

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER



OCTOBER 2023
Volume 38, Issue 2



From Your Pastor

Are the burdens of life weighing you down? Does dealing with what is before you seem oppressive? At such times it is easy to feel alone, unloved, and defeated. Martin Luther knew these feelings well, even as we all do frequently. Martin learned to turn faithfully not only to the Word of God, but also to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Martin Luther said, this of the Lord's Supper: "I certainly love it with all my heart, the precious, blessed Supper of my Lord Jesus Christ, in which He gives me His body and blood to eat and to drink with the mouth of my body, accompanied by the exceedingly sweet and gracious words: "Given for you . . . Shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

Luther also observed "Therefore it [The Lord's Supper] is appropriately called food of the soul, for it nourishes and strengthens the new creature. For in the first instance, we are born anew through Baptism. However, our human flesh and blood, as I have said, have not lost their old skin. There are so many hindrances and attacks of the devil and the world that we often grow weary and faint and at times even stumble. Therefore the Lord's Supper is given as a daily food and sustenance so that our faith may be refreshed and strengthened and that it may not succumb in the struggle but become stronger and stronger. For the new life should be one that continually develops and progresses. But it has to suffer a great deal of opposition. The devil is a furious enemy; when he sees that we resist him, and when he cannot rout us by force, he sneaks and skulks about at every turn, trying all kinds of tricks, and does not stop until he has finally worn us out so that we either renounce our faith or lose heart and become indifferent or impatient. For times like these, when our heart feels to sorely pressed, this comfort of the Lord's Supper is given to bring us new strength and refreshment."

Jesus knew of our great need for the precious gift of grace which He gives in the Lord's Supper. This is why He also said, "Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19) as He instituted this Sacrament.

Martin Luther picked up on this and wrote, "A promise is attached to the commandment, which should most powerfully draw and impel us. Here stand the gracious and lovely words, "This is My body given FOR YOU,' "This is My blood shed FOR YOU for the forgiveness of sins.' These words, as I have said, are not preached to wood or stone but to you and me; otherwise He might just as well have kept quiet and not instituted a sacrament. Ponder, then, and include yourself personally in the 'YOU' so that He may not speak to you in vain.

"For in this sacrament He offers us all the treasures He brought from heaven for us, to which He most graciously invites us in other places, as when He says in Matthew 11:28, 'Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' Surely it is a sin and a shame that, when He so tenderly and faithfully summons and exhorts us for our highest and greatest good, we regard it with such disdain, neglecting it so long that we grow quite cold and callous and lose all desire and love for it. We must never regard the Sacrament as a harmful thing from which we should flee, but as a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine that aids you and gives life in both soul and body. For where the soul is healed, the body is helped as well."

According to Jesus' own command and promise I encourage us all to faithfully and frequently receive the gracious gift of the Lord's Supper. We acknowledge our great need and we gladly and prayerfully come:

"I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole:
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul, the highest good!
Amen! (LSB 618.1)

Your fellow servant for Christ.

Pastor Mahuken



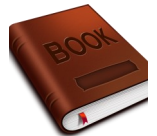
October 1.....Dustin Reese
October 2.....Keenan Beeck
 Jean Rohlf
October 6.....Tammy Hill
October 7.....Sadie Jacobsen
 Troy Kluender
October 8.....Samantha Prussing
 Lodean Voss
October 9.....Becky Schwarz
 Landon Seebeck
October 10.....Daniel Prussing
October 12.....Melissa Aldag
 Aaron Schwarz
October 13.....Judy Lee
October 14.....Christina Martinson
October 15.....Bobbi Jepsen
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 (104)
October 31.....Doris Nahnsen
 Jerrie Wigg

Rocky & Robin Ellerbeck October 3, 1992
Todd & Tara Jepsen October 3, 2004
Dustin & Jessica Ogren October 4, 2008
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
Jordan & Sara Lickteig October 11, 2015
Bruce & Cyndi Paulsen October 12, 1974
Roger & Linda Prussing (50th)..... October 13, 1973
Jamos & Gina Schmidt October 15, 2010
Marvin & Eileen Streck (60th)..... 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.



From the Church Record Book



Adult Baptisms: *“Let the little children come unto Me...”*

Kyle Segebart was baptized on September 23, 2023.
Marnee Rohlf was baptized on September 23, 2023.
Da’Leyah York was baptized on September 23, 2023.

Adult Confirmation: *“Welcome in the name of the Lord...”*

September 23, 2023
Cara Jorgensen
Trevor Ransom
Marnee Rohlf
Kyle Segebart
Da’Leyah York

Deaths: *“I am the Resurrection...”*

Colton Larr Clausen, age 33, died September 10, 2023, and was buried September 22, 2023 in the Morgan Township Cemetery, Schleswig, Iowa.
Kenneth Eugene Winsor, age 94, died September 11, 2023, and was buried September 18, 2023 in the Morgan Township Cemetery, Schleswig, Iowa.

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 11.

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

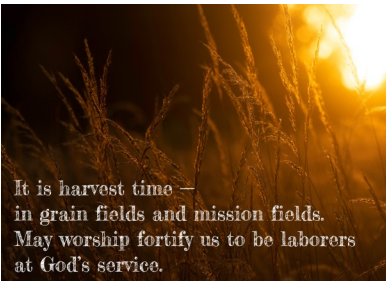
And remember to change your clocks when you get back home on November 4 as Daylight Savings Time ends that night!!



RALLY SUNDAY 2023

Sunday School Rally Day was held Sunday, Sept. 10. Bibles and special books were presented to children ages 3, and in grades 1, 3 & 5.

During the Sunday School hour students were split into teams for a Bible scavenger hunt. It was a great way to kick off the new Sunday School year!



It is harvest time — in grain fields and mission fields. May worship fortify us to be laborers at God's service.



Mark your calendars for our Annual Voters' Meeting to be held Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. More details to come!



DON'T JUDGE EACH DAY BY THE HARVEST YOU REAP but by the seeds that you plant. — ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

On August 28, 2023 Rev. Steve Schulz was installed as the Assistant Director of Mission Central.

Pictured are those pastors that joined the celebration.



~ THE LWML INVITES
ALL LADIES ~



The Calf Show chicken dinner was September 16th with great weather, a great crowd and great help. So grateful for all of the above!

The Fall Rally at Trinity, Manilla was held Thursday, September 21st and the LWML Fall Retreat was held Saturday, September 23rd. Hopefully many members will be able to attend both events and join in the fellowship of others.

We had a lot of nice donations for “Phil’s Friends” that were brought to the September meeting. The mission of “Phil’s Friends” is to provide Christ-centered hope and support to those affected by cancer.

In addition, members have made visits to care facilities and helped with Bingo at Gracewell.

Donna Harm, Secretary



We are pleased to announce that we served 735 dinners after the Calf Show Days parade on Saturday, September 17.

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.

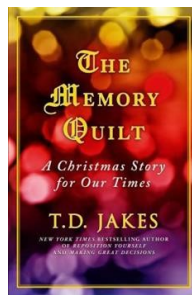


From Your library . . .
“Have we got a book for you!”



I really don’t know what the incentive could be to get more people to make use of our adult library. We have wonderful Christian books and many very good DVD’s. Anytime the office is open you can check out your own books. There is no guideline or timeframe for when you have to return them. If you are done in a week and need a new replacement fine, or if it takes three weeks that is fine too.

The Memory Quilt
by T.D. Jakes



“The Memory Quilt” is a Christmas story that centers around Lela Edward, a grandmother who lives in a Chicago neighborhood that has seen better days. Her husband Walter passed away earlier in the year and her three daughters live in different towns and states, as does her favorite granddaughter, Darcie. A wonderful Christmas for her would be to have all of her family together.

Darcie is traveling to Missouri City, Texas, to spend Christmas with her mother instead of her grandmother. She has decided to divorce her husband who is the father of her unborn child and she knows her grandmother will be upset. Lela is also upset with herself for not getting the quilt done that she has always made for each wedding.

The Christmas season is about celebrating the birth of Jesus and what it means. It’s also about the hope and inspiration that the story brings to us. Sometimes we all have to step back in our everyday lives and do some rethinking.

—Submitted by Carol Neddermeyer



AFRICAN RADIO MINISTRIES—NEWS

Ethiopia Updates:

We celebrate God’s work through you, the African Radio Ministries partners and the saints serving in God’s vineyard in Ethiopia.

August Kingdom Growth:

♦ New Converts	88	♦ Baptized	6
♦ Callers	141	♦ Confirmed	29
♦ Listening Groups formed	5	♦ Released prisoners	26

Ambo Prison

Traveling during times of conflict is never easy, yet three leaders from ARM were determined to visit Ambo Prison in Ethiopia. The prison is home to a thriving men’s congregation with an extremely strong inmate leadership.

