

GRACEVINE

December 2014



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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.”

This is my favorite Advent hymn. My memories of it go all the way back to my childhood, lighting the candles on the Advent wreath, lying on the floor of my childhood living room, looking up at the Christmas tree. This ancient hymn is rich with meaning.

The seven verses of this hymn were known as far back as the 6th century. They have traditionally been sung at evening prayer on the seven days leading up to Christmas (December 17-23.) Each verse has a double significance. First, each is a title for the coming Messiah, and second, each refers to a prophecy of Isaiah:

O Wisdom -- "The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." Isaiah 11:2

O Lord of Might -- "For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler, the Lord is our king; he will save us." Isaiah 33:22

O Branch of Jesse -- "A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Isaiah 11:1

O Key of David -- "I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open." Isaiah 22:22

O Dayspring -- "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." Isaiah 9:2

O King of Nations -- "He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Isaiah 2:4

O God With Us -- "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

Advent is a season of expectation and anticipation. We wait for the coming of the Christ child. We wait for the light to brighten the darkness.

What are you waiting for? For a new job opportunity? For end of semester grades? Vacation? Time with family? Medical test results? The good news in this time of expectation is that God meets us in our waiting. God meets us in the most mundane and unexpected of circumstances and promises to be with us, always.

This Advent season, I invite you to hear the words of this hymn as an evening prayer to God. As we live in the day-to-day of our waiting, may you find hope in the promise that God is with you in every way.

Council Meeting Minutes –November 2014

Council was called to order at 6:05, present were Pastor Ann Sundberg, Jane Darnell, Jeanine Mohr, Lisa Briggs, Laurie Schmidt, Dave Coe, Julie Ducan, Laurie Harris and Robyn Baquet. Not present: Jarrod Briggs, Walt Mays, Karleen Gramberg, Sharon Thurlow.

Devotions were from Ephesians, 3:14-21. This year's Stewardship emphasis has been on fearlessness and we are entering the season of anticipation; pastor challenged us: do we have a plan for our own individual spiritual growth? We plan for travel, holidays, all kinds of events....how about spiritual growth? Pastor also shared some ideas she has been made aware of using technology for individual spiritual growth. Prayer requests were taken.

Secretary Report. With no additions or correction, Robyn moved and Lisa seconded to accept the minutes.

Treasurer Report It was noted we are still under budget. Laurie Schmidt moved and Lisa seconded to accept treasurer report.

Pastor Report Pastor remarked that bishop Maas will be visiting Immanuel on August 23, 2015 She provided a printed schedule of all her activities for the month of October and a Looking Ahead schedule which is quite full with Advent beginning.

President Jane asked if there were better communication methods for relaying what is happening when at Immanuel. Several ideas were discussed. Ann moved to allow Jenni Rodin to teach Tai Chi on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 6:00am. Robin seconded and council voted aye. Pastor highlighted that there is a Nebraska synod campaign for the ELCA entitled **Always Being Made New**. The aim is to increase its contributions to the identified ministries by a little more than \$2 million.

Executive There is a chance the altar will be going up to Pine Ridge on Monday. Pastor will check on weather report and Dave Coe has offered his truck. The Mutual Ministry committee has met and will continue to do so. The Prayer garden planning team met and have a report where they have identified things we can add and amend if so desired in the future. Members are encouraged to express ideas and become involved if interested in that area. The Mission Endowment committee existing members will take care of business until replacement for Marsha Mapes is identified and voted on at the 2015 annual meeting.

Buildings and grounds Dave is working with a plumber to get a water line to the refrigerator. There are still several open slots on the **to do list**. Discussion followed on how to get people to take on some of these jobs. The sprinkler system has been winterized.

Education Lisa reported that the Christmas program is coming up, the time will be 5 or 5:30 on December 14th. Laurie Schmidt will coordinate the kitchen for the light supper following the program and the adult Sunday Bible study group will

provide sacks of goodies for the children. Youth registration needs to be completed for the upcoming Detroit gathering in July 15-19. Synod is talking about carpooling for that event. Pastor talked about how well Wednesday school is doing and reported that Lucinda expressed interest in having the young kids sing for the congregation once a month. We will be giving out Bibles to the 3rd-4th-5th graders in the near future. Jeanine will write their names in calligraphy on the cover page.

Evangelism. Laurie Schmidt reported on the sound system. Haggerty's of Rapid City has not gotten back to us as to adding another mike for the assisting minister. Discussion followed about other options. No campus ministry report. Getting the Highway sign in place is still in progress as Laurie works to get state permission. Laurie has a plan for utilizing our youth in providing in-home communion .

Social ministry. Robyn reported that Junice Dagen has purchased cards for Safeway and that we have an abundance of funds at this time because of a one time only gift from Thrivent. There were 119 quilts sent off to Lutheran World Relief. We are serving the Closer to Home meals on the Monday's of November. The Pine Bough Bazaar is this Saturday. Whatever we don't sell will be made available for purchase at the harvest feast on Sunday, November 16.

Fellowship Karleen was absent, but she'll be home Tuesday to get everything organized for that event.

Stewardship Jeanine reported that the program **Fearless GENEROSITY** is on track and that commitment Sunday will be November 16. The Lutheran Planned Giving Services presentation with Craig Stirtz on October 26th was very good and helpful to several members.

Worship Julie reported that the committee has met and are getting things set up for Advent. The hanging of the greens will be on December 7. The committee met in sanctuary and tried to visualize how technology might be used or if we even want to, that they are in the process of educating what's out there and how we might use it. President Jane encouraged us to keep the "why" at the center when looking at what we might want to do. New altar linens from Pauline Bach memorial will be dedicated on December 7, 2014.

New Business Next council meeting will include preparation of the 2015 budget. Each member should have their numbers ready. The Nominating committee needs to be reminded it's time to start working on a slate of nominees.

Check Out & Prayer Jane asked the question...what is it about Gods love that compels us to what actions? Members shared and then we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Pine Bough Bazaar Thank you

The Pine Bough Bazaar was held on Saturday, November 8th. We had a lovely display that included an assortment of Serrv items (such as baskets, puzzle boxes and bracelets), handmade soap by Erika Lans and handmade walking sticks by Jerry Smith. The bazaar was a wonderful success as we not only paid for all our Serrv items we purchased, but we made a profit of \$200. We supported the hard workers in other countries by paying fair trade for their products and we added to our church's account so we can work our mission here in Chadron. A huge thank you to Stacy Larsen and Sara Gramberg for helping set-up, to Pastor Ann and Sara Gramberg for manning the booth and to Laurie Schmidt and Ericka Lans who helped pack up and tear down. For those of you that missed the bazaar, there are still a few great gifts available in our fellowship hall for sale.



Fabulous Fall Feast a Success!

The annual Fall Feast held November 16, 2014 was once again a terrific success; the cooks of Immanuel continued to prove what we all have known; they are the best! We served close to 130 guests (and members). All proceeds were added to our church coffers to be used as needs arise. And best of all we used our food abundance to serve about 20 adults and children through Closer to Home. A big thank you to all who donated food, decorated, served, and cleaned up. Many hands are always needed as we continue to live out our mission in the community.

Thank you, thank you, Karleen (see you next year)



Every Penny Counts



The Immanuel Lutheran Church Wednesday School, Confirmation Class and the Congregation recently raised over \$330 for ELCA World Hunger with our Piggy Banks! The youth started this project about a month ago by each bringing a piggy bank home. And with their great efforts as well as with the help of congregation members we will be able to purchase 11 pigs to go to families in need through the ELCA World Hunger program! Great Job!

