

# Immanuel Lutheran Swea City

## May/June Newsletter



Spring has officially arrived here in Swea City. Pastor Sara has lost her voice to allergies once again. The grass is green and flowers are blooming. Farmers are in the fields working to get this year's crop in and praying for just the right amount of rain at just the right time. And high school seniors all across the nation celebrate a major milestone in life as they graduate and take those first official steps into adulthood.

One tradition celebrated at our local school district is that of the awards night followed by the Baccalaureate service. I don't remember my school doing such an evening when I was graduating but I have found it to be something interesting to attend. You get a good feel for the class as a whole as you watch them receive their honors for academics, community involvement, extra curricular activities, and volunteer work. For most of the students, you catch a glimpse into their plans after graduation in the form of scholarships awarded. And for me personally, I can't help but remember who I was in the last days of my senior year and reflect on how differently my life has turned out from what I planned all those years ago.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening for me was the Mr. Sunshine award. This award was started to honor Dylan "Mr. Sunshine" Stevens and is given not based on academics, athletics, or future plans but solely showing kindness to others. In a world where success is too often measured by GPA's, titles, and money in the bank account, awards such as this are all the more important.

I confess, I don't know the young man who won this year's award. But one couldn't help but be touched by the genuine cheers and applause he received from his classmates as he came forward. It was clear this student had indeed chosen to show kindness many times over when interacting with his peers and it had not gone unnoticed.

In a world where qualities like kindness, compassion, mercy, gentleness, and humility are so often viewed as weaknesses, moments like this remind us all that these qualities matter a great deal. For those of us who call ourselves Christians, this reality shouldn't be new. It is exactly these qualities which Jesus so often displayed, preached, and demonstrated. It is these qualities by which Jesus is most widely known still today to the world.

As I watched so many of this young man's classmates congratulate him afterwards, I couldn't help but wonder how different the world would be if all challenged ourselves to be known first and foremost for our kindness and ability to bring sunshine into the daily lives of those around us.

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### Monday, May 26

Memorial Day

### Saturday, June 14

Sunshine Market

### Sunday, June 15

Father's Day

### June 27-29

Swea City Fun Days

### June 27-29

Immanuel's 150th Anniversary  
Celebration!

### Friday, July 4

Independence Day

## Camp Events

### Monday, May 19

Staff Training Officially Begins

### Sunday, June 1

Ice Cream Social @ Ingham Lake



## Council Meeting Highlights

### April Highlights

- Holy Week is just around the corner! Maudy Thursday service will include First Communion for two students and Easter Sunday will include Communion as well.
- Youth programs will be wrapping up in early May. The last week for Sunday School will be Sunday, May 4th. The last week for Mighty Warriors will be Wednesday, May 7th.
- We will be continuing to work on updating the landscaping around the church building. Pictures of what that will look like are on the kiosk in the church entry.
- There will be a choir and trumpets for Easter Sunday!
- Clean up day was a success!
- New exterior doors are in the process of being painted and will be installed soon.
- Senior Recognition Sunday will be May 4th. Allyson Nelson is our North Union graduate this year.
- Our next council meeting will be held at 5pm so Pastor and others who are interested will be able to attend Baccalaureate in Armstrong later that evening.

Just a reminder that full minutes can be found on our new website!

[www.immanuelswecity.com](http://www.immanuelswecity.com)

### May Highlights

- Confirmation classes and Mighty Warriors have both wrapped up for the summer.
- Pastor Sara is planning on taking some vacation time and is looking for supply pastors on August 24th and 31st.
- Sunday school is wrapped up for the school year and we are working on getting kids signed up for summer camp!
- New doors will be here soon!
- The 150th Anniversary planning committee will meet again on the first Sunday of June.
- With Mainstreet Manor closing, the storing of an old buffet that officially belongs to the city was discussed. It was decided that we would not pursue storing it at this time.



Additionally, general information about who we are as a congregation and what's happening in our church can be found. Check it out and pass it along to someone in the area who is not currently part of a faith community to let them know we would love to have them visit some week!

# Mission Of The Month

## March

Gift of Life Transplant House—Rochester, MN

[gift-of-life.org/](http://gift-of-life.org/)

The Gift of Life Transplant House seeks to offer a place to stay and practical support for those patients and families who must stay close to a major hospital in anticipation of, and in recovery from, receiving an organ donation. This vital ministry helps patients be able to receive this life saving treatment from the nearby Mayo Hospitals and Clinics.

Money Raised: \$340

## April

JOY Camp—Milford, IA

[www.campokoboji.org/special-needs-camps.php](http://www.campokoboji.org/special-needs-camps.php)

JOY Camp exists to provide individuals with developmental needs an enrichment experience in which they engage in fun activities, are built up in Christian Community, & grow in the faith. Held two different weeks in the summer with events during the year to reconnect, this camp is a highlight for both participants and volunteers.

Money Raised: \$628

## May

IOLBC—Milford, IA

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

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps exist to “Know Jesus Christ and Make Christ Known to All.” With 2 locations, there are camping options for families, youth, and adults both in the summer and throughout the year. Please be praying for the summer as we kick off summer staff training in May and look forward to welcoming campers in June!

Money Raised: TBD

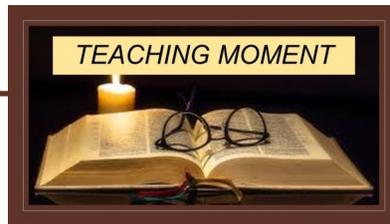


Many hands made for light work! Thanks to all who came and helped us tackle some long overdue closet and storage clean out!

# Celebrating First Communion



On Holy Thursday we had two new members of the family join us for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Blaire Deim (left) and Nora Preston (right) have been studying with family to learn about why we consider this a Sacrament and what makes it so important to us both as Christians in general and Lutherans in particular.



## From Luther's Small Catechism:

### What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

### Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.



## Is your child ready to celebrate First Communion?

One of the great blessings of small churches in my opinion is that we don't have to feel pressure to push children through First Communion classes at a certain age because "that's when everyone else does it." We can be flexible for the age and time of year that works best for families to celebrate certain faith milestones. So, at what age should you be thinking about First Communion with your child?

- When they start asking questions about what it is and why we do it.
- When they are old enough to understand what sin is and how they have sinned.
- When they understand it isn't a treat for being good, but a sober reminder that Christ died on the cross so we could know the promise of forgiven sin.

Contact Pastor Sara when you feel your child is ready to receive communion.



# 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 have wrapped up for the school year! Check out some photo highlights from our end of year ice cream themed party for kids as well as from a lesson earlier this spring where some creative sculpting was done with play-doh.

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.



Our Sunday School program has also wrapped up for the School year! A special thanks to all the volunteers who were willing to teach on various Sunday's, get lessons and supplies all set up, teach the kids some new songs, and generally investing in the lives of our children. You are greatly appreciated.

# CHILDREN'S Sunday School

# 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Join in the Celebration!*

*June 27-29*

Friday, June 27th

5pm to 7pm

Church open for tours, visiting, and historical display.

Saturday, June 28th

9am to 4pm

Church open for tours, visiting, and historical display.

After Fun Days Parade until 1pm

Lunch served (Sloppy Joes, Potato Salad, Chips & Pie.

2pm to 4pm

Lutheran Cemetery History and Tour.

Sunday, June 29th

9:00 AM

Community Worship Service

@ Immanuel Lutheran Church

Short historical presentation and free lunch to follow the service.

Offering taken at service will go towards the North Kossuth Ministerial Associations Emergency Fund.

If you would like a special invite sent to someone specific, please let the church office know ASAP.

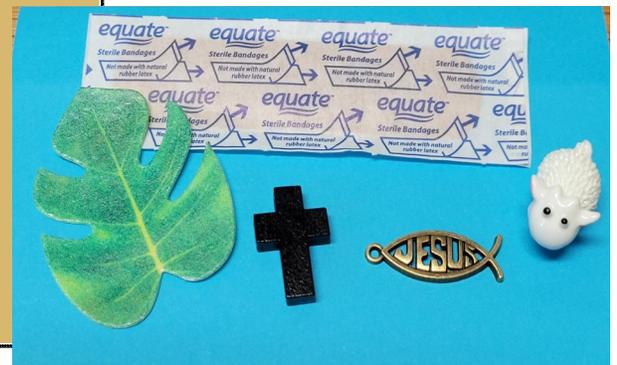
## Pre-Celebration Fun!

Starting on Palm Sunday, our Sunday School kids have been challenged to find 150 items scattered throughout the church each week. Each item is a different Christian symbol. Some of the items found so far are:

- Palm Leaves
- Crosses
- Fish
- Sheep
- Band-Aids

Join us for the 150th Celebration to take home one of each item as a reminder of some key truths of our faith!

*Great is thy  
Faithfulness*



## 150 Years Ago

Check out our Facebook page each Monday to learn what else, beyond starting a Lutheran church on the Iowa prairie, was happening in the world 150 years ago!



**Congratulations and Best Wishes to our 2025 Graduates!**

Kayla Thompson received her LPN degree and is planning to continue on to earn her RN degree.

Allyson Nelson has conquered North Union High School and plans to venture into the college world.

As you both venture into the world, we hope you'll remember to stop by, say hello, and update us on your adventures from time to time. We will be continuing to pray for you as you take your next steps!



**RAGBRAI is coming to town!**

July 22

If you are interested in helping Swea City be at its best while riders pass through, stop by City Hall or Bank Plus to get more information and fill out a volunteer form!



INGHAM OKOBOJI LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMPS

# SUMMER CAMP '25

**FAMILY CAMP & YOUTH CAMP PROGRAMS**

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
[WWW.OKOBOJI.ORG](http://WWW.OKOBOJI.ORG)

## Summer Camp Registration

Now Open!

Registration for all youth and family summer programs at IOLBC is now open! The church will pay up to \$50 per student to attend camp through IOLBC with additional funds available if needed.

**Don't forget about great ADULT programs as well!**

June 2-3: Elderversity

Sept. 23-Oct 1: Travel Camp: Boston

For more information, talk to Pastor Sara!

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The Immanuel Lutheran  
 Church Newsletter

TO:

