

# Immanuel Lutheran Swea City

## November/December Newsletter



Happy New Year!

As I write it is the first Sunday of Advent and therefore a new church year has officially begun. And in looking forward towards the new year of our Lord here at Immanuel, I see lots of reasons to embrace theme of this first week of Advent: Hope.

I see hope in our Sunday school kids coming so faithfully this fall and their excitement to put kindness and generosity into action with our cereal drive. I see hope in their excitement to contribute in things like bringing up the offering and helping light a candle.

I see hope in our teens being willing to help teach and set an example for our younger kids. It is no small thing that our preschool kids come to church looking for and excited to see some of their favorite teenagers as they tag along behind them until their parents insist it is time to go home.

I see hope in parents making the time to bring kids to church and those kids finding an entire community of grandparents ready to love them, embrace them, let them sit with them, and invest in them. Countless studies have shown that kids who have multiple adults investing in them from a young age grow up to more resilient and able to take on the increasingly complicated and divided world waiting for them as young adults.

I see hope in everyone coming together as a community to grieve those we have lost this year, pray for those they have left behind, and walk along side those who are trying to figure out what the future holds. And I see hope in new life being breathed into our old parsonage as a new local business offers a space for people to gather and celebrate another day, another week, another year of God's faithfulness to us all.

Yes, there are challenges ahead but, at least for this moment, I see a lot of reasons to hope that while things have changed a lot in the 150 year history of this congregation, there is a lot of great things still to come. As we look to celebrate 150 years as a faith community this next summer, I can't wait to hear the many memories and stories of how God has used this place and you are the people of this congregation to touch so many lives.

And I can't wait to hear what dreams God inspires in us as we look forward to the next chapter of our life together as Immanuel Lutheran.

~Pastor Sara

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### Sunday, December 22

Children's Christmas Program

### Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service

### Camp Events

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

### NOW!

Summer Camp Registrations Open!

### January 3-5

Abide Young Adult Retreat

### January 24-26

Winter Crafting Retreat

### February 14-16

Marriage Retreat



## 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.

### October Highlights

- Interest from the Parsonage Sale was received and added to the Mission Fund Revenue. We will plan on distributing this in December.
- Confirmation for Donnie Stevens is coming up at the end of the month.
- Pastor Sara attended the national LCMC gathering.
- Sunday school continues to go well and the kids are excited about gathering the cereal for school students.
- Painting work has been done on some windowsills and will resume when harvest is complete.
- June 29, 2025 has been selected as our official date to celebrate Immanuel's 150th Anniversary.
- Multiple upcoming events were mentioned including the Mighty Warriors Chili Cook Off, Trunk or Treat, Veteran's Day Supper, Annual Meeting, and Lefse Making.
- November's meeting will be 1 week earlier so we are fully prepared for the Annual meeting.



**Save the Date!**

**June 29th 2025**

If you are interested in helping plan this celebration, please get in touch with Pastor Sara or Paul Preston ASAP. Ideally an initial meeting would happen in December.

### November Highlights

- Thrivent Financial sent us \$160 from who designated funds be sent to Immanuel.
- Confirmation went well. Mighty Warriors Kids is going well. The youth program is still small, please be praying for continued guidance for NKMA leaders in charge of the program.
- Pastor Sara is planning on attending the IA District LCMC gathering on Saturday, Nov. 16th.
- Practices for the Christmas program will start soon.
- We are approximately 1/2 of the way towards meeting our goal of 300 boxes of cereal.
- The need to replace several exterior steel doors was brought up. A complete walk through of church property will be done in the coming weeks to assess needs and priorities when it comes to repairs.
- Agenda and ballots for the annual meeting were finalized.

### Annual Meeting Highlights

- 40 members were present with RaDann Dawson, Justin Deim, and Brian Johanson serving as judge and tellers.
- Committee reports were given and will be available in printed format after the 1st of the year.
- 2025 Budget was approved
- DeMaris Fritzler, Rob Thompson, and Bill Hampton all were eligible and agreed to run for a second council term. No other nominations were made. All three were unanimously re-elected.
- Both the Constitutional changes and By Law changes passed by a large majority.
- A committee is being formed to celebrate our 150th Anniversary next summer.



On Sunday, October 27th, Donnie Stevens was confirmed as he affirmed the promises made on his behalf at his baptism. Earlier in October, I asked Donnie to reflect on his faith and share some of the key parts that have brought him to this moment and I wanted to share some of his answers with you, his community of faith.

