

# Immanuel Lutheran Swea City

## September/October Newsletter



Both my favorite and least favorite times of the year are approaching. Fall is approaching and I love the cooler temperatures, the changing leaves, pumpkin patches and apple orchards. There is something about the season which whispers to us, 'Come out and enjoy creation one more time before it gets too cold.' Fall, for all of this and so much more, is my favorite season of the year.

Unfortunately, every four years, fall brings with it my least favorite season: The final lead up to a presidential election. Don't get me wrong, I consider it a great honor and privilege to live in a country where I can cast a vote for the leader of my country. But it breaks my heart that every four years we seem to find it easier and easier to forget that those who hold different points of view politically are not our enemy.

To be fair, what happens between these election cycles contributes to what we see in the race for president. But it is put on display in a special way during the final months and weeks before a presidential election.

I won't voice an opinion on who you should vote for. I don't feel that is my job as your pastor. What I will say is this: We MUST remember that those we disagree with are still fellow human beings made in the image and likeness of our creator God. This fact alone demands we treat them with basic dignity and respect in our actions and our speech. Even when they don't return the favor.

The reality is that the world is watching us as believers in Christ. Now, more than ever, younger generations are demanding that we live according to the example Jesus set before us. This means being kind, showing mercy, caring for the most vulnerable and hurting people, and giving freely without expectation of thanks or payback. They are expecting us to be better than what we see in our leaders on TV and social media.

Sadly, too many times we allow ourselves to get sucked into the clickbait online, the headlines meant to make us react emotionally instead of rationally, fail to appreciate just how much our media world is designed to feed us only what we want to hear, not what we need to hear and with even less concern about what is true and what is a lie.

As we near election day, and as we reflect on the results, I ask to stop for a moment and think about who is listening and watching. Are they seeing and hearing Jesus? Or have you allowed our true enemy to dictate your witness to the world?

## In This Edition

- 150th Anniversary Announcement—page 2
- Cereal Challenge— page 5
- Constitution & ByLaws Update—page 4
- Council Summary—page 2
- Lefse Time! - Page 7
- Mighty Warriors Updates—Page 5 & 6
- Mission of the Month—page 4
- Mission Update—page 3
- Pastor's Ponderings—page 1
- Sunday School Updates—page 3
- Trunk or Treat—Page 7
- Upcoming Events—page 1



### **Saturday, October 26**

Lefse Making Party!

### **Sunday, October 27**

Reformation Sunday

### **Thursday, October 31**

Trunk or Treat Event

### **Sunday, November 3**

MW Youth Chili Cook Off

### **Sunday, November 10**

Annual Meeting

### **Sunday, December 22**

Children's Christmas Program

## Camp Events

### **NOW!**

Summer Camp Registrations Open!



## 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 forward.

### August Highlights

- The newsletter has been largely revamped and will be sent out in paper copies through the remainder of 2024. After that time, a paper copy will need to be requested as it will be sent out primarily via email.
- Tree trimming around the church property needs to be addressed.
- Work continued on changes to the constitution and by-laws with plans to provide copies of the changes to all church members ahead of the annual meeting for their review.
- Discussion took place on allowing the Mighty Warriors Youth program to potentially use the church on Wednesday nights. This was approved if the North Kossuth Ministerial Association decided to proceed with the location change this fall.



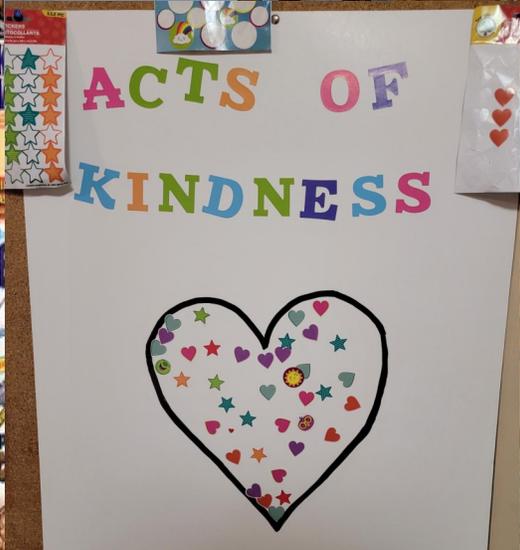
### Happy Anniversary Immanuel!

In 2025, Immanuel Lutheran turns 150 years young! We have a tentative date set of June 29th to have a big celebration and looking for a handful of people to be involved with helping to plan the event! If you are excited to help with the worship, the food, or the fun that day, please get in touch with Pastor Sara!

### September Highlights

- Mighty Warriors has kicked off the year with 15 present at the after school kids program and 9 present at the evening youth group program.
- Both Sunday School and Confirmation will be resuming again on September 15th.
- Confirmation for Donnie Stevens has been set for October 27th (Reformation Sunday).
- Trees and shrubs were trimmed and flower beds cleaned out with some replanting done. Thanks to all who helped!
- Changes to the constitution and by laws were approved for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting on November 10th.
- It was approved to purchase some new banners for the front of the church.
- Church use for several upcoming events was planned including Trunk or Treat, SCIL's Veteran's Day Supper, and Allyson Nelson's graduation party.
- Dates were set for several upcoming church events including the annual meeting, Christmas program, and Christmas Eve services.
- A committee was established to plan for celebrating 150 years as Immanuel Lutheran! Tentative date for the main celebration is June 29th, 2025.

Sunday School has kicked off for the fall and we have some kids who are excited to be learning about how important being kind is!



The Sunday School has a couple of fun goals they are working towards this fall. The first is to fill this heart with stickers earned by sharing examples of how they were kind to someone else during the week.

The Second is to gather at least 300 boxes of cereal which, after setting up a domino knock down display in each of the elementary schools of our school district, will be sent home with students so that everyone can know they have something for breakfast over the spring break regardless of their financial situation. They are asking everyone to consider picking up an extra box or two whenever you go grocery shopping between now and mid-December.

**Drop Off Points:** Church, Rustic Treasures, Keith and Bonnie Lange's home.



## Special Mission Update

In August, our Mission of the Month was Trinity Lutheran in Spencer, IA which was hit hard by the flooding in June. I was able to visit with Pastor Renae in mid-September and see the progress made so far on recovery. I found their temporary electricity hook particularly interesting. The basement is dry and work has begun on rebuilding the kitchen, replacing wooden doors and door jams, painting, and getting the HVAC system up and running so they have heat in the building before it gets much colder. Please see the letter of thanks from Trinity and Pastor Renae on the kiosk in the entryway.



# Mission Of The Month

## 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: \$1127

## September

### Moving Veterans Forward

[www.mvfnci.org](http://www.mvfnci.org)

Moving Veterans Forward seeks to help veterans who find themselves struggling with homelessness due to many factors including divorce, PTSD, and Traumatic Brain Injuries leading to the loss of the ability to work. In 2023 they served over 3500 veterans in north central Iowa. In 2023, it is estimated that homelessness among veterans rose by 7.4% in the region affecting around 35,000 people.

Money Raised: \$320

## October

### Kossuth County CARE Team

[Kossuthcountycareteam.org](http://Kossuthcountycareteam.org)

The Kossuth County CARE Team provides basic needs assistance to individuals and families residing in Kossuth County. The services provided include toys for younger kids, home goods, furniture, and the food pantry. Additionally, they have multiple volunteer opportunities for those who are looking for practical ways to get involved in helping their neighbor in need.

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 has finalized the proposals to be voted upon at our next scheduled annual meeting this fall.

A formal announcement and proposal was recently sent to all registered members of Immanuel Lutheran. Additionally, the details of the proposal will be available at the back kiosk between now and the annual meeting.

#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



## Cereal Collection Drive

Join in helping the Sunday School collect at least 300 boxes of cereal!  
Drop off at the church or Rustic



Mighty Warriors  
Kids

When: Wednesdays After School for 90 minutes

WHO: All students in grades 1-5

We have kicked off the year! Check out some photos.  
We still are in need of 1 or 2 adults to help with supervision on Wednesday afternoons.



**SWEA  
CEREAL  
DRIVE**

A box for each student  
grades K-8 over  
Christmas break!



# Mighty Warriors Youth

When: Wednesdays from 6-8pm

WHO: All students in grades 6-12

We have kicked off the year! Check out some photos. Mark your calendar for the upcoming Chili Cook Off and make plans to come and support our local youth!



## MIGHTY WARRIORS YOUTH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF & BAKED GOODS AUCTION



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3

5:30 - CHILI ENTRY

6:00 - 8:00 CHILI SERVED

6:30 - BAKED GOODS AUCTION

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



SAVE THE DATE

*Affirmation of  
Baptism*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

## Confirmation

We are looking forward to celebrating with Donnie Stevens and his family at the end of October. A reception for Donnie will follow the service. Please be praying for him as he prepares and make plans to join in the celebration on the 27th!

Immanuel Lutheran Swea City Announcement

# IT'S LEFSE TIME!

## Order Yours Today!

Orders Due by  
October 23rd



Call DeMaris @ 515-341-2746 or Marti  
@ 515-320-1038 to order

\$25/dozen or \$13/6 pieces

It's Lefse Time at Immanuel! Here is what you need to know!

**\$25 for a dozen or \$13 for 6**

**Orders must be placed by October 23rd**

**Lefse will be available for pick up**

**October 26th**

Orders can be placed by calling Marti Thompson or DeMaris Fritzler. Please leave you name, address, and phone number when placing all orders.

If you are interested in getting lefse in December, please call by October 23rd and let us know how many you are hoping for. If there is enough interest, we will look at making another batch in December.

### LEFSE MAKING PARTY!

Experienced, first time, and everyone in between! Young and old. We'd love to have you come and help out on Saturday, October 26th at the church starting at 8am. We will go until the orders are filled, until we run out of supplies, until we run out of energy, or all 3!

## Trunk or Treat

Thursday October 31

5-7pm

Immanuel Lutheran Parking Lot

Cute kids in cute costumes excited to see you and collect some candy....what could be better! Throw a lawn chair and warm blanket in the car with some candy and some fall decorations and come out to enjoy the fun! In case of bad weather, we will set it up inside the social hall where they will be serving hotdogs.

Psst....Amazon has some great options to make your car the fanciest one there!



## 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.)

Recreate front of mailing information here.