

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



NOVEMBER 2025

Volume 40, Issue 3



From Your Pastor

The other day I wanted to use my cordless screwdriver. I went to where I keep its bag which also has drill bits and other accessories. It wasn't in its usual spot. I looked around. Couldn't find it. Looked upstairs, in the garage, at church. Couldn't find it. All the while I'm trying to pull from my brain where I used that tool last and for what purpose. Nothing. I went about the rest of my afternoon, now and again returning to that place in my brain, which remained closed; although, I had a hunch, a thought of one more place to look. That evening, I opened that door, and there it was! And I was thankful.

The gardening season lasted long into the fall, because of the late frost (killing frost still hasn't come as I write this!). I have even harvested zucchini this week (latest ever!). One of my last harvest details is to chop peppers for freezing to use in the coming months. I was chopping peppers this morning and reflected on the gardening year. And I was thankful.

I am writing this article the morning of October 28—Chris' birthday. I consider the many ways she has been and remains a great blessing to me. I think I certainly don't deserve such a gift from God. She is truly a "helper suitable" (or "right") for me (Genesis 2:18). And I am thankful.

As I was chopping peppers on this, the morning of my wife's birthday, I was listening to the recording of the Reformation Vespers service held in the chapel of Concordia Seminary this past Sunday. Daughter Hannah sent me the link to the service, which she attended in person. So many thoughts and emotions swirled through my mind and heart—thoughts of both our daughters—Sarah and Hannah—and the love of our Savior and the joy of the music given and sung together in His praise. I recalled singing in the Seminary Chorus while I was at the Seminary and the sound of those harmonies resounding in the houses of worship where we sang. And I am thankful.

I have always found teaching confirmation to young students most challenging. We have such an amazing God and wonderful Savior and so many truths to share of His love, His gifts, His will, and His works for us and in us! But the sharing of these divine treasures is a great test of faith—later in the day, after a day at school, to adolescents trying to understand their changing selves and their place in the world. Then, unexpectedly—as if out of nowhere—but, of course, from above—one of them will say something incredibly profound! Every teacher and every parent knows what I mean. It is that "aha" moment worked by the Spirit. And I am thankful.

A recurring realization is that of members of our congregation who have come to times of great sorrow, loss, heartache, or struggle, and yet, they remain faithful in looking to Jesus for the rest He alone can give (Matthew 11:28-30). The Holy Spirit calls to their hearts and minds the gracious presence and promises of God to sustain them and strengthen them, so that, even in sorrow and with tears, their lives sing with the hope and blessing found in our crucified, risen, and living Savior. And I am thankful.

It is a great privilege to have the calling to serve the saints in this place. In all our struggles, all our frustrations, all our heartaches, all our sinful weakness, we come to the Lord's Table and together we receive the body and the blood of the Lord for the forgiveness of our sins. We are strengthened in faith, renewed in hope, filled with peace, and given good courage to go out, not knowing where we go but only that His hand is leading us and His love supporting us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. And I am thankful.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1Thess. 5:16-18).

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

Pastor Mahuken



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
	Marlene Schneider
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
	Levi Rothe (1st)
November 23.....	Tricia Bielenberg
November 24.....	Tyler Quandt
	Marvin Streck
November 27.....	Valarie Hall
	Jason Schultz
November 28.....	Jeff Thompson
November 29.....	Rachel Jacobson
November 30.....	Marisol Cruz



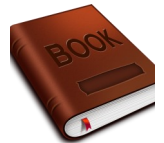
Wyatt & Michelle Anderson	November 2, 2019
Gage & Kayla Miller.....	November 2, 2024
Brian & Nakia Zavitz	November 2, 2007
Justin & Caitlyn Andresen	November 4, 2023
Vern & Karen Wood	November 9, 1968
Brian & Bethany Daniel.....	November 11, 2005
Dennis & Judy Gierstorf	November 15, 1969
Jason & Marissa Hatcher	November 19, 2010
Brandon & Kerry Meseck	November 20, 2010
Gordon & Barb Quandt.....	November 24, 1978
Neil & Kay Wilken.....	November 24, 1973

*Please notify the office of any
omissions or corrections.*

****Omitted from October birthdays: Jordyn Fredericks on
October 7. We apologize for this mistake.**

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From the Church Record Book



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

Wrenley Mae Naberhaus, born January 21, 2025, daughter of Tayten Kline and Michael Naberhaus, was baptized on January 22, 2025 at Methodist Women's Hospital, Omaha, NE, and recognized in her baptism here at Immanuel on October 12, 2025.

Confirmation: *"You are Mine..."*

Emily Schroeder, received by Adult Confirmation on September 28, 2025.

DyShawna Haberberger, received by Adult Confirmation on October 11, 2025.

Accession: *"Welcome in the name of the Lord..."*

Caleb Schroeder, received by transfer from St. Paul, Hanover Township, Charter Oak, Iowa on September 28, 2025.

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

Kyle Segebart and Katie Hennings were married at Immanuel on October 25, 2025.

Dismissals: *"May God continue to bless you."*

Randy Martinson was released to non-LCMS Lutheran Church on September 21, 2025.

Zachary Rohlf and daughter Eve were released to non-LCMS Lutheran Church on September 21, 2025.

Laurie Leimbacher was released on August 24, 2025.

Makayla Miller was released on August 24, 2025.

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 2 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.

TIME CHANGE AND SATURDAY WORSHIP



Remember to change your clocks
before you go to bed on November 1
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 15.

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



Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, November 26 at 6 p.m.

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

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



Under the Son daycare appreciates
your support of our sub sandwich
fundraiser. Our volunteers made
1,266 sandwiches in three hours.

We thank them for their hard work. Thanks
again! ~ The Staff and Board of Under the Son

DOOR OFFERINGS FOR ARMED FORCES DEVOTIONALS NOVEMBER 1-2 & 8-9, 2025

We will receive a door offering the weekends of
November 1 & 2 as well as November 8 & 9 in
support of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces.
This year's door offering will support the
publication of the new Armed Forces Devotional,
which is scheduled to be released in Fall 2026.
This devotional will be a meaningful resource for
our LCMS chaplains, service members, and their
families. The funds collected will help cover the
cost of printing and distributing the devotional to
those on our Ministry-by-Mail list. Our goal for this
offering is \$2,500. Our generosity will help bring
the comfort of God's Word to those who serve.



The Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 30 at 11:15 am

Decorate the Church



Upcoming Sunday School Christmas Program practice



PROGRAM PRACTICE

In addition to practicing during the
Sunday School hour, extra practices
will be scheduled. Stay tuned for
more details!

*December 13 (all children) 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

The children's Christmas program titled "To Us a Child
Is Born" will be presented Sunday, December 14 at
9:00 a.m. during our normal Sunday worship service.
A brunch with follow in the Fellowship Hall.



CROSSROADS ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

Clean, gently used or new coats of all sizes
Children & teen coats are especially needed!
Clean, good condition BOOTS, SNOW PANTS, HATS, and GLOVES for kids are also welcome

DROP-OFF
October 27-31
From 9-6 daily at Crossroads, main front door

PICK UP
November 3-5
from 3-6:30 pm at Crossroads, main front door

*For any person in need
ONE COAT/ONE STOP PER PERSON,
EACH PERSON MUST BE PRESENT
unless we have adequate arrangements with a trusted representative*

Crossroads of Crawford County
139 N 7th Street, Denison, IA



Redeeming Grace Retreat

Forgiveness & Peace After Abortion

Nov 13-16, 2025
Wildwood Hills Ranch, St. Charles, IA

LEARN MORE word-of-hope.org/rgr

RETREAT PARTNERS





Have you or someone you love experienced abortion and now seek healing, peace or forgiveness? Redeeming Grace is a confidential retreat for women who have experienced abortion at any point in their lives. This small-group, Christ-centered experience offers emotional and spiritual renewal through reflection, fellowship, and activities that draw participants gently toward the hope found only in Jesus. The retreat takes place Nov. 13-16, at Wildwood Hills Ranch in St. Charles, Iowa. The cost is only \$75, with generous financial assistance available. Learn more at word-of-hope.org/rgr.

