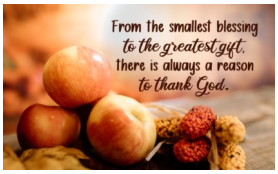
THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



NOVEMBER 2026
Volume 41, Issue 3

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

From Your Pastor

We are coming to the end of the Church Year—November 29 will be the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a New Year! Yes, the church tells time differently that the world tells time. The Church Year centers on the comings of our Savior—His first coming in His birth in Bethlehem, and His second coming to take us home to heaven. That second coming is the focus of our worship November 8, 15, and 22.

We are graced and guided to always be faithfully prepared and joyfully anticipating the return of Jesus. We have no fear of His return to judge the living and the dead, for He has given us faith to receive His forgiveness. He keeps us ready.

Someone has described our joyful anticipation of our Lord's return like getting ready at Thanksgiving or Christmas for a visit from Grandma and Grandpa. It may not be much of a joyful anticipation for many who read this, as they have their family living close to them. They see each other frequently. But for some, the visits are rare because of distance. For them the joyful anticipation is met with an even more joyful realization when the kids open the door and shout, "Grandma and Grandpa are here!"

I never had that joyful anticipation.

Both my Grandmas died before I was born; both my Grandpas died before I was six-years-old. I have the joyful anticipation of meeting them when Jesus returns—well, I'll get to them eventually. The joy of meeting our Jesus face-to-face will surely dominate, and I will be lost in "wonder, love, and praise!" as the hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* declares.

But as I thought again about my grandparents, and especially my grandmas whom I never met, I was filled with a thankful wonder and awe at the goodness of God in my life. For surely, while I never met them, they greatly influenced my life through their influence of their children—my mother and father. I have been blessed by an amazing, Godly, heritage!

I am thankful that I have always known of our great and holy, our all-powerful and all-wise God, who has given me life and supported my life. I have never known of a time when I did not know that this God loves me and gave His Son to live and suffer and die to be my Savior. Ever since I was baptized at the age of 10 days I have believed that on the third day He rose again from the dead, and that in my Baptism I was joined to His indestructible life! I am thankful that I was raised in a home where I knew Jesus, forgiving grace, love, care, and kindness.

I am thankful that God has blessed my life with opportunities and experiences that would have far surpassed my grandparents' wildest imaginations! I am thankful for all I learned in my years on the farm and how it shaped me and my character for the life God has given. I am thankful for my teachers, my education, and God-given opportunities to use the gifts He has given me—my cup runneth over! I am thankful that He brought my wife and daughters into my life, that I have known more joy and fullness through them and with them. I am humbled and thankful that the members of Immanuel have received us and joined with us in our Lord's service for 30 years (this Nov. 17th).

Now I pray that we will all continue to be blessed by the Holy Spirit's working "That Christ may dwell in [our] hearts through faith—that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that [we] may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:18-19, altered).

Then, we will be always ready and joyfully anticipating the return of our Lord! "Amen! Come Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all" (Revelation 22:20-21).

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

Pastor Mahnken



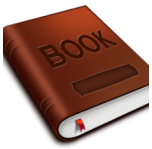
November 3.....Cody Johnson
November 4.....Arrick Clausen
James Claussen
Marissa Hatcher
Sara Lickteig
Dale Petersen
Phyllis Schmidt
November 5.....Coleen Bruhn
November 7.....Janice Hennings
November 8.....Alexa Lenhart
Jett Lundell
Cody Malone
Cheri Martinson
November 9.....Jersey Bral
Finnley Bremser
Graham Bremser
Brenna Bubke
November 10.....Scott Korner
November 11.....Jaxson Green
Ty Jacobson
Loren Lee
Lisa Schroeder
Sandra Voss
November 13.....Journey Bral
November 15.....Peggy Aldag
November 16.....Craig Bogatzke
Bailey Ellerbeck
Raymond Jepsen
Hannah Ogren
Lyndsy Peters
November 17.....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
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
Austin & Jordyn Freese .....November 8, 2025
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.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠



From the Church Record Book

Deaths: *"I am the Resurrection..."*

Jim Hill, age 65, died September 26, 2026, and was buried October 1, 2026 in Morgan Cemetery, Schleswig, Iowa.

Terry Kline, age 76, died October 1, 2026, and was buried October 6, 2026 in Morgan Cemetery, Schleswig, Iowa.

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

Ryan Boettger, received by transfer from Zion, Denison, Iowa on September 22, 2026.