The women’s congregation is also on the rise, thanks in part to the new chapel facility that provides a safe space for women to worship. Prior to this, women and children were forced to worship in the elements, making worship difficult and uncomfortable.

Despite challenges faced by those within prison walls, faith in the Lord is evident. In August, one person was baptized, 24 people were confirmed and Holy communion was served to over 400 people. In addition, 26 people completed their Confirmation and were released from prison, taking their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ with them, where the Lord plants them.

Sale Tsemaya Preaching Station

Sale Tsemaya is a Preaching Station in Southern Ethiopia’s Omo Valley’s Jinka Region. Rev. Melikamu made a visit to the preaching station in August to train evangelists. During this visit, 20 evangelists were trained, 4 people baptized, 1 person confirmed and the Lord’s Supper was given to hundreds.

This training was a blessing to the entire region as students traveled from several local churches to partake of the teachings. This is the second time for a Jinka Region training, making the church leaders all the more zealous in acquiring basic leadership and growing in their understanding of Jesus and His Word. The Jinka congregations realize that although they dwell in a remote area of Ethiopia, they are not alone in the Body of Christ.

By equipping church leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge, they can better serve their congregations and continue to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to other remote villages.

Your partners in the harvest.

Missionary Linda Kurtz
John and Kathy Duitsman

¡AMIGOS EN CRISTO and GRACIA!

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

Blessings on this beautiful fall season mis amigos and prayer warriors! Here we are sharing with you the latest about our Hispanic Ministry, *your* Hispanic Ministry.

Amazing happenings are taking place in Carroll! With the support of St. Paul Lutheran Church and many other volunteers, the ministry is coming along. We average 11-17 people every Saturday to study God’s Word and enjoy fellowship with our new Hispanic group there. Praise be to God!

We are having an Immigration Workshop on September 27 and September 30 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul-Carroll. We are hoping to help many people in need of immigration knowledge or assistance with paperwork. Please share this information with your communities. Our prayer is to start a worship service there soon. We are also getting ready for our next ESL (English as a Second Language) program to start in both Carroll and Hartley in October.

In Denison, the ministry continues. However, many families have moved away resulting in fewer members. We continue with Sunday worship and Wednesday Bible study. We ask for your prayers on this specifically as we ask God to give us all we need to continue to spread the message of Jesus to the people in Denison.

In Storm Lake, we continue to offer our Bible studies and worship service every week, and we have restarted confirmation class. We are excited to see how our small group is interested in preparing themselves to learn more about God and possibly become future church leaders.

As St. Paul-Hartley, we are getting ready to start our fall ESL program. Our initial ESL students continue to participate in the English worship services and are excited to help support the Hispanic outreach that will be starting in October.

Our outreach at St. Paul-Fort Dodge has started. We are visiting the town and the ESL class started in August. Our plan and our prayers are to offer a Bible study on Saturdays.

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

I continue to work together with our sister congregations. It’s always a joy to do chapel. This month, I was with the kids at Unity Ridge school. We also joined Our Savior-Denison on their Rally Sunday where we all had one bilingual service and I was the preacher.

I will be sharing information about our Hispanic Ministry at the District Pastors Conference, September 25 & 26 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Urbandale. Please keep us in your prayers and continue to support us. You can support this ministry by sending your donations to the District Office (specify for Hispanic Ministry).

Gracias and bendiciones,
Rev. Pedro L. Lopez



As I've been reflecting upon a specific moment or two to share in this month's newsletter, a handful of distinct quotes come to mind. The first happened earlier this week when we were learning about prayer. We were discussing what prayer is and how it's just like having a conversation with our mom or dad. We can talk to God the same way. We were nearing the end of the story and I made a point to stop and tell them that not only can we TALK to God, we can also listen and HEAR God. Well, this was news for one little tike. As I am closing the book to move on to other things, I hear this beautiful little voice pipe up, "I just heard God talk to me!" The level of excitement and trust in her little eyes was priceless! I joined in her enthusiasm and asked, "What did He say?" Silence. Did He say, "I love you?" Yes, it seems that is what He said!

Another day, we had one friend who hit another. I realize that hitting is a bad decision regardless of whether you are a boy or a girl. However, we took this opportunity to discuss how wonderful it is that when we get bigger, the boys are usually bigger than the girls. We rejoiced over how thankful we can be that God has given us dads, grandpas, etc. to protect us. It is a very important role to be a protector and we want to begin practicing right now. (I did follow this all up with girls should not hit boys either, however this particular situation had a boy initiating the altercation.) I was thrilled when my associate shared that this entire account had been reiterated with her at recess about a week later. He was sharing how it was his job to protect the girls at school and on the playground. (It is by the power of the Holy Spirit when things "stick" with the children.) I don't know why this tidbit landed where it did, but I am rejoicing as this young man is already beginning to walk in his identity as a believer. I am also rejoicing over the truth that this little guy often comes with stories of being with his dad. Dads, you are leading by example. There is no way that little nugget would have landed where it did if he hadn't seen it modeled at home. The solid had already been tilled. He had an experience he was able to connect it with from home. Praise Jesus!

Okay, I have no idea why, but my final example is the one that has come to my mind most often since school started. It's been rolling around just waiting for a devotional to come forth. I don't know exactly where God wants to go with

it, but I'll throw it out there and let you come up with your own! It was the first day of school and the first student to arrive was a little early. He was grinning from ear to ear and happy as could be that he was at school. He'd gotten his jobs done for the morning and was patiently awaiting his peers' arrival. He looks at me and very calmly and enthusiastically tells me, "I'm wearing underwear." Chuckle. How do you even answer such a statement? My response: "You are! Good! I am too!"

I don't know why I've thought of this statement so many times with everything else we've had going on during our days. Yet, I think of it often. Calm. Direct. True. "I am wearing underwear." It may have been a big accomplishment for him. It may have been just a conversation starter. Regardless of why he shared it, it was a statement of truth. Hmm, doesn't it just make you think about our own statements of truth. It takes me back to the moment in the garden with Adam and Eve (I know I've shared this before, but we just read it this week in preschool thus it's fresh in my mind). The devil had tempted Eve to doubt God. It's a strategy he uses often in our own lives. Will we or will we not believe what God says about us? There is an obvious choice that leads to a life of victory and one that leads to a less than joyous existence. God came looking for Adam and Eve and found them hiding in the garden. They explained it was because they were naked and ashamed. Why didn't they just confess their mistake about eating the apple and accept God's forgiveness? Was it fear of losing God's love and/or favor? How often do we do the same? We might look put-together on the outside, but we hide what we're dealing with on the inside. God's okay with our inside. It's His love and grace that washes us clean. It is not our performance.

The little guy in my classroom didn't hesitate to hide what was underneath that I couldn't see. He announced it. He was wearing underwear. I was going to love him regardless. He seemed confident in this truth. God is no different. We can bring the parts of ourselves that seem too private to share and leave it with Jesus. He won't be surprised by them. He won't turn His back on us. No, He will tell us the same thing he told the little girl who heard God speak. He will remind us what we are loved. He will remind us that we are protected. He sees it all anyway. We don't have to live in fear or shame. We get to come to the Father and trust He has made us whole. It's not about us at all. It's all about Him.

Praise Jesus for the lessons taught by the preschoolers! God is so good!

Mrs. Gustafson



And all things,
whatsoever ye shall
ask in prayer, believing,
ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:22

OCTOBER 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



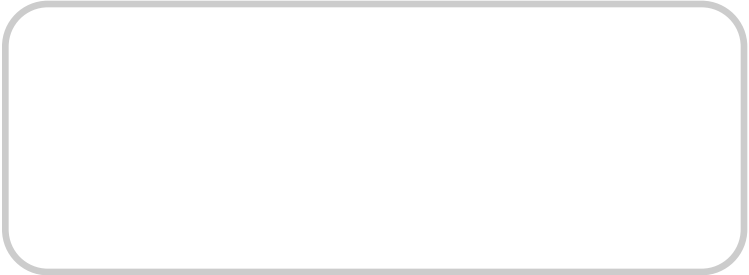
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<p>8 LWML Sunday</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Church Council meeting</p>	<p>9 Columbus Day</p> <p>Preschool</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p>9 a.m. Flu Shot Clinic @ Immanuel</p> <p>9 a.m. Pastors' Conference @ Ida Grove</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool Confirmation</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Preschool 9 a.m. Quilting 6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																										
<p>15</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p>	<p>16</p> <p>No Preschool</p> <p>7 pm Voters' Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Preschool</p> <p><i>Messenger</i> Deadline for November issue</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study p.m. Preschool 1 p.m. Volunteers to OGT Confirmation</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Preschool 6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><i>IDW Jr. Youth Gathering in Des Moines</i></p> <p>5 p.m. Worship w/HC</p>																																										
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<p>29</p> <p>9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>Preschool</p>	<p>31 Reformation Day Halloween</p> <p>Preschool</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>		<p style="text-align: center;">November 2023</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </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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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."*