

GRACEVINE

August 2016



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

747 Ann Street – Chadron, NE 69337

Telephone: (308) 432-5408

Email: chadimmanuel@bbc.net

Pastor Ann Sundberg

Cell: (919) 475-9754

Where God is with us as we grow in faith!

Pastor's Message

The Call to Discipleship

Over the past several weeks the Sunday gospel readings have focused on Jesus' requirements for those who followed him as his disciples. You can't look back. (Luke 9:62) You can't bring anything along. (Luke 9:3) You must depend on the kindness of strangers. (Luke 10:7) You must take risks to love and serve those whom you meet. (Luke 10:25-37) Don't we all have a tendency to think, "I couldn't possibly do all that. Pick up and leave behind the warm home, the comfortable bed, the bank account, the possessions? What are you asking, Jesus? Really, Jesus?"

That element of risk-taking becomes evident when we consider just who was part of Jesus' inner circle of 12 apostles. Matthew and Luke give us only the names of those who were called as apostles, except for two. One is identified by his political affiliation and the other by his occupation. We learn from Luke's list that one of those called to be an apostle is a certain Simon, whom we are told was a "zealot." (Luke 6:15) The zealots were members of a violent group of Jewish revolutionaries. They used terrorist tactics to assassinate Romans and Roman collaborators. Simply put, the zealots hated Rome. Their goal was to see Rome annihilated and they would do almost anything to achieve that goal.

Zealots believed that paying taxes to Rome was blasphemy. The only people that they hated more than Romans were Israelites who collected Roman taxes. Tax collectors were collaborators. Tax collectors were traitors to their Jewish religion and culture. They could and did become wealthy off the backs of their own people to benefit the occupying government.

The apostle whose occupation is named was Matthew, the tax collector. (Matthew 10:3) Imagine what must have gone through the minds of each of these men when they learned that they were to serve Jesus together. What would it have been like to hear Jesus say, "Simon, zealot who hates all things Roman, come and follow me. Matthew, tax collector, collaborator with Rome, come and follow me." Imagine them traveling together, eating together, maybe even sharing the same room!

Jesus' call does not mean that we are always going to be comfortable with the other people who are our fellow disciples. Jesus' call is to take a risk to cross the barriers of race, of age, of wealth, of gender and yes, of political affiliation. Jesus' call to discipleship means that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus' call to discipleship means that we are to love our enemies. Jesus' call to discipleship means that we must talk to each other, listen to each other, reconcile with each other. Jesus' call to discipleship means that we have work to do, together.

Council Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2016

The monthly meeting was called to order by President Robyn Baquet. with Attendees being Pastor Ann, Denise James, Sharon Thurlow, Chelsea Holt, Yvonne Moody, Karleen Gramberg, Barb Landen, and Karen Rupp. Those absent were True Thorne, Laurie Schmidt, and Julie Duncan.

There was discussion about the book "Living Lutheran" by Dave Daubert.

May Minutes were approved with Karleen making the motion to accept and Karen seconding the motion. June Minutes were approved with Karleen making the motion to accept and Karen seconding the motion. Treasurers Report was approved with Yvonne making the motion to accept and Barb seconding the motion.

We are currently looking for a Church Secretary. This is a part time position. We are also looking for a Choir Director and a Building and Grounds representative for Church Council.

Pastor's Report included worship planning and leadership, vacation bible school, confirmation, synod assembly and much more.

Council will have a retreat on October 15th.

Education: Vacation Bible School was a success. Wednesday School orientation is August 31, 2016.

Evangelism: No report

Fellowship: No Report

Social: 42 adults and 22 children were served in June. We will be serving at Closer to Home on July 18, 2016.

Stewardship: "Enough" book study coming soon to a church near you. Watch the bulletin for details. We will be having guest speakers in the upcoming months with discussions on such things as Asset Mapping and Financial Planning.

Worship: We will be using With One Voice during service for the month of July. Our outdoor service will be August 7th.

Next council meeting will be August 4 at 5:30 PM.

Stewardship

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue to grow in our understanding and practice good stewardship, let us again center on the cross. As we make the sign of the cross, perhaps with the Baptismal water as we go forward to receive communion, we can reflect about how God has come down to us, and then think about all God has entrusted to our care and seek to understand the needs of our neighbors.

Stewardship is a broad encompassing component of our ministries, a broad encompassing component of our lives. Each choice we make – which item(s) to purchase, which brands we use, whether to recycle and how, how much of our resources of time and talents and financial assets to share, even which candidates we support...reflect how we demonstrate how we attempt to live out “Love the Lord your God with all your soul, and with all your mind’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.”

We need to keep on keeping on - doing all we can to listen, hear and take into our very hearts this exhortation and to actively live out that love for all God’s creation making the best decisions we can with the information we have to work with.

In August we’ll have the opportunity learn about making plans for health care decisions to be made on our behalf if/when we become unable to speak for ourselves. Tricia Thayer from Social Services at Chadron General will be visiting with us after church on Sunday, August 10.th Some will also be discussing the stewardship principles put forth in *Enough* by Adam Hamilton.

Sharing story is also a powerful way to share personal stewardship experiences and inspire others. Please let me know if you would like to share one of your stories during a temple talk at church. We can also share story during our fellowship during coffee hour after church.

Two tips (from *Enough*) for simplifying your life:

- 1) Set a goal of reducing your consumption;
- 2) Before making a purchase ask yourself “Do I really need this? And “Why do I want this?”

Please consider volunteering to join the Stewardship Committee – just speak to Karen Rupp, Jeanine Mohr or Pastor Ann. Once again, thank you all for all you do!

Peace and Blessings, Karen Rupp, Stewardship Chair

JESUS REPLIED: ““LOVE THE
LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL
YOUR MIND.” THIS IS THE FIRST AND
GREATEST COMMANDMENT. AND THE
SECOND IS LIKE IT: “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.”
MATTHEW
22:37-

Wednesday School and Confirmation News

Children/youth Christian education has some exciting news to share – Immanuel Lutheran has the possibility of providing Christian education to 22 children/youth this year! How awesome that would be to once again have our classrooms filled with children/youth ready to learn and hear about Jesus! With that said, **adult and youth volunteers will be needed** in order to make this happen.



Students learning about God's Word!

Wednesday School youth will be divided into three classrooms.

- PreK-Kindergarten
- 1st-3rd Grades
- 4th-6th Grades

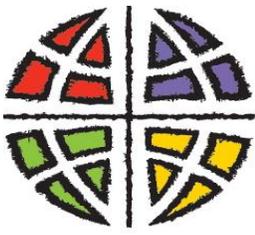
Help us by being a volunteer teacher or assistant. All curriculum materials will be provided. This is a great way to help our youth learn about the love of Jesus and our faith.

Please consider being a part of this worthwhile experience – it is only a 60 minute commitment each week. Christian Education for our children/youth at Immanuel will not be possible without the help of volunteers. Contact the church office (432-5408) or Yvonne Moody (430-3544) with questions.



Immanuel Lutheran Youth family!





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday Sunday, September 11, 2016

The dedicated day of service is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—a church freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. We will join with other congregations of this church as we gather to put our faith into action and serve communities across the country.

We will also be serving individuals in the congregation that need assistance with tasks around their homes such as weeding, raking, cleaning windows, etc. Anyone who is interested in having work done at their homes during this day of service should contact the church office at 432-5408.

“ ‘God's work, Our hands.’ Sunday reminds us that we are church together for the sake of the world. Our lives have been changed by our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and it's that encounter with Jesus that frees us to make a difference.”

- ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Look for additional information and volunteer sign ups in the next month.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 11, 2016 Request Worksheet

If you would like to have work done in your home or know of a congregation member who is need of assistance in their homes, please fill out this request and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Please make known what service you or those you are asking on behalf of are in need of so we can prepare to help by bringing all necessary tools, etc.

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

If you know of someone who may need help, please give their name(s) _____

Short description of work requested _____

Any additional information

Treasurer's Report

June 2016

Beginning balance May 31, 2016	\$	289.38
Income		
Weekly Offering	\$	7,933.77
Coffee/Tea	\$	13.75
McNutt Memorial Fund	\$	20.00
Shepard's Pantry	\$	31.00
MIF Interest	\$.16
Interest	\$.08
Total Income	\$	7,998.76
Expenses	\$	10,673.60
Ending balance as of June 30, 2016	\$	(2,385.46)

Worship Attendance

Date	Sunday Service
July 3	55
July 10	47
July 17	41
July 24	34

Immanuel Lutheran Church
747 Ann Street
Chadron, NE 6933

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President - Robyn Baquet
Vice-President - Denise James
Secretary - Sharon Thurlow
Treasurer – Chelsea Holt
Building & Grounds -
Education - Yvonne Moody
Evangelism - Laurie Schmidt
Fellowship - Karleen Gramberg
Social Ministry - Barb Landen
Stewardship - Karen Rupp
Worship - Julie Duncan
Youth/Young Adult - True Thorne
Pastor - Ann Sundberg

Other Staff –

Financial Secretary – Lorrie Bauer
Custodian – Michelle Haynes
Church Secretary – Erin Daniel

Important contact information-

Nebraska Synod Website:
www.nebraskasynod.org, phone number
402-896-5311
ELCA Church wide Website, www.elca.org,
Phone number 800-638-3522