You're invited to SESSION 2 OF SUPPORT ON THE ROCKS

Sit down for some straight talk about aging — served with a twist. Pull up a chair, pour yourself something strong (or soothing), and join us for real conversations about aging, caregiving, and planning ahead.

Session 2: The Coverage Cocktail, Mixing the Right Insurance for Aging Well **November 6, 2025 | 5:00 PM**

 Decode Medicare, long-term care, and what's worth the premium. Get tips from experts during Medicare's open enrollment season and learn how to guide loved ones through the options.

 **Speakers:** Connie Riesselman, SHIIP Counselor and Tina Thompson, Eventide Campus Business Office Manager

Each session will take place at Gracewell, located at 114 South 20th Street in Denison. The series is free and open to the community. Registration is appreciated but not required. Please call Morgan Saunders at Gracewell, (712) 263-3114, to learn more or register for a program(s)!



Medicare Part D Check-Up Choosing a Plan for 2026

Doing a Medicare Part D check-up is just as important as a yearly check-up with your doctor. Plans can change from year to year so don't assume the plan you're happy with this year will necessarily be the best one for you in 2026.

Schedule your Part D check-up for October 15 through December 7, 2025. During this period you can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug (Part D) plan if you missed the enrolling earlier this year. If you already have a Part D plan you can choose to enroll in a different plan for 2026.

Take a close look at the premium, your cost each time you fill a prescription and the drugs covered by each plan (called the "formulary"). The State of Iowa's Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) found that 80% of the people for whom they did Part D comparisons last year, saved money by changing plans. Plans can change from year to year so don't assume the plan you're happy with this year will necessarily be the best one for you in 2026. One Iowan compared plans last fall and by changing to a different plan for 2025 saved \$200.

The best tool to compare the plans offered for 2026 is the Medicare web site, www.medicare.gov. This site allows you to enter your prescriptions and pharmacy and get a comparison of the plans based on total annual cost (plus other factors). If you don't have access to a computer you might ask a family member to help, visit your local library or call SHIIP. SHIIP is a service of the state of Iowa and offers free, confidential and objective assistance. Don't put this important task off until the last minute.

If your current plan will still be the best one for you in 2026, you don't need to do a thing. Your enrollment will continue from this year into next.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Voter's Meeting Minutes October 20, 2025

Thanks to Nancy Bielenberg for preparing the meal, as well as for the work she did on the Octoberfest meal on October 12.

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer

Led by Pastor Mahnken on why we should not be afraid of God. God does not want us to fear Him, but rather wants us to be comforted by Him.

II. Reading/Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Pastor read the minutes from the July Voters' meeting. Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented.

III. Reports of Officers and Boards

A. Elders (Curtis Korner)

One elder is being sought as Kent Bornhoft is rotating off the Board of Elders. Curtis talked about the delinquent members (those who have not communed in 5 years).

B. Trustees (Ryan Ernst)

The radon removal issue has been resolved. Dialogue has been held with Andrew Tuckpointing but no action has been taken. Zach Bielenberg repaired the church flagpole. The custodian service has been good so far. The trustees will continue to fine-tune the expectations they have. If anyone has any concerns, please contact the Trustees. Mayor Beth Winquist reached out to the Trustees and offered a city/church partnership to coordinate efforts if we ever do any repairs to our parking area. Repainting parking lines and handicapped parking spots will be done in the near future.

C. Treasurer/Stewardship/Finance (Leroy Hight)

Immanuel is behind \$3,475.34 for the year. Heating fuel expense has been paid.

D. Education/Youth (Rachel Jacobson)

The service on December 14 will be the Christmas program and there will be a meal following the program. The Board of Ed is working on making and painting tree ornaments again this year. The 5th grade confirmation class is large (11 kids). In addition to the regular teacher, parents will take turns sitting in on the classes to help with memory work and general support for the teacher. On Wednesday, December 17 there will be an advent service followed by a Confirmation Prayer Team supper. Weather permitting, the group will go Christmas caroling that night. A parenting class is going to be offered. At this point, it is in its planning phase. More information will be available as the details begin to take shape.

