

# THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



**OCTOBER 2025**  
Volume 40, Issue 2



## From Your Pastor

Have you heard the story about the farmer and his wife who many years ago were driving home with a team and wagon. As they drove along, the wife was sitting next to her husband complaining how every conversation they had lately seemed to turn into an argument. “I don’t understand,” she said, “why we need to fight so much. I mean, just look how those two horses are able to work together so beautifully. They pull together and work together in perfect harmony. Why can’t we be like that team of horses? Why can’t we pull together like they do? Why can’t we work together without fighting?” Her husband was quiet for a time, and then slowly said, “Well, we probably could—if there were just one tongue between us.”

Our tongues do cause us a lot of trouble, don’t they? James calls the tongue “a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8b). How often have you said something in the heat of anger that you later regretted? But once those words are out, the damage is done, and because we have sinful heart, we often try to defend what we’ve said even though we know we should not have said it. And then what happens? The arguments deepen, and our broken relationships get worse instead of better.

Jesus taught us, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9). Jesus came to be our Peacemaker, not because of anything we have done, but purely out of His divine love and mercy. Jesus paid also for the sins of our tongue. We have been raised with Him to new life. It is the underserved love shown to us by God that now motivates us to show love to others—also with appropriate words.

Appropriate words are kind. They may be firm words, but they can be spoken with kind intent and tone. God’s Word tells us, “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear” (Eph. 4:29). “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1). We all face challenges,

and sometimes, we just need someone to speak kindly to us. The Bible encourages us to use our words to build others up instead of tearing them down. When we focus on speaking words that uplift and support those around us, we can foster an environment of respect and love. Speaking kind words not only enriches the lives of others but can also impact our own spirits, nurturing friendships and fostering community.

Thoughtfulness is key in speaking appropriate words that are kind. When we take the time to reflect on our words before we speak, we allow kindness to flow through our speech. The Bible urges us to be careful with our words, ensuring they are meant to encourage and not wound. Through thoughtfulness in our conversations, we embody the teachings of Christ and truly represent His love. Being considerate in our speech is a beautiful quality that brings people together, reminding us of our shared mission to spread the love of Jesus. James 1:19 tells us, “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” Proverbs 15:28 also encourages thoughtfulness: “The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.”

The foundation of appropriate, thoughtful, kind words is love. We are called to infuse every interaction with love and compassion. Speaking kindly does not merely mean saying nice things; it’s about expressing genuine care for others. When our words come from a place of love, they convey the message that we truly value those we are addressing. The Bible is rich with guidance on speaking with love, encouraging us to allow love to shape our conversations, making a significant difference in the lives of those we encounter. Ephesians 4:15 is a key passage: “Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.”

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

*Pastor Mahnken*



October 1.....	Dustin Reese
October 2.....	Keenan Beeck Jean Rohlf
October 6.....	Tammy Hill
October 7.....	Sadie Jacobsen Troy Kluender
October 8.....	Lane Andresen (1) Samantha Mallinger Lodean Voss
October 9.....	Becky Schwarz Landon Seebeck
October 10.....	Daniel Prussing
October 12.....	Melissa Schmidt Aaron Schwarz
October 13.....	Judy Lee
October 14.....	Christina Martinson
October 15.....	Bobbi Jepsen
October 16.....	Cohen Shafer
October 17.....	Thomas Groth Michael Korner
October 18.....	Gail Hatfield Gordon Quandt Eileen Streck Peggy Wunschel
October 20.....	Brian Rothe
October 21.....	James Friedrichsen Brady Peters
October 22.....	Ava Hatcher Michael Jepsen Koen Miller
October 23.....	Josh Beeck
October 25.....	Josh Teut
October 26.....	Larry Abbe Jodi Bruhn Jackie Palmer
October 28.....	Chris Mahnken
October 29.....	Marlys Haberberger Calvin Johannsen Janice Schultz
October 30.....	Lillie Petersen (106)
October 31.....	Doris Nahnsen Jerrie Wigg

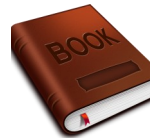


Rocky & Robin Ellerbeck .....	October 3, 1992
Todd & Tara Jepsen .....	October 3, 2004
Dustin & Jessica Ogren .....	October 4, 2008
Jared & Morgan Haskin.....	October 5, 2024
Ryan & Kayla Morgan.....	October 7, 2006
Cody & Brittany Bremser.....	October 8, 2016
Loren & Marlene Lee .....	October 10, 1964
Peter & Elaine Teut .....	October 10, 1964
Ryan & Laura Ernst .....	October 11, 2008
Cody & Kelsey Clausen.....	October 12, 2024
Bruce & Cyndi Paulsen .....	October 12, 1974
Roger & Linda Prussing .....	October 13, 1973
Jamos & Gina Schmidt .....	October 15, 2010
Marvin & Eileen Streck .....	October 15, 1963
Derek & Rebecca Teut .....	October 15, 2005
Darren & Kelly Wessel.....	October 17, 1992
Tim & Lila Bubke .....	October 20, 1978
Tanner & Summer Walker .....	October 20, 2018
Tyler & Sadie Jacobsen .....	October 23, 2021
Alex & Tammie Harm .....	October 31, 2020

Please notify the office of any  
omissions or corrections.

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## From the Church Record Book



**Marriages:** “. . .and the two became one.”

**Whitney Weiss and Dawson Dorhout** were married at Immanuel on August 16, 2025.

**Deaths:** “I am the Resurrection...”

**Gerald Pedersen**, age 100, died September 18, 2025, and was buried September 23, 2025 in the Morgan Cemetery, Schleswig, IA.



## SATURDAY WORSHIP AND TIME CHANGE



Please remember our Saturday p.m. worship time changes to a 4:00 p.m. starting time beginning on Saturday, November 15.

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

And remember to change your clocks before going to bed on November 1 as Daylight Savings Time ends that night!!



**Mark your calendars**  
for our

**Annual Voters' Meeting**  
to be held Monday,

October 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

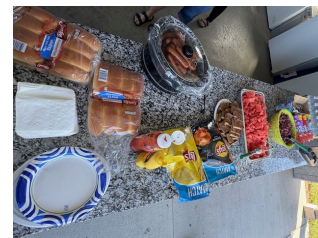
More details to come!



## RALLY SUNDAY 2025

Sunday School Rally Day was held Sunday, September 7. Bibles and special books were presented to children ages 3, and in grades 1, 3 & 5. Teacher installation was also held during this service.

During the Sunday School hour students and their families participated in a Bible Trivia kickball game at the Schleswig ballfields. They also had a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips and fruit. Thank you to Immanuel's Board of Education! It was a great way to kick off the new Sunday School year!





# RICKETTS



## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



### FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST

# OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

## 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM

## RICKETTS COMMUNITY CENTER



### *Come see what Concordia University has to offer!*

We are looking to arrange a visit to Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska, on October 30, as a dual circuit. Our plan is to leave Charter Oak at 7:30 a.m. and arrive on campus at 10:30 a.m. This will allow for us to attend daily chapel and eat in the cafeteria.

Students and drivers must register using the QR code on the graphic above. Students will need permission from their schools to join us. We will return home in time for dinner.

If you are interested in going on this visit, or have any questions please contact Pastor Mahnken or Pastor Neil Wehmas, St. Paul, Ida Grove.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR OCTOBERFEST AT IMMANUEL!!

Sunday, October 12 from  
11 am-1 pm.

Dine-in and Drive Thru.

More details to come!



~ THE LWML INVITES  
ALL LADIES ~



A big “Thank You” goes to everyone who attended, donated or helped in any way for Immanuel’s Calf Show Dinner. It takes a lot of people to make it a success, and it was. We served 643 dinners at the Community Building and the Take Out Line combined.

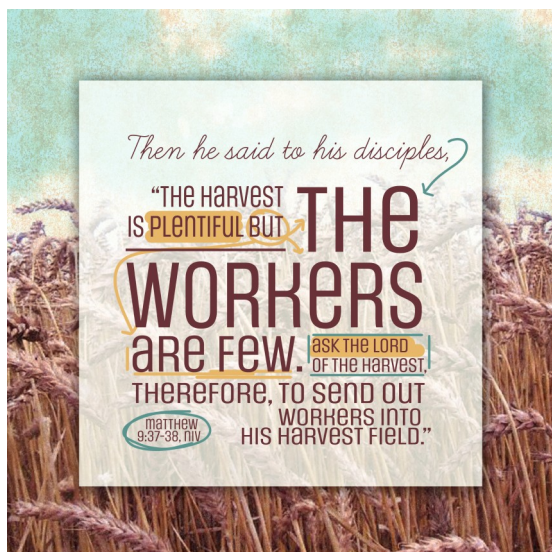
There are several other fall events as well. The Fall Retreat at Mission Central is on Saturday, September 20th.

