

Immanuel Lutheran Swea City

July/August Newsletter



Summer took an unexpected turn for me this year. After many years of consistently good health, my dad landed himself in the hospital for 6 days just as the summer hit the craziest four weeks at camp and right when I was supposed to be getting a church newsletter ready to go for July. It's been a bit of a journey, but my family and I are feeling confident that we are through the worst of it and making positive strides towards a return to normal. Thank you for your prayers.

It was a reminder of just how quickly life can change. That our tomorrows are not guaranteed. And sometimes, priorities have to shift at a moment's notice. I will forever be grateful to both my camp and church communities understanding the need to drop everything as I strived to figure out what was going on those first couple of days. Community support is important in times of unforeseen chaos.

My heart has been deeply blessed at the number of people who have offered support for myself and my parents. It's the strength of small towns for those who belong. It's part of what made our Fill the Pool Party night so special for me. I loved seeing not only the kids enjoying the water, but the parents and grandparents connecting, visiting, and enjoying a beautiful evening being in the Swea City community.

As I write this, I can honestly say it has only been in the last two or three days that my brain has begun to once again think more than a few days into the future. And with that, a return to planning for the fall here at Immanuel. One of the things which has been on my radar since starting was to provide clear path to full membership for anyone who may be interested. It's something which was identified as having fallen largely by the wayside during COVID and not yet picked back up.

The classes I've been taking with Luther House of Study in the last year have given me an ever deepening appreciation of Lutheran teachings. In many ways, I wish I would have spent more time studying Luther's writings earlier in life. Starting in September, we will be embarking on a special sermon series diving into Luther's Catechism and exploring what it means to be "Lutheran."

For those who grew up in the church, I hope it will be a good reminder and refresher from your confirmation days. For those who have grown up in other traditions, I hope you find it as interesting and life giving as I have so far. Then in 2025, we can all move forward together in knowing what it means to call ourselves Lutheran.

In the meantime, enjoy the last weeks of summer!

In This Edition

- Camp Photos—page 3
- Constitution & ByLaws Updates -page 4
- Council Summary—page 2
- Fill the Pool Event Highlights—page 3
- LCW Updates—page 2
- Mission of the Month—page 4
- Pastor's Ponderings—page 1
- Upcoming Events—page 1
- Website Development—page 2
- Youth News—page 5



Friday, August 23

North Union 1st Day of School

Sunday, September 15

Rally Sunday for Sunday School

Camp Events

Sunday, August 25

Ingham Lake Hog Roast & Pie
Auction 4 to 6pm

September 8-10

Eldersiversity Camp

Saturday, October 12

Women's Day Away

November 4-9

Travel Camp—Branson, MO



Council Meeting Highlights

We are working on developing a website where full council meeting minutes will be posted after they are approved by the council going forward. Council minutes will also be available in print by request from the church office after approval by the council. Monthly highlights will be featured in the newsletters going

June Highlights

- Pastor Sara met with North Kossuth Ministerial with a primary topic being the bus they own.
- Plans have started for children's church to kick off in early September.
- Parsonage CD was renewed for 11 months @4.94%.
- Brush and scrub trees have been removed at the Lutheran cemetery with 4 new Evergreen trees planted. Thanks to the Preston family for their work on this project.
- An invitation to join area LCMC church for worship on August 4th at Ingham Lake Bible Camp was accepted.
- A plan to invite the community for a Fill the Pool event in mid-July was approved and will be explored with the city.

July Highlights

- We have closed the bank box and purchased a safe for the items of value to be kept secure.
- Pastor Sara was able to spend some time at camp with our overnight campers in July. We had a total of four overnight campers and two one-day campers this year.
- The Fill the Pool party was set for July 17th from 5-7pm with hot dogs being served for supper.
- Work has begun on reviewing and proposing some changes to our constitution and by-laws to better reflect the current needs and realities of our church.
- Responding the unanticipated needs resulting from the flooding in the area, especially in nearby Spencer, additional funds of \$2000 for Upper Des Moines Opportunities and \$1000 for Go Serv Global were approved to help with flood relief.
- A representative from Go Serv Global will be joining us Sunday July 14th.

LCW Updates

An informal meeting was held after church on June 9th with the following highlights:

- Finalizing plans for the upcoming Swea City Fun Days (June 28-30)
- It was voted to renew the CD from 12 months at 4.45% interest.
- It was decided to contribute towards kids going to camp this year at a rate of \$100 per camper.
- Immanuel LCW will be sponsoring BINGO at Main Street Manor. Anyone wanting to help or come and play is welcome.