E. Preschool (No report)

F. Mission/Fellowship (No report)

G. Memorial (Lodean Voss)

Forty new stackable chairs were ordered for the Fireside Room and will be delivered by the end of October.

H. Pastor's Report

Pastor shared an array of statistics of congregational membership. Saturday evening services will shift to winter hours on Saturday, November 15. Worship service time will be 4:00 p.m. each Saturday night.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

A. Approve Use of Advent Suppers and Octoberfest Proceeds

The Council recommends that whoever serves the meal be authorized to direct the use of the proceeds. Motion to support the Council's recommendation was made, seconded, and approved by the voters.

B. Budget for 2026

1. Salaries

- a. **Secretaries:** Proposing Jodi Lorenzen (\$15/hr currently to \$16/hr); Amanda Bruhn (\$15.50/hr currently to \$17/hr). Motion was made, seconded, and approved to move the secretaries to the hourly wages suggested by the Elders.

- b. **Organist:** Proposed increase from \$85/service up to \$90/service. Rachel Jacobson moved, Deb Green seconded, and the congregation supported the Elders' proposal.

The Elders suggested that Ryan Ernst be compensated \$60/service for recording/streaming each worship service. Kent Bornhoft made a motion to accept this recommendation, Deb Green seconded the motion, and the voters unanimously approved this increase from \$59/service to \$60/service.

- c. **Pastors:** The Elders suggest a raise of \$1,500/year for Pastor Mahnken and \$1,000/year for Pastor Kaiser. A motion was made to follow these recommendations, the motion was seconded, and unanimously approved.

Both pastors will be recognized during Pastor Appreciation Month on Sunday, October 26 at the conclusion of the church service.

- d. **Janitor:** No recommendation at this time.

- e. **Groundskeeper:** No recommendation at this time.

- f. **Snow Removal:** No recommendation at this time.

Overall budget went from \$313,513.82 (2024) to \$333,005.85 (2025) pending congregational approval.

2. **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Adopt-A-Student** (Nicholas Vukalovich) (\$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 Portion of our District Hispanic Missionary (Pr. Pedro Lopez)** (\$5,875 annual support)

6. **Approve Recipient of Our Together in Mission Support (African Radio Ministry)** (\$2,000 annual support)

The Council recommends that items 2-6 be funded by Immanuel. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the voters.

C. Ballot

1. **Education: (needs 1)** McKenzie Weiss

2. **Finance: (needs 3)** Kevin Clausen, Jerry Langholdt, Val Teut

3. **Elders: (needs 2)** Ryan Morgan and Alan Weiss

4. **Preschool: (needs 2)** _____, _____

5. **Secretary:** Craig Bogatzke

6. **Vice-President:** Kent Bornhoft

Deb Green moved to accept the ballot as presented, Rachel Mentink seconded the motion, and the voters approved the motion unanimously.

D. Designation of Part of Salaries for Housing/Furnishing Allowance

Pastor Kaiser would like to designate his entire salary towards this allowance. Pastor and Chris Mahnken would like to designate \$40,000 toward this allowance. Kent Bornhoft moved, Rachel Mentink seconded, and the voters approved this allowance.

E. Request Voters for Subsidy from Home Mission Fund to pay registration cost for couples to attend 2026 Weekend to Remember marriage conference. \$350/ couple

Omaha, NE: March 13-15 at Hilton \$159/night per room (room price discounted until February 27)

Des Moines, IA: March 27-29 at Marriott Downtown \$149/night per room (guaranteed until March 13)

Lincoln, NE: May 15-17 at The Cornhusker Hotel \$129/night per room (guaranteed until April 24)

Weekends also available in Minneapolis and Branson.

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

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the voters to support these subsidies.

F. Support for Faith Comes by Hearing

Military BibleSticks are no longer used. Instead a devotional booklet has been designed. Immanuel normally donates \$2,500 towards this endeavor.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to fund this devotional booklet (\$2,500). Door offerings will be taken the first two Sundays in November. Any shortfall will be made up with Home Mission Funds.

G. Immanuel Member to Submit a Vote for President and 1st Vice President (2026)

Rachel Jacobson was unanimously approved to be Immanuel's voting delegate.