The Fall Rally on September 25th will be hosted by Christ Lutheran at Our Savior. Pastor Lopez will be the speaker.

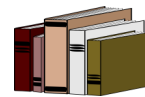
LWML Sunday is October 12th.

We continue to make monthly visits to our Immanuel members in care facilities.

Donna Harm, Secretary



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



*A Thread of Blue Denim*  
by Patricia Leimbach

“A Thread of Blue Denim” is truly a joy to read, from cover to cover. In this book the author takes you on a celebration of country living. She shares spring and harvest woes, gardening thoughts, recreates the adventures of childhood in the country, and lets you get the real feeling of day to day happenings of a working farm—machinery breakdowns, weather worries, and market concerns. She also throws in episodes of growing with and raising three sons, including tales of the balance of living with a man who loves the land.

Ms. Leimbach breaks her book down into nine engaging chapters, each one entertaining and heartwarming. There are chapters on the land, the farmer, the children, herself, housework, change, the world, renewal, and the past. The children chapter alone is a joy to read. There you will read about the fish story, the bum steer, a tale of two kites, the fair pig, or the lamb to slaughter. Check this book out, settle back and reminisce of rural things and places.

I would also like to do a brief “blurb” about our amazing library—not only do you have available at your fingertips wonderful fiction books of mystery, western adventures, biographies, humor, and self help, there are also books on handling grief, on spiritual awakenings, bible studies, parenting, etc. We also have several Chicken Soup books, DVD movies including “The Rev”, “I Can Only Imagine”, “Heaven is for Real”, “Harvest”, and “Courageous” to name a few.

We have, or I should say YOU have a wonderful, beautiful facility—please don’t hesitate to use it. Come in, grab a book and one of those comfortable, NEW chairs and sit and read for a while—its really quiet.

~Submitted by Karen Wood



We are pleased to announce that we served 643 dinners after the Calf Show Days parade on Saturday, September 13. Thanks to all who attended!!

A big thank you to everyone who donated money or made desserts, and thanks to you who volunteered and helped us in any way on Friday and Saturday as we prepared for and served the chicken dinner.





We are off to a busy start! The first couple of weeks tend to be difficult for some of our three year olds and new-to-the program four year olds. Why? Well, I suspect because new things can be hard. There can be a fear in the unknown. There is a comfort in knowing what to expect from a parent, grandparent, or someone you love. We can trust someone when we know they care about us and are safe. There is not the same level of security when we're entering into a new environment and have no level of understanding regarding the adults.

Wow! Isn't that how it is for us as too? I typed that with the intent to share how our first couple of weeks were going and was stopped in my tracks. If that doesn't describe my relationship with the Lord, I don't know what does! I am comfortable in what I know. I am comfortable with who I know. Yet when the Lord up and decides to reveal a new aspect of His character or "gasp" ask me to surrender something about my life that has been very comfortable, it seems I can have the same reaction as a new student. You know what I mean, right? (Let's be honest, sometimes there are even tears involved.) Has God ever determined to reveal Himself as Provider and that meant you had to trust Him for your finances? Maybe He is assuring you that anger doesn't need to be your friend anymore. No, instead He would love to replace it with His Peace. Yet, until we truly comprehend

the level and depth of His love for us, it may be hard to step into something new. It may be difficult to let go.

Our Bible study has been studying the book of Genesis and I was a bit taken aback when I discovered that after God created the world is when He planted the garden. He then placed Adam in the garden to tend it. What happened in the garden between Adam and the Lord? It was the place of intimacy where they hung out together. Adam's job was to tend it. Cultivate it. He hid nothing from God. He knew and trusted God loved him. (Until, of course, he ate the fruit.) Do we tend and cultivate our relationship with the Lord? Is it our top priority? Do we make it our number one goal and objective each day to spend time worshipping and being in the Presence of our Father. It's there that we will discover His depth of love for us and it's there that we learn to trust His heart. When we've spent time in the garden with our Father, we aren't afraid to step into the "new thing" He may be asking us to do.

