

GRACEVINE

July 2014



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

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless,
And we, though many throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.
Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.
Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.

--John Foley, SJ (ELW #496)

For the length of the summer, we are going to sing this hymn during communion. The suggestion to do this came from Julie Duncan, chair of the Worship Team.

Singing this hymn over and over gives our congregation a chance to reflect deeply on our shared life in Christ. The first stanza comes from Galatians 3:28: "There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." The next two stanzas use the same imagery that we know from another familiar hymn: "As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you." (ELW 465)

There is a lot going on in our congregation this summer. As I write this, we are spending the week serving lunch at Closer to Home, Chadron's lunchtime soup kitchen. In recent weeks, we have hosted Vacation Bible School and a couple of funeral receptions. The Shepherd's Pantry is busy.

We have finished replacing the ceiling tiles and the installation of new lighting in our fellowship hall. This project was intended to make the space more welcoming by reducing ambient sound and making it easier for folks to hear each other. New energy-efficient lighting will save us money in utility bills, so that we can be better stewards of our resources.

Outdoors, a new garden arbor has been installed, a memorial to the late Carol Emmett. This metal structure creates a welcoming "gateway" to the prayer garden.

All of these projects come under the heading "*Ministry of Hospitality.*" When we welcome people into the building, when we make our spaces more inviting, when we attend to the needs of those who use our facility, when we cook and serve meals, we are following in Jesus' footsteps. Jesus, who gathered around dinner tables with people of all walks of life, and who revealed God's blessing whenever he broke bread.

Jesus shares his own life with us in the gifts of bread and wine, his very own body and blood. It is a mystery how all of it works. But because we have been fed, we can feed other people. Because we have been welcomed by Jesus into fellowship with God and the Holy Spirit, we can welcome everyone we meet. We can extend the hospitality that we first meet in Jesus Christ himself.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – June 2014

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council met June 5, 2014 with the following members present. Robyn Baquet, Jarrod Briggs, Lisa Briggs, Dave Coe, Julie Duncan, Karleen Gramberg, Laurie Harris, Jeanie Mohr, Laurie Schmidt, Pastor Ann Sundberg and Sharon Thurlow. Absent were Jane Darnell, Walt Mays and Leo VanderMay.

Devotions were from Romans 12:1-8. These devotions were read three times. Each time followed with a period of silence to include contemplation and discussion about the reading.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Laurie Schmidt moved for acceptance as read with Lisa Briggs seconding.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Robyn Baquet moved for acceptance as presented with Julie Duncan seconding.

PASTOR'S REPORT: volunteers are needed to provide food or work at food preparation for Closer to Home. Immanuel will be providing the lunch meal and or serving the lunch meal the week of June 23- June27. May was a very busy month for Pastor and the congregation. Some of the activities included Church services, Wednesday School, Adult Sunday School, 2 funerals and a memorial service, fellowship, Administration, various community activities and continuing education.

Upcoming events include: A potluck picnic with the Methodist Church. An outdoor worship service; dedication of the arch in the Memorial Garden; God's Work Our Hands Event (September 7); and Baptism and reception for new members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No report

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: The trim is finished in Fellowship Hall. The heat/air vents need to be installed. The Council moved to purchase a new water heater with memorial funds. Moved by Jeanie Mohr and seconded by Julie Duncan. Motion passed.

Education: Vacation Bible School is coming up June 15 through June 19. Everything seems to be falling into place.

EVANGELISM: Laurie Schmidt and Pastor Ann took bags of clothing to Synod Assembly from Immanuel along with St Peters for the prison ministry. Laurie Schmidt and Roger Mays are looking into a wireless device for hearing assistance. Volunteers are needed for monthly communion for shut-ins.

FELLOWSHIP: Fair trade coffee is available for sale.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: No report

STEWARDSHIP: Bulletin board has been changed.

Worship: The worship committee met on May 28th. Items discussed include an outdoor worship service to take place this summer, dedications of the arch at the entrance of the prayer garden, a potluck picnic with the Methodist Church, and special music. Tony Serbousek will have some absences while he pursues his degree.

New Business: Pastor and Laurie Schmidt reported on the Synod Assembly. There was discussion concerning bringing Lutheran Planned Giving Services (Craig Stirtz) to talk to us about Estate Planning and Giving. There was also discussion about Love INC, an organization that coordinates churches' social ministries. Robyn moved that we send \$100 to learn more about this and Lisa seconded the motion.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully, Sharon Thurlow

Vacation Bible School Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make Vacation Bible School run smoothly this year: Lisa Briggs, Pastor Ann Sundberg, Crystal VanderMay, Whitney Tewahade, Angel Franey, Rick, Jane and Maggie Darnell, Lorrie Bauer, Alyssa Peters; youth helpers Liz Darnell, Alyssa and Aubree Noble, Jarrod and Katelyn Briggs, Walt Mays, True Thorne, and Murphy Churchill. Kitchen helpers Karleen and Brody Gramberg, Bev Stitt, Jeanine Mohr, Julie and Patricia Duncan, Mary Kienitz, Kim and Vic Bradley and Lucinda Mays. And to all who contributed food for dinners and snacks. The Holy Spirit was present in everything that took place!



Lucinda Mays shops for groceries. The meals were purchased using a Thrivent Action Team Grant.

VBS Children with t-shirts donated from Thrivent.



Children playing games outside during VBS.



Children learning about God's Word.

Closer to Home Reopens

Did you know...

- During the 2013-14 school year, approximately 362 children in Chadron, or 41% of enrolled students were eligible for free and reduced price meals through the Chadron Public Schools. However, during the summer months, some children may be left undernourished and hungry.
- When school is out, low-income children lose their access to regular daily school lunches. These meals typically provide at least 1/3 of the nutrient that a child needs.

Closer to Home fills this need by providing a nutritious meal free of charge to children during the summer. The program re-opened June 2 at the Masonic Lodge.

Bridges to Hope Thank You

From Rita Harrison—Bridges to Hope Board Member,

Thank you for your generous in-kind donation to Bridges to Hope, received June 4, 2014.

In 2013 we helped over 550 Partners coming out of the Corrections System with clothing and Household items. When an individual is released from incarceration they have minimal clothing and no household furnishings and sometimes nowhere to go. These women and men will be able to become re-established as community members, return to work, and rebuild relationships with the help of agencies like ours.

Your donation helps us make that possible.



Thrivent Awards Immanuel With Several Action Team Grants

John Dagen wrote a grant application to Thrivent and was awarded \$250.00 for Vacation Bible School. Bill Huntington wrote a grant for the Immanuel Quilters and was awarded \$250.00 as well. Thrivent also gave \$250.00 for a grant written by Bev Stitt for travel expenses for Hannah Norgard. We certainly thank Thrivent for their help.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday **Sunday, September 7, 2014**

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.

Following our worship service we will gather to work on two projects. Immanuel Lutheran will be participating by painting the building across the street from the church in the park. The Wednesday School children and Kit Watson have been working on designs for this project to promote education and community. The city has primed the building for us and on the 7th of September we will work as a congregation to paint the designs.

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 two months.

Vacation Bible School Offering

The offering collected at Vacation Bible School was used to purchase two water jugs and purification tablets through ELCA's Good Gifts Program. The youth collected \$74 throughout the week and were excited about how they could make a difference in the lives of other people around the world.



Treasurer's Report

June 2014

Beginning balance May 22, 2014	\$ (832.67)
Income	
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,791.00
Thrivent	\$ 248.00
Other Income	\$ 15.00
Interest checking	\$.12
Total Income	\$ 9,054.12
Expenses	\$ 10,100.77
Ending balance as of June 30, 2014	\$ (1,879.32)

Worship Attendance

Date	Sunday Service
June 1	35
June 8	51
June 15	48
June 22	49
June 29	

Upcoming Events

July 27 - Outdoor Worship in the Prayer Garden and dedication of the new arbor.

**August 14 - Move-in Day Lunch for new students & their families at
Chadron State College.**

September 7 - God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.

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