VI. Adjourn with Prayer (Pastor Mahnken)

Pastor Mahnken led the Council in prayer.

Moved to adjourn, seconded, approved.

Submitted by Craig Bogatzke, Secretary

Pastor Mahnken's Report Voters' Meeting--October 20, 2025

We began 2025 with 615 baptized members and 515 communicant members on the books.

In 2025 six of our members have died—Lainey Naberhaus, Bernie Petersen, Bonard Christiansen, Duane Jacoby, Ruby Friedrichsen, and Gerald Pedersen.

Six members were added by Holy Baptism.

Two members have been added through Adult Confirmation.

Two communicant members and two baptized members have transferred in.

We have transferred one communicant member to another LCMS congregation.

One member was released by personal request.

Two communicant members have been released because of having moved away and we lack contact information, despite efforts to obtain such information.

Three members (two communicant) have been released by personal request to join non-LCMS Lutheran Congregations.

As of today we have 613 baptized members and 515 communicant members on our roll.

Our average attendance to date is 139.7; a year ago it was 148.7. Attendance has picked up a bit since September.

Our Saturday worship time will change the 3rd weekend of November. On Saturday, November 15 we will begin worshipping at 4 p.m.

We began Jr. Confirmation Classes at the end of August. We have 11-5th graders, taught by Sue Schulz; 5-6th graders, taught by K'Lynn Harm, and I have 10-7th & 8th-graders in my class. Two of the 10 in my class are members of Faith, Deloit.

Our Thursday evening book study group resumed also in September. We are currently reading and discussing *My Peace I Leave You: Christ's Comfort in the Storms of Life*.

Our Sunday a.m. Bible Study is currently working its way through 1 Peter. We encourage everyone to join us for Bible Study.

No one ever asks, but for the sake of accountability I'm going to report that I have taken 13 days of vacation this year, including four Sundays. My compensation provides for 5 weeks of vacation and 5 Sundays. Over the

past quarter—since our July Voters' Meeting, I have averaged 62 hours/week.

Please continue to pray for each other. I know you pray for your family members, but please also pray for your church family members. Pray that we will grow in faith. "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6). There are many sorrows we all carry, but there are also so many joys for which to give thanks to God! Pray especially that we will all be faithful receivers of God's grace and resist the many and varied temptations of our time. The Word of God directs us "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1Thess. 5:16-18). This past Sunday we heard "Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not lose heart" [or not become discouraged, or not give up] (Luke 18:1). Jesus' conclusion: "And will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them? I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:7-8). Jesus urges us to faithfulness, a key ingredient in prayers of the saints (LSB note). Chris and I thank you for your prayers on our behalf.

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Artificial Intelligence And The Need For Real Wisdom

AI is listening and responding everywhere. Is that exciting or terrifying? Will AI help humans flourish or take over the world? It is good or evil? How should Christians think about AI? In order to chart a thoughtful and wise path forward, we will need to establish a framework in order to respond to the multi-faceted realities of AI. An excellent resource has been provided by Lutheran Family Service:

Artificial Intelligence and the Need for Real Wisdom, parts 1 & 2 written by Pastor Jonathan and Rebecca Connor of Zion Lutheran Church in Manning. You can access these articles online at:
<https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/2025/09/ai-wisdom-part1/>
<https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/2025/10/ai-wisdom-part2/>

~ **THE LWML INVITES**
ALL LADIES ~



“Grace Upon Grace” was Pastor’s Bible Study for our last LWML meeting, and reminds us how much we have to be grateful for in this Thanksgiving season and every-day.

After bills were paid, we show a profit of \$6,328.03 from the Calf Show Dinner. We will be discussing the best ways to use these funds for the benefit of Immanuel.

Fall projects and events are behind us, so we are going to start organizing plans for the coming year. New LWML booklets will soon be done.

We would like to thank all of you that continue to support our Mites for Missions.

~Submitted by Donna Harm, Secretary

A Prayer for Our Veterans

Oh God, Our Heavenly Father,
You have blessed us with
brave men and women
who are willing to defend our freedom.
May Your protection and grace
surround them each day.
Let Your healing hand be upon those
who suffer wounds and injuries.
May those who have made the
ultimate sacrifice rest forever in
Your Holy Presence.
Comfort the families who mourn
and are left to remember
the precious lives of their loved ones.
Help us to honor and support them.
Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made
on behalf of the American people by our
sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers,
fathers, and friends.
Amen

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



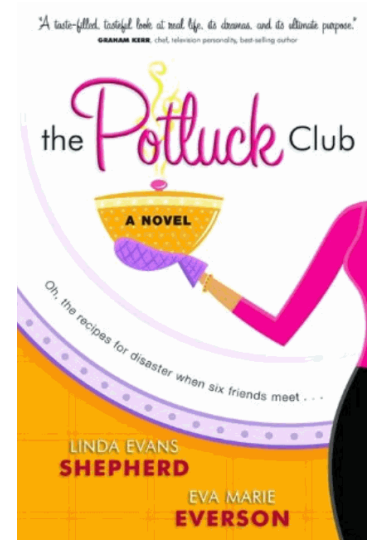
The Potluck Club

What comes to mind when you think “Potluck”? Oh goody what a variety or not again. A very entertaining novel called “The Potluck Club” by Linda E. Shepherd and Eva M. Everson is a joy to read from the first page to the last.

It all started 20 years ago when 2 friends got together with a pot of coffee, some coffee-cake and their Bibles to start praying for anyone they could name or an issue that needed their attention. This all takes place in Summit View, Colorado. Over the years their membership grew to six but was open to ladies who had grown up there and went to school there. Evangeline & Ruth Ann were the first two very close friends. Before too long there were 4 members and then 6. They would bring their grandmothers favorite recipes but sometimes their misinformed prayers bring down a church.

Each one of these members develops a problem that they try to solve or a secret that they don’t want the world to know. Check this book out and enjoy the read.

—Submitted by Carol Neddermeyer





Preschool News

As I am sitting down to type up this month's newsletter, the word that keeps coming to my mind is "transitions." It's interesting that for some people, transitions are exciting. They can't wait to jump into the next thing and the process of shifting over to something different is approached through a well-thought-out lens. However, there are those who resist change. They see a new season coming and it throws them completely off. We see this every year at preschool. There are students who can engage beautifully in an activity, once they get there. Yet, it quickly becomes evident that you may want a strategy in place to assist them in getting from Point A to Point B. I found an amazing new game last year called, Walk Like a Chicken. The game consists of pictures of animals or objects which move. I will flip a card over when we're leaving the Jesus rug and the children must walk to the table in accordance with the picture. They love it! We see less behaviors, distractions, and/or anxiety. The children become focused on what they're to be doing and miss the whole process of what they're leaving.

I think this concept is more present in my mind today because the past week has been one of grief for our family. My step-mother went to be with Jesus last week. It is an

entirely new experience to watch your parent grieve. Even if there had been weeks of warning, I don't know that it would fully prepare one for the loss. Yet, just as it assists the children to have something to focus on while they transition, the knowledge and hope of focusing on the love of Jesus in the process makes the transition easier. No, it won't be easy for my father. Yet, it will be easier than if he were grieving without hope.

While it seems like an adult concept, the children who attend Immanuel are learning that heaven is a beautiful place. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. They have an incredible level of faith and trust knowing Jesus is real and He can be trusted. It is a privilege to be part of sowing seeds into their foundation of faith. I rejoice that the church sees the value of children and invests in their journey of faith. It is because you value your walk with Jesus that they are able to have the opportunity to develop a walk of their own.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, November will be upon us. It will be a season of embracing a spirit of gratitude. I pray that you embrace the family with which God has blessed you. May you spend the month rejoicing that we have a God who loves us, provides for us, and pours out His blessing each and every day. May you experience His peace this month in new ways and sit at His feet enjoying just being in the presence of our Savior.

Blessings to 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.

Ethiopia Kingdom Growth in September:

- ♦ New Converts: 104 ♦ Listening Groups: 5
- ♦ Baptized: 10 ♦ Confirmed: 5
- ♦ Students in Confirmation Classes: 589

Growing in Number and in God's Word

Rev. Melikamu visited the Hafumer Worship Center located in the Jinka Region, where he facilitated a two-day training for 24 church leaders and evangelists. During this time five children were baptized. The church is experiencing an influx of new converts, thanks to the heightened efforts of its members evangelism. The congregation is shifting away from traditional customs and beliefs, and instead, they are growing deeper in their understanding of the Word of God.

A man recently shared a testimony about his mother, who struggled with an illness for years and was tormented by an evil spirit, causing anxiety for the family. After a family dinner, they turned into the ARM Radio program during prayer time. This time, the spirit was cast out in Jesus' Name! Following that night, their mother experienced healing; she began to eat, sleep, and move peacefully. All glory to God for the healing and peace in their family.

God's Mercy through the Radio Program

A mobile medical clinic was held where 32 medical professionals and seven medical doctors joined forces with WCEM to provide the following services to the Sheger Prison:

- ♦ Basic medical services to 200 inmates and 50 prison guards including medications
- ♦ Eyeglasses for 100 visually impaired people
- ♦ Personal Gift Packages (feminine hygiene, blankets, water)

West Africa Kingdom Growth in September:

- ♦ New Members: 10 ♦ Listening Groups: 12
- ♦ Baptized: 12 ♦ Visitations: 51
- ♦ Calls: 107 ♦ Preaching Points: 12

Republic of Guinea

(Reported by President Julien F. Kotembedouno, Evangelical Lutheran Church Guinea)

"I am Susan Simbiano from Cenezou village. I am very thankful to God to raise my life for His glory through baptism. I was away from the grace of God, but through the ARM program, I am risen by the Holy Spirit and through the water. I am happy to serve God with all my strength and my senses. I am praying to God to make use of my life for His work. And I am well pleased with God through Christ my Saviour."

Your partners in the harvest.

Missionary Linda Kurtz
John and Kathy Duitsman

!AMIGOS EN CRISTO and GRACIA!

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

Warmest greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray the mercy and grace of God to overflow in your life.

The Bible teaches us things we can expect to come our way, and one of them is the times we are living in right now. 2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come. Timothy and believers today are warned, with "BUT KNOW THIS," which means we are to know what we are living in and facing. Read on in that passage to see what kinds of things Paul was referring to—it's exactly what we are seeing in our society today!

Remember, when the dark gets darker, the light gets lighter! Jesus is the light of the world, and He is in His believers reflecting His light through us! That is a WOW to me! Christians are in the world but not of the world. Let us remind one another of that.

This month we are again going out and seeking people that want to hear the word of God. We are doing this by offering the English classes around the IDW. We ask that the Lord allows us to meet new people and not only help them by teaching them English, but for them to hear the word of God that we share through this program so that they can join our congregation at any of our sites.

Our schedule continues to be the same for praise, prayer, Bible study and for the Sunday worship services.

We started ESL classes in Deloit. We meet every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We are planning to join them on their rummage sale on October 18, so that we have yet another chance at inviting that community to our classes.

Prayer Requests:

- ✚ Our current ministries at Grace and St. John-Storm Lake, St. Paul-Carroll, St. Paul-Hartley and Amigos en Cristo-Denison, Faith in Early and Faith in Deloit.
- ✚ Cesar, a friend at our church with a person challenge.
- ✚ Andrea, a young girl facing tough challenges in her life.
- ✚ For me that the Lord continues to bless me and give me what I need to continue His work.

Bendiciones,
Pastor Lopez



Immanuel members Chris Mahnken and Rachel Mentink help teach the newly formed ESL classes at Faith in Deloit.

MISSION CENTRAL

LCMS Mission Advancement
40718 County Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

A wonderful group of people gathered at Mission Central on September 20 for the LWML Fall Rally of 2025! We had two wonderful missionaries, Rev. James Neuendorf from Puerto Rico and Deaconess Sandra Rhein from Taiwan and other countries in Asia. It was indeed a very, very special day, with the wonderful LWML members from all over Iowa District West.



On Thursday, October 23, a group from the area met at Mission Central for fall cleaning of items in the Museum. Thank you to all of those that helped!



Mark your calendars for
Giving Tuesday—December 2, 2025—
and make your year-end
Annual Fund gift to Camp Okoboji.

We are excited to have a special \$10,000 total match opportunity. More details to come!

Needs/Wants List for Camp Okoboji:

- Outdoor Rocking Chairs
- 3 office chair mats
- Gas grills
- Laundry soap, bleach and hand soap
- Queen size mattress pads
- New commercial grade vacuums, coffee pots, toasters and crock pots
- Thrivent Action Team cards (contact Kellie Jones for potential projects; 712-337-3325)



Lutheran Bible
Translators

Consulting for Christ

Enabling Bible Translation in Africa

KONO TRIP

Lots of memories and emotions on this trip! This was my first trip to Kono since the dedication of the New Testament in 2008. Kono was the language that Susan and I started working with in 1986. After studying the language and culture, we helped to develop a writing system for Kono, and then helped to organize the translation team to translate the New Testament. In spite of many interruptions due to war, the translation was finished in 2006.

As we travelled into the Kono area, many locations and buildings brought back old memories of when we lived there before the war. There has been a lot of building and rebuilding since that time. And the people have changed. All of the translators that I worked with on the New Testament have passed away, but I did get to see two old friends from the Lutheran church.

There are now 4 members of the Kono translation team—Rev. Samuel Aiah Gbanyah, Rev. Daniel Komba Yarjah, Rev. Sahr Victor Musa, and Rev. Tamba David Gborie. Revs. Gbanyah and Yarjah have been with the team longer and have more experience while Revs. Musa and Gborie are relatively new additions.

The team shared that the Kono New Testament is being used by many people in the rural areas of Kono. And several church bodies are wanting to better train their pastors in reading Kono so that they can use the New Testament in their ministry. Very encouraging news!

I was surprised at how much Kono I still remember. I was even able to help the team with some of their spelling. We are in the process of planning future checking sessions with the team that will be done online.

Please pray for the Kono team as they work on their translation, especially for the health of Rev. Yarjah.

TRANSLATING PROVERBS

My time working with the Mende team went well, and we were able to finish more than half of the book of Proverbs. As we worked, I noticed some challenges that would be common to many other translations.

One example: **It is better to be of a lowly spirit among the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.** (Proverbs 16:19) In this proverb, the meaning of “among the poor” is ambiguous. Does it mean that the person is among them, but not one of them? Or does it mean that the person is poor? The translation first took it as, “Don’t act proud when you are around poor people.” The better meaning here is that the person is also poor. The translation was adjusted to make this clear: “It is better to be humble and poor...”



Dr. Jim and Susan Kaiser
Serving Ethiopia and Sierra Leone

Give at LBT.org/Kaiser
or by mail:

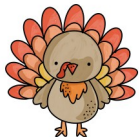
Lutheran Bible Translators
PO Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020-0789
Designate: Kaiser Ministry



NOVEMBER 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	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 p.m.—5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m.			December <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></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</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				1 All Saints' Day	
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2 All Saints' Sunday Daylight Saving Time Ends 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC 	3 Preschool	4 Election Day Preschool 6 a.m.—8 p.m. Voting in Fellowship Hall 	5 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	6 Preschool 1:30 p.m. LWML 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	7 5 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	8 3 p.m. Fredericks-Freese Wedding 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										
9 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 1:00 p.m. Schleswig Sharks 4-H	10 Preschool	11 Veterans Day Preschool 8 a.m. Pastors' Conf. @ Amigos 10 a.m. Veteran's Day Program at School 	12 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	13 Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	14	15  4 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										
16 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC	17 No Preschool 	18 Preschool 5:30 p.m. Board of Ed Meeting Messenger Deadline for Dec/Jan issue	19 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	20 Preschool 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	21	22 4 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										
23 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC ===== 30 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 11:15 a.m. Hanging of the Greens	24 Preschool	25 Preschool	26 6:30 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Newsletter Assem. No Preschool No Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service w/HC	27  	28	29 4 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
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Saturday Worship at 5 p.m. w/HC

Saturday Worship moves to 4 p.m. w/HC beginning on Nov. 15

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.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, Jodi Lorenzen and Valerie Teut

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."***