

GRACEVINE

June 2015



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

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and give you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these you did it to me.”

-- Matthew 25:37-40

Hospitality has two meanings for most people these days. It either refers to hotels or cruise ships, or it is connected to entertaining friends and family. One model makes it an industry, which means that it is about money-making and profit. The other model relegates it to the domain of entertainment and housekeeping, which means that it becomes about being safe and cozy.

Hospitality as the church practices it does not allow us to turn people in to profit-making ventures. Nor can we limit our graciousness as hosts only to those who are friends and family, those who are in our “inner circle.” In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that his face is in everyone that we serve, even the “least of these.” You can’t ignore people when God is looking out their eyes at you.

Every Sunday we practice Christ’s hospitality as we welcome everyone to his communion table. We don’t ask any questions about where a visitor came from, whether they are Lutheran, or even if they attend church at all. All are welcome to share in the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Our hospitality extends to those who call our Shepherd’s Pantry for assistance. We don’t ask any questions about why a person is calling for help, or what their income is. We serve all who ask.

As we think about how the operation of the Shepherd’s Pantry will change, and as we plan for its future, we must continue to hold to this value. It is the same value that we claim when we serve lunch at Closer To Home. All are welcome, no questions are asked, and we see Christ’s face in every person who walks through the door.

Hospitality is not just a committee that reports to the congregation and council: it is all around us! When we see another member, a friend, or stranger and greet them, whether at church or in the community we are showing hospitality. We embody the commandment to love and to serve others in times of joy or sorrow.

May Council Minutes

May 7, 2015.

Those in attendance were Pastor Ann, Kit Watson, Yvonne Moody, Laurie Schmidt, Sharon Thurlow, Laurie Harris, Julie Duncan, Jeannie Mohr, and Denise James. Those not attending were Melvin Highhawk, Alyssa Noble, Karleen Gramberg, and Robin Baquet.

Secretary's report was approved by Jeannie Mohr and seconded by Yvonne Moody.

Treasurer's report was approved and seconded.

Pastor's Report- Pastor visited with members, friends and visitors. She did pre-marriage counseling and did a program review with Courtney Pendleton and Jon Fredricks of NeLCM. Pastor met with other community food pantries and hunger programs and participated in Philip Duncan's Eagle Scout ceremony. She also attended Spiritual Direction and Seeking the Spirit Within Residency, and was on vacation.

Executive Committee- No report

Building and Grounds- A work day is scheduled for Saturday, May 30 for both inside and out. We will also be working on the trees on the grounds.

Education- Vacation Bible School is June 7th through June 11th. May 12th is the last day for Wednesday School.

Evangelism- 9 college students came to the spaghetti dinner during finals week. Campus Ministries would like to plan monthly meals.

Fellowship- No report

Social Ministries- 71 adults and 49 children were served by the Shepherd's Pantry. Other food pantries in Chadron are meeting to explore other way of collaboration and serving the community.

Worship-There is an upcoming meeting to prepare for summer worship.

New Business- Discussion concerning youth trip to Detroit.

Stewardship- The committee is moving forward to acquire additional information about a Congregation Photo Directory. Tentative dates are scheduled to take photographs on June 17-19 and July 13-17. If you have a recent photo of your family, feel free to bring it for inclusion.

Prayers and checkout - "In what ways do you help your neighbors? Who are your neighbors? Are they just the people on your block?"

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Thurlow
Council Secretary

Shepherd's Pantry

The way we are operating the Shepherd's Pantry is changing!

Council President Kit Watson, Social Ministry Chair Robyn Baquet and Pastor Ann have been meeting regularly throughout the spring to discuss how to continue this mission of providing food to hungry people. We surveyed the congregation and have held individual and group discussions to gather ideas. The overwhelming response has been that this is an important ministry and needs to continue.

Throughout the summer months, we will be trying out a different method of managing the pantry. We want it to be simple enough that the management and packaging of food can occur during coffee hour each Sunday. In just 15 minutes, each Sunday – if everyone pulls together, we can have food ready for distribution the following week. We will be encouraging / promoting that people in need of food, come to the church to pick it up. We will certainly offer delivery to someone that cannot make it to the church, but that will be the exception.

Our vision is that we will have a number of packages prepared each Sunday so our church secretary can hand them out during morning work hours. If there needs to be a delivery, then the church secretary would contact a volunteer to have the food delivered – but it would be already prepared and ready. The delivery volunteer would simply drop by the church and pick up the previously prepared food bag and deliver it.

This is where you come in... on Sundays following worship, anyone and everyone can:

- * sort food that has been donated onto the pantry shelves;
- * create a package of food, ready to be handed (or delivered) to anyone that contacts the church.

Many hands make light work!

On June 1st we will be meeting to organize the pantry using colors to denote different types of food groups. We will create a template to follow so that anyone gathering the food knows what to put in each bag. Our hope is that we develop a system that is so easy and simple that you do not need any experience to sort or package the food. Beginning on June 7th, we will start our new coffee hour “feed the hungry” program!

As there are many food resources in the community that offer different items, we will be limiting our food to non-perishables. This simple change will eliminate the need for anyone to go shopping prior to distributing any food and no one will