It is my prayer for the preschoolers that they learn the classroom is a place where Jesus resides. He is here. He loves them. It is safe. As with God, there are boundaries here. There are new things to learn. Yet, as the children learn to trust us, they will become free to learn. It is my prayer for we adults that we too continue to discover God's intimate love for us. As He asks us to trust Him, we will be able to completely surrender to His requests because we know He only wants what is best for us. It will free us just as it does the children.

We will have a new student joining us next week. We haven't met him yet, but we know God has chosen him to be a part of our preschool family. Thank you for preparing the way for him through your prayers. You are appreciated!

Mrs. Gustafson

## AFRICAN RADIO MINISTRIES—NEWS

### Liberia, West Africa Updates:

Our evangelism team walked for hours through swamps and heavy rain to meet the people of Zuo Town. We heard they wanted help planting a church because during flood season, they were cut off from local churches. We went door to door with the permission of the town chief, inviting people to meet us in fifteen minutes to worship the Lord. Sixty people dropped what they were doing and united in joyful, spirited worship. They begged us to help them launch a church. A local pastor has been assigned to help in the process.

The Jesus Film was shown on the school campus of Gbojay, an Islamic village completely closed to Christianity. 250 people watched the movie in a drizzling rain with most standing. At the end of the movie 47 people accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. All converts received radios with audio Bibles and teachings loaded inside.

From Ethiopia, Rev. Mengistu reports that the prison team baptized thirteen prisoners and confirmed fifty-four. Each person received a certificate and a Bible. That took place in Hosanna prison.

Eight years ago, John, Pastor Jeff Johnson, and ARM prison worker Demeke Ture brought Linda Kurtz to this same prison to see first hand how powerfully God is using ARM in Ethiopia's villages and prisons. We baptized forty-seven prisoners and gave Bibles to those who had completed the instruction course. Presently, there are 489 inmates attending confirmation courses in Hosanna and six other prisons around the country. At the end of this service, during our visit, we were surprised, humbled, and blessed when the inmate spokesman stepped forward and presented the mission committee report. They received Jesus' commission to preach the Gospel to all nations, and they obeyed it. The prisoners have been supporting their own missionary from the very meager funds that they have. They really "get it."

John asked Linda at the time, "Well, Linda, are you in?" She replied, "How could I not be?" Linda now manages ARM's Liberian and Ethiopian work. And the Duitsmans serve as advisors and supporters. Linda recently returned from Liberia and brought great news about the evangelism work described above. However, at present, she is fighting complications following a case of malaria. Like Kathy, Linda is in need of prayer for healing.

Grace and hope,

Missionary Linda Kurtz  
Kathy and John 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 and blessings to you from your Hispanic Ministries of the IDW. It was such a blessed summer and now we are excited to end it by planning our ESL classes.

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

This summer was an exciting one since we had an opportunity to take three of our youth to the National Youth Convention in New Orleans. Thanks to St. Paul-Carroll who made all this possible. Paquita, Rigo, Emely and Maria had such a great experience. As new Lutherans they were amazed to see over 20,000 youth that share their same beliefs. Since they drove to the convention, they also had a chance to stop in St. Louis and tour the Seminary.

We have started working with Faith-Deloit. I received a call from them late July stating they were interested in reaching out to the Deloit community, especially the Hispanics that have been moving into Deloit in the last couple of years. So, we did. On Wednesday August 12, we had a back-to-school backpack and supplies giveaway. They worked hard to get the word out and did such a good job that we had about 50 people come to the event. What a blessing!! We ask for your prayers as we plan for a future ESL class and a bible study.

#### Prayer requests:

- Our ministries at Grace and St. John-Storm Lake, St. Paul-Carroll, St. Paul-Hartley and Amigos en Cristo-Denison.
- Upcoming ESL classes in the different areas, that the Lord sends students and that we not only teach them English but can also share the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Cesar, a friend at our church facing a personal challenge.
- Noel, our Deacon who must go back to Nicaragua because his extended stay was denied. God willing, he will continue his studies through our new and expanding seminary in the Dominican Republic.
- Adrian Velazquez who was transferred by his job to Indiana. He has found an LCMS church and is attending there.
- That God continues to work with me and give me what I need to continue his work.

