

# GRACEVINE

January 2015



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

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**Pastor Ann Sundberg**

**Cell: (919) 475-9754**

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

# Pastor's Message

“Fear not, for behold! I bring good news of great joy to all people.”

--Luke 2:10

Imagine being one of those shepherds. Luke tells us that an angel of the Lord was standing in front of them and that God's glory was shining all around. What do you think the shepherds saw and felt? Was there a light as bright as day? Was there a crackling in the air like an electric charge? Was this heavenly being larger than life? However the angel appeared to them, the shepherds' first reaction was to cower in abject fear.

“Fear not!” These words echo throughout the Bible. Over and over again we hear God or God's messenger call ordinary people to do something extraordinary. Abram. Hagar. Joshua. Gideon. Jeremiah. Zechariah. Joseph. Mary. Paul. And over and over again that call comes with the acknowledgment that to stand in the presence of the Divine is to stand in a very scary place.

Fear is a completely normal human reaction to something unexpected. When we experience fear, we have a tendency to do one of three things. We either run the other way as fast as we can, stop dead in our tracks and lose the ability to move or function, or gear up for a fight. What is it that brings on the fear for you? Aging? Sickness? Loneliness? Loss of a relationship? Conflict? Violence? Even when our lives are going well there can be moments tinged with fear: Starting a new job. Moving to a new place. The birth of a child. Going to a new school. Retirement.

The words “Fear not!” are an acknowledgement that this journey of faith is a risky business. Hearing and responding to God's call can mean getting out of your comfort zone. Hearing and responding to God's call can mean taking a detour off the road you thought you were on. Hearing and responding to God's call can mean venturing into unknown territory.

In the coming year, I plan to continue to reflect on those words “Fear not!” in my own life and I invite you to join me. What am I most afraid of? How do I tend to react when I am beset by fear? What might God be asking of me that makes me so fearful? What might it mean to make an offering of my fear, to release it to God?

As we plan for the year ahead, how might we as a congregation live by these same words, “Fear not!”?

In the words of Psalm 27:

The Lord is my light and my salvation:

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the refuge of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?

# **Council Meeting Minutes –November 2014**

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council minutes, December 4, 2014

Attending: Pastor Ann Sundberg, Jane Darnell, Jeanie Mohr, Dave Coe, Robyn Baquet, Karleen Gramberg, Lisa Briggs, Laurie Harris, Laurie Schmidt, and Sharon Thurlow.

Absent: Walt Mays, Jarrod Briggs, and Julie Duncan.

Secretary's Report: Approved as written by Laurie Schmidt and seconded by Robyn Baquet.

Treasurer's Report: Approved as presented by Jeanie Mohr and seconded by Karleen Gramberg. We were able to purchase eleven pigs with the special offering.

Pastor's Report: December will be a busy month, with dedication of new altar linens from Pauline Bach's memorial funds, hanging of the greens, the Children's Christmas program, Christmas caroling, and Christmas Eve Service. The congregation will be serving at Closer to Home in March, 2015. Congregational meeting will be Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Executive Committee: Plan to meet on December 12 to work on new budget. Concern was expressed for absentee council members.

Buildings and Grounds: There is still cleaning to be done in the church. Running a water line to the refrigerator is pending. Looking for recommendations and costs for snow removal at the church. Requesting a budget request for projects in the Prayer Garden.

Education: Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. Discussion on Youth group going to ELCA Youth Gathering conference in Michigan. There was a motion from Laurie Schmidt to pay registration for four kids (at least) to attend. It was seconded by Lisa Briggs.

Evangelism: Working on getting permission to put highway signage west of town.

Campus Ministry: Suggestions included a Retreat to Pine Ridge Retreat Center, Monday coffee and a Bible Study.

Social Ministry: Harvest Dinner was a success. WE DID IT!!!!!!

Shepard's Pantry: Donations are coming in from Safeway bags. They served 47 adults and 36 children in November.

Stewardship: Twenty six pledges have been returned. Letters are going out to remind everyone who has not yet made a pledge.

Worship: Tony is returning on Sunday. Many thanks to Bill Huntington for filling in as organist during Tony's absence. Beginning in Advent we will be in Setting 4. Julie Duncan will lead a service of "Lessons and Carols" on December 28.