2015 Flower Chart

The 2015 flower chart is posted downstairs. Please sign up to provide a floral offering for a special occasion, in remembrance of a loved one, in praise of our Lord, or with thanks for God's blessings. Your help in adding bouquets to enhance our worship services is greatly appreciated.

Altar Guild



We are getting a group together to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering this coming summer!

Where: Detroit, Michigan

Dates: July 15-19, 2015, plus some additional days for travel.

Who: Any youth entering grades 9-12 in fall 2015, or who graduate in spring 2015. We will also need male and female adult leaders to accompany.

Early registration is **open until January 15.** We must register as a group.

Accommodations in local hotels will be assigned once all registrations have been received.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Ann by January 5, 2015.

Looking Ahead....to Advent and Christmas



The four Sundays of Advent begin on November 30. Advent is not about counting down the shopping days to Christmas. Advent is about preparing our hearts, our homes and our families to welcome Jesus.

December 7—Hanging of the Greens following worship.

December 7—Ecumenical Advent/Christmas Choir Concert - 3:00 p.m. at the Chadron Latter Day Saints Church

December 14—5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas program, followed by supper.

December 17—5:30 p.m. Christmas caroling party.

December 24—5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion.

December 28—Worship will be a service of Lessons and Carols.

Stewardship

This year's stewardship response program, *fearless GENEROISTY*™ has ended. I trust you found the four inserts in the worship bulletins to be insightful and instructive, in addition to Pastor Ann's sermons on the topic, as we learn to live abundant and fearless lives. In the midst of economic and life uncertainties, it can be tempting to permit fear to control and influence the resources that we have. But Jesus said, *"Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away"* (Mark 4:24-25, NRSV).

At this time, Immanuel has received 26 commitment cards for a total of \$68,910. I know there will be more cards turned in before the end of the fiscal year. If you have not yet turned yours in, please do soon at your convenience to the church office to facilitate the planning for next's year's budget.

Our giving demonstrates the depth of our love for God and our trust in God. The level or amount of our financial commitment expresses our belief that God is a generous God who *"is able to do more than we can ask or imagine"* (Eph 3:20) or that God is a God of scarcity. Through the power that God has given to us individually and as communities of faith, God will work through us to reveal God's generosity to others.



Treasurer's Report

November 2014

Beginning balance October 31, 2014		\$ (2,628.12)
Income	Weekly Offering	\$ 7,809.70
	World Hunger	\$ 330.64
	Coffee/tea sales	\$ 149.06
	Thrivent	\$ 546.00
	Pine Bough Bazaar	\$ 1,013.50
	Harvest Dinner	\$ 1,515.00
	Other Income	\$ 22.40
	Interest checking	\$.11
 Total Income		 \$ 11,386.41
 Expenses		 \$ 9,839.53
 Ending balance as of November 30, 2014		 \$ (1,081.24)

Worship Attendance

Date	Sunday Service
November 2	56
November 9	42
November 16	62
November 22	53
November 30	36



Hearing Assistance Available

Please note that hearing assistance receivers are available to those in need during church service. Headphones and receivers are located at the rear of the sanctuary when you first come in. You may also bring headphones of your choice from home to use with the provided receivers. Please ask the Ushers or Greeters for help locating these items if you can not find them.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
747 Ann Street
Chadron, NE 69337

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President - Jane Darnell
Vice-President - Leo Vander May
Secretary - Sharon Thurlow
Treasurer - Laurie Harris
Building & Grounds - David Coe
Education - Lisa Briggs
Evangelism - Laurie Schmidt
Fellowship - Karleen Gramberg
Social Ministry - Robyn Baquet
Stewardship - Jeanine Mohr
Worship - Julie Duncan
Youth/Young Adult - Jarrod Briggs
Youth/Young Adult - Walt Mays
Pastor - Ann Sundberg

Other Staff -

Financial Secretary - Lorrie Bauer
Custodian - Michelle Haynes
Church Secretary - Whitney Tewahade

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