Bendiciones a todos.  
Pastor Lopez



*Support Newsletter from Nicholas J. Vukalovich*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church, thank you for prayerfully and financially supporting me.*

My name is Nicholas Vukalovich, I was born and raised in Sydney, Australia, and immigrated to the United States of America in the summer of '15. First we had lived in Irvine, CA, which is where I went to high school, and where I lived for my first year of college, online, because of COVID. At first, I was at Bob Cole, Conservatory of Music, studying trumpet performance, then when my family moved a second time to Rockford, IL, which is where we currently live, I switched to study Theology at Concordia University in Chicago. This is also where I would graduate with an undergraduate in Theology: Christian Ministry.

Regarding the faith, I was christened Serbian Orthodox, raised low-church Anglican, and for a while before becoming a confessional Lutheran, was part of small charismatic, non-denominational church. It was my time at Concordia University when I had become Lutheran, under the support and guidance of Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger, who is both a father and a brother to me.

At the time of writing this letter, I am getting ready for my first day of classes here at Concordia Seminary. I am not too sure what to expect, but nevertheless, the portion that I receive from the Lord, is righteous in His sight, and if the academic year reflects any sort of resemblance to how it was portrayed during orientation week, I should manage....we pray.

On Wednesday, during orientation week, I received my RFE, Salem Lutheran Church in Black Jack, MO, which is where I will be a field-worker during my studies here at Concordia. My pastor/mentor at Salem is Rev. Martin Dressler, and having met him only a few times, I know truly that my pastoral formations is in good and godly hands.

*~Thank you! Nicholas*



Every conversation a parent has with their son or daughter is part of **one conversation** that lasts a lifetime. Ready to kickstart your next conversation?

### What is the “Gen Z Stare” and will it ever go away?

Have you ever walked up to a high-school-aged hostess at a restaurant, smiled warmly, and offered a greeting, only to receive a blank stare in return?

Maybe you’ve approached a Gen Z’er standing behind the counter at a sporting goods store to ask about an item, and received an empty gaze?

Or maybe teen gatherings often happen at your house, and the last time you dared to enter the basement with a handful of snacks, you encountered wide-eyed....silence?

If any of this sounds familiar, you’re definitely not alone. The **Gen Z stare is real**—so real that even teenagers admit that it’s a thing.

But what’s behind this social phenomenon? Have smartphones changed the in-person social expectations for an entire generation? And if your teen looks like a startled owl whenever any older adult approaches, how do you even *address* that?

We tackle all of these questions, and more, in our newest episode of **The Conversation Starter!** In it, we attempt to explain why the Gen Z stare might be a symptom of a larger shift in our society—and how we can keep a healthy perspective on generational quirks.

You can watch this episode at the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYBfqHgrk\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYBfqHgrk_U)

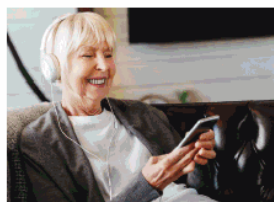


*Continue the conversation:*

- \* Do you think smartphones have changed the way people approach small talk?
- \* Do you think the “Gen Z stare” is something that young people really do?



## News about



### LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR WHEREVER YOU ARE

In 1930, the Lutheran Laymen's League took a courageous step of faith, committing to fund one year of a weekly national radio program, now known as *The Lutheran Hour*®. That single act of generosity sparked a legacy that continues to flourish. Today, because of faithful supporters like you, *The Lutheran Hour* remains the world's longest-running Christ-centered radio program, reaching hearts and sharing the life-saving message of salvation every week.

Now in its 93rd broadcast season, *The Lutheran Hour* continues to inspire and uplift hundreds of thousands of listeners each week. While it began as a traditional radio program, today it's accessible through a variety of modern platforms—making it easier than ever to tune in.