New Business:

Check out and prayer: Prayers for cities that are having racial issues, those who live in poverty, those with depression or feelings of suicide during the Christmas season, this council. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

# Annual Meeting Notice

The annual meeting of the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2015 immediately following the worship service.

Please come and participate in the business of our congregation, reflect on the year past and prepare for the year ahead.

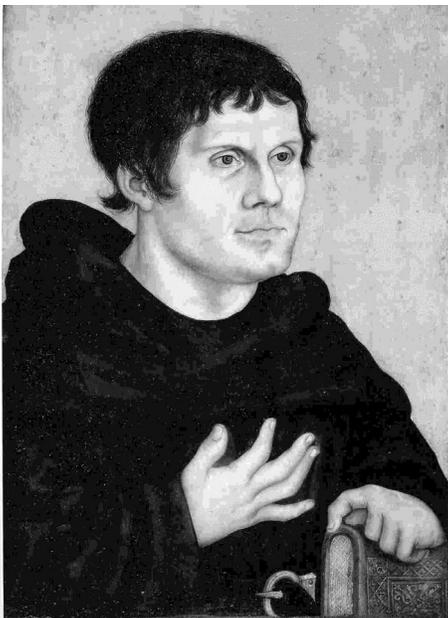
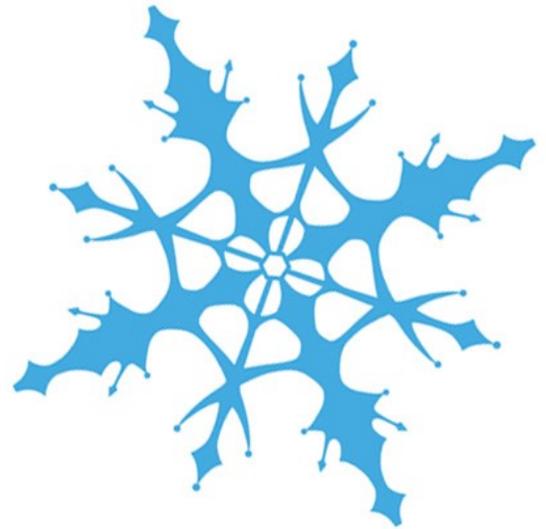
We will elect new leadership to the Congregation Council, share our plans for the coming year and vote on a budget for the coming year.

The Annual Report packet will be available for each family to pick up next Sunday, January 18th. Packets which are not picked up then will be mailed on January 19th.

This meeting is an important part of the life of the church and our lives as Christ's followers. Please plan to join us, ask questions and help further discern God's mission for Immanuel Lutheran Church.

## 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 Lutheran's 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.

## 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



Thank

You

Once again I would like to thank the members of Immanuel Lutheran for their generous gifts given for the Pauline Bach memorial fund. This made it possible to purchase the beautiful new altar linens for communion.

Communion was such an important part of Mom's (Pauline's) faith life as well as her friends and church family here at Immanuel.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Schommer

## 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.





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.

## 2014 Youth Christmas Program

The annual youth Christmas program was a great success. Participants included Gunnar and Aksel Lans; Broc and Trevor Berry; Mali Larson; Murphy Churchill; Jett and Jace Paopao; Emma, Carter and Matthew Peters; Tobin and Zander Rust; Katelyn Briggs; Aster, Ruby and Leila Tewahade; Tiffany Womack; Johanna Black Eyes and Eldrin Gerinnell Jr.; Sara and Leah Weber; Emma Olson; Annabelle Vander May. Thank you to all who helped organize and assist in the production of this great event.



# Treasurer's Report

## December 2014

Beginning balance November 30, 2014	\$	(1,081.24)
Income		
Weekly Offering	\$	8,244.00
Christmas Eve Offering	\$	1,110.00
Fair Trade/Coffee/tea sales	\$	402.25
World Hunger	\$	16.99
Interest checking	\$	.10
 Total Income	 \$	 9,773.34
 Expenses	 \$	 11,702.62
 Ending balance as of December 31, 2014	 \$	 (3,010.52)

## Worship Attendance

Date	Sunday Service
December 7	76
December 14	63
December 21	59
December 24	97
December 28	30



### 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](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