THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



SEPTEMBER 2025

Volume 40, Issue 1



From Your Pastor

"How long, O Lord!" The Psalm writer's cry is often on our hearts and lips as we trust in the Lord and wait upon Him to fulfill His promises in our lives. Here is one of those passages: "How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?" (Psalm 13:1-2).

In our society of quick fixes we are an impatient people. Microwaves heat our food in seconds—unless we just hit the drive-through, pills remove our headaches within minutes, and we have instant messaging. We have the audacity to demand that God quickly attend to our needs and desires in the same way.

This leads to another fascinating observation about Jesus. Jesus never seemed to be in a hurry. Do you ever remember a time when Jesus was running? John 11:3-6 tells us a most revealing account on this point. "So, the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one You love is sick.' When He heard this, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days." Those must have been agonizingly long days for the sisters. You probably recall the rest of the story. Lazarus dies and Jesus eventually raises him from the dead.

This account teaches us that God moves on a different timetable than you and I do. He knows what you and I do not know—the rest of the story! Like Mary and Martha, we can't see into the future. We are short-sighted and narrow-minded. It would be helpful for us to remind ourselves of this from time to time. God's timetable is often too slow for our comfort, but it is always for our good.

A second lesson is a most amazing sequence inserted in the middle of this account. Between where Jesus is summoned and when He finally travels to their home, we read these words, "Jesus

loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." From their perspective God is doing nothing. To them He appears to be silent, unresponsive, uncaring, and seemingly unloving. But that is not what the Word tells us. God's Word tells us plainly, Jesus loves them, even in His delaying. Be assured, He loves you, even as you wait and He is silent.

A third lesson is the point behind the smaller story. The smaller story, of course, is that Lazarus is dying. I know that doesn't seem small and I'm sure it didn't seem minor to Martha or Mary or especially to Lazarus! But we are told the reason for the sickness, "It is for God's glory, so that God's Son may be glorified through it." That is a pretty big story in which to be cast as a character! Martin Luther said we should make our will depend on the will of God. If the help we desire does not serve God's glory, or is not helpful to our salvation, we should be glad to bear the cross longer.

What are you enduring right now? We do not know how much longer we have to endure. What we do know is that He knows how long, and He knows exactly what He is doing for our good and His glory. And, He loves us!

The answer the Word of God gives to the question "How long?" is a recurring refrain: "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27:14). Remember that cry of Psalm 13:1? David cried, "How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?" But the Psalm ends just five short verses later, when he says, "But I trust in Your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord for He has been good to me" (13:5-6). When we think we are at our breaking point and can't take it any more, yet, we can, for in the midst of all those powerful feelings, we trust in God's unfailing love for us through Jesus our Savior!

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

Pastor Mahnken





September 1Kevin Clausen
Myla Streck
Adam Vandevanter
September 2Michelle Anderson
Richard Hanlin
Gerald Pedersen (100)
Kathryn Sands September 3Suzann Ibach
September 4Colten Rogers
Tyson Stoppel
September 5Leroy Fredericks
Pastor Merle Mahnken
September 6Megan Maack
Spencer Schultz
Donovin Shafer
Alan Weiss
September 7Joel Bubke
Shannon Henningsen
September 8Carol Neddermeyer
September 9Diana Schultz
September 10Everleigh Mallinger September 11Jac Petersen
Matt Petersen
Bobbie Weber
September 12Travis Aldag
September 13Gaylen Jepsen
Trevor Ransom
Landon Struble
Cristine Velasquez
September 14Lois Rothe
September 15Linkin Beeck
September 17Jill Andresen
Tayten Kline
Marie Peters
September 18Anne Abbe Heather Aldag
Stacy Lindgren
Roger Walde
September 19Tara Jepsen
Marian Stockfleth (91)
September 20Karlon Bubke
September 22Marlene Bachman
September 23Tiffany Friedrichsen
Randy Jensen
Neal Nahnsen
September 24Larry Jensen
Todd Schultz
September 25Kyle Andresen
Ryan Jepsen
DeWayne Schultz Maverick Walker
Maverick walker Brian Zavitz
September 27Roger Schneider
Sandy Wittorf
September 29Beckham Caldwell
Cody Segebart
Cory Thies
Troy Voss
September 30Jazlyn Beeck
Ieremy Iersen

Jeremy Jepsen

Ronnie & Evelyn Streck	September 2, 1969
Michael & Dianna Jepsen	September 4, 1971
Ross & Malory Wood	September 4, 2004
Ryan & Rhonda Kragel	September 5, 1981
Randy & Lori Segebart	September 5, 1987
Jeff & Sandy Hummel	September 6, 1980
Jason & Angela Nielsen	September 6, 1997
Jeff & Cori Kragel	September 7, 2013
Brad & Sarah Lundell	September 8, 2001
Curtis & Angela Korner	September 11, 1999
Darwin & Julie Petersen	September 18, 1976
Scott & Stacy Lindgren	September 24, 1994

Please notify the office of any omissions or corrections.

