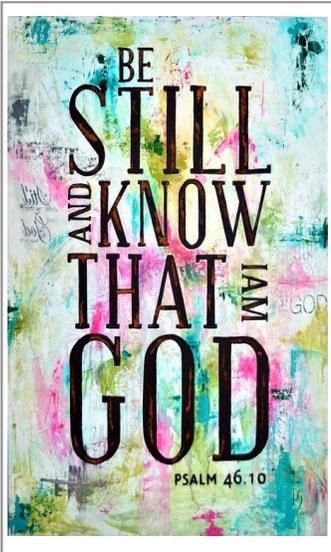


# GRACEVINE

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Purpose for Immanuel Lutheran Church is to WELCOME and EMBRACE one another in God's love, and to SERVE and SEEK JUSTICE for those in need.

July 2017



## Pastor's Message

"O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all, the earth is full of your creatures."  
-- Psalm 104:24

The long days of summer have finally arrived. July is a time for vacations, for picnics and campfires, for being outdoors, on the lake, or on the trail, or on the road.

Here is a prayer that you can offer while you are outside this summer. Take it slowly and let it fill you.

### July: Walking Meditation

This is not a power walk. This is a way to slow down and notice what surrounds you, and to let yourself be filled with awe and gratitude for all that God has created.

Take 20 minutes to walk slowly along a path or sidewalk that is familiar to you. As you

walk, pay attention to the shift of your weight from foot to foot. Notice if you feel any ache or pain as you walk. Notice how your hands swing forward and back. Notice your breath – does it get faster as you walk?

Notice the ground where you walk, whether the earth yields to your step, or whether the path is paved and hard. Stop for a moment to fill your lungs with air. What do you smell? Is the air humid or dry, cool or warm?

Take time as you walk to look around you, perhaps even stop before a tree or wall that you had never noticed. What do you see? Is the sun casting a shadow? Is there artificial light? How does the light bring out the colors?

What do you hear as you walk? Do the sounds change as you go along? Are there

particular birds whose calls you recognize? What about the trees; is a breeze making the leaves flutter? Do you notice a difference in the sound as you walk past different trees?

What do you feel? Is the air cool or warm? Does the sun warm your skin? What does your clothing feel like?

Every single thing that you noticed – every leaf, every bird call, every dirt clod, every shadow – is part of God's good creation. As you come to the end of your walk, take a moment to thank God for the beauty of every created thing. Take a moment to thank God for your place in this amazing world we inhabit.

## Council Meeting Minutes: Sharon Thurlow

June 13, 2107 Church Council met with Pastor Ann Sundberg, Robyn Baquet, Denise James, Sharon Thurlow, Karen Rupp, Barb Landen, Yvonne Moody, Laurie Schmidt, Hannah Nogard and Kim Bradley in attendance. Absent were Uati Paopao and Kit Watson.

Devotions were further discussion about our mission statement. Specifically, how is the mission statement be used during church service.

The minutes were approved as presented. With a motion to approve by Laurie and second by Hannah.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported she is recovering albeit, some days faster and better

than others. She expressed thanks for all done for her during her recovery. There are several events coming up in the next months. Scheduled are outdoor worship, Move in Day at CSC, Gods Work Our Hands in September. Stay tuned.

Finance Report was approved as submitted. There was a motion to approve by Hannah and a second by Karen.

On-line giving is in place for anyone to use. Further information is available from the church office.

Building and Grounds: no report

Education: Vacation Bible School is the week of June 26. They are in need of used

pillow cases, toilet paper and paper towel tubes.

Worship: No report

Education: Laurie wrote a Thrivent Grant for Vacation Bible School.

44 meals were served at Closer to Home in May. The next time we serve at Closer to Home is June 19th. 41 adults and 21 children were served by the Shepard's Pantry.

Stewardship: Karen reported the book study discussion will be held during Adult Sunday School time on Sunday mornings.

The next council meeting will be July 11th @630 PM.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## Stewardship: Karen Rupp

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Some food for thought from *Stewardship*, by Bob Sitze:

### Summarizing Stewardship:

The term "stewardship" is like a really good sponge: It absorbs a lot of meaning wherever it's placed. For now, let's agree that this word – however defined, clarified, illustrated, or interpreted – has these characteristics:

Stewardship is a set of beliefs. Your beliefs center on God, not yourself; God's nature, God's will, God's gifts, God's presence.

Stewardship describes practices or behaviors. Your beliefs compel actions, reactions to God's gifts, and obedience to God's commands.

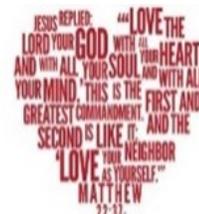
Stewardship becomes an identity. Over time, your actions become habits which, in turn, layer themselves over the core of your being: a servant of God. (p1)

Environmental tips: Summer is upon us with some scorching hot days...let us be mindful of taking care of our environment and animals providing shade where possible and water...at the same time we want to not be wasteful – turn off water while brushing teeth. Don't leave wa-

ter running while washing dishes. Consider shortening the length of showers and using less water for baths.

Again, thank you for all you do. Please consider sharing your experience with the congregation during a temple talk -just speak to Karen Rupp or Pastor Ann.

Peace and Blessings,  
Karen Rupp, Stewardship Chair



**Treasurer’s Report:** Kim Bradley

**June 2017**



Beginning balance June 1, 2017		\$	4,952.50
Income	Weekly Offering-includes VANCO	\$	8,537.73
	Thrivent	\$	6.00
	Interest	\$	.43
Total Income		\$	8544.16
Expenses		\$	8872.76
Ending balance as of April 30, 2017		\$	4,623.90

**Online Giving: A New Option**

Recently you received an email, and have probably seen the bulletin inserts, regarding a new church venture. We have implemented an electronic payment program through Vanco Payment Solutions- a secure, personalized, online payment resource used by over 20,000 churches. Through Vanco, contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account, or through a debit or credit card. You can set up recurring payments (weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly) or make a one-time donation.

The purpose of joining Vanco is to provide convenience for you and much needed consistency for the church’s income. If you are cur-

rently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

How can you sign up? We have several options:

1. Pick up an authorization form from the church office or on the welcome table in the foyer. Once you’ve completed the form, return it to the church office. Amy will enter your information & set everything up for you.

2. Go to the church website <http://www.chadimmanuel.com> and click on the “Give Now” tab. This will take you to our donations page, where you will create an account and enter your checking or savings information as well as the amount and frequency of your donations.
3. Download the *Give Plus* mobile app from the App Store on any device. Once you download the app, search for Immanuel Lutheran Church in Chadron, Nebraska and complete your giving.

If you have any questions, please stop by or call the church office at 432-5408.

# Vacation Bible School; Barnyard Round Up

Barnyard Roundup was the theme for Vacation Bible School this year. We welcomed a total of 17 kids over the 5 nights, and learned how Jesus cares for us, provides for us, leads us, forgives us and is our Savior. Lessons, crafts and games each evening focused on these themes. This year's hit song was:

I am a C,  
I am a C-H,  
I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N,  
And I have C-H-R-I-S-T in my  
H-E-A-R-T,  
And I will L-I-V-E E-T-E-R-N-  
A-L-L-Y!

Our VBS offering of \$208.55 will go to purchase goats, pigs and chicks for people in

other countries to have a source of livelihood.

Thanks to all the folks who worked to make VBS a success this year: Yvonne Moody, Laurie Schmidt, Troy Gregory, Lisa Briggs, Shannon Shuck, Lorna Eliason, Whitney Tewahade, Jeanie Mohr, Melissa Churchill, Robyn Baquet, Angel Franey, Saphron Watson, Courtney Lamont, Cheryl Lamont, Trista Schell, Kresi Long and Lara Madison.



Music led by Pastor Ann was a favorite part of VBS!



Fund and games outside each evening!



Laurie Schmidt teaches, and some cute "sheep" are in the fold.



The children had so much fun creating barnyard themed crafts



\$235.75 was collected to purchase goats, pigs, and chickens through the ELCA's Good Gifts program

### Upcoming Events:

#### Sunday, August 13

Outdoor worship in the Prayer Garden

#### Thursday, August 17

Move-in Day lunch for new CSC students and their families

#### Sunday, September 10

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

#### Campus Ministry Update

On Thursday, August 17, we are once again planning to serve lunch to families of first-year students moving into the dorms at Chadron State College. Administrators and the folks who plan New Student Orientation are aware that we make this meal available to families, and they are always willing to help us promote it. This event has become a blessing-filled outreach to the campus community and it has become a tradition for Immanuel.

Many hands will be needed to prepare, serve and clean up the meal, and to hand out flyers on campus in the morning. In past years we have served as many as 150 people, students and family members. It is just one of the ways that we both WELCOME and SERVE in our community. Look for sign-up sheets soon.



### Wednesday School Update

Wednesday School is on the way! Last year we had an average attendance of 25 children/youth who attended Wednesday School and Confirmation on a regular basis. We are gearing up for the coming year, which will begin on August 30 with orientation for parents and students and lessons beginning on September 6.

We need adult and youth volunteers to help make Wednesday School a great experience for everyone.



### Shepherd's Pantry Needs

This is the time of year when the shelves of the Shepherd's Pantry begin to look bare. We particularly need canned fruit (in water, please), canned meat, peanut butter and pasta. The support of this community allows us to feed our hungry neighbors. Thank



**FEED THE HUNGRY**



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
747 ANN STREET  
CHADRON, NE 69337

## Church Council Members

**President**– Robyn Baquet

**Vice President**– Denise James

**Secretary**– Sharon Thurlow

**Treasurer**– Kim Bradley

**Building & Grounds**– Uati Paopao

**Education**– Yvonne Moody

**Evangelism**– Laurie Schmidt

**Fellowship**– Kit Watson

**Social Ministry**– Barb Landen

**Stewardship**–Karen Rupp

**Worship**– Hannah Norgard

**Youth/Young Adult**– Leila Tewahade

**Pastor**– Ann Sundberg

## Other Staff:

**Financial Secretary**– Lorrie Bauer

**Custodian**– Melissa Churchill

**Church Secretary**– Amy Jones

## *Important contact information-*

**Church Office Phone:** 308.432.5408

**Pastor Ann Sundberg's Cell:** 919.475.9754

**Church email:** chadimmanuel@bbc.net

**Church website:** [www.chadimmanuel.org](http://www.chadimmanuel.org)

**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),