

# Immanuel Lutheran Swea City

## September/October Newsletter



It's officially harvest season. The dust is flying, the tractors and combines are moving, and the yields are being discussed at the local coffee stops frequented by farmers. As a farmer's daughter, one of the things I remember most about this season is the noise. There were always tractors coming and going, augers working, and the fan on the drying bin buzzing. No matter how full the truck and seemingly endless the stream of grain going into storage, for a couple of weeks there was always more to come right behind it.

For farmers and those who work in farm related industries, there is always a sense of relief when you see that grain being off loaded into storage. You have made it to the finish line for another year. You got the crop in, you got enough rain, you didn't get drowned out, you missed the hail storms. In short, you have lived to farm another year.

At the end of Matthew 9, we see Jesus talking about different kind of harvest but one which is just as important. As Jesus moves through the crowds, teaching and healing, he tells his disciples that "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." In other words, there are so many who are desperate to hear of and experience the love of God in this world, but he alone, even with the help of the disciples, will not be able to get to everyone.

And that is where you and I come in. We are the harvesters. We are the people who are called to go out into our communities and minister to them. While I'm not a huge fan of standing on the street corner and shouting hellfire and brimstone at people, I do think it is important that we don't allow ourselves to become so insulated in our safe, church circles that we never meet or interact with people who don't know Christ.

For many of us, faith has come rather easy as our parents and/or grandparents made sure we knew, from an early age, of God's love. But for so many more, the simple message of God's love has not been heard simply because they have not had anyone speaking it regularly into their lives. It takes a lot of repetition before we really hear and learn most things. More than we give ourselves credit for. Just ask an elementary school teacher!

My mom, who taught Kindergarten and 1st graders for nearly 30 years, will tell you to plan on repeating the same rule, instructions, or concept at least 50 times before expecting a child of that age to fully grasp what you are trying to teach. Studies have shown that the average number of positive interactions with the Gospel of Christ needed for someone to become active in the Christian faith has increased exponentially in the last couple of generations while also showing that people are more interested than ever in things of faith. (continued on page 7)

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### Sunday, October 12th

Confirmation

### Saturday, November 1st

Tentative Lefse Making Party

### Sunday, November 2nd

Day Light Savings Ends

### Sunday, November 9th

Annual Meeting

### Thursday, November 27th

Thanksgiving

## Camp Events

### Sunday, October 12th

Kickball Night @ Okoboji

### October 17-19

4th-6th Grade Retreat @ Ingham

### November 21-23

Sr. High Retreat @ Okoboji

Crafting Retreat @ Okoboji



## Council Meeting Highlights

### August Highlights

Pastor gave a summary of the corporation meeting held at IOLBC on August 2nd at which it was voted to amend the constitution to reflect involvement by all churches without calling out the ELCA in any specific or special way. More information about this is available from Pastor Sara or the camp.

After meeting with parents and NKMA, some changes to Wednesday programming will be happening in September. Mighty Warriors Kids will continue to meet after school but will meet at Immanuel making use of the social hall and a couple of classrooms. We are withdrawing from Mighty Warriors Youth and moving ahead with a teen Bible Study and social time meeting at Immanuel at 7:00pm on Wednesdays.

While Pastor is on vacation at the end of the month, Jocelyn Olivia, a musician with ties to camp, and Bob Miller, the president of the camp board, will be filling in.

Christian Education has decided on a new program for Sunday School called Spark House.

Joel K. and Bill H. spent time working on the downspouts and trimming some branches as well as repairing a broken window. Bill plans to have someone take a look at our roof as some moss has formed on part of it to see if we need to do anything at this time.

Annual meeting date was set for November 9th.

### September Highlights

Mighty Warriors kids have kicked off with 15 kids meeting for the first week at Immanuel.

The Youth Bible study and fellowship time meet to talk about possible study topics. We had 7 teens for our first gathering.

Brody Deim is our sole confirmation student at the moment and he will be preparing for Confirmation on October 12th.

Rally Sunday will be the 21st for Sunday School kick off.

It was decided that we will provide the social hall area for the community Halloween party on October 31st but will not be sponsoring Trunk or Treat due to lack of trunks the last couple of years.

Holiday services were set with Christmas Eve services scheduled for Dec. 24th at 5pm and the Sunday School Program tentatively set for December 21st during the service.

We began a process of reviewing programs and committees. If you have feedback about a particular aspect of Immanuel's ministry, please contact a member of the council.



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

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

# Mission Of The Month

## August

GoServ Global

Goservglobal.org

GoServ Global works to provide humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable communities both in the United States and around the world. They provide orphan scholarships, develop local leadership and help establish sustainable communities. They are a key organization in responding to natural disasters included the 2024 flooding in Spencer and surrounding areas. Their Safe T Home ministry has been vital in developing countries providing housing in the wake of natural disasters.

Money Raised: \$385

## September

Moving Veterans Forward

Mvfnci.org

Moving Veterans Forward seeks to help Veterans set up homes and apartments as they work to overcome homelessness and/or return from active duty. Alongside that mission, they seek to educate people as to the often multiple and complex reasons Veterans struggle with homelessness including the strain of multiple deployments on families, the challenges of living with PTSD, and those suffering from Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) sustained during action. The local chapter is based out of Algona, IA.

Money Raised: TBD

## October

Kossuth County CARE Team

Kossuthcountycareteam.org

Founded in 1996, Kossuth County CARE Team works to connect those in our community in need with the resources available. They provide backpacks for school kids, pool passes for kids to have a safe place to be during the day, food pantry assistance, as well as help with interacting with landlords to maintain safe living conditions, connections to energy assistance, and support in filing for government assistance programs.

Money Raised: TBD

Mission of the Month information can now be found on the bulletin board above the guest sign in book in the entry way. It features our most recent Mission, the amount raised, and the current mission.

*Have You Noticed?*

If you have a mission you like to see Immanuel consider in the future, please get information to our Missions and Evangelism team on the council. Please note that any suggested mission should be in line with Immanuel's values and mission statement and that suggestion of a mission is not a promise of it being chosen.

# ANNUAL MEETING

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, November 9th for our Annual Congregational Meeting after the service.

As a reminder, to vote you must be a member of Immanuel and have taken communion within the last year.

## Veterans and Active Duty Service Members

Are you, or a member of your immediate family, currently serving or a veteran in any branch of our armed services? We'd like to get a current list of who are, or who have, served in the military from Immanuel Lutheran together before Veteran's Day. Please email the church office with the branch you/they have served in and the years served. Thank you!



*Before you can blink...*

the holidays will be here!



Mark your calendars and save the date for these important church celebrations!

Children's Christmas Program

December 21st during service

Christmas Eve Service

5:00pm



# CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Get ready to explore the ways the SPARK of faith can be ignited! The curriculum we will be using this year includes multiple ways to tie the Bible lesson into hands on learning including craft, cooking, and science projects!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To make our Sunday School program a success, we need volunteers! Pick a friend, grab a teen to be your assistant, and jump into the wonderfully unpredictable chaos that is working with kids! Materials provided. Contact Paul Preston or Janet Deim to let them know which Sunday's you are available!



## Mighty Warriors Kids

When: Wednesdays -

After school for kids (grades 1-5)

We have kicked off the year meeting at Immanuel!



## YOUTH MINISTRY

## COOL NAME STILL PENDING!

Youth in grades 6-12. Meeting at Immanuel. Gather at 7:00 for games and snacks, Bible study around 7:30 followed by more games and snacks.

### Currently Studying: Fire and Faithfulness

Hosted by Sadie Robertson Huff, this 4 week study looks at the story of Daniel and asks how we can hold onto our faith and live with purpose even when we feel our peers and our culture pulling us in the opposite direction.

And yes, teens have been spotted attempting to play shuffleboard. If you are a secret shuffleboard pro, you should challenge them to a round or two!



## Church Council Committees

As we round out 2025, the church council is taking the time to evaluate how things are going in the various aspects of ministry including the work each member does as part of their standing committee. If you have suggestions for a particular committee, or think a particular committee is doing something that you really appreciate and want to see continue, please reach out to those committee members and let them know. Additionally, if there is something which is falling through the cracks, or might need to be officially disbanded to make way for something better, please let any council member know. Our current council committees are:



**Worship and Music:** Becky Larson & Lynette Preston

**Property:** Bill Hampton, Joel Klocke, & Sandi Holm

**Stewardship & Finance:** Paul Preston, Robert Thompson, & Janet Deim

**Christian Education:** Paul Preston & Janet Deim

**Mission and Evangelism:** DeMaris Fritzler & Robert Thompson

**Fellowship & Activities:** All of council



Save the date and make plans to join us on Sunday, October 12th as we celebrate Brody's Confirmation!



A special shout out to two Immanuel students who are starting the school year off strong!

Ariana received Warrior of the Week at the Fenton elementary school.

Brylie hit 500 kills in Volleyball for her high school career!

Great Job both of you!





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The words found in Matthew still ring true for us today: The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Would you be willing to be a worker? Would you be willing to consider how God is sending you out into our community to share his love with others?

It doesn't have to be hard, but it does require being willing to look around you. What families are in your child or grandchild's class who you could get to know and help support? Who is part of your regular coffee, or tea, group? What co-worker have you been meaning to invite out to lunch to get to know a little better? Which young adult have you noticed around town who seems to be having trouble finding a clear direction and meaning in life now that high school is over?

Ask the simple questions: How's life? How are the kids? Would you be willing to help me with? Wondering if I can bounce an idea off of you? Get to know them as people and friends. You'd be surprised when you show you truly care, how willing people are then to talk about things such as church, faith, and God.

## SAVE THE DATE!

As the weather (at least attempts) to turn colder, it's time to start thinking about our annual LEFSE making party!

TENTATIVE DATE:

Saturday, November 1st

More details on ordering and times for lefse making fun will be available soon via the church bulletin, email, and Facebook. Final lefse making dates will be dependent upon the harvest season.



As Pastor Sara heads off to the annual conference in Lakeville, MN, here are some fun facts about the network we belong to:

1034 Total Congregations

804 US Congregations

Congregations are located in 39 US states and Territories as well as 18 different countries.

LCMC was officially established in March 2001.

LCMC operates with only 6 full time staff people.

Immanuel Lutheran is part of the Iowa District within LCMC.

Additionally, LCMC is governed by a Board of Trustees and a Ministry Board who gather 6 times a year around the country.



Looking for a fun way  
to engage your kids in  
prayer during this  
harvest season?

Try this!



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
104 1<sup>st</sup> Street North  
Swea City, IA 50590

The Immanuel Lutheran  
Church Newsletter

TO:

