

# Immanuel Lutheran Swea City

## November/December Newsletter



Everyone once in awhile, there is something that pops up which reminds me, in an unexpected way, that a change of some sort is about to happen. Today was one of those days. I just sent an email to RSVP for an upcoming event which included the words "weather permitting." Why? Because there is a chance of SNOW in the forecast.

If nothing else, that first snow of the season reminds me that Christmas is coming. I don't know about you, but I find it hard to stop myself from making the list of all the things I need to do to make the day and season magical for as many people in my life as possible. I have gifts to buy and ship to my nieces. I have candy to make for local family and friends. I have decorations to put up around my apartment. I have ornaments to get ready for the Sunday School kids.

Before I know it, Christmas Eve services have arrived with little thought given to the reason we celebrate the Christmas holiday, the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Making time during Advent to reflect on the meaning of Christmas is challenging for pretty much everyone I know. But this year, I want to invite you join me in seeking a way, in some small part, to pause at least once a week and really let the reality of God becoming a human baby fully hit you.

Start now thinking about what will work for you and for your family. Maybe you snag a devotional book while you are out and about shopping the black Friday sales. The Gospel of Luke has exactly 24 chapters, you could read one a day starting on December 1st. If you enjoy music, maybe you play a Christmas carol each day and sing along.

Advent calendars for families can be a great way to get kids involved and there are more and more faith based ones each year. There are ones for the arts and crafts enthusiasts and ones which explore the different names of Jesus. I have even found Lego and Barbie based advent calendars!

I can't promise making the most of the season of Advent will make all your dreams of the perfect Christmas come to light but I do know that taking the time, even a few minutes once a week to light a candle on an Advent wreath, to pause and thank God for sending his Son to be born in manger will make Christmas mean just a little bit more.

Oh, and don't forget to make plans to join on Sunday, December 21st for the children's program.....I hear rumor that some Superhero friends might be stopping by to help us experience the true meaning of Christmas!

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### Tuesday, November 11th

Veteran's Day

### Saturday, November 15th

IA District LCMC Gathering in Waukee

### Thursday, November 27th

Thanksgiving

### Sunday, December 21st

Children's Christmas Program

### Wednesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Service @ 5pm

### Thursday, December 25th

Merry Christmas!

## Camp Events

### November 21-23, 2025

Sr. High Retreat @ Okoboji

Crafting Retreat @ Okoboji

### January 2-4, 2026

Abide Young Adult Retreat



## Council Meeting Highlights

### 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.

### October Highlights

Pastor Sara attended the LCMC National Gathering which focused largely on the history and foundation of LCMC and how that continues to shape the organization as it has grown and moved forward. With Confirmation done, and no current confirmation students, she is planning to shift focus to work with students interested in being acolytes and receiving first communion.

We will begin working on identifying missions to give an extra gift to in December using the interest earned from the parsonage CD. If you have ideas, please get them to the missions committee as soon as possible.

Alliant energy has asked that we paint our outside gas pipes to help prevent rust. The kitchenette in the lounge across from the office has been disabled after the compressor for the mini-fridge was found to be significantly overheated. We are so thankful that it went bad on a Sunday morning when people were around and could address it before it caused damage.

It was approved to have the Community Club use the social hall and kitchen again this year for serving hotdogs and chips on Halloween night.

The annual meeting will be held Sunday, November 9th after church in the social hall.

The Lefse making party will be held Saturday, November 1st at the church.



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

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

# Mission Of The Month

## September

### Moving Veterans Forward

[Mvfnci.org](http://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: \$377

## October

### Kossuth County CARE Team

[Kossuthcountycareteam.org](http://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:

## November

### Iowa Veteran's Home

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

The Iowa Soldiers Home opened to house displaced Civil War veterans. At the start, life at the facility resembled life under Army rules and regulations. Residents wore uniforms, marched in formation, stood inspections, ate at a mess hall, and went to bed at taps.

Today, our Marshalltown campus spans 150 acres. We serve about 400 veterans and have more than 700 staff, making us one of the largest state-run veterans homes. We seek to help Iowa veterans and their spouses through nursing and residential care.

Money Raised: TBD

As we near the end of 2025, we are once again planning to use the interest earned from money taken in when we sold the parsonage to send a special blessing to a handful of different charities. If you have a charity you would like us to consider, either for an extra gift or a first time gift, please talk to our Missions and Evangelism team:

DeMaris Fritzler & Rob Thompson





# Congratulations Brody!

Taking a moment to celebrate Brody Deim as he was confirmed on October 12th.

I asked Brody to share a little bit about his faith as part of our final preparations for Confirmation this fall. One of the most important promises of God for Brody is that of forgiveness of sins because he knows that, no matter how hard he tries, he'll never be perfect and so will always be in need of God's forgiveness.

Psalm 23, with its message about being guided in the right direction and Proverbs 3:5-6, with its reminder to trust in God above all things, are two scripture passages which have been important to Brody and his faith thus far. His parent's consistency in bringing him and his siblings to church has had a big impact on his faith as well as their willingness to help with teaching Sunday School. And Brody, your help with the younger kids in Sunday school is greatly appreciated as you follow their example.

One of the places he feels close to God has been in the Bible study and youth group time at church this fall as we take the time to have fun and share what we are hearing from God.

## LEFSE PARTY SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who helped make the lefse making party a success.

54 Dozen lefse were mixed, rolled, cooked, cooled and packaged!

Due to a losing fight with technology, photos not included. Keep watch on the upcoming events display in the entry way at church.



Remember to say thanks to someone who faithfully served our nation in the armed services. As a daughter of a Vietnam Veteran, I know so many paid a price so much bigger than I as a civilian will ever fully hope to understand.



**Christmas is  
Coming!**

Invite your friends  
and family to join  
us for these special  
Christmas Services!

Sunday school meets during the Sunday worship service with dismissal after the children's message. This year we are using the SPARK program which offers baking, science, and craft options for exploring the various Bible stories.

## Practice for the Christmas Program Begins Soon!

If your child is interested in being in the Christmas program, please make plans for them to be at Sunday school regularly starting November 16th practices begin.



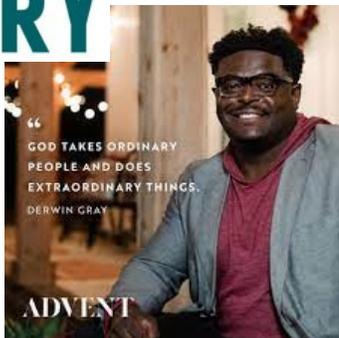
## Mighty Warriors Kids



When: Wednesdays -  
After school for kids (grades 1-5)

We have been enjoying making use of Immanuel's building enabling us to have lessons with one age group while another plays a game. Pastor Sara snagged some photos of the younger kids making crowns as part of our lesson on Queen

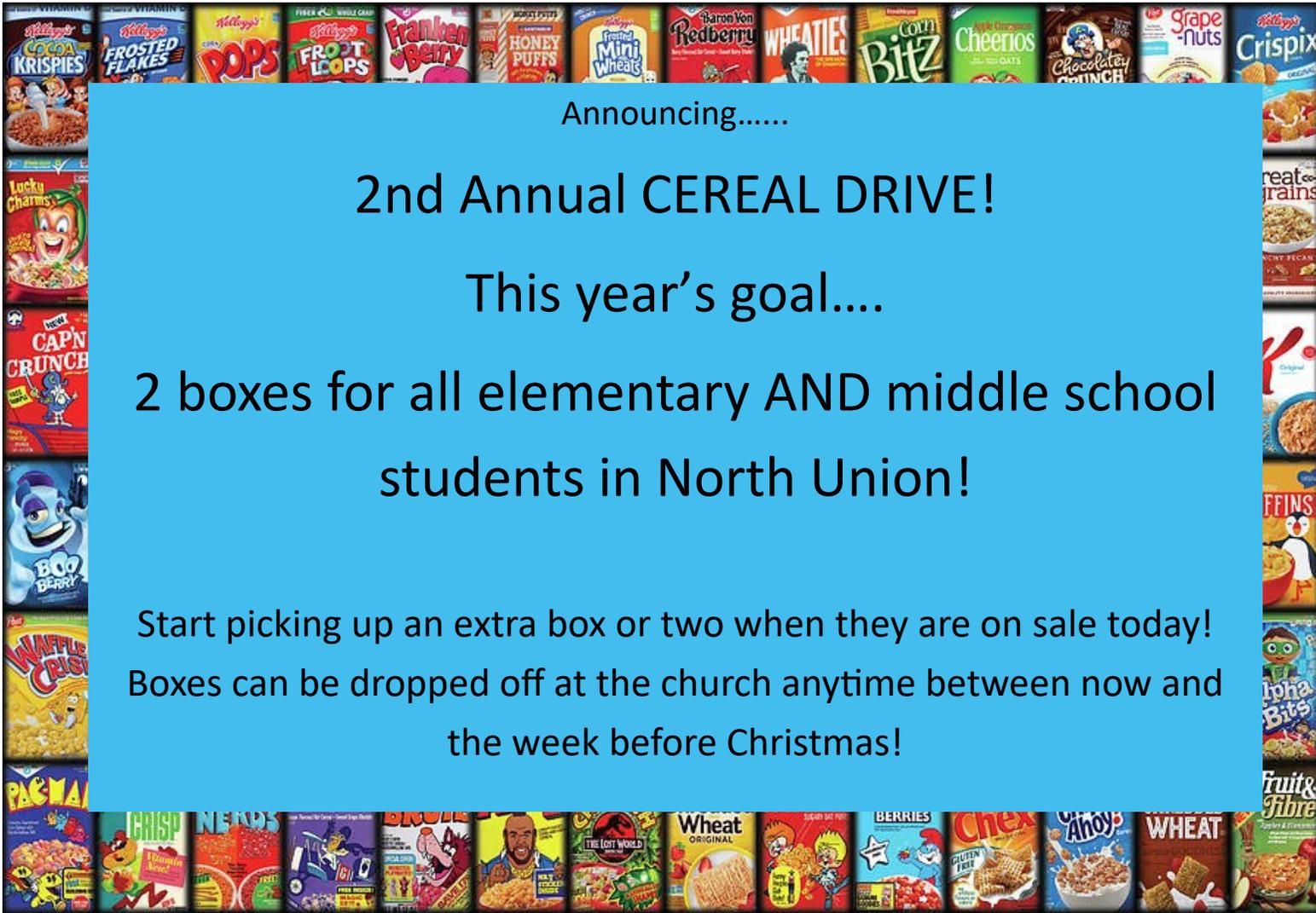
## YOUTH MINISTRY



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: Advent

Hosted by Derwin Grey, this 5 week study explores who exactly Jesus is and why God would send His Son to earth to live as a human. As Christmas approaches, we will taking a look at Jesus as The Servant King, the Rejected King, Our Friend the King, the Counter-Cultural King, and the Lowly King.



Announcing.....

## 2nd Annual CEREAL DRIVE!

This year's goal....

2 boxes for all elementary AND middle school students in North Union!

Start picking up an extra box or two when they are on sale today!  
Boxes can be dropped off at the church anytime between now and the week before Christmas!

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The Immanuel Lutheran  
Church Newsletter

TO:

