
IMMANUELITE

November 2015

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Pastor John Sharp

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I thank my God in all my remembrance of you. -Philippians 1:3

It is true that pastors are gifts of God (Ephesians 4:11). As a result congregations have them until the end of time. God sends them to congregations to preach the word and thus give the congregation faith (Romans 10:13-17). Such faith justifies them before God and saves them (Romans 3:28).

As a result many in the congregation have taken the opportunity during pastor appreciation month (October) to send me notes of thanks. I especially treasure the ones that I have received from children. Thanks to everyone who remembered me this past month. It was encouraging to me.

It should also be noted that if a pastor is called to a congregation by God, not only does God give the congregation their pastor, God also gives the pastor his congregation. I, like Saint Paul and the Philippian congregation, am thankful for my congregation.

Immanuel conducts her business with a minimal amount of gossip which makes decision making easier and reduces the amount of unnecessary bureaucracy in the congregation. As the members of the congregation learn to confess their sins to one another and forgive one another I anticipate that anxiety levels in the congregation will continue to go down and our confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ will continue to rise.

Immanuel is also a congregation who

makes the "old systems" work. By that I mean that our congregation's constitution follows the older model of board meetings and a church council with quarterly voters meetings. Many congregations can no longer sustain this model and some congregations have abandoned it for new models requiring only one voters assembly per year and a program board that makes all major decisions throughout the year. While there is nothing wrong with a change in constitution, my point in writing this is to show the members of our congregation that they must have a high level of commitment to the congregation's work in the Gospel because you make the older system work.

Immanuel is also unique in the male leadership that she demonstrates. Many congregations in the Western Church are led by women. The women make sure the family goes to Divine Service. Mostly women serve on the boards and committees of the congregation. The women see to it that the children are taught the faith. This is true even among congregations in the West who only ordain men. Immanuel is unique in that she has numerous men serving on many of the administrative boards, not just on the ones that require men. And most unique of all Immanuel has men who teach Sunday School. This instructs our young men in Sunday School that God is for men and not just for women as they might be taught if we had a woman only Sunday School staff. This means that the men at Immanuel are not lazy when it comes to their spiritual responsibilities. This is impressive to me and a reason why I think that Immanuel gets her constitution to work so well.

Immanuel also has a high respect for the office of the pastor. While I realize that pastors of the past have used their authority in ways that have embarrassed the congregation, I would point out that by

maintaining the authority of the pastor, the pastors of the past have granted the congregation a great blessing. A pastor cannot impart the word of God in any effective manner unless the congregation respects and listens to him. In order for that to happen the congregation must have respect for the pastoral office. Immanuel demonstrates that respect and that is not only a blessing to me, it is a blessing to you as well.

My thanks to you, Immanuel Lutheran Church, for all that you are and do.

Because of Jesus,
Pastor



We have a collection box to help the schools by collecting Betty Crocker Boxtops and Campbell Soup labels. We will take our collection at the end of the school year and divide them among the schools that our students attend. This helps the schools purchase items that help the students. The collection box is on the red board in the hallway.



G.R.O.W., a Christian ecumenical men's group in the Newman/Broadlands area, will meet Sunday, November 1st at Immanuel. All interested Christian men in the area are invited to attend the meeting, which begins with breakfast at 7:00am and includes a devotion and a spiritually uplifting topic or speaker each month. There is no charge for the meeting, although opportunity is given for a free-will offering, which is used in various ways to serve others in the community and beyond.



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

Those celebrating the anniversary of their Baptism into God's Holy Family during the month of November include:

- 2- Alicia Laws
Macey McKee
- 3- Sara Smith
- 4- Deborah Block
Jordan Freeman
Beth Peregrine
- 5- Johannah Goetting
- 6- Greg Finney
Abbie Smith
- 9- Christy Chandler
- 11- JoEllen Farmer
- 12- Casey Long
- 15- Nicole Budde Wienke
- 16- Paul Messman
- 20- Drake Siuts
- 21- Barbara Negangard
- 22- Rebecca Rahe
Erin Luedke
- 27- Kathryn Struck
- 28- Adena Paul
- 29- Trenton Smith
- 30- Karl Gruschow



CHURCH
DIRECTORY

Here are the directory changes to date.

Thomas Poe & Isaiah Poe
209 W. Adams Ave.
Villa Grove, IL 61956

We need the address for the following. If you know how to reach them, please let the office know.

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Budde
Tammy Grafton
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Kelly
Allicia Laws
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Laws
Shirley Luth- phone number
Steve Messman- phone number
Mr. & Mrs. Brian O'Donnell
Rebecca Rahe
Ryan Rahe
Kathy Richter
Sara Smith
Rebecca Taylor



FIRST MONDAY SEWING

The Sewing Group of Immanuel will meet on Monday, November 2nd around 9 o'clock for a day of sewing and fun. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish for the noon time lunch. Sewing will continue until about 3 o'clock. We meet in the Fellowship Hall.



Immanuelite articles will be due in the office on, Monday, November 23rd. If you would like something in the newsletter, drop off or email your articles. It would be much appreciated if the boards would update the office on calendar events and meeting dates for each month. Thanks!!



Remember to save those printer cartridges. Turn them in at the office. We will recycle them and use the money to offset office expenses. The recycle company is now accepting old cell phones also. If you want to discard them, you may drop them at the office also. Thanks and happy recycling. Go Green!



The Knitting Group will resume meeting on November 16th at 1:30 pm. Please note that we have changed the time of the meeting from 7:00 to 1:30 in the afternoon. Hope to see a lot of new faces this year.



Operation Christmas

Child

Please bring your **shoeboxes** to church by **Sunday, November 22**. We will be taking all shoeboxes to the drop off location in Champaign right after church that day. If you still need help packing a shoebox, or would like to make a donation for packing more boxes, please see **Bob and Sally Goetting or Annette Gerdes**. Thanks for all your help to bless children around the world with Jesus' love!



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOTERS' MEETING JULY 26, 2015

Vice-chairman Steve Smith called the meeting to order. Pastor Sharp opened the meeting with devotions from Mark 10.

The minutes were read by the members and corrected as needed. It was moved by John Rothermel and seconded by Wayne Long to accept the corrected minutes. Motion carried.

No one requested to become a new voting member.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Wayne Long reported that there was a good turnout on July 5th and thanked everyone. He will keep the members posted about other events.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: No report

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY: Keith Rohl reported that on August 9th Ethan Luth's baby was to be baptized, and it was possible that there would be another baptism on August 23rd.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Brian Luth reported that on August 22nd there will be a painting event from 8 AM until 3 PM; the hallways will be painted before the carpeting is done. LeAnn Benner has accepted the sexton position. Steve Smith took care of the lights in the Parish Hall. There was one fan in the parsonage, and Ron Bergmeier has installed one more.

BOARD OF WORSHIP: No report

BOARD OF EDUCATION: No report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Luth explained that the Capital/Improvement money has used \$198,263 which leaves \$133,000 to use. He also showed that the Summary for the Profit/Loss minus the Capital shows a concern for the church's cash flow. Our income is down about \$10,000 and shows a net loss of about \$40,000. He just wanted the congregation to be aware of the situation. We need \$4,000 per week in order to pay salaries and benefits as well as the bills for the church.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor gave his quarterly report of his activities. He also reported that at the District Convention, the Assembly reaffirmed God's view of marriage and will send copies to the legislators in Illinois and to the Illinois delegation in Washington, DC. The Biblical explanation of God's view is that marriage is between one man and one woman. This will be sent out in the name of every church in the Central Illinois District. Also, Pastor is now the Circuit Visitor for the District.

Brian Taylor moved and Vicki G. Luth seconded that the Board Reports be accepted. Motioned carried.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Keith Rohl suggested that due to the financial situation of the church, we could cut expenses in small ways such as turning off the air conditioning, lights, etc. when we weren't using them. These little ways could help us meet our budget. He said the trustees were open to ideas.

Wayne Long moved and Brian Taylor

seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Council
Meeting
August 27, 2015**

Paul Freebairn called the meeting to order. Pastor led the opening devotions from Psalm 14 and I Corinthians 9.

Steve Smith moved to accept the July 2015 minutes and Brian Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Wayne Long reported that we would be getting our Sunday morning donuts from Rick's Country Market in Villa Grove because they will be unavailable from the Homer Country Market. On October 25th, there will be a "Trunk or Treat" at 4:00 pm for the children of the community. Leann Benner will lead a cemetery walk, and there will be a bonfire, games, etc.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Susan McKee had nothing to report.

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY: Keith Rohl had nothing to report.

TRUSTEES: Brian Taylor reported that they have planned on finishing painting the walls before harvest. John Rothermel and Robert Benschneider had struggled with the well because the system was still on bypass. They contacted someone who fixed the water system by "shocking it." Terminex came to the parsonage and found the source where the mice were entering.

The trustees are corresponding with the people they are working with to improve the sound in the Fellowship Hall. The company is recommending the number of panels that would involve the ceilings as well as the walls. Brian is working with the sales rep to see where the panels would go;

this can be completed in steps. Brian will get two prices: one for all of the Fellowship Hall, and one for the price we want to pay.