**What are one or two stories or teachings in the Bible which stand out to you and why?**

The Lord's Prayer in the Gospels because it gives me a way to pray and the Ten Commandments because they give me guidelines on how to live my life to honor the Lord.

**Do you have a favorite verse?**

John 3:16 because it shows that God loves us enough to give his only Son to take our sin.

**How has your family helped you to know God better?**

My family helps me by preaching God and bringing me to church on Sundays and Wednesdays. Some particular people would be my grandma and aunt Katie because they bring me to volunteer at JOY camp.

## *Welcome Cassidy Mae Dahl!*



We officially welcomed Cassidy Mae into the family of God through the waters of Baptism on Sunday, November 10th. It was a big week for her as she turned one the next day!

Cassidy is the daughter of Mitchell and LeeAnn Dahl who are also busy trying to keep up with her big brother Jeremiah.

Please keep the entire family in your prayers as they grow and learn together in the coming years. Before you know it, she will be joining the after church comradery our youngest members seem to share!

# Mission Of The Month

## 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: \$345

## November

### Iowa Veterans' Home

[dva.iowa.gov/iowa-veterans-home](http://dva.iowa.gov/iowa-veterans-home)

The Iowa Veterans Home, located in Marshalltown, Iowa, serves about 400 veterans and their spouses through nursing and residential care. Care includes support with mental health, an onsite medical clinic, pharmacy, various specialized therapies as well as music, recreational activities, a library, transportation to outside medical appointments and more.

Money Raised: TBD

## December

### Faith Lutheran Church— Spencer

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

Faith Lutheran Church, another fellow LCMC church in Spencer, is continuing with flood relief as they work to complete insulation, drywall, and painting work ahead of both winter weather and late fall events.

Money raised will go towards continued repairs of the building.

Photos of damage and ongoing repairs can be found at their website.

Money Raised: TBD

When the parsonage was sold, we committed to using any interest we got from the CD purchased with that money to bless other ministries. As we near the end of 2024, that amount is estimated to be around \$4000. This will likely be split up among several ministries and non-profits and we are looking for your suggestions. Guidelines are simple: Organizations nominated should be directly involved in sharing the love of God through practical, tangible ways. They can be local, national, or international. They should be a reputable organization who is willing to be transparent and accountable when it comes to use of financial donations. They can be either new to Immanuel or a known organization we have given to previously. Suggestions should be directed to our missions committee of DeMaris Fritzler or Joel Klocke before the council meeting on December 11th.

*share the blessings*

# CHILDREN'S Sunday School

## SWEA CEREAL DRIVE

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

### Cereal Collection Drive

We are over 1/2 way to our goal of 300 boxes!  
Will you consider helping one of our kiddos  
collect enough additional boxes to equal their  
height?!



# LCW Updates

LCW met on Sunday, November 17th with the following highlights:

- Gifts of Love: Gifts for those in assisted living and those who have had health issues, a new baby, or lost a loved one were decided upon and a plan made to purchase the needed items.
- A total of 46 dozen Lefse were sold this year!
- Year end donations were decided upon.
- Plans were made for treat bags for the kids at the Christmas program.

## Take Advantage of Advent

Don't forget to make time this Advent season to prepare your heart and mind for Christmas morning. One idea: Reading 1 chapter each day will take you through the Gospel of Luke this month.

## Advent Readings - A Chapter a Day from the Gospel of Luke



## Mighty Warriors Kids and Youth

When: Wednesdays - After school for kids (grades 1-5) 6-8pm for youth (grades 6-12)

Both Mighty Warriors Kids and Mighty Warriors Youth continue to meet on Wednesdays! Programs are open any youth in our local area who wishes to participate regardless of the school they attend.

Mighty Warriors is a program put on by the North Kossuth Ministerial Association and is a cooperative effort primarily between the churches of Ledyard and Swea City.





Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22nd

9:00 am in the Social Hall

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th

5:30 pm

Thanks to all who came out to help peel potatoes, mix, roll, cook, and package lefse this year! Right around 70 pounds of potatoes went into this year's batch! Check out a couple of highlights below!



## We need to hear from you!

LAST CHANCE! If you would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter in 2025, please be sure to contact the church office with the below information ASAP so we can get you added to that particular list. If we don't hear from you, the newsletter will be available either via email or on the upcoming website.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(In case we have any questions.)

Recreate front of mailing information here.