

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2023

Volume 38, Issue 4


THE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
MISSOURI
SYNOD



From Your Pastor

Recently, I read that the Merriam-Webster dictionary people declared the Word of the Year for 2023 is *authentic*—"the term for something we're thinking about, writing about, aspiring to, and judging more than ever."

Authentic has been a high-volume lookup most years, but the word saw a substantial increase in 2023, driven by stories and conversations about artificial intelligence (AI), celebrity culture, identity, and social media.

Authentic has a number of meanings including "not false or imitation," a synonym of *real* and *actual*; and also "true to one's own personality, spirit, or character." Although clearly a desirable quality, *authentic* is hard to define and subject to debate—two reasons why it sends many people to the dictionary.

Authentic is often connected to identity, whether national or personal: words frequently modified by *authentic* include *cuisine* and *dish*, but also *self* and *voice*. Celebrities like singers Lainey Wilson, Sam Smith, and especially Taylor Swift all made headlines in 2023 with statements about seeking their "authentic voice" and "authentic self." Headlines like "Three Ways To Tap Into Taylor Swift's Authenticity And Build An Eras-Like Workplace" associate the quality of *authentic* with pop-culture superpower.

And with the rise of artificial intelligence—and its impact on deepfake videos, actors' contracts, academic honesty, and a vast number of other topics—the line between "real" and "fake" has become increasingly blurred. And if any of our older members are still reading by now, I invite you to remember the stars of years past singing on *The Ed Sullivan Show*—well, it looked like they were singing. Sometimes the mouth stopped before the words stopped—showing they were lip-syncing and not "really" singing. The performance was an act; it was not *authentic*! Well, that still goes on today.

Of the definitions and applications of *authentic* that I see, the one that very much troubles me is the definition "true to one's own personality, spirit, or

character." That may be good and may be not good. If it is a desire to be true to one's personality, spirit, or character as a reborn child of God through faith in Jesus and by the working of the Holy Spirit, being *authentic* is highly desirable. But if it is a desire to be true to one's *sinful* personality, spirit, or character, well, that is a desire to be put away, or as God's Word tells us, "put to death what belongs to your worldly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming" (Colossians 3:5-6). In the following verses the Holy Spirit goes on to teach us what is *authentic* about being a child of God: "But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator" (vv. 7-10).

To be *authentic* is to be seeking God's grace and His guidance through His Word to more and more live as He created us to live—as He has now recreated us to live—by faith in the Son of God who loves us and lives in us (Gal. 2:20).

The Son of God has lived the *authentic* existence for you and for me. He humbled Himself to be born for us to be our Savior. Jesus once said, "I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 6:38). The will of the Father took Him all the way to the cross to pay for all our sins of rebellion against our Creator. Risen from death He lives as the *authentic*, real, and unfailing love of the Father for us. True to His character, He will never forsake the soul that seeks Him: "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him" (Lam. 3:25). Trust His Word and promises. "The Word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:25), and that is real for you, dear child of God!

Your fellow-servant for Christ,

Pastor Mahuken

Poinsettia Tree

If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our memorial poinsettia "tree", please call the Church Office 676-2235. Let us know if it is being donated in memory of someone.



The church will be purchasing all poinsettias in order to keep them identical. Cost is \$12 each.

ANGEL TREE DONATIONS



This year our Angel Tree will be in support of the Sioux City Gospel Mission.

Their primary needs are blankets, quilts, hats, mittens, sweatshirts, socks, boots, underwear (new) and the following food items: canned vegetables and fruits, soups, canned tuna or chicken, coffee and pasta.

Please take an angel from the Christmas tree in the Narthex to help brighten someone's Christmas, thank you!

Sponsored by our Mission Board

Our congregation will support TAP (Temporary Aid Program) Through the month of December

Many necessities can't be purchased with Food Stamps such as paper towels, toilet paper, soap, disposable diapers, shampoo and laundry detergent.

At this time TAP is particularly in need of: sugar, flour, soups, crackers, cooking oil, tuna, canned tomatoes, tomato juice, macaroni, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, complete pancake mix and syrup, laundry soap, dish soap, and personal hygiene products. Please be very sure that the items you donate have good expiration dates as often TAP has received items that have already expired and that makes more work for them as they can't put them out on the shelves.

Cash donations are also very helpful as they enable us to buy in quantity and take advantage of sales.

Donations can be sent to: TAP, PO Box 121, Denison, IA 51442. TAP is located at 210 South 25th Street, just north of El Jimador. It is open and staffed by volunteers Monday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

There will be a donation box in the church Narthex through the month.



Please remember these members at Christmas:

- Gracewell:** Gaylord Boeck, Ruth Reincke, Dr. D. L. & Gloria Schmidt
- Heritage Heights (Eventide apts.):** Donna Koch and Delores Sonksen
- Maple Heights:** Elaine Friedrichsen
- Odebolt Specialty Care:** Ruby Friedrichsen
- Silverridge:** Janet Beeck, Janice Gierstorf, Gerald Pedersen
- Shut-ins at Home:** Lillie Petersen and Carolyn Schroeder



IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me..."

As you begin thoughts of end of year giving, RMD distributions, and other tax planning, please consider a donation to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization. Your donation can be cash, RMD, appreciated stock, or even grain. The 75% Iowa tax credit is the largest tax credit in Iowa and there are also added tax benefits to C-Corporations if that includes you or someone you know. For more information about ILSTO call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 or go online to www.iowalutheransto.com. Reminder, you may now donate online through our website under the donate tab.





- December 2.....Becky Hanlin
 Brian Hennings
- December 3.....Kevin Andresen
 Kaitlyn Bruhn
 Merry Jacoby
 Terry Kline
 Loretta Reimers
- December 4.....Tyson Hennings
 Jonathan Lundell
- December 5.....Jodi Lorenzen
- December 6.....Savannah Steinkuehler
- December 7.....Clinton Bruhn
 Josh Hanke
- December 8.....Karli Wittorf
- December 9.....Sara Becker
 Elaine Friedrichsen
- December 10.....Janice Jepsen
 Julie Petersen
- December 12.....Tom Bubke
 Paul Nahnsen
 Angela Nielsen
 Darwin Petersen
 Willis Petersen
 Kathy Weiss
- December 14.....Dana Kolln
- December 15.....Lila Bubke
 Nash Heiden
- December 16.....Ashley Gallagher
- December 17.....Dennis Segebart
- December 19.....Reighlyn Bremser
 Morgan Jepsen
- December 20.....Hannah Lindberg
- December 21.....Ryan Hill
- December 22.....Mary Chisholm
- December 26.....K'Lynn Harm
 Austin Hubbard
- December 27.....Ryan Friedrichsen
 Doyle Slavik
- December 28.....Quintin Lovan
 Ally Lundell
 Jaxdan Pierson
- December 29.....Sandy Bubke
 Scott Moeller
 Wynn Otto
- December 30.....Charlie Beeck
 Anthony Hatcher



- Lowell & Julie TeutDecember 7, 1984
- Larry & Judy Jensen.....December 12, 1975
- Gerard & Mindi McKibbin.....December 14, 2006
- Doug & Stephanie PrussingDecember 18, 2021
- Matthew & Christine WunschelDecember 23, 1988
- Gene & Lori Kragel.....December 25, 1978
- Jacob & Abby MacumberDecember 30, 2017

Please notify the office of any omissions or corrections.



Wednesday Advent Worship

This year our Midweek Advent Worship will begin with caroling at 5:30 p.m.

Worship will begin at 5:45 p.m.

Supper will be served following worship at 6:30 p.m.

December 6, 5:45 p.m.

“The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt” Luke 1:5-25

December 13, 5:45 p.m.

“An Angel of the Lord Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Fear of the Unknown” Matthew 1:18-25

December 20, 5:45 p.m.

“The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of the Seemingly Impossible” Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

“A Multitude of the Heavenly Host Announces a Peace Which Brings Renewed Hope” Luke 2:13-14

Christmas Day Worship
9 a.m.

“An Angel Brings Hope with a Sign of God’s Presence in the Newly Born Christ Child.” Luke 2:8-11

Our Christmas Day offering will go to Immanuel’s Home Mission Fund.





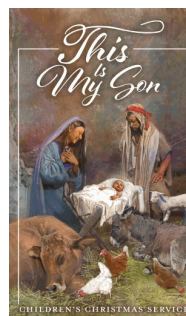
- January 3.....Denise Clausen
Hannah Prussing
Ronnie Streck
- January 5.....Christi Fredericks
Blaze Palmer
Robert Whitenack
- January 6.....Nick Riessen
Michael Rothe
Scott Schultz
- January 7.....Nancy Bielenberg
Ryan Kragel
Karson O'Brien
- January 11.....Kent Bornhoft
- January 12.....Tyler Hennings
Marlene Lee
Kyle Segebart
- January 13.....Randy Segebart
Bonnie Teut
- January 14.....Jake Schneider
Madilynn Shafer
Da'Leyah York
- January 15.....Harper Lee
Don Wunschel
- January 16.....Tracy Beeck
Elli Heiden
Sandy Hummel
Kirsten Maschmann
Kimber Wood
- January 17.....Kelsey Wittorf
- January 18.....Elsie Otto
- January 19.....Bethany Daniel
Linda Prussing
Amy Schultz
Jessica Thistle
Payton Treiber
- January 20.....Aaron Hennings
Kristi Kluender
Jessica Ogren
Jordan Voss
- January 21.....Chris Sands
- January 22.....Elaine Teut
- January 23.....Makayla Beeck
- January 24.....Judy Gierstorf
Karl Wittorf
- January 27.....Sheila Groth
Cindi Paulsen
Beth Winqvist
- January 28.....Jayne Jepsen
Evelyn Streck
Ramon Velasquez
- January 29.....Kenneth Namanny
- January 30.....Rhonda Kragel
Harley McManigal
- January 31.....Makayla Miller

- Kent & Nan BornhoftJanuary 4, 1997
- Roger & Carol WaldeJanuary 15, 1961
- Charles & Jean Rohlf.....January 28, 2012

Please notify the office of any omissions or corrections.



To be included in your giving statements for 2023, gifts must be received in the church office by December 27, 2023.



Sunday School Christmas Service

Saturday, December 9, 4 p.m.

"This is My Son"

Please mark your calendar to join us for this special worship opportunity, and plan to enjoy a soup supper together following the service.

The Sunday School is sponsoring the Christmas tree in the north Narthex. Please bring new or gently used toys to be given to area children. The last day to bring them will be the day of the program, Saturday, December 9.



The 5th-8th grade classes will have program practice Wednesday, December 6 from 5:00-5:30 p.m. before the mid-week Advent services.

ALL children will have practice Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9:00—11:00 a.m with pizza lunch to follow. We look forward to seeing everyone!

~ THE LWML
INVITES ALL
LADIES ~



Our November meeting was centered around being Thankful to God, both by our singing and our study of His Word. We have indeed been richly blessed.

We considered the following ways to use some of the proceeds from this year's Calf Show Dinner.

- We made a donation toward the Military Bible Stick fund.
- We made a donation to Mission Central.
- We purchased two more tables for use in the Fellowship Hall when needed.
- We are buying Christmas gifts for those attending our Immanuel Preschool.
- The Church's library computer is no longer functioning properly. Costs will be presented at the next meeting to replace it.
- We are also checking into other things that are needed at church and will discuss at another time.

We decided to have a regular meeting in December and then plan for a guest day at one of the spring meetings.

We will also be hosting the LWML Rally in the spring so will be making plans for that after the first of the year.

We prepared Thanksgiving cards for mailing and also enjoyed some delicious pumpkin dessert and fellowship.

—Submitted by Donna Harm, Secretary

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



Tidings of Comfort and Joy

By T. Davis Bunn

Fourteen year old Marissa is in a foul mood. Due to an illness, she is coming to stay with her Grandmother Emily, while her parents and brothers go on a long awaited family trip to Hawaii. Emily is not looking forward to the coming holidays because of the loss of her beloved husband Colin. Emily decides they will get through this hard time together.

Over many cups of cocoa shared during her recuperation, Marissa's grandmother begins to tell her a story that she hasn't spoken about in years. As Emily begins, a beautiful story unfolds of love and loss, of small acts of kindness and heroism in a far away war weary English village now some fifty years ago.

As Emily shares this story with Marissa, the two find the most precious gift of Christmas is that of the present. And the season of giving is not limited to once a year.

—Submitted by Elaine Teut

There are many nice Christmas, family-oriented DVD's in the adult library. Please feel free to check a couple out while the kids are home on school break.



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV



I'm sitting at the preschool today. It's Sunday afternoon and the church is quiet. I can hear the wind outside. If I look out the window I can see the snow still on the ground from the weekend. It is the end of November and we just finished a beautiful (I hope yours was too) Thanksgiving weekend. Even though no one is in the church, I can already sense the anticipation of Christmas. I brought the tree up, changed the bulletin board, and have the glitter waiting for tomorrow's first Christmas craft. However, there is definitely a sense of something missing. What is it? Perhaps the better question, who is it? It's the children!

The children bring joy to the Christmas season through their eyes of anticipation and wide open hearts. They hear about the love of God sent through His Son, Jesus, and sit with whole-hearted acceptance of His unconditional love and grace. It can almost bring me to tears. The faith of a child. The innate ability they have to believe, trust, and forgive. It not only brings me immense joy as I witness their spirit, but it also brings conviction. Why?

I don't know about you, but I can get so busy with planning for the program, lesson plans, and balancing home, work, and church that I don't always take the time to sit at the feet of Jesus. As you watch a child listen to the Word, they are entranced. The hunger and eagerness to know Jesus is palpable in the room. (Yes, there are times it appears to look like rolling on our stomachs, poking our friend, or shouting out an answer before it's asked.) The children will sit criss-cross applesauce on the floor and soak up the Truth God has for them with expectancy. God says it and they believe it. Done. It is as simple as that because they know beyond a shadow of a doubt God is real and He always tells the truth. And, He loves them!

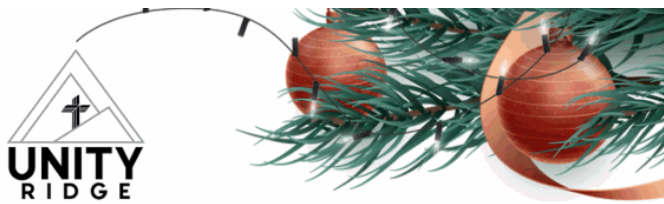
As we head into the month of December, I encourage you to take time to sit at the feet of Jesus and allow yourself to be enthralled by His Word. Personally, I'm in the book of 1 Timothy and loving it. He tells me new things every single time I sit with Him. If you don't have a spot you're digging into right now, go check out the account of the first Christmas night. If you spend time with Jesus, He will transform your heart into one of a child. I can't imagine a better Christmas gift for Him or you!

Before I close, I want to take a moment and again say thank you regarding the preschool's carnival/fundraiser. One of the prayers I prayed in advance was that people would see Jesus that night. As I reflect upon the evening, I believe they did! It was your willing heart and His Spirit's attendance that allowed attendees to see joy and excitement in the room. They had fun. They won prizes. They ate supper with their families. While they may seem like small things to us, I know God has a heart for relationships and fellowship. The evening also taught me the importance of surrender. I had intended to assemble all the volunteers and pray together before we began. I was as shocked as anyone when the room began filling up BEFORE WE EVEN STARTED! Do you have any idea how blessed I felt to have all of you? As you walked in, there were several I asked to put finishing touches on the game booths. Some of you found a need to tweak the games, thank you for using your leadership skills to bring blessings to others in this small way! The cotton candy machine, the cake walk, the vendors, the fish, the ring toss, etc were all just a piece of sharing Jesus with others. The Spirit was there. People with no church home, met others who had one. They got to witness the joy in the hearts of you who do! Thank you!

I pray you have an incredible month of December!