One of my jobs at camp over the years has been to research basic information about our member congregations. Information such as service times, affiliation, and current staff members. This information many people seek out when they are considering attending a new church and information which is most commonly found on a church's website. A resource Immanuel has not had up to this point. Stay tuned for updates as I have been researching a hosting platform which is both cost effective and easy to update. I hope to have something up and running by the time school starts.

We had several youth attend camp this summer! Check out a couple of photos of the fun had by our campers!

SUMMER CAMP



POOL Party

Both to support our local pool and to gather our local community, we sponsored a "Fill the Pool" event in July!



Mission Of The Month

June

GoServGlobal

goservglobal.org

Working both in the US and throughout the world, this organization helps with disaster relief and development of sustainable communities. They have been helping in Greenfield, IA to clean up from tornados and are in the process of moving to Spencer to help with flood relief. Internationally, they are known for their Safe T Home which is resistant to earthquakes, termites, and moisture.

Money Raised: \$467

July

Puppy Jake Foundation

Puppyjakefoundation.org

Puppy Jake works to pair trained service dogs with veterans who need them. These dogs often play a key role in helping veterans transition into civilian life after physical injuries and/or mental trauma. Each dog goes through five stages of training which takes a total of two to three years. Funds go towards the expenses of raising and training qualified dogs.

Money Raised:

August

Trinity Lutheran Church

Spencer, IA

The recent flooding experienced in our region has been historic and catastrophic. We have decided to reach out in support of a fellow LCMC congregation as their entire basement, which housed a day care, preschool, and after school program, was flooded with 5-6 feet of water and needs to be completely redone. Their congregation is about the same size as ours meaning recovery will be especially difficult as funds and skilled volunteers will be limited.

Money Raised: TBD

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

One of the tasks set before this year's council at our last annual meeting was to review Immanuel's Church Constitution and By-Laws regarding the number of council members and the role of the Mutual Ministry Team. Changes in these items impact our Church Constitution and our By-Laws meaning they will have to be voted on at a congregational meeting before they go into effect. At this time, the council is working to finalize proposals to be voted upon at our next scheduled annual meeting this fall.

In September, a formal announcement and proposal will be set forth to all members of Immanuel Lutheran Swea City. At this time, I want to share the main items we are considering.

#1—To change C10.01 so the council would have a new minimum size of seven members. The option to have up to nine members would remain.

#2—To change C10.06D to raise the council's ability to enter into financial contracts from up to 5% of the approved budget to up to 10% of the approved budget to reflect the cost of building repairs and the need to potentially make a quick decision.

#3—To eliminate the Mutual Ministry Team as it prevents eligible members from serving on the council and the work as described is largely the work of the council already.

At this time, I want to encourage all members of the church to dig out your copy of the church documents (or request a copy from the office if you can't find them) and review them to see if these proposed changes will help our congregation move forward into the coming years. I would also encourage you to talk to myself or one of the council members with any questions or concerns you have, especially once the final proposals have been announced, ahead of the congregational meeting. It is our heart to be able to set up the church to minister effectively to its members and our community in the coming years through these changes. ~ Pastor Sara



RALLY SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 15th

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

We will be kicking off our Sunday School program for the school year on Sunday, September 15th! Kids will be studying various Scripture stories from a curriculum specifically designed for classes with a large age range in them like ours. As we have done for the past couple of years, we will invite kids who want to participate to be dismissed after the children's message to meet during the sermon time.

If you are interested and willing to volunteer to be part of this important ministry, please contact Janet Deim for more information!



Confirmation classes will be starting up again in September! If you have, or know of, a student in 6th grade or above who has not been through confirmation and would like to join the class, please contact Pastor Sara ASAP. Class time will be set based on the best schedule for those involved. (Most likely Sunday morning or Wednesday before youth group.)

Mighty Warriors Kids

When: Wednesdays After School for 90 minutes

WHO: All students in grades 1-5

Stay tuned for more details as we get ready to kick off our community kids program in September! Help is needed in providing snacks each week and building relationships with the kids while providing supervision. Please prayerfully consider if you could help Wednesday afternoons.



Mighty Warriors Youth

When: Wednesdays 6pm to 8:30pm

WHO: All students in grades 6-12

Stay tuned for more details as we get ready to kick off our community youth group in September! Help is needed in providing meals each week and building relationships with the kids while providing supervision. Please prayerfully consider if you could help Wednesday evenings.

We need to hear from you!

As we finish the website in the coming months, we will be switching to more electronic based news and updates, including in the way we publish the newsletter. If you want to continue to receive a print copy in the mail, please complete the information below and return to the church by January 1st, 2025.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

(In case we have any questions.)

Immanuel Lutheran Church
104 1st Street North
Swea City, IA 50590
(515) 272-4481
Immanuel.lutheran.sweacity@gmail.com

August 2024

The Immanuel Newsletter

Immanuel Lutheran Church **TO:**

