

# GRACEVINE

February 2015



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**747 Ann Street – Chadron, NE 69337**

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**Pastor Ann Sundberg**

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**Where God is with us as we grow in faith!**

# Pastor's Message

This is that time of year when we fill out forms. We send statistical reports to the ELCA reporting on our membership and our activities over the past year. We answer questions like –did we hold weekly worship services, did we offer Christian education opportunities for children and adults, did we operate a shelter or a food pantry? We are asked if we have an elevator or other ways to make our building accessible. We are asked if we have a website or Facebook page.

I send a separate report to the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, reporting on my own activities during the year – and on what I consider to be the most important aspects of our ministries.

Statistical reports are fine as far as they go. But they cannot tell the whole story of life in this congregation. If you were to look only at the numbers over the past few years, you would notice a downward trend, and you might interpret that to be the story of a faith community in decline. But that is not what is happening here at Immanuel Lutheran church.

Statistics don't tell the story of the individuals who come to Bible study, or who come to sew quilts, or who come to church as visitors and then go and share what they have seen and heard and tasted. Statistics don't tell the story of children who look me in the eye as I say a blessing. Statistics don't tell the story of the kids who painted a mural or the crews who cleaned up gutters and yards last September. Statistics don't tell the story of the profound questions that get asked around the table in confirmation class. Statistics don't tell the story of people who've held my hand as we prayed. Statistics don't tell the story of the contributions of food collected by high school students and elementary school students and working folks who took time out of their day to bring it to the church. Statistics don't tell the story of the thank you notes and Christmas cards we have received from clients of the Shepherd's Pantry.

Lent begins this year on February 18, Ash Wednesday. Once again this year we will read a devotional book together. Once again this year we will organize prayer partners and we will gather for meals and worship on Wednesday evenings.

Once again this year in Lent we will tell the story of Jesus' journey to the cross, a story that begins with temptation and ends with liberation. Statistics cannot tell this story, because it is the story of God at work in the life of each and every person who walks through our doors or who calls on the phone or who connects on the web. It is the story of God in our midst, calling us into His light and His life.



# Annual Meeting Summary

The annual meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church on January 25, 2015 was bought to order by president Jane Darnell at approximately 10:00 am. 37 people were present. Pastor Ann Sundberg led the congregation in prayer.

The minutes of 2014 were approved with a motion from Kit Watson, seconded by Lorrie Bauer. Motion passed.

The Treasures report was presented by Laurie Harris. A motion from Dixie Eaton to approve the Treasurer's report was made and seconded by Denise James. Motion passed.

The financial secretary report was given by Lorrie Bauer. The audit report was given by Lorrie Bauer. Everything was found to be in excellent order. The formal report is listed in the packet. President Darnell praised Laurie Harris for a job well done. Laurie Schmidt moved to accept, and Linda Wineteer seconded to accept the audit report. Motion passed.

President Darnell expressed her appreciation of serving as president and regrets not fulfilling her last year due to her moving to Montana. She also summarized the growth of Immanuel.

President Darnell talked about the mutual ministry committee, consisting of Bill Huntington, Linda Morgan, Leo VanderMay, Karen Claussen-Smith and Sharon Thurlow. They are in the process of completing an evaluation of Pastor Ann. Sharon explained the role of this committee as a support group for everyone in addition to Pastor Ann.

Pastor gave her report. Statistics do not tell the whole story, as per reference to this Sunday's sermon. Gods Work, Our Hands work day was a huge success. September 13 will be the work day for 2015. August 23 will be the day for us to meet Bishop Brian Maas in Chadron at Immanuel. Pastor noted that we served several times at the Closer to Home program, and it was a blessing for all. We finished the ceiling downstairs and pastor thanked Dave Coe and John Parton for their help. She thanked Kit Watson and Vic Bradley for their help in getting the arbor established in the prayer garden. She explained her role in the spiritual direction program she is participating in and challenged the congregation to find their spirit quest...what is God calling us to be and do. The Holy Spirit is active among us.

Merlyn Gramberg reported that he serves on the synod committee in regards to upcoming ministers and the congregation was invited to visit with him at any time about that process.

President Darnell noted that all the committee reports are in the packet.

President Darnell asked for thanks for Karleen Gramberg for a job well done in her position as fellowship chairperson on council.

Dave Coe was recognized for his years of service as council position of Buildings and Grounds. He was presented with a bucket of goodies by President Darnell. Dave's term has expired.

Lisa Briggs was thanked for her years of service as council position of Education. Her term on council has ended. Wednesday school has been very successful. Lisa thanked all the parents and workers who have helped the program to become successful. She thanked Pastor Ann and Whitney Tewahade for their help in assisting her. She was given a goody bag with craft items by president Darnell.