Mrs. Gustafson

Joyful
MERRY & BLESSED



*Unity Ridge Lutheran School
Christmas Party and Fundraiser*

COME & JOIN US DEC. 9TH

We invite you to celebrate the most beautiful time of the year with us! Come and enjoy talent from some of our very own students at UR! Savor in the fellowship, excellent food and Christmas Cheer as we Auction off some really great Christmas gifts to raise money for our UR scholarships! 10% of the proceeds will go back to the community!

DOORS OPEN AT 4 PM ~DINNER AT 5PM

**STUDENT TICKETS
\$25**

**ADULT TICKETS
\$50**

**THE STABLES
AT COPPER RIDGE**

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE
UNITY RIDGE OFFICE

OR

CALL/TEXT 712-267-3384



Why Do We Need a Pregnancy Resource Center?

"I was scared to talk to anyone, I thought abortion was my only option"
"I didn't know who I could turn to"
"I was overwhelmed with parenting but didn't know where to get help"
"I had so many relationship issues to consider with the child's father"
"I needed help with some baby items"
"When I went to Crossroads, they helped me buy things with points I earned that I otherwise could not have afforded"

"Crossroads wants SERVE LIFE by building around a community need they have seen. We had looked into options for a physical move in order to accomplish this"
Allen Staley, Former Board Chairman
"A Christian Pregnancy Resource Center means families have a service at their easy access that will walk alongside them from the time of making a life decision through parenthood."
Tani Brodersen, Current Board Chairperson

It's not 'just an unplanned pregnancy'

It's the relationship issues that threaten smooth sailing ahead
It's the financial stressors already a problem and diapers are not even being bought yet
It's the anxiety about preparedness to truly meet a child's needs...for a lifetime!

P R E G N A N T

Your help to Crossroads helps us equip them!

Crossroads provides this service through donors who LOVE LIFE and donate to the ministry.
As a charitable organization, your monetary gift is tax deductible.

CROSSROADS ULTRASOUND SERVICES & SITE PROJECT

PHASE I GOAL: \$250,000 Downpayment on the purchase/initial startup/security & upgrade/alterations	
PHASE II GOAL: \$225,000 Building payments/program development, operations & remodel & upgrade payoff	
PHASE III GOAL: \$200,000 Building payoff/Operations	
PHASE IV GOAL: \$150,000 New Development of Unused Area	

Note: these figures only relate to the physical property, not staffing, training, and professional insurances



THE GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR

Greetings to all fellow Lutherans within listening range of the Good Shepherd Hour. The Good Shepherd Hour is broadcasted over the radio in Fort Dodge, Le Mars, Sioux City and Storm Lake on Sunday morning. The GSH is a short service of that week's Bible readings, a hymn, a sermon message, a creed, Lord's Prayer and blessing. It is perfect for shut-ins and those home sick, who don't have access to their home church's service and for anyone else. Most important, the GSH is available to those who don't know Jesus at all or have fallen away from him.

The Good Shepherd Hour's was originally started in connection with the chaplaincy in Sioux City, but the chaplaincy has ended. Its current speaker is Pastor Trevor Freudenburg of the LCMS. For your spiritual growth, past broadcasts can be found at <https://kscj.com/the-good-shepherd-hour>. Good Shepherd Hour radio times and stations are listed below:

KVFD, Fort Dodge	1400 AM	8:00 am
KLEM, Le Mars	1410 AM or 96.9 FM	8:00 am
KSCJ, Sioux City	1360 AM or 94.9 FM	8:00 am
KAYL, Storm Lake	101.7 FM	8:30 am

Please keep the ministry in your prayers. If you would like to support the Good Shepherd Hour ministry or want more information, please contact us at the address below. You can sponsor a broadcast for a station or for all the stations, or any donation will be a help to the ministry.

Good Shepherd Hour, PO Box 5044, Sioux City, IA 51102-5004.
Email: goodshepherdhour2@gmail.com



Main Street Living is a televised worship service produced in conjunction with Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod churches and pastors. Local LCMS pastors attend recording days about every two months to record a liturgy and sermon. These services are then edited to include regional choirs and aired on location television stations. Six unique regional services are produced and aired each week.

- * The mission of Main Street Living is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ using television and other media.
- * Main Street is NOT intended to be a replacement for in-person worship, but is here to provide liturgical services to those who are unable to attend a local service.
- * The main source of support comes from viewers and their families in the form of mail-in donations, online donations and memorials which are tax-deductible.
- * MSL is a designated 501(c)(3) corporation in the state of South Dakota. It is governed by a board of directors and facilitated by an Executive Director. Additionally, each market has its own leadership and production teams who recruit, schedule and record pastors and choirs—as well as process local donations.
- * Choirs are comprised of members from surrounding LCMS congregations. Choir recording sessions meet at area churches and record around a dozen hymns to be edited into future services.
- * The program is broadcast each Sunday at 10 am on KCAU-Sioux City or at 10:30 am on WOWT-Omaha.
- * MSL can be viewed anytime at MainStreetLiving.com or their Facebook page.



On November 17, nine youth and two leaders from various local churches headed to the Senior Youth Gathering in Des Moines.

Calli Korner, Tyson Stoppel and Clayton Stoppel went from Immanuel.



What's happening at Camp Okoboji?!

Sent by Kirk R. Warnke, Executive Director

Playground Update: There have been no significant changes in the playground since last month.

Ezra Cabin: Progress is being made on Ezra Cabin. Former Laborers for Christ have been here to work on framing and enclosing the building before winter. Most of them have left for the holidays and will be back after the first of the year. Interior work will begin now with electrical, plumbing and HVAC.

Baumann Cabin: We are still in the earliest stages of this project. Currently, I am seeking architect/design assistance to draft the plans. We do have some funds set aside for this project, but additional fundraising will be required to fully fund the project.

Personnel: After many months, it is exciting to announce that Olivia Laube will be starting December 4th as Camp's Discipleship Leader. Olivia is a graduate of Concordia St. Paul. It is also exciting to share that discussions regarding a shared discipleship position have progressed beyond initial inquiries and have become a deeper conversation. And, finally, we anticipate submitting an application for a DCE intern through Concordia Chicago this month.

We have hired a Dining Hall/Housekeeping Supervisor. Dawn Frehse will start at Camp on January 10, 2024. Dawn will be retiring from her military career in December and join us after the first of the year.

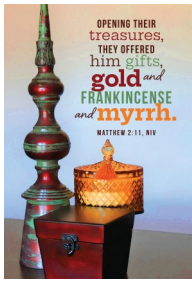
Summer Staff recruitment is ongoing. NLOMA Joint Recruitment is active. Encouraging youth within your congregations to consider serving as Summer Staff is the most effective way to recruit!!

Lastly, I (Kirk) have informed the Board of Directors that I will retire after the Annual Meeting in April, 2024. Board President, Scott Ebel, will lead the Search Committee. If you are interested, know of someone who would be interested or simply have a recommendation of a person you believe might merit consideration, please share with Scott. Also, for more information or a complete Job Description, please contact Scott at 4641 Nest Avenue, Granville, IA 51022 or email him at meatheadebel@yahoo.com.

Volunteers: Recognizing and expressing our THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

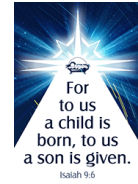
Needs/Wants List: Sharing opportunities to assist Camp with specific items.

- * CJ Aquatics Plastic Backboard with Head Immobilizer and Straps—500 lb. weight
- * Gas grills
- * Laundry soap, bleach and hand soap
- * Queen size mattress pads
- * Thrivent Action Cards (check with Kellie Jones for guidance on potential usages)
- * Also check our Amazon wish list at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2U3MCM8Z6HGPY?ref=wl_share.



DECEMBER 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
 <p>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. <small>Luke 2:14, KJV</small></p>	<p>Preschool Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 8 a.m.—3 p.m. Wed.: 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m.</p> <p>Confirmation 5th & 6th grade: 3:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m.</p>					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Installation of Pr. Ted Torreson, Christ Lutheran</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation 5:45 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship 6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Meal</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Preschool 1:30 p.m. LWML 6:00 p.m. Preschool program No Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service followed by soup supper</p> 	
<p>10</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>No Preschool</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Preschool 8:30 Pastors' Conference at Our Savior, Denison</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation 5:45 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship 6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Meal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting 6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>	
<p>17</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation 5:45 p.m. Midweek Advent Worship 6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Meal</p>	<p>21 Winter Begins</p> <p>Preschool No Bible Study</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No 4 pm Worship</p>	
<p>24 Christmas Eve 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 4 p.m. Candlelight Worship w/HC 8 p.m. Candlelight Worship w/HC</p> <p>31 New Year's Eve 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day 9 a.m. Worship w/HC</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>No Preschool</p>	<p>27</p> <p>No Bible Study No Preschool No Confirmation Last day for offerings to be included in 2023</p>	<p>28</p> <p>No Preschool No Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>	



JANUARY 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																										
<p>February 2024</p> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</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			<p>1 New Year's Day</p> <p>No Preschool</p>	<p>2</p> <p>No Preschool</p>	<p>3</p> <p>No Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>1:30 LWML</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Epiphany</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>
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																																												
<p>7</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship w/HC</p> <p>10:15 SS & BC</p> <p>11:30 Elders' Planning Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>8:30 Pastors' Conference at St. John, Charter Oak</p> <p>6:30 Church council meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>9 a.m. Quilting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																										
<p>14</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:15 SS & BC</p> <p>10:15 Voters' Meeting</p>	<p>15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <p>No Preschool</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p><i>Messenger</i> Deadline for February issue</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																										
<p>21</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship w/HC</p> <p>10:15 SS & BC</p> <p>11:30 Board of Ed Planning Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool</p> <p>8:45 a.m. Newsletter Assemblage</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>9 a.m. Quilting</p> <p>Pastor at District Board of Directors meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																										
<p>28</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>p.m. Preschool</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Preschool Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 8 a.m.—3 p.m. Wed.: 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m.</p> <p>Confirmation 5th & 6th grade: 3:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15 p.m.—8:00 p.m.</p> </div>																																												

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 News

October Kingdom Growth...

* New Converts	79	* Baptized	48
* Callers	163	* Confirmed	41
* Listening Groups	4		
* Inmates in Confirmation Classes	548!!		

Angels Rejoicing over Mustefa's faith in our Lord Jesus!

His name is Mustefa Mohammed. This man is a resident of Western Arsi Gololcha District of the Oromiya region. Mustefa admits he was a follower of Islam and an opponent of Christ.

"I hated and opposed the Christian religion and its followers. By chance, as usual, I was looking for an Ethiopian radio station at 2:00 pm on Sunday to listen to Ethiopian news. It was the first time I heard this, so I tuned into the station and started listening. I was hearing God's Word in a way I had never heard it before. I was very surprised when I heard the message at the end. The word of God that was being transmitted that night was about Jesus Christ's salvation, healing, and eternal life after death by believing in Him. Hearing this raised a big question in me because I had never thought about life after death before.

The next week I waited for the same time and heard the word of God. I wanted to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, but I didn't know what to do. There was no one near me who could tell me or explain the word I heard. At the end of the program, when the phone numbers were given, I quickly wrote them down and the next day I called the person who picked up the phone. He helped me to pray a prayer of repentance to believe the Lord immediately on the phone.

He also advised me to go to the nearest church and talk to them, which I did right away. I now worship regularly at this church and attend confirmation classes. I now have joy and a different peace in my heart.

My family protested against my decision because my previous faith was Islam, but I was happy to find the path of truth. Thank you Lord, because of this African radio program, I know salvation is only through Jesus Christ."

African Radio broadcasted by ARM is a service that helps many people to believe in the Lord and to be comforted and healed. I thank God very much for this service.

Prayer and praise report on Kathy's health:

On June 8th our lives were upended by the biopsy and test results confirming Kathy's diagnosis: stage four metastatic breast cancer. Friends call and visit and most importantly pray. Your prayers are a great encouragement. God is our Father and our healer! ***The lump is now barely detectable.*** Besides Letrozole, Kathy takes remedies from well-meaning friends to please them, but who knows? God can use Michael Xia's Tibetan wolfberries too! We are under no illusions. There are ups and downs in the healing journey and prayers are needed for healing and persistence in following the protocols that God has given Kathy to bring her to full health.

Your partners in the harvest,
Missionary Linda Kurtz and John & 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

Blessings to all in this Advent season mis amigos and prayer warriors! Such a joyous time to share the good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Looking forward to the Christmas celebrations with new families and friends. Here we are sharing with you the latest about our Hispanic Ministry, your Hispanic Ministry.

Our third session of ESL class is coming to an end soon at St. Paul, Hartley. We celebrated Thanksgiving with our students on Monday, November 20. We have made new contacts and were blessed to have a few more people come to worship services. We will also be baptizing a couple of children in December and there may be a couple of weddings. We also thank God as He opened new doors with a local company that is eager to work with us in helping the Hispanic community find work and better opportunities in the Hartley area.

In Carroll, we celebrated a bilingual service together with St. Paul on October 29. It is exciting to hear two languages praying and praising together. We celebrated Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 21. Our third session of ESL class will also be finishing up mid-December. We have a good group coming to our Bible study on Saturday evening. We lost one family that moved out of state due to work and possibly a couple more will be leaving. We have about 8-11 people attending. We would like to give thanks to all the volunteers; we would not be able to do any of this without you.

In Denison, we continue with Sunday worship service but have changed our Wednesday Bible study to Carroll since the people who come live in Carroll and a couple drive from Coon Rapids. We will have five baptisms the weekend after Thanksgiving. We ask for your prayers as we ask God to give us all we need to continue to spread the message of Jesus to the people in Denison.

At Storm Lake, we continue to offer our Bible studies and worship service every week, and we are glad to have restarted confirmation class. We are excited to see how our small group is interested in preparing themselves to learn more about God and, who knows, maybe future church leaders. We are also looking at the possibility to start an ESL program here. We need your prayers on this since we will be reaching out for volunteers.

Our outreach at St. Paul-Fort Dodge is on hold for the winter months. For now, we continue to keep in touch with contacts from our fall ESL class. Looking for the possibility to start something at the beginning of the new year.

Our Hispanic LWML group is active. Our ladies are participating as much as they can in events around the region.

Please feel free to come and help or celebrate these days with your new Hispanic Lutheran brothers and sisters and as always keep us in your prayers, gracias and Bendiciones!

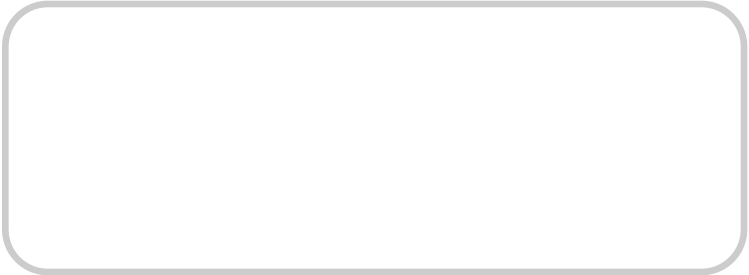
Pastor Lopez

**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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
501 Glad St. PO Box 27 Schleswig, Iowa 51461
Office: 712-676-2235
Saturday Worship at 4 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.
+++++
E-mail: immansch@iowatelecom.net
or: markey@iowatelecom.net
Website: www.immanuel Schleswig.com
"Like" us on Facebook
Pastor: Merle F. Mahnken—
Home Ph.: 712-676-2242 Cell Ph.: 712-269-6364
Assisting Pastor: Kurt Kaiser
Cell Ph.: 712-269-8452
Office: Amanda Bruhn and Valerie Teut
Preschool: Leslie Gustafson
Organist: Marlene Hight
Janitor: Jolene Whiteing
Snow Removal and Lawn Care:
Ryan Jepsen; 712-790-1603
Loren and Janice Jepsen



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