 inmates received a Bible!

**Ivory Coast: Young man set free from sin**

Bio is a man of Liberian origin, living in Cote d'Ivoire, who once indulged in drinking and theft. He heard about Jesus' love on the radio and called the radio pastor. By God's grace, and the love of the local Lutheran church, his life was transformed. After several prayer meetings and explanations of God's Word, this young man now follows Jesus and has joined the Lutheran church in Ivory Coast!

**FOYA District: Radio Message Saves a Life**

Mr. Bendoe fell victim to a financial scam resulting in the loss of his life savings. He was ashamed and decided to end his life. He had the rope tied, and was ready to hang himself when he heard the message from the radio preacher, Rev. Emmanuel Tengbeh, talking about God's goodness and purposes. Mr. Bendoe decided to trust God and call the pastor for prayer. He is now living joyfully, telling everyone in his village about the saving grace of Christ!

**Maryland County—Listening Group**

"My name is Klay Doe, an ARM listener of the radio program every Saturday. The teaching and preaching on the radio by the pastor has transformed my life! Every Saturday I call my friends and family to listen with me. Now my family joins me at church. Thanks be to God for Pastor Bardue visiting us."

**Grand Gedeh Radio Program Leads to Church Plant**

Pastor William Monro nurtures and teaches the new believers in the Grand Gedeh preaching point. The 40 plus member church began with three people who heard the message on the radio and invited Pastor Monroe to come and visit them. The power of an invitation!

Your partners in the harvest.

Missionary Linda Kurtz  
John and Kathy Duitsman



Thank you very much for participating in Hope and Care Outreach's Gala, *Love Never Fails 2024*, which raised \$171,000 for God's work. Once again we see Ephesians 3:20-21 at work, *Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

The evening was a great demonstration of God's power unleashed through His people as they gathered to sacrificially offer back to God, the gifts He has entrusted to us. Cheerfully, everyone gave whatever they had, impacting lives in Liberia and Africa, now and eternally.

We thank God for you! Words can never express our gratitude, nor the gratitude of those whose lives are being impacted. God bless you as you continue to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus through your gifts and vocation.

Partners in His mission, Linda Kurtz  
Executive Director  
Hope and Care Outreach/African Radio Ministries

Hope and Care Outreach  
9811 W Charleston Blvd., Suite 2-209  
Las Vegas, NV 89117  
linda@hopeandcare.org

**How funds will be used:**

- \* Construct Training Center
- \* Construct Radio Station
- \* Support Six HCC Youth in Higher Education
- \* Build Beehives and Plant Oil Palm
- \* Offer Christian Counseling and Ultrasound Tests
- \* Offer Tuition Assistance to Indigent Children

## Faith-filled parenting...Service

### In the Word

Serve the Lord with gladness (Psalm 100:2a, ESV)

### Of the Word

Jesus Christ is the model of servanthood for all people. He served His Father by coming to earth to fulfill the plan of salvation. He served the world by dying on the cross and then rising again to complete the plan of salvation. While on earth, He was a servant leader, putting His followers' needs before His own and loving them to death, even death on a cross.

Parents know that children are like sponges, absorbing everything they see and hear. Remembering that, parents model compassion, love, and forgiveness. Following Jesus' example, they strive to meet their children's needs, especially their spiritual needs. They show that Christian service is a joyful response to all that Jesus has done for them.

### Stretch your faith-filled parenting

As a family, participate in a service project in your community.

### Walking with my Lord

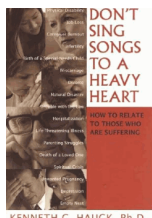
Serving Savior, You did not come to be served, but to serve by giving Your life for all people. Open pathways of joyous service so that my family and I may respond to Your love. In Your name. Amen.

### **Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart**

On Thursday, November 7, our Thursday evening study will begin reading the book "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart—How to Relate to Those who are Suffering." This book is by Pastor Kenneth Haugk, Ph.D., the founder of Stephen Ministries.

Built on a solid biblical foundation and brimming with God's grace, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart* overflows with practical examples and specific suggestions about what to say or do—and what **not** to say or do. It will touch your heart, expand your thinking, and guide you in bringing Christ's loving care to hurting people when they need it most.

If you would like a copy of the book please contact Pastor Mahnken.



### **¡AMIGOS EN CRISTO and GRACIA!**

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

Hello there mis amigos y hermanos! Here we are again, sharing with you about the happenings in your Hispanic Ministry around the IDW.

We have been blessed to lead many new friends and prospect members to know about Jesus and His work. We are going through the ESL (English as a Second Language) in the areas of Carroll and Hartley with the support of St. Paul Lutheran churches. We are so grateful for the many volunteers and students coming to learn and improve their English skills and the volunteers learning the Spanish language too.

In Hartley, we also had the privilege of having one of our new members confirmed into the membership of the communicant members and reaffirm to her baptismal life. Some of our new members are coming to the Bible study led by our Deacon Noel and attending the English Worship Service there.

At St. Paul in Carroll, we continue to grow in our ESL classes and our Praise, Bible study and Prayer service, new families are joining in, what a blessing to see these new brothers and sisters coming to know God in a deeper and better understanding of who He is and His love for humankind. Class here is happening now until December, Tuesdays and Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer, please give a call. On October 5, we joined St. Paul's Little Lamb float that participated at the "Band Parade." Here we also continue having the Pray, Praise Bible study on Saturdays at 6:30 pm.

In the Denison area, we continue to have individual and family Bible studies at different points there, the Worship Service goes on every Sunday in the afternoons.

In Storm Lake the Bible study continues to happen every Wednesday in the evenings and the Worship Service on Sundays in the mornings.

As always, we want to express our thankfulness and gratitude to all of you for your ongoing prayers and support. Please continue to be there for us, gracias and Bendiciones.

Pastor Lopez



# Reaching out cross country!



## YOU ARE INVITED!

**December 28, 2024 - January 3, 2025**

### WHY go on this mission trip?

- ✓ Be involved in Christian service with a local SoCal community mission - LOT318
- ✓ Act out your faith creatively with the Lutheran Hour Petal Pushers volunteers doing float work
- ✓ Have the opportunity to pull up a chair right on the Rose Parade route down Colorado Blvd
- ✓ Visit Concordia University Irvine – one of our LCMS thriving higher education campuses
- ✓ Meet new friends and strengthen connections
- ✓ Gain new perspectives and utilize your personal gifts and talents
- ✓ Dip your toes in the Pacific Ocean

**“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)**

### WHO can participate?

- minimum age 18 years old (inquire about possible exceptions if needed)

### WHEN is the trip?

- December 28, 2024 – January 3, 2025

### WHAT is the cost?

- \$1800 per person – Includes roundtrip airfare (from Des Moines), 6 days lodging, ground transportation, most meals, and 1 Petal Pusher shirt

### HOW do you register?

- Complete the registration form
- Pay \$100 deposit (check to Iowa District West, memo Pasadena Trip 24-25)
  - This year’s trip is limited to 28 participants
    - Rooms are double occupancy, if you sign up as a single we’ll match you with a roomie
  - Once you have been confirmed that you are on the trip (taken in order of deposit and registration form received), the balance may be paid any time before November 8
    - ✦ Deposits will be returned if they arrive after the trip has been filled



## Why Do Christians Go To Church?

If you ask Christians why they go to church, the answers will vary. During Covid we went through a time when regular church attendance was not possible. It left many asking the question, "Why do we go to church?"

As we sink into routines, it's a good question to ask ourselves. Having a solid answer to this question will serve us well when other reasons we give fade away.

When I was growing up, my main motivation for getting up on Sunday morning was to see my friends. Although fellowship and friendship are important pieces of the Christian life, they are not the reasons we go to church. Relationships can become strained, and difficulties arise. If this is our reasoning for gathering, when friendships fade, so does our reason for attending church.

Another answer given is, "I go to church to become a better person." Wanting to love and serve our neighbor well is admirable, but it's not the reason we go to church. If wanting to become better is the sole reason for church attendance, we will constantly be looking at ourselves or the actions of others around us. When we see our failures over and over again, or the failure of others, our reason for attending will disappear.

A third common response for going to church is, "It's what we do." Attending church on a regular basis will make it a habit. Bringing your kids also may start a generational legacy of church attendance, but going solely out of habit is not the reason we go to church.

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed clearly explains what the Church does and the reason why we go to church: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen" Martin Luther's explanation of the Third Article says this: "In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true." The Christian Church is the gathering place of all saints to hear the proclamation, "You are forgiven."

The reasons people give for church attendance are delightful benefits that flow from the purpose of the church. Things such as friends, becoming a better neighbor, and going to church regularly all

flow from hearing about the forgiveness we have through Christ's death and resurrection. This forgiveness comes from both the Word of God and the reception of Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

Friendships and fellowship are not the reason we go to church, but the people and the community are beneficial. The fellowship we have with other Christians is different from any other relationship we have. Our friendships in church are not rooted in opinions, political leanings, stages of life, or anything else that will fade away. They are rooted in Christ. Because of this, when relationships become strained, we are to continue gathering together at the altar, confessing our sins, and hearing the declaration of forgiveness.

We will see our failures and the failures of others. Instead of becoming discouraged, we remember that we come to church to be forgiven of our failures, just as our neighbor does. Once again, we are free to go about in everyday service to others around us.

We do not go to church solely out of habit. Attending church regularly will create healthy patterns in your life and those of your children. But we go to church to be reminded of and to receive the forgiveness of sins, and then we eagerly wait until we can attend again.

Although we embrace all of the good that comes from going to church we must remember why the church exists and why we gather together. We are in desperate need of forgiveness and, "In this Christian Church He richly and daily forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers."

Written by Katie Koplin, who resides in west-central Minnesota with her husband and four kids, where fields of grain meet woods and water. She keeps busy caring for her kids, writing for her blog ([lovedinspiteofself.com](http://lovedinspiteofself.com)), drinking coffee by the pot, quilting, reading, camping, leading Bible studies, and working at her much-adored local library. Her writing and speaking focus on encouraging others to live in freedom, equipping people to see Christ for them in Scripture, and empowering others with the great love Christ has for us.



# NOVEMBER 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Schleswig, Iowa

**GRATEFUL**  
*Thankful*  
**& BLESSED**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																										
<div> <b>Preschool</b>  Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 8 a.m.—3 p.m.  Wed.: 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m. </div> <div> <b>Confirmation</b>  5th &amp; 6th grade: 3:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m.  7th &amp; 8th grade: 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m. </div>			<div>December</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		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	31					<b>1 All Saints' Day</b>  Wedding Rehearsal	<b>2</b>  3 p.m. Miller-Hennings Wedding  5 p.m. Worship w/HC
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<b>3 All Saints' Sunday</b> <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>  9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC	<b>4</b>  Preschool  6:30 pm Couples Bible Study	<b>5 Election Day</b>  Preschool  Voting in Fellowship Hall  	<b>6</b>  6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	<b>7</b>  Preschool 1:30 p.m. LWML  6:30 p.m. Bible Study	<b>8</b>  10 a.m. Veteran's Day Program at School	<b>9</b>    4 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										
<b>10</b>  9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC  11:15 a.m. Board of Ed Meeting	<b>11 Veterans Day</b>  No Preschool  	<b>12</b>  Preschool  8 a.m. Pastors' Conference @ Zion	<b>13</b>  6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	<b>14</b>  Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting  6:30 p.m. Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  4 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										
<b>17</b>  9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC  11 am-1 pm Harvest Dinner	<b>18</b>  Preschool  6:30 pm Couples Bible Study	<b>19</b>  Preschool  <i>Messenger</i> Deadline for Dec/Jan issue  	<b>20</b>  6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	<b>21</b>  Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting  6:30 p.m. Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  10:30 a.m. Mercy Meals in Sioux City  4 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										
<b>24</b>  9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC	<b>25</b>  Preschool	<b>26</b>  Preschool	<b>27</b>  6:30 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Newsletter Assem. No Preschool No Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service w/HC	<b>28 Thanksgiving Day</b>  	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  4 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										

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

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**TO EVERYONE IN THE HOME OF:**



**THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER**

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461  
Office: 712-676-2235  
Saturday Worship at 5 p.m. w/HC on Nov. 2  
Saturday Worship at 4 p.m. w/HC beginning Nov. 9  
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](mailto:immansch@iowatelecom.net)  
or: [markey@iowatelecom.net](mailto:markey@iowatelecom.net)  
Website: [www.immanuel Schleswig.com](http://www.immanuel Schleswig.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 Valerie Teut  
Preschool: Leslie Gustafson  
Janitor: Jolene Whiteing  
Snow Removal and Lawn Care:  
Ryan Jepsen; 712-790-1603  
Loren and Janice Jepsen



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