Laurie Schmidt stated her Evangelism report is in the packet and she was thanked for her service.

Robin Baquet report as council position of Social ministry is in the packet and she will continue to serve next year. She was thanked for her service.

Stewardship report is in the packet and Jeanine Mohr was thanked for her service.

# Annual Meeting Summary –Continued

Julie Duncan worship report is in the packet and President Darnell remarked Julie should be applauded every Sunday after worship for a job well done.

Altar Guild had no additional information besides the report.

Whitney Tewahade moved to accept and Dixie Eaton seconded to accept the 2015 budget. President Darnell highlighted the significant changes to this budget in regard to the package for Pastor Ann. President Darnell encouraged that discussion of the budget needs to happen here and now, not later after the fact but openly when it can be discussed. The package does result in a 10% increase. When pastor came to us, we were not in a position to offer her the amount suggested by the ELCA guidelines and she was offered the lowest wage on the scale. This increase will bring her up to the suggested wage given her years and life experience that she brings to this ministry. The insurance costs have risen as well but they are an excellent carrier. Kit Watson noted that she was on council when Pastor came to us and it would not be right for us to continue to take advantage of her willingness to serve at the lower wage. Motion to approve the budget was put to vote and passed

The nominating committee report was given by Renae Noble. There have been several meeting by the committee, consisting of Junice Dagen, Kit Watson, Bill Huntington and Renee Noble. Renae reported there are still two vacancies even though many members had been contacted. Kit Watson encouraged people to consider taking on these position knowing that the council will help to build a committee, that they will not be the sole person to carry out these duties. Lisa Briggs reintegrated that she will stay involved and help with education. President Darnell asked for nominations from the floor, noting that if none come forward, the position will be filled by appointment by her which will be voted upon at the next meeting in accordance with the constitution of Immanuel. Melvin High Hawk was spiritually moved to volunteer to serve as the building and grounds position if the congregation was in favor of such. It was noted that he had been considered for the position by the nominating committee but didn't think it was fair to ask that of our newest member. Melvin High Hawk's name was added as a write in. Yvonne Moody volunteered for the education slot as a write in. There is a youth young adult position open. Council can appoint someone at the next meeting. It was noted that council needs to do a better job at communicating the expectation of this position. Ballots were collected and counted. Pastor led us in song, number 742, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, as the ballots were compiled. Renae Noble noted there were 31 ballots counted. The positions were filled as listed:

President (one Year term to fulfill an unexpired term) Kit Watson

Vice President (3 year term) Denise James

Education (3 year term) Write in Yvonne Moody

Buildings & Grounds (3 year term) Write in Melvin High Hawk

Evangelism (3 year term) Laurie Schmidt

Youth and Young Adult (1 year term) Alyssa Noble and 1 open slot

Mission Endowment Committee (3 year term) Renae Noble

Mission Endowment Committee (1 year to fulfill unexpired term) Jason Norgard

Nominating Committee (1year term, not eligible for re-election) Lisa Briggs, Ericka Lans, Uati Paopao,  
and Jeanine Mohr

Audit Committee (1 year term) Lorrie Bauer and Kim Bradley

Voting Delegates to 2015 NE Synod Assembly, May 30-31, 2015- Jerry Smith and Karen Claussen-Smith

President Darnell asked new council members to come forward to receive a book entitled Leadership Prayers by Richard Kriegbaum to help and guide them in their positions on council.

Ron Wineteer moved and Robyn Baquet seconded to close the meeting. Pastor Ann led us in the Lord's Prayer in closing.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeanine Mohr



## Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service—Wednesday, February 18th - 7:00 p.m.

Midweek suppers and service:  
Supper 6:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall  
Service 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

Wednesday, February 25th  
Wednesday, March 4th  
Wednesday, March 11th  
Wednesday, March 25th

Palm Sunday—Sunday, March 29th - 9:00 a.m.  
Passover Seder Dinner—Wednesday, April 1st - time TBA  
Maundy Thursday—Thursday, April 2nd - 7:00 p.m.  
Good Friday—Friday, April 3rd - 7:00 p.m.  
Easter Sunday—Sunday, April 5th 9:00 a.m.

## Lenten Prayer Partners

We invite anyone who is interested to participate in a Lenten Prayer Partner ministry. This includes children and adults, members and friends, those who are able to attend worship and those who are not.

Here is how it works: If you wish to participate, you will be given the name of one other person, your "Prayer Partner." You keep this name secret throughout Lent and commit to the following:

1. Pray for this person every day during Lent.
2. Send this person a note of encouragement at least once during Lent, more often if you choose, reminding them you are praying for them. Since your identity is to remain secret, the notes may simply be signed "Your prayer partner."
3. Reveal your identity to your prayer partner on Easter. This may be done in person, if you plan to worship with us on Easter, or it may be done in the form of a note that is signed by you, but may not be opened until Easter.

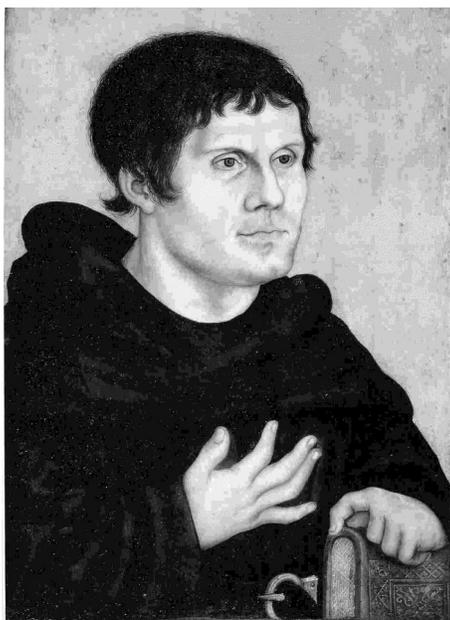
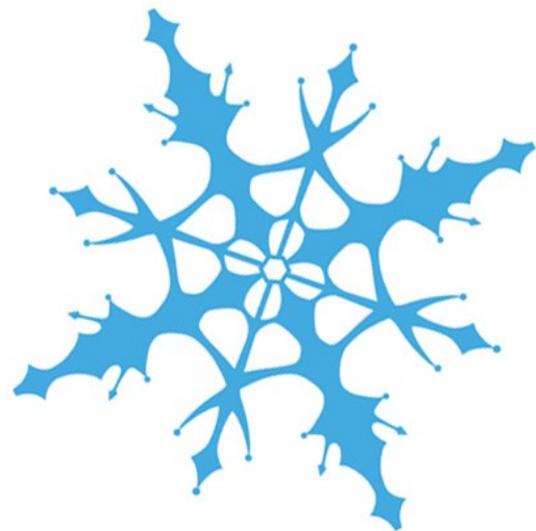
At the same time, someone else who has received your name will be praying for you. If you wish to participate, please fill out the form in the bulletin or the Gracevine, or contact the church office (308-432-5408.) Please respond by February 15th. Please include your address when signing up so that we are sure where to send notes. Prayer partner assignments will be made by Ash Wednesday, February 18th.

## Lenten Dinners

Don't forget the Lenten Dinners. A sign-up sheet to provide dinner during the Wednesday's of Lent ( February 18-March 25) is posted on the kitchen door. Easy and simple is all it takes. Work together as a family or with friends. Thank you in advance for your help.

# Wednesday School and Confirmation Spring Schedule

Wednesday School and Confirmation classes will begin on Wednesday, January 14th, 2015. Wednesday School students will meet from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm for their lesson. The Wednesday School students and the Confirmation students will share a supper meal from 6:15 pm to 6:45 pm. Confirmation students will then have class from 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm.



## Adult Catechism Class Forming

Pastor Ann will teach a class for any adults who wish to learn more about what Lutherans believe by studying Luther's Small Catechism. The class will tentatively be scheduled on Sunday afternoons from February 22-March 22. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Ann.

## Immanuel Lutheran's Youth Spaghetti Dinner

# SWEETHEART SPAGHETTI DINNER



Sunday, February 15, 2015

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Adults - \$5

Children - \$3

If anyone would like to donate food or volunteer time at the Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or contact Lisa Briggs. Thank you in advance for helping make this event possible.

# Treasurer's Report

## January 2015

Beginning balance December 31, 2014	\$ (3,010.52)
Income	
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,701.25
Fair Trade/Coffee/tea sales	\$ 54.50
MIF Interest	\$ 111.67
Interest checking	\$ .11
Total Income	\$ 8,867.53
Expenses	\$ 9,822.76
Ending balance as of January 31, 2015	\$ (3,965.75)

### Worship Attendance

Date	Sunday Service
January 4	36
January 11	52
January 18	82
January 25	46

### Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet Tuesday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church for their regular scheduled meeting. Please plan to attend.



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
747 Ann Street  
Chadron, NE 69337

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

President - Kit Watson  
Vice-President - Denise James  
Secretary - Sharon Thurlow  
Treasurer - Laurie Harris  
Building & Grounds - Melvin High Hawk  
Education - Yvonne Moody  
Evangelism - Laurie Schmidt  
Fellowship - Karleen Gramberg  
Social Ministry - Robyn Baquet  
Stewardship - Jeanine Mohr  
Worship - Julie Duncan  
Youth/Young Adult - Alyssa Noble  
Youth/Young Adult - to be appointed  
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](http://www.nebraskasynod.org), phone number  
402-896-5311  
ELCA Church wide Website: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org),  
phone number 800-638-3522