

Immanuel Monthly

November 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 5

All Saints' Day celebration has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, and it has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. Martin Luther held that all Christians are simultaneously sinner and saint — a sinner because of our rebellious nature, but a saint because of



salvation in Jesus.

A special service has been planned for Sunday worship on November 5 where we will read the names, ring a bell, and light a candle for those members of our congregation who have died since the last All Saints Day.

This year we honor Teresa Popkes, Helen Fiihr, Bev Hoing, and Mark Hansmann.

Practice to Begin for Christmas Program

Believe it or not, it's time to start preparing for the 2023 Sunday School Christmas Program!

Program practice, along with a lesson, will be held from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. on the following Sundays: Nov. 12th, 19th, Dec. 3rd, 10th and 17th

The program will be performed during worship on Sunday, December 17. Questions about Sunday School, or the Christmas program, may be directed to Becky Stueve or Lexi Landis.



ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

There are two programs offered in Lyon County through Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc., that are *completely* funded by local donations. Your help is needed to keep these programs going:

Food Pantry – Any low-income Lyon County resident that needs food and/or hygiene products can come to the new Lyon County location in Rock Rapids rather than driving to Sioux Center. They are eligible to receive a box of food every 30 days, and hygiene products every 90 days. Support is needed to keep this pantry stocked.

Crisis Account – Funding from this account is used to assist low-income Lyon County residents with emergency needs such as past due rent, utilities, or even a gas card.

Consider donating items or monetarily to one or both of these programs. You may contact Pam Ericson, Outreach Coordinator, through email at pericson@midsioux.org, or by calling 712-722-3611 or 712-472-3746. She has office hours in Rock Rapids on Wednesdays.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers, they won’t sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you won’t be scorched and flame won’t burn you.” -Isaiah 43:2

The November newsletter article, it’s supposed to be about Thanksgiving, right? What a great way to start with the Isaiah text. What is there to be thankful for with that? That you are passing through waters and that you will walk through fire. A lot to be thankful for there (or not!).

The prophet Isaiah is sent to afflict the comfortable and to comfort the afflicted. He is speaking out against injustice and misuse of power that were rampant among the leaders of Israel. He had a hard message to share with those in power.

But this verse! This verse is written to the Jewish people who had been conquered by the Babylonian Empire and exiled. They received a promise that someday they would return from the exile to their home, but do you know what the text says? It doesn’t say IF you pass through waters or IF you pass through fire, but rather it says WHEN you pass through waters and WHEN you walk through fire.

Friends, it’s a reminder that life will happen to us, and not all of it is going to be the most fun, some will be downright depressing and hard. BUT we hear that God will not leave us during those times and that God will be with us throughout it all. And that is an amazing promise to cling to!

I’d like to thank author and theologian Adam Hamilton for the inspiration for this article. He has an amazing devotional called, “Living Unafraid” where he takes lessons of hope from 31 of the Bible’s most loved stories. It is a great book and awesome because it addresses a lot of the fears we have in our culture.

May you experience God’s peace, love, and presence this day and every day. Amen!

Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt Polsdofer may be reached through email at pastormatt001@gmail.com,

or on his cell phone at 641-590-4049. He holds office hours on Mondays in George from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m..



THIS MONTH AT IMMANUEL: NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 HS Bible Study	2	3	4
5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/communion	6	7	8 7:00 Confirmation in Rock Rapids	9	10  Veteran's Day <i>(observed)</i>	11
12 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Council Meeting	13 DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	14	15 5:00 Bread of Life 6:30 HS Bible Study 7:00 Confirmation in Rock Rapids	16	17	18
19 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship w/communion	20	21	22	23  Happy Thanksgiving!	24  NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY	25
26 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Decorate for Christmas	27	28	29	30		

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers – November: Mark Behrens; December: Mark Dickmann

SOUND/POWER POINT

- November 5: Greg Ver Steeg & AJ Landis
- November 12: Gregory Stueven & Sosie Ver Steeg
- November 19: Fred Landis & Adien Bathke
- November 26: Henry Ver Steeg & Bennett Jorth
- December 3: Richard Heidloff & Lillian Jorth
- December 10: Lexi Landis & AJ Landis
- December 17: Greg Ver Steeg & Sosie Ver Steeg
- December 24: Gregory Stueven & Adian Bathke
- December 31: Fred Landis & Lillian Jorth

READERS

- November 5: Mary Behrens
- November 12: Angie McConnell
- November 19: Sosie Ver Steeg
- November 26: Brent Jorth
- December 3: Glenda Heidloff
- December 10: Lexi Landis
- December 17: Cathy Huff
- December 24: Richard Heidloff
- December 31: Marla Ahrenholtz

GREETERS

- November 5: Fred & Kristy Landis
- November 12: Clay & Deb Hansmann
- November 19: Rich & Marla Ahrenholtz
- November 26: Dave & Cathy Huff
- December 3: Ryan & Khristy Funk
- December 10: Mark & Mary Behrens
- December 17: Steve & Darla Kruse
- December 24: Darlene Woelber & Angie McConnell
- December 31: Brent & Amanda Jorth

ACOLYTES

- November 5: Bennett Jorth
- November 12: Jack Denny
- November 19: Isaiah Sandbeck
- November 26: Cullen Funk
- December 3: Khoryn Funk
- December 10: Leo Ver Steeg
- December 17: Cullen Funk
- December 24: Jack Denny
- December 31: Bennett Jorth

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6th – Dennis & Ellen Hansmann
- 30th – Mark & Ruth Dickmann

BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Andrew Heidloff
- 1st – Robin Kruckenberg
- 2nd – Matthew Everhart
- 2nd – Jill Karalius
- 2nd – Kaitlyn Phelps
- 3rd – Carl Kruse
- 3rd – Kelsey Kruse
- 3rd – Jim McConnell
- 8th – Deanna Pedersen
- 11th – Andrea Dirks
- 12th – Lauri Starr
- 15th – Norma Ubbinga
- 18th – Waylon Hansmann
- 20th – Wendy Smith
- 21st – Amy Phelps
- 21st – Tom Starr
- 22nd – Ida Mae Kruger
- 23rd – Gregory Stueven
- 24th – Danyca Gisolf
- 24th – Ben Starr
- 29th – Ruth Dickmann

YUP. WINTER IS COMING ...