From the Church Record Book



Deaths: "I am the Resurrection..."

Duane E. "Buckwheat" Jacoby, age 73, died August 4, 2025, and was buried August 7, 2025 in the Morgan Township Cemetery, Schleswig, Iowa.

Ruby Friedrichsen, age 96, died August 8, 2025, and was buried August 18, 2025 in the Morgan Township Cemetery, Schleswig, Iowa.

My Peace I Leave You CHRIST'S COMFORT IN THE STORMS OF LIFE

Upcoming Bible Study

Our next Thursday evening study will focus on the book My Peace I Leave You — Christ's Comfort in the Storms of Life by Kristian Kincaid.

Life is filled with trouble for all of us. Be assured that the truth Jesus speaks to us is greater than any earthly trouble: "Take heart;

I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Your life is not defined by trouble. It is defined by Christ and His abiding love for you. His love never falters, never fades, never fails. At times, this can be difficult to see, but take heart, for Jesus loves you perfectly and profoundly.

The pages within point you to the inexhaustible, eternal well of peace that is Christ Jesus and His love for you. Knowing that single truth will help you overcome a multitude of dark thoughts. For every trouble, there is the treasure of Jesus, your compassionate Savior, and His love for you.

Immanuel Lutheran Congregation 501 Glad Street, Schleswig

INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL

Calf Show Dinner

Saturday, September 13, 2025

After the Parade — until 1:00 p.m.

Schleswig Community Building



Age 11 to Adult: \$15.00 Children 10 and under: \$10.00

Serving:

Staley's Broasted Chicken Dinner with Homemade Desserts

<u>Carry-outs can be picked up</u> in the City Building next to the Community Building.

For deliveries, please phone the Church Office before Saturday, at 676-2235 during regular office hours.

Former members of Trinity Lutheran Church—Grant Township

In an effort to preserve the history of Trinity, a group of former members is seeking information/pictures about the church. The information will be cataloged and kept in a file at Immanuel in Schleswig.

For more information, contact Immanuel at 676-2235 or these former members: Sandra (Aldag) Voss, Janice (Grell) Jepsen, Jerry Ernst or Larry Abbe.

Thank you for helping us preserve this precious history of Trinity, Grant Township.

The Schleswig Library will be hosting it's first ever cemetery walk at the Morgan Cemetery on September 7 at 2:00 pm. Presenters will be telling the story of seven of Schleswig's early founders at their graves in the south section of the cemetery. Golf carts and chairs will be available for our patrons. Refreshments will be provided after the walk.



Thank you to my Immanuel church family for the gift card I received for my retirement.

It was appreciated as I start this new season in life. God's Blessings, Val Teut



Registration deadlines are approaching for both gatherings.
For more information, please contact
Pastor Mahnken or the Church Office.



Just Junior Youth Gathering
/ater October 18 & 19
West Des Moines

Deadline to register: Sept. 10

Senior Youth Gathering November 21-23 Des Moines

Deadline to register: Oct. 15





~ THE LWML INVITES ALL LADIES ~



We held our monthly meeting on August 8th, enjoying a slide show presentation from the National Convention in Omaha that several of our members attended.

There will be many events coming up in September. The Fall Rally will be September 25th at Our Savior, hosted by Christ Lutheran. Saturday, September 20th will be the Fall Retreat at Mission Central.

Also, Immanuel's Calf Show dinner will be on September 13. More information will be coming and sign-up sheets will be posted for those who are able to volunteer.

Visits were made during the past couple months to our Immanuel members in care facilities.

~Submitted by Donna Harm, Secretary



On Friday, August 1, this crew of hard workers met at Beeck Farms and froze sweet corn to be used for our congregational meal this fall. We can't wait to sample their work!



Pictured from left to right: Dick Fredericks, Leroy Hight, Dennis Gierstorf, Garrett Beeck, Lodean Voss, Dave Friedrichsen, Pastor Mahnken, Keenan Beeck, Jason Schultz and Mike Beeck.

Also helping but not pictured, Tracy Beeck.

In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories and steps, be a rebel and count your blessings.

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



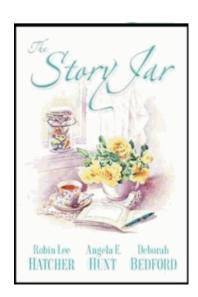
The Story Jar By Robin Lee Hatcher

Beth Williams has been hired to clean a small church before the new pastor arrives. The recently widowed, former pastor's wife has stopped to visit before moving to be with her family.

While Beth is cleaning, she finds a large glass jar tucked behind a chair. The jar is filled with small items, blue hair ribbons, a hospital bracelet, shells, a silver ring, etc. "That's John's story jar," said Mrs. Halley. Each Mother's Day John would have the mothers come forward with a memento and tell the story behind it. A yellow sock and the adoption that tested a mother's faith, a silver ring and the mother, against her better instincts, lets her daughter leave to follow her dream of working with the poor and drug addicted.

This book was a collaboration with two other authors, Angela E. Hunt and Deborah Bedford. It is a loving testament to mothers from all walks of life. A very nice read.

—Submitted by Ealine Teut





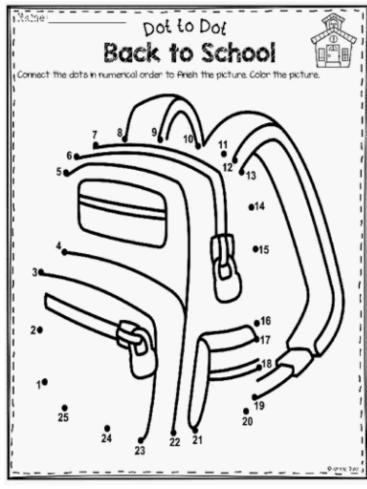
Today as I write, I am in between home visits. What a blessing it is to be invited into the homes of our families (afternoon class). The children have been excited to show me their new shoes, their bedrooms, new birthday gifts, and even a gymnastics bar! It not only offers a glimpse into who the children are when they are away from school but allows for a visual when the children are sharing stories from home.

As the children are telling me stories today and sharing their precious "new for school" purchases (I've seen some very fast and very sparkly shoes today), it allows for a moment to pause and ask myself the question, "Do I get this excited to share about my life with Jesus?" I bought a new tank top yesterday, but I didn't tell Him thank You. I had the gift of my grandchildren overnight for two nights, and I did rejoice! The list goes on and on and gives me an opportunity to reflect on where I do and do not invite Jesus into my day. I want Him to be a part of everything. I confess that sometimes I get busy and forget that the most precious part of the day is when I sit at His feet and hang out. I was talking to Him the other day about something I really wanted to see changed in my life. I asked the Lord the question, "What do you want me to do about this?" I felt Him just ever so gently remind me that He just wanted me to "be." Leslie, I want you to be loved. Be yourself. Be present. Be intentional. You see, I needed to be reminded that I don't really have the power to make transformational changes in my life apart from Him. It's when I sit with Him and remember how loved I am that change seems to come.

As we begin our school year (August 27, I pray that the children will become deeply rooted in the intense love of their Savior. I pray the level of excitement with which they have shared with me today will be modeled in their walk with Him. I pray each child who enters our doors will leave knowing they are loved, wanted, and have a Jesus Who can't wait to hear about their day!

Serving Him with you, Mrs. Gustafson





!AMIGOS EN CRISTO and GRACIA!

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

Dear Immanuel Lutheran church members.

Greetings to you, as we end our summer 2025, in our continual work of bringing the good news of salvation in Jesus our Lord to our Hispanic brothers and sisters in our beloved IDW district. Praying that you have all had a blessed summer and have been enjoying this good weather.

We have had a blessed summer that has gone so quickly but have served with gladness. I, together with 3 of my deacons participated in our District Convention. Paquita participated in the LWML Convention in Omaha and what an experience again for her, unfortunately with work schedules and members vacation plans she could not bring anyone with her. We must plan for next time to bring people to the next convention.

We are grateful to St. Paul-Carroll who made it possible for us to take 3 of our youth to the National Youth Convention in New Orleans. What an experience it was to see over 20,000 people their own age gathering for this special event to learn about God and worship Him. It was also a great idea to drive since they also had the opportunity to stop at St. Louis one day and had a tour at the Seminary, they also visited the zoo and the museum there.

We have started working with Faith-Deloit in their effort to reach out to their community, especially Hispanics in their town. On Wednesday August 12 we had a back-to-school backpack/supplies give away where we had about 50 people attend. We gave information about our area churches, worship times both in English and Spanish. Please pray for this community as we plan to start ESL classes and bible study, this is still in plan so we pray that God opens doors and His will be done.

We are looking forward in starting ESL classes both St. Paul-Hartley and St. Paul-Carroll will be starting their 4th year, we ask for your prayers for this ongoing effort to meeting families, helping them learn the language and our favorite part, sharing the work of Christ with them.

Starting September we will continue to participate at St. John–Storm Lake joining them during their "swaddling clothes" program and hopefully make plans for an English class one more time, hopefully it takes off this time.

It is with great sadness that we say "goodbye" to our deacon Noel. Noel was not granted extension to stay in the USA so he will go back to Nicaragua the end of this month. We are grateful for his service at our church and we look forward for him to continue his studies at our new branch seminary at the Dominican Republic, please pray for him. Adrian has also left us after his employer had moved him to work in Indiana, Adrian has already found a LCMS church and is attending there, we are still working with him to get him enrolled at our Center of Hispanic studies. We were so blessed to have met and worked with both gentlemen. Fili is still here and looking forward to beginning his studies also.

This year we could not do our taco sale event for RAGBRAI event due to my wife participating at the National Youth Convention in New Orleans. Without her in charge of the kitchen, I would be lost. We will work on this for next year.

With many prayers and support from our district, congregations, and individuals we have been able to enhance and strengthen our efforts to make our presence more visible. This spiritual venture could not be done without you all. Please know that your prayers and your support have gone a long way; we thank you for being there for us.

We thank Zion-Denison, Grace-Storm Lake, St. Paul-Hartley, St. Paul-Carroll, St. John-Storm Lake, Faith-Hartley and now Faith-Deloit church members and the many volunteers from different churches for helping and allowing us to use their facility. We cannot do all this without your help. It's such a blessing to see the fruits from all the hard work being done together with our volunteers.

As we continue our work this year, we pray to God asking His guidance so that we continue to share the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to many more Spanish speaking people and that He brings them to our church.

Thank you very much for your donations sent on January 6 (\$489.58), February 6 (\$489.58), March 5 (\$489.58) and April 15 (\$489.58).

Please follow us on our Facebook page at Ministerios Hispanos Luteranos Iowa District West-LCMS.

Gracias y Bendiciones, Pastor Lopez





MISSION CENTRAL

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

On June 29, 2025 we had the Ted Krey family join us, as well as some LWML ladies and other folks who were "passing through" our neighborhood. Pastor Krey is Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. His excellent pictures told an amazing story of how our Lord Jesus is truly embracing many people with His forgiving love. It was certainly a day we will always remember.





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: Our summer staff has started to leave us. We were greatly blessed by the Summer Staff and pray they were blessed as they served their Lord at Camp Okoboji.

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!



660 Mason Ridge Center Drive 800-944-3450 • LHM.ORG/GIVE

Summer greetings Pastor Mahnken, and Immanuel Lutheran Church!

It was a pleasure speaking with you. On behalf of everyone at Lutheran Hour Ministries, we can't thank you enough for your continued support of our mission of Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church.

Your congregation's generous gift of \$1,100 to The Friends of The Lutheran Hour Giving Club will continue to bring the Good News of Jesus through local radio broadcasts, reaching hearts in your community. Thank you so much for your prayers and support. Without everyone's continued gifts, we are unable to make His mission a

May your church thrive and grow as you share God's blessings with all you meet. Blessings on your day! ~Robin Forsythe, Organizational Stewardship Coordinator

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous contribution in support of **The Lutheran Hour** and other ministry programs, at home and abroad. We could not do this work without family members like you beside us.

Your partnership ensures that more people hear of the Good Shepherd and find peace in His promises. Across North America and around the world, through The Lutheran Hour and other vital programs, your prayers and generosity help carry the Gospel to others—and lives are transformed. We are so grateful to you! May God's goodness and mercy follow you always.

On behalf of our ministry staff around the globe, thank you for Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church. Thank you for stepping out in His love and sharing that HOPE ABOUNDS in Him. And remember, you can always give immediately at lhm.org/give. ~In Jesus, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A FRESH THEME FOR THE LUTHERAN HOUR

With The Lutheran Hour now available on a multitude of online platforms beyond traditional radio, people everywhere are being reached weekly with Christ's messages of love and hope.

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler has an extensive sermon series planned for the balance of the 2025 broadcast season, which ends in late August. It will explore the Gospel of John.

Upcoming guest speakers are familiar to the program's audience. They will include Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola, Rev. Dr. Jason Broge, Rev. Keith Haberstock (Lutheran Church-Canada), and Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison (President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod).



National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the third Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

<u>POW/MIA Day and Capitol Run</u>: Each year on the third Friday of September, Detachment 250 commemorates National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day. The entire day is dedicated to honoring and remembering those men and women who have yet to return home. Early morning of POW/MIA day, a group of cadets travels to the Iowa statehouse in Des Moines to begin the memorial POW/MIA run. During the run, our national flag and the POW/MIA flag will be continuously carried nearly 35 miles from the capitol to Iowa State University.

Back at the university in the Gold Star Hall in the Memorial Union, members of the honor guard will stand guard at a memorial display throughout the day, reminding students of the sacrifices of previous servicemen and women. Finally at the close of business, all of Detachment 250 forms up on central campus to conduct a Retreat ceremony at the campus flag pole. POW/MIA day is an important way for us to ensure that our country's missing heroes are never forgotten.



Area POW/MIA List

WWII

Herman C. Kiepe Ute March 28, 1944

Lyle W. Stepanek Dow City March 9, 1944

Korea

James L. Houston Dow City February 14, 1951

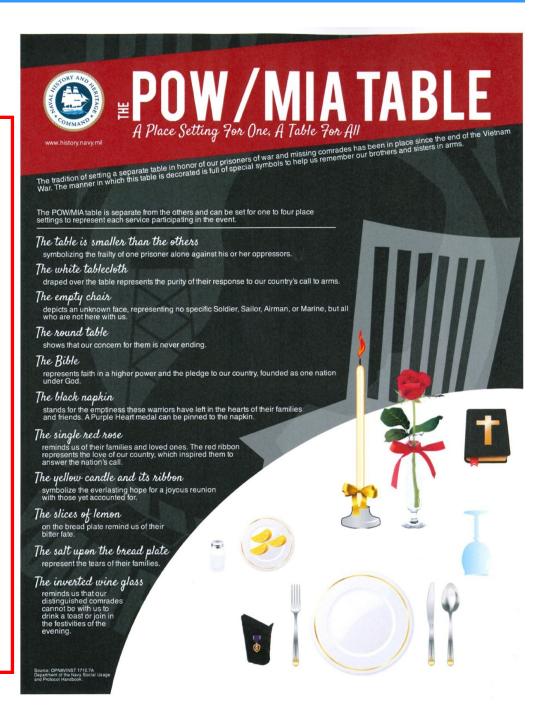
Freeman D. Satterlee Denison May 14, 1952

Vietnam

Robert F. Rex Odebolt March 9, 1969

Donald Sparks Carroll June 17, 1969

Daniel W. Thomas Danbury July 6, 1971





SEPTEMBER 2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
	Church Office Closed	Preschool	6:30 Bible Study	Preschool		
	No Preschool	9 a.m. LWML Zone Board	p.m. Preschool	1:30 p.m. LWML		
	LABOR DAY	Meeting @ Our Savior	Confirmation	No Bible Study		5 p.m. Worship w/HC
7 Grandparents Day Rally Sunday	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13
9 a.m. Worship	Preschool	Preschool	6:30 Bible Study	Preschool	<—Calf Show	Weekend—>
w/HC 10:15 SS & BC			p.m. Preschool	No Quilting		Craft Fair 10:00 am Parade
10.10 CC & BC		6 am—8 pm Voting polls open	Confirmation	No Bible Study		Immanuel's Dinner til 1:00 pm
RALLY		for Schleswig school special election		PATRIOT DAY		5 p.m. Worship w/HC
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC	No Preschool	Preschool Messenger	No Bible Study	Preschool		8:30 a.m. LWML Fall Retreat @
10am—Noon		Deadline for October issue	p.m. Preschool			Mission Central
Pancake Breakfast at Comm. Bldg.		CALL TO SERVICE OF THE SERVICE OF TH	Confirmation	No Bible Study		
1:00 p.m. Schleswig			L	L,		5 p.m. Worship w/HC
Sharks 4-H	; F	Pastor @ Concordia	Seminary, St. Loui	s ¦		
21	22 Fall Begins	23	24	25	26	27
9 a.m. Worship w/HC	Preschool	Preschool	6:30 Bible Study	Preschool		
10:15 SS & BC	Y		p.m. Preschool	9 a.m. Quilting		
11:30 Elders Mtg.	WELCOME		8:45 a.m. Newsletter Assemblage	9 a.m. LWML Fall Rally @ St. John-Kiron		
	Pastor @ Fall I Conference	District Pastors' Fort Dodge	Confirmation	6:30 p.m. Bible Study		5 p.m. Worship w/HC
28	29	30		1		
9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC	Preschool	Preschool	Preschool: Mon., Tues., Thurs Wed.: 11:45 a.m	.: 8 a.m.—3 p.m. –3 p.m.	October SMTWTFS	
			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.		5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	
					26 27 28 2	9 30 31

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL **LUTHERAN CHURCH**

501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461

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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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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, 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."