Channing, Lisa and Cody Gray, received by transfer from Faith, Deloit, Iowa on September 22, 2026.

Gloria Gray, received by transfer from Faith, Deloit, Iowa on September 22, 2026.

Danette, Jensen and Isabel Miller, received by transfer on September 22, 2026.

Carolyn Lorenzen, received by transfer from Faith, Deloit, Iowa on September 22, 2026.

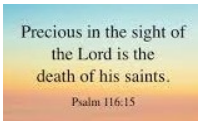
Deborah Goedhart, received by affirmation of faith on September 23, 2026.

Ben, Ashley, Nathan, Elliot and Jaxson Green, received by transfer from Faith, Deloit, Iowa on September 30, 2026.

Haleigh Galloway, received by transfer from Faith, Deloit, Iowa on October 8, 2026.

David and Cindy Gray, received by transfer from Faith, Deloit, Iowa on October 8, 2026.

Darin, Toni, Grace and Hope Specketer, received by adult confirmation on October 11, 2026.



All Saints' Day

We will be observing Sunday, November 1 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 October 31 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 7.

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 25 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 756 sandwiches in less than 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 & 8, 2026

We will receive a door offering the weekends of November 1 and November 8 in support of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. This year's door offering will help provide ministry resources for our LCMS chaplains, including devotionals, Small Catechisms, and other materials they can share with service members and their families. Our gifts help make this important ministry possible. 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 29 at 11:15 am



Upcoming Sunday School Christmas Program practice



We will begin practicing for our Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, November 15. Please make sure your kids are coming to Sunday School each week!

In addition to practicing during the Sunday School hour, extra practices will be scheduled in December. Stay tuned for more details on those dates/times.

The Christmas program titled "The Everlasting Light" will be presented Sunday, December 13 at 9:00 a.m. during our normal Sunday worship service. A meal will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

~ THE LWML INVITES ALL LADIES ~

The Denison and Mapleton Zone Pastors met at Immanuel on October 13th for the Pastors' Conference. They were served coffee and rolls prior to the meeting. At noon, LWML provided a ham dinner prepared by Becky and Nancy.

We have a planning committee formed for the December 6th dinner to observe Pastor Mahnken's 30 years of service at Immanuel. We hope many will be able to attend as this will also serve as a time to visit with Pastor and Chris and thank them for their time here as they plan for their retirement at the end of the year.

We held election of officers at the October meeting. Nancy Bielenberg was elected President and Cathy Namanny as Secretary. They will take office at the beginning of 2027.

October 11th was LWML Sunday. We take that opportunity to say "Thank You" to the many that generously help us throughout the year. We would not be able to do it without you.

~Submitted by Donna Harm, Secretary



From Your library . . .

"Have we got a book for you!"



Against the Wind

Bodie & Brock Thoene are the authors of many books. This one in particular is one from the Zion Diaries.

This is the last will and testament of Elisa Lindheim Murphy, 27 years old and born in Berlin, Germany. She is a Jewish refugee that escaped Germany in 1937.

She is married to an American journalist John Murphy in London. She is the foster mother of twins, adopted sons Charles & Louis Kronenberger, age 8 and also the mother of a baby girl Katie, 17 months, who are safe in America now with her husband's parents.

Elisa is a concert violinist, not a writer, Music is her first language.

Ten days ago a German U-boat attacked the S.S. Newcastle as they were on their way to America. She is in lifeboat number 7 in the midst of the North Atlantic among survivors brave men, women and children. As each day goes by they lose more of their people to death. Some have given up hope and others pray God will give them a second chance.

She is in charge of a number of children who have been entrusted to her care. Their goal is to reach America where they will be safe and their parents can join them. This is an amazing story of survival against Hilter's Nazi Germany.

—Submitted by Carol Neddermeyer

Mark your calendars for
Giving Tuesday—December 1, 2026—
and make your year-end
Annual Fund gift to Camp Okoboji.

We have been honored with a $10,000 match donation in an effort to support Camp Okoboji's ministry to make and build up disciples of Christ.

Donations made online or postmarked on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2026 will be matched $1 for every $2 raised up to $10,000.

For more information visit:
https://www.campokoboji.org/giving-tuesday/

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Voter's Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2026

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer
Led by Pastor Mahnken with a textual basis from Romans 15.

II. Reading/Approval of Minutes and Agenda
The July Voters' meeting minutes were shared as was the agenda for the current meeting. Both were approved as presented.

III. Reports of Officers and Boards

A. Elders (Curtis Korner)
Pastor Wade of Zion has agreed to serve as Immanuel's vacancy Pastor. Many logistics and details will need to be ironed out. Pastor Trunkhill of Our Savior will help Immanuel navigate through the call process, which will begin in 2027.

B. Trustees (Ryan Ernst)
The preschool door was repaired. Another one of the church doors needs attention as well. Justin Johannsen has put a bid in on removing/trimming trees at the parsonage and around the church property. The bid was for $5,000. Trees will be planted to replace the ones scheduled to be removed as a donation by Justin. New furnace filters were installed. The Narthex furnace is not operating at full capacity. Options include finding used replacement coils or replacing the entire unit as new coils are not available. Preschool is weighing options for making the education wing more secure. Bids are being sought for entry and surveillance systems.

C. Treasurer/Stewardship/Finance (Larry Abbe)
Currently $6,534.87 behind for the year. Heating fuel for the winter has been purchased. Church/property insurance coverages were shared. Church=$4.5 million; Church contents=$419,000; Parsonage=$427,000; Garage=$59,000. The total premiums for these coverages were right at $22,000.

D. **Education/Youth (Rachel Jacobson)**
Rally Day was held in September. The Christmas program will be held on the Sunday service on December 13. Youth will again assist with Mercy Meals in Sioux City. The Confirmation Prayer Team will remain. Currently there are 21 students in confirmation (total in all levels). Nancy Bielenberg will teach confirmation class upon Pastor Mahnken's departure.

E. Preschool (Nancy Bielenberg)
Currently there are 15 afternoon pupils and 12 morning pupils. The food truck fundraiser was successful raising over $400. On November 1, another food truck fundraiser will be held. It will be Thai food. Security concerns have created a need for cameras and controlled entry systems.

F. Mission/Fellowship (Judy Gierstorf)
Details are being worked out for the Harvest Dinner on November 8. It will be a turkey dinner with sides. Judy appealed for congregational support with contributions of desserts and various work details. Proceeds will be used to fund various mission projects.

G. **Memorial (Val Teut)**
Projects on the horizon include remodeling of the parsonage and purchasing new tables for the Fireside Room. Her hope is to fund these projects in part by closing out several memorial accounts.

H. Pastor's Report
Pastor Mahnken shared an inspirational verse about discernment and wisdom (Proverbs 1:32). It is dubbed "wisdom literature." Pastor shared various congregational/membership statistics.

IV. Old Business

A. New Constitution and Bylaws
A proposed change to Bylaw 3.3, which addresses terms of office for officers and board members, to strike the word, "~~may serve no more than two consecutive terms~~" and replace with the words "may serve unlimited terms upon their consent." Bylaw 3.3 would then read, "All officers and board members shall serve for a term of three years. They may serve unlimited terms upon their consent."

Kent Bornhoft moved to approve the new constitution with the amendment to Bylaw 3.3. Amanda Bruhn seconded the motion. By paper ballot, the Voters passed the motion 27-10.

B. Policy Manual
The Council approved authorized spending of up to $5,000 by the trustees without approval by the Voters. The old limit was $1,000. Rachel Mentink moves to approve the new policy manual with the amended change in spending limit. Ryan Ernst seconded the motion. The Voters unanimously approved the motion.

V. New Business

A. Approve Use of Advent Suppers and Harvest Dinner Proceeds
It was moved by Leroy Hight, seconded by Curtis Korner and approved unanimously by the Voters to allow the Mission Board to direct the proceeds of these events.

B. Budget for 2027

1.Salaries

a. **Secretaries:** The Elders propose that Amanda Bruhn go from $17/hr. to $19/hr. Also, it was proposed to move Jodi Lorenzen from $16/hr. to $18/hr. Sandy Bubke made a motion to approve these increases. Dick Fredericks seconded the motion, and the Voters unanimously approved these raises.

b. **Organist:** Proposed to leave the rate at $90/service*

c. **Videographer:** Proposed to leave the rate at $60/service*
Don Wunschel moved, Joann Riessen seconded and Voters agreed to freeze the wages of the organist and videographer.

d. **Pastors:** A vacancy Pastor's wages are budgeted at a rate of $60,000.

e. **Janitor:** No change in cost of services provided at this time.

f. **Groundskeeper:** No action taken at this time.

g. **Snow Removal:** No action taken at this time.

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 by Leroy Hight, seconded by Rachel Mentink, and the Voters unanimously approved the funding of items 2-6.

C. Ballot

1. **Education (needs 2):** Tracy Beeck, Emily Schroeder
2. **Finance (needs 1):** Kathy Weiss
3. **Elders (needs 1):** #
4. **Secretary:** Craig Bogatzke
5. **President:** #
6. **Trustees (needs 2):** Ryan Ernst, Caleb Schroeder

These items are still unfilled until the next reading and approval of the amended constitution and bylaws, specifically 3.3.
A motion to accept the ballot was made by Rachel Jacobson, seconded by Lodean Voss, and unanimously approved by the Voters.

D. Request Voters for Subsidy from Home Mission Fund to pay registration cost for couples to attend 2027 *Weekend to Remember* marriage conference.
Omaha, NE: March 12-14 at Hilton $164/night per room (room price discounted until February 26)
Des Moines, IA: April 9-11 at Marriott Downtown $154/night per room (guaranteed until March 26)
Lincoln, NE: May 14-16 at The Cornhusker Hotel $139/night per room (guaranteed until April 23)
Weekends also available in Minneapolis and Branson.
https://www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember#where

A motion was made by Rachel Mentink to approve this funding. Larry Abbe seconded the motion and the Voters unanimously approved the motion.

VI. Adjourn with Prayer
Pastor Mahnken led the Voters in prayer.
Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Craig Bogatzke, Secretary



Pastor Mahnken's Report Voters' Meeting—October 19, 2026

We began 2026 with 620 baptized members and 512 communicant members on the books.

In 2026 ten of those on our membership roll have died—Shannon Henningsen, Janet Beeck, Jay Fink, Lillie Petersen, Gene Mitchell, Roger Walde, Dane Treiber, Delores Schultz, Jim Hill, and Terry Kline. We also had the funeral for Lou Goedhart, the son-in-law of Coleen Fredericks and husband of Deb, who has just recently become a member of Immanuel again.

Our numbers decline through death, transfer, request for release, and by prolonged inactivity leading to self-exclusion. We add members by Holy Baptism, transfer, Adult Confirmation, and Affirmation of Faith. We have added a significant number due to the closure of Faith Lutheran in Deloit, as their members now seek a new church home.

In 2026 eight members (seven children and one adult) have been added by Holy Baptism. 14 communicant members and one baptized member have transferred in from other LCMS congregations (12 at the closing of Faith Lutheran in Deloit), two communicant members added by Affirmation of Faith, three communicant members added by Adult Confirmation (and two baptized children of their parents).

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 641 Baptized members and 526 Communicant members on our roll.

Our average weekend worship attendance to date is 144.4; the total average for last year was 140.5.

Our Saturday worship time will change the first Saturday of November. On Saturday, November 7 we will begin worshiping at 4 p.m.

We will soon be having a new member welcome. Please join us for that reception which will take place following worship on a Sunday in the later part of November.

The Final Service of Faith Lutheran Church in Deloit will be Sunday, November 1 at 2 p.m. A meal will follow the service. Please consider attending this service. It is a very sad day when a church officially closes. The members and former members need our support just as much as when a family member dies.

Immanuel's vacancy pastor will be Pastor Jeffrey Wade, who serves Zion in Denison. What does a vacancy pastor do? He will be your pastor! He will do his best to make sure the pastoral responsibilities of Immanuel are covered. Of course, his time will be limited, but please do keep him informed of all your pastoral needs. Let him know when you or a loved one enters a hospital or care facility, when babies are born so baptisms can be scheduled, when engagements occur so weddings can be planned. Our Elders will be meeting with Pr. Wade soon to plan worship time and arranging for Bible Study.

At our last Voters' Meeting you approved providing funding for Jonathan Schulz—Pr. Steve and Sue Schulz' son who is studying for the pastoral ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) in Ft. Wayne, IN. I want to make sure everyone knows they have another son — Jacob who has just begun his studies at CTS—so if you provide funding in the future, please remember both! Jacob and his wife Olivia also just became first-time parents, being blessed with a daughter—Maria—as was reported in our October Messenger.

Nancy Bielenberg will be taking over as the teacher of our 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class after the New Year. Please keep Nancy in your prayers as she takes on this added responsibility. We are thankful for her willingness.

I want everyone to know that Immanuel has been blessed with two excellent office secretaries, Amanda Bruhn and Jodi Lorenzen. They both are very accomplished and have a vast knowledge of how things work here at Immanuel. They both also have an amazing work capacity. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them; they are a lot of fun! They will carry a bigger load as Immanuel heads into vacancy and they will do it well. Please keep them in your prayers and support them.

Finally, a Bible passage God has laid on my heart recently in all kinds of situations is Proverbs 1:32-33. Wisdom is personified—that is God is speaking, and He says, "The simple are killed by their turning away and the complacency of fools destroys them; but whoever listens to Me will dwell secure and will be at east, without dread of disaster."



Preschool News

Today, the children in our morning class got to decorate pumpkins. They were pushing colored pins into sequins and attaching beautiful jewels. The pumpkins turned out so cute! As the children were leaving, one of the little boys handed his pumpkin (in a bag) to another student. She gladly took it. I asked him, "Don't you want to keep your pumpkin and take it home?" He responded, "No, I want to show Jesus' love and give it to her."

I mean, honestly! As much as I wanted him to get to keep his pumpkin he'd worked so hard to create, there was no way I was going to discourage giving. He came up with that so easily. It brought me tremendous joy to see how Jesus is becoming a part of his nature. Scripture says we receive a new nature when Christ lives inside us. The old has gone and the new has come. What a blessing to watch it flow from a child and see his desire to make his friend happy.

We had another situation earlier in the month in which a child was in the process of giving his friend a "whop" as I walked into the bathroom. Yep, caught in the act. Smile. As he headed for the Thinking Chair to reflect upon his decision, one of the other students asked, "What did he do." Another student, who didn't miss a beat, responded by saying, "He made a bad choice. Just like Jonah did. Jonah made a bad choice too." Now the child in the Thinking Chair didn't appreciate being compared to Jonah, but I can tell you I was over the moon. We had studied Jonah two weeks prior. The fact that a child was connecting a lesson they had learned from Scripture to a real life situation brought me great joy! The Spirit will bring transformation. We only need to provide opportunities for the children to learn.

This leads me to my "thank you." You have (and continue) to support the preschool here at Immanuel with such gracious hearts. Your willingness to pour into the children and future generations' faith is an eternal gift you are giving to many. You are sharing Christ with them. There are a lot of opportunities as we grow to be distracted by life and all the things it can offer. However, as the Word begins to take root, we pray that these children will choose the best God has for them. Love.

We will have completed Parent-Teacher conferences by the time you read this letter. The children have been busy learning songs for their Christmas program (only 5 weeks away). And we will soon be diving into Thanksgiving lessons. We are blessed with a stronger enrollment this year than last and rejoice over God's continued provision of students and families who desire to offer their children a faith-based program. Also, thank you so much for supporting the preschool fundraisers. The outpouring of provision from the community and grants received this year has just been awe-inspiring. God just keeps blessing us. We are so very grateful.

May you enjoy your harvest season and Thanksgiving. Please keep the preschool in your prayers.

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.

Ethiopia Kingdom Growth in September:

- New Converts: 107
- Listening Groups: 5
- Baptized: 20
- Confirmed: 20
- Students in Confirmation Classes: 871

Walking in the Footsteps of Paul

by Rev. Mengistu, Executive Director of Worship Christ Evangelism Ministry (WCEM)

This past month, the Lord called our prison ministry outreach to Gidole, a town 550 KM from Addis Ababa. The journey is long and grueling, culminating in a final 20-to-30 km stretch of punishingly rough roads.

Yet, the structural obstacles pale in comparison to the active dangers surrounding the route. The region is currently gripped by heavy tension and ongoing conflicts between local communities and government forces. Armed confrontations can erupt without warning, and stray bullets have tragically injured and killed innocent passengers.

As my driver shared his own deep concerns about the route, I was reminded of the Apostle Paul, who routinely braved perilous roads for the sake of the Gospel. The weight of anxiety was a constant companion on both the journey there and the return home.

Most importantly, the mission was a success. We delivered our planned ministry program and provided local church leaders with the vital strategy needed to build an intentional prison ministry in Gidole.

Please pray for WCEM, the safety of our field leaders, and the souls in Gidole waiting to hear the liberating truth of Jesus Christ.

West Africa Kingdom Growth in September:

- New Members: 17
- Listening Groups: 7
- Calls: 127
- Visitations: 84
- Preaching Points: 2

From Doubt to Devotion

"I once said, there is no God, but when I heard the teaching about God's creation, and I looked around myself, I aw what God created, and said, yes, I believe in the Living God who sent His Son to set us free."

These are the powerful words of Mr. Wesseh, a Liberian listener tuning in from Maryland County. After listening to Rev. Bardue's study on Genesis 1:1, Mr. Wesseh's eyes were opened to God's Word.

Today, his faith is so vibrant that he can't keep it to himself. Every Saturday evening, Mr. Wesseh gathers his family to listen to the program. He even turns up his radio volume so neighbors can hear the teaching! Mr. Wesseh is grateful to every donor making these broadcasts possible. Your generosity is directly funding the tools that spark faith, restore hope, and echo the Gospel across communities.

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

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We give thanks for the many ways God continues to work through this ministry for each person who supports it through prayer, encouragement, and faithful service. As we share these updates, we look ahead with hope and trust, eager to follow wherever the Lord leads us next.

Ministry Updates

- St. Paul, Carroll
  Last month, we changed our regular Bible study that day to a worship service so that we could gather with friends and former ESL students in remembrance of Gibran's mother, who passed away a year ago. Remembering loved ones who have died is an important tradition in Mexican culture. For this service, rather than praying for the dead, we thanked God for the time she was with us and prayed for Gibran and all his siblings, asking the Lord to comfort and strengthen them. Our Saturday evenings of praise, prayer, and Bible study continue to provide meaningful time together, while our monthly fellowship gathers help strengthen our community. Rigo, together with other youth from St. Paul, also attended the District Senior Youth Gathering at Camp Okoboji. He shared that he felt blessed to attend, learn more, and grow in his faith.
- St. John, Storm Lake
  We continue to support the Swaddling Clothes program and help on the second Saturday of each month. This past month, we served more than 70 families and 145 children. Through this outreach, we meet families, make a meaningful difference in the community, and invite them to Spanish Sunday worship at Grace. We are also planning additional in-home Bible studies to make them more accessible to families.
- Holy Trinity, Farnhamville
  Please continue to pray for the congregation of Holy Trinity as we plan as English as a Second Language (ESL) program for Farnhamville and the surrounding area. We pray that this outreach will help us build relationships with Hispanic residents and people from other ethnic communities and welcome them into the life of the church.

Prayer Requests:

- ✞ The Hispanic Ministry of Iowa Dsitrict West and the communities we serve.
- ✞ Fili and Adrian, as they explore opportunities to continue their education-possibly through seminary-and prepare for ongoing service to the Lord; and for Fili's safe return from Mexico after spending two weeks visiting his family.
- ✞ Our volunteers, whose faithful prayers and service encourage and strengthen this ministry. We thank the Lord for each of them.
- ✞ My wife and me, that the Lord would continue to guide, strengthen, and equip us for the work He has entrusted to us.

Bendiciones,
Pastor Lopez



NOVEMBER 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ***All Saints' Day Daylight Saving Time Ends*** 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Preschool Food Truck Fundraiser 2 p.m. Faith Closing Service	**2** Preschool	**3** ***Election Day*** Preschool 6a.m.—8 p.m. Voting in Fellowship Hall 	**4** 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	**5** Preschool 1:30 p.m. LWML	**6**	**7** 4 p.m. Worship w/HC
8 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Harvest Dinner 1 p.m. Schleswig Sharks Meeting	**9** Preschool	**10** Preschool 8 a.m. Pastors' Conf. @ Ida Grove	**11** ***Veterans Day*** 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation 10 a.m. Veteran's Day Program at School 	**12** Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting	**13**	**14** 4 p.m. Worship w/HC
15 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC LCMS Estate Planning Presentation (during bible class)	**16** No Preschool 	**17** Preschool 6 p.m. Board of Ed Meeting *Messenger* Deadline for Dec/Jan issue	**18** 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation 5:30 p.m. Library Board @ Mike's meeting to follow	**19** Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting	**20**	**21** 4 p.m. Worship w/HC
22 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC New member reception	**23** Preschool	**24** Preschool	**25** No Preschool No Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service w/HC	**26**  	**27**	**28** 4 p.m. Worship w/HC
29 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 11:15 a.m. Hanging of the Greens 	**30** Preschool					

Preschool
Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 8 a.m.—3 p.m.
Wed.: 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m.

Confirmation: Wednesday
5th & 6th grade: 3:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m.
7th & 8th grade: 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

December

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		

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:

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."

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Saturday Worship at 5 p.m. w/HC
Saturday Worship moves to 4 p.m. w/HC beginning on Nov. 7
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