We hate to be the bearer of bad news, but the white stuff and the ice stuff is right around the corner. If Sunday worship, Confirmation, and/or HS Bible Study needs to be cancelled due to weather, an announcement will be made on Facebook, through email, and via text message (Confirmation kids have this set up with Pastor Matt). If Central Lyon or George-Little Rock has an early out or no school, there will be no Wednesday night activities. As always, use your best judgment and stay safe!

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Month	Giving	Expenses	+/-
January	\$ 7,247.32	\$ 9,551.84	\$ (2,304.52)
February	\$ 5,853.92	\$ 9,840.11	\$ (3,986.19)
March	\$ 5,459.50	\$ 16,902.94	\$ (11,443.44)
April	\$ 8,925.86	\$ 8,645.71	\$ 280.15
May	\$ 17,631.64	\$ 6,378.03	\$ 11,253.61
June	\$ 5,466.87	\$ 5,171.17	\$ 295.70
July	\$ 6,386.85	\$ 6,316.79	\$ 70.06
August	\$ 5,260.19	\$ 6,475.14	\$ (1,214.95)
September	\$ 5,535.75	\$ 6,271.42	\$ (735.67)

Quarterly	Giving	Expenses	+/-
January-March	\$ 18,560.74	\$ 36,294.89	\$ (17,734.15)
April-June	\$ 32,024.37	\$ 20,194.91	\$ 11,829.46
July-Sept	\$ 17,182.79	\$ 19,063.35	\$ (1,880.56)
YTD	\$ 67,767.90	\$ 75,553.15	\$ (7,785.25)

Budget & Goals for 2023			
	Giving	Expenses	+/-
2023 Budget	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 136,125.00	\$ 3,875.00
1st Quarter Goal	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,031.25	
1st Quarter Actuals	\$ 18,560.74	\$ 36,294.89	
1st Quarter +/-	\$ (16,439.26)	\$ 2,263.64	\$ (18,702.90)
2nd Quarter Goal	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,031.25	
2nd Quarter Actuals	\$ 32,024.37	\$ 20,194.91	
2nd Quarter +/-	\$ (2,975.63)	\$ (13,836.34)	\$ 10,860.71
3rd Quarter Goal	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,031.25	
3rd Quarter Actuals	\$ 17,182.79	\$ 19,063.35	
3rd Quarter +/-	\$ (17,817.21)	\$ (14,967.90)	\$ (2,849.31)
YTD Goal	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 102,093.75	
YTD Actuals	\$ 67,767.90	\$ 75,553.15	
YTD +/-	\$ (37,232.10)	\$ (26,540.60)	\$ (10,691.50)

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 8, 2023

The Church Council met Sunday, October 8 at 9 a.m.

Present: Ryan Funk, Angie McConnell, Fred Landis, Craig Denny, Mark Dickmann and Mark Behrens

Mark B. gave devotions: Blessings of Unity

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Matt Polsdofer starts October 15. Communion Sunday. We will have a meet and greet after church. The Jorths will bring the food.

Secretary's Report

- Approved through email.

Financial Secretary's Report

- Fred
- Worker's compensation for Pastor Matt is covered by Rock Rapids. We need to cover Bridget Dickmann on our worker's comp.

Treasurer's Report

- Talked about the Summa Fund. We will revise the disbursement of this fund in the future.
- Motion made by Fred to approve. Mark D. seconded. All in favor.

Evangelism & Worship

- Mark B will talk with Pastor Matt on setting up office hours, visiting, etc.
- We will do Christmas Eve service. We will check on times for both churches.
- There will be neither Thanksgiving Eve service nor Christmas Day service.
- Case Allan Trei will be baptized on October 22.

Property & Stewardship

- New electrical service into the church still needs to be done.

- The rental agreement has been drawn up and Fred will get together with Allan Holloway to sign this.
- Fall property cleanup has been set for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25.
- Dave Huff had checked the boiler and said there was a leak. He called Jim Bathke to check on this.
- Fred is going to check on the bell and see if it's working properly

Education & Youth

- Sunday School schedule has been set. Copies were given to parents on the first day. A copy can also be found on the bulletin board.
- High School Bible Study is being led by Blair Hansmann on Wednesday evenings. He's been notifying Amanda a month ahead of time when they will meet.

Old Business

- Joint Council meetings with Immanuel Lutheran Rock Rapids will happen quarterly. These probably will start in December of this year.
- Both churches have signed the pastoral agreement to the synod. Council members have copies.

New Business

- Fred will talk with Brad Sandbeck about snow removal this year.
- Pastor Matt will be paid twice a month through direct deposit. We will talk to him on which dates those will be.

The next meeting was set for Sunday, November 12 following worship.

Mark D. made a motion to adjourn. Ryan seconded. All in favor.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