BOARD OF WORSHIP: Jay Hageman reported that Karen Dohme and Nancy Reed will do the music for special church services before the end of the year. The AV slots have been filled to the end of the year. Jay will ask the High School class to do the AV duties at least once a month.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: No report

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gary Luth gave the monthly treasurer's report and reported that giving was still down.

It was moved by Brian Taylor and seconded by Wayne Long to approve all of the reports. Motion carried.

PASTOR SHARP'S REPORT:

Pastor reported that the LCMS will hold a national Synodical Convention in Milwaukee on July 9 - 14, 2016. He explained what it was and how it affects us. He was going to address this in his Immanuelite column.

Our congregation can nominate any layman from the Circuit for the ballot for lay delegate to the national convention. Jay Hageman moved and Gary Luth seconded that we

1.) offer Kevin Block to be the delegate at the Circuit Forum at Tuscola; 2.) place his name in nomination for the lay circuit delegate at the Synod convention in 2016; and 3.) if Kevin Block declines to attend the forum, Chairman Freebairn shall fill the position at the Circuit Forum at Tuscola. Motion carried.

Pastor also reported that Loretta wanted the Council to look over the Church Directory for any corrections so we are consistent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Steve Smith reported for the Church Constitution committee. We discussed their addition to the Immanuel Church Constitution bylaws regarding the Secretary's duties. In Section III after the second sentence the following needs to be added: "...Secretary will maintain a current list of all voting members and make it available at all voters' meetings."

Jeannie will update the list of voting members so all voters can sign in at the Voters' Meetings using the updated list.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was none.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction given by Pastor Sharp.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Glasgow
Secretary

September 24, 2015

Keith Rohl said that we received a request for transfer of Thomas Poe and Stephanie Eisenmenger and a peaceful release for Patrick Madigan.

Jay Hageman report on budget for Worship.

Gary Luth gave the treasurers report.

Pastor Sharp gave his report.

Old Business

Keith Rohl reported that the carpet is about done. Bell tower is next capital improvement item then heating and cooling units for Pastor and Secretary's offices.

Steve Smith presented proposed changes to the church bylaws.

Steve Smith moved and Keith Rohl seconded to approve proposed changes.

**PRAY FOR THE
PERSECUTED**



I pray that you are all doing well this Fall! It has been an incredibly busy time for Katie and I these past few months. During July we took some time to visit family in Louisiana, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania, before we moved into our new home (for the year) in Orchard Park, NY! It was a much needed time of rest for us and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to see so many loved ones before my vicarage began.

For the past two months, I have been getting settled in and moving forward with my vicarage year at St. John's Lutheran in Orchard Park, NY (www.stjohnsop.com). I cannot put into words the incredible blessing that the people of St. John's, Pastor Nate Hartke, and the rest of the St. John's staff have been to our family. They are a loving and caring group of Christ followers that are greatly invested into the Vicarage program.

Our first week coincided with VBS week and we got to dive headfirst into ministering to the community. There were roughly 250 kids, most of whom were not connected to St. John's, that we got to meet and build relationships with during that first week! After the craziness of VBS, I had the chance to settle into my duties as Vicar/Student Pastor and have been heavily involved in three main areas of ministry: Worship (preaching and leading worship), Adult Education, and Confirmation. I have been learning a ton already and have been blessed to learn from Pastor Nate who is a great pastor, supervisor, and friend.

We have also had the chance to explore the Buffalo area. We got to check out the original Anchor Bar where, legend has it, the 'Buffalo Wing' was invented. We also got to see Niagara Falls for the first time. Pictured above is from our day trip with Katie's older sister, Nina. Buffalo is an absolutely wonderful city that is on the rise and we are excited to be here during a great time of "renaissance". By the way, if

you'd like to reach us directly, you can mail us at 347 S. Lincoln Ave, Orchard Park, NY 14127.

All of these experiences would not be possible if not for your support, your prayers for my family during these seminary years, your financial support, and your words of comfort that you have given to us throughout this time. We are so fortunate to have you in our lives and continually thank our heavenly Father for you.

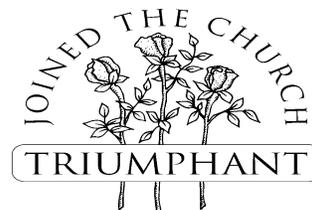
God bless,

Andy and Katie Pronsati

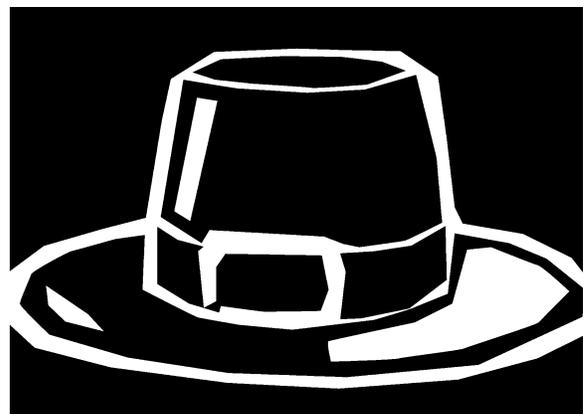


Membership Transfers

On Sunday, September 20th, Thomas Poe was received as member to Immanuel as a transfer from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola. We welcome Tom to our church family.



On Wednesday, September 30, 2015, we lost a dear friend and church member. Dean Rothermel was buried in Immanuel's cemetery after a service on October 5th, 2015. Our thoughts and prayers to the family members. Dean will be greatly missed by all.





...On Sunday, November 8th, we will hold a special "Mission Festival" offering. This money will go to Concordia University, Chicago. Use the "Mission" envelope in the pew rack and put "Mission Fund" in memo line of check with your number.

...On Sunday, November 15th, we will have our fourth and final offering for the "Building Fund". This money is used for repairs and maintenance of the building. Use the "Building Fund" envelope in the bulletin. Put "Building Fund" in memo line with your number.

...On Wednesday, November 25, 2015, we have our Thanksgiving offering for the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

...On Sunday, November 29th, we will hold a special offering for the "Children's Christmas Treats". This will be used to fill the bags for Christmas Eve for children. Put "Christmas Treats" in memo line with your number.

Thanks for all your support of the church and our many projects.

SPECIAL DATES

- * All Saints' Day, November 1, 2015
- * Daylight Saving Time ends, November 1, 2015
- * Veterans Day, November 11, 2015
- * Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2015
- * Thanksgiving, November 26, 2015
- * First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2015



The threshing floors shall be full of grain.

JOEL 2:24, NRSV



On Sunday, October 26, 2015, Patrick Madigan was peacefully released from Immanuel. We wish him well.

We Gather Together



The youth group will serve lunch after Sunday School on November 8th in honor of Mission Fest. Free will donations will go to the youth group for their Mission trip.





MISSIONARY SPEAKER

Jeffrey Leininger

Campus Pastor

Read Pastor Leininger's biography

I love what I do at Concordia. Here's why: every day I get to share in ministry with some of the best and brightest Christian leaders of tomorrow. Whether it's in daily worship, through pastoral care and counseling, on a mission trip, in a campus ministry meeting, or just having a cup of coffee with someone who needs to talk, it's amazing being part of something larger than yourself! The life of Christ lived among us is beyond earthly sight, but there are moments in ministry when we are able to catch a glimpse of the higher purposes of God. There are more of these moments at Concordia than at any other place I've served. I guess that's why I've been here nearly ten years, still cherishing every un-earthly moment,

Most importantly, it's not really what *I* do, or what any of us do. It's Christ active in us. He's alive in the word and sacraments, bringing the message of forgiveness, life, salvation and peace to all. He's alive in the life of this community—our words of comfort and consolation and compassion to one another. He's alive in us as we function as His body on earth, loving and serving a world in need. So I guess I love the fact that ministry is not about me. It's about my Lord working in me and through me—and usually in spite of me!

As the campus pastor, I conduct **daily chapel worship**, oversee all the campus Spiritual Life activities, and meet daily with faculty, staff and students for pastoral care and counseling.

As the director of the **pre-seminary program**, I guide young men who are considering becoming Lutheran pastors, helping to form their faith, learning and leadership on behalf of the church they will serve.

As the Dean of the **Chapel**, I coordinate special university events and worship services, as well as organize and administrate all things related to the chapel office.

I also assist with some Church Relations work for the University—preaching at local congregations, hosting special events on campus, and making sure our students get out into our partner parishes in the Lutheran Church.

As a husband and father, I'm "on-duty-daddy" when at home. Other than my baptismal calling, there's no higher vocation in life than my family. I cherish the time with my wife Rachel and my kids, Grace and Andrew (yes, they're the cutest!).

Is it a busy life and ministry? Of course—and I'm so thankful to have **Deaconess Betsy Karkan** for support. But because it's not about me, it's also a great joy. The Lutheran pastor, theologian and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it this way:

"I have community with others and will continue to have it only through Jesus Christ. The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more everything else between us will recede, and the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is alive between us. We have one another only through Christ, but through Christ we really do *have* one another. We have one another completely and for all eternity." (*Life Together*, ed. Geoffrey B. Kelly, p. 34).

**We're
Thankful
for
YOU!**