- "Connected by LHM" Mobile App — Available for iPhone and Android devices. Access *The Lutheran Hour* sermons and Daily Devotions wherever you are. Play the audio or read the text of current and past sermons and devotions.
- Online at [lutheranhour.org](http://lutheranhour.org) — The sermon text, audio player, and downloadable mp3 are available online each week. Subscribe to receive the sermons via email at [lhmm.org/subscribe](mailto:lhmm.org/subscribe).
- Podcast — *The Lutheran Hour* can be listened to as a podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Alexa, iHeartRadio, Speaker from iHeartRadio, YouTube, and YouTube Music.
- American Forces Network — Visit [lutheranhour.org/afn](http://lutheranhour.org/afn) to hear a special weekly version produced for the American Forces Network.
- Sirius XM Satellite Radio — *The Lutheran Hour* airs at 10 a.m. Eastern each Sunday on Family Talk Channel 131.
- Dial in on Your Phone — Call LHM's main phone number (800-876-9880) and press option 3 to listen to *The Lutheran Hour*.

continued ...

### Worldwide Radio Ministry



Nonthawat is 25 years old and comes from a non-Christian religious background. He listens to three LHM-Thailand radio programs and often hears the speakers talk about the love of Jesus. He decided he wanted to study the story of Jesus because it seemed like that it could provide the answers he was looking for in his life. He wasn't ready to start going to church, but he was interested in participating in the ministry's Bible Correspondence Courses and reading their topical booklets.

The LHM-Thailand staff followed up with him a brief time later and learned that he is now going to church each week to worship and better understand the Word of God. Through the power of God's Spirit, Nonthawat became a Christian. "I want to thank LHM-Thailand for all their radio programs that have helped me get to know about Jesus," says Nonthawat. "I studied the Bible courses and booklets you sent me, and I now have a relationship with Jesus. I'm happier now and have something I can depend on in my life."

Andres is 17 years old and recently became connected to LHM-Nicaragua. His grandmother was listening to the radio when she heard an LHM-Nicaragua program where they were encouraging people to volunteer for their ministry activities. Andres' grandmother suggested that he volunteer since he has free time after school. Andres decided he would volunteer and is now sharing the Gospel message with others and looks forward to participating in various ministry center programs.



Staff at the LHM-Sri Lanka ministry center recently got several responses from listeners to their *Time of Hope* radio program. A woman who practices a non-Christian religion said she has been listening to the LHM-Sri Lanka radio program for four years and shared that it has been a blessing in her life. She also requested a Bible verse calendar in response to an advertisement she heard during the program.

Nadeesh also called to say he and his wife have been listening to the radio programs for five years. They requested a Bible verse calendar and are encouraged by the program to keep listening. The LHM-Sri Lanka staff know there are many untold stories from individuals who have benefited from the program. They are thankful for their supporters and look forward to more opportunities to share the Gospel with others.

### Because of You

- People around the world experience the Gospel through LHM programs, services, or materials nearly 275 million times each week.
- Renee's family started listening to *The Lutheran Hour* when she was a child and her mother was suffering from postpartum depression. The program motivated Renee's father to find a local Lutheran congregation for his family. Those church roots took hold. Today, Renee still listens to the broadcast every Sunday on her way to church.
- YOU are a part of around 390,000 individuals who are actively connected to LHM through its resources or the sharing of their time, talent, or treasure in support of the organizational mission.

### Pray

Please pray for Rev. Dr. Mike Zeigler and the entire production crew as they continue to proclaim the Gospel on the radio waves; please pray for those people who may be hearing about Christ for the first time on the radio; pray with thanksgiving for your support as we stand together at the forefront and continue proclaiming the Good News to a world in need.

## Miscarriage & Stillbirth support group

### HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED MISCARRIAGE OR STILLBIRTH?

Each year, more than one million women and families endure the heartbreak of miscarriage or stillbirth. Yet, many grieve in silence, feeling isolated in their pain.

Mourning the loss of a child is profoundly challenging, but you don't have to navigate this journey alone. We're here to walk alongside you—to provide a space for processing, sharing, and healing. Our mission is to bring awareness, healing, and hope through the Miscarriage & Stillbirth Support Group.

You may feel hesitant to discuss your experience with those who haven't faced similar loss. That's where the power of community comes in. This virtual support group connects you with women and parents who have also experienced miscarriage or stillbirth, offering understanding and companionship.

Join us for a virtual Miscarriage & Support Group, October 11 or October 15, where your child is remembered, your grief is honored, and hope in Christ is shared. Choose the day/time that works best for you:

- \* Saturday, October 11, 10:00 am—12:00 pm
- \* Wednesday, October 15, 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Topics that will be discussed include:

- \* Navigating Grief: understanding the emotional, physical, and spiritual impact of miscarriage and stillbirth
- \* Honoring Your Baby's Memory: finding meaningful ways to commemorate and celebrate your child's life
- \* Coping with Triggers: managing difficult dates, unexpected waves of sadness, and emotional triggers
- \* Finding Comfort in Faith: leaning into spiritual beliefs to find hope and healing in God's promises.

Dr. Mark VandeBraak, Ph.D., FT, MTBC, serves as the Director of Grief, Loss, and Trauma at Lutheran Family Service. With over 30 years of experience, Dr. Mark is a thanatologist and music therapist who has dedicated his career to helping individuals process grief and trauma. His approach emphasizes education and empowerment, guiding people to understand and navigate their grief rather than suppress it.

Dr. Mark's personal experiences with loss have deepened his empathy and commitment to supporting others through their grief journeys. He believes that faith plays a crucial role in healing, providing hope and direction during times of profound sorrow.

To join the Miscarriage & Stillbirth Support Group, please register at <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/mssg/>.



# Update

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct. 5: OMELET BRUNCH: 9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM  
 Oct. 10-11: FALL VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKEND  
 Oct. 10-12: IDW PASTOR'S WIVES RETREAT

### **CAMP OKOBOJI FALL VOLUNTEER WEEKEND October 10 - 11**

Fall Volunteer Weekend is a great way to share your time and talents while you enjoy God's Creation at Camp Okoboji. Help prepare Camp Okoboji for the upcoming winter. Room and board will be provided for volunteers. Please save the date and make plans to come and help! For room and board accommodations, please call the office at (712) 337-3325!

**PERSONNEL:** It's never too early to begin recruitment for next summer, please encourage youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us in 2026.

Camp Executive Director, Adam, loves to visit congregations to talk about Camp Okoboji! Sundays are filling up for the fall and early winter, but he is looking for congregations to visit after the first of the year. Please reach out!

## *Thank You!*

THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- A huge thanks to the lawn mowers through the summer. Thank you to Roger Brockshus and Steven Frank for helping us look our best!



Youth Week was July 20-26 and we had a wonderful time with the high school youth in attendance! It's such a blessing to see how the youth engage with others in faith and grow in their knowledge of and love of Jesus Christ.





# OCTOBER 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
<b>Preschool</b> Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 8 a.m.—3 p.m. Wed.: 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m.  <b>Confirmation:</b> Wednesday 5th & 6th grade: 3:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m.			<b>1</b> 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	<b>2</b> Preschool 1:30 p.m. LWML 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																																	
<b>5</b> 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC	<b>6</b> Preschool	<b>7</b> Preschool	<b>8</b> 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	<b>9</b> Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	<b>10</b> 1:00-5:00 pm Under the Son Childcare sub sandwich pickup @ UCC	<b>11</b> 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																																	
<b>12 LWML Sunday</b> 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Octoberfest Meal 1 p.m. Church Council meeting 2-4 p.m. Lutheran Youth Skating @ Ida Grove	<b>13 Columbus Day</b> Preschool 	<b>14</b> Preschool 8 a.m. Pastors' Conference @ St. Matthew, Mapleton	<b>15</b> 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	<b>16</b> Preschool 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																																	
<b>19</b> 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC	<b>20</b> No Preschool 6:15 Supper 7 pm Voters' Meeting	<b>21</b> Preschool Messenger Deadline for November 	<b>22</b> 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation	<b>23</b> Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	<b>24</b> 5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 3:00 p.m. Hennings/Segebart wedding 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																																	
<b>26</b> 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC 	<b>27</b> Preschool	<b>28</b> Preschool	<b>29</b> 6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool 8:45 a.m. Newsletter Assemblage Confirmation	<b>30</b> No Preschool 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	<b>31 Reformation Day Halloween</b> 	November <table border="1"> <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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></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						
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**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  
Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. HC on first & third Sundays  
Sunday School and Bible Classes at 10:15 a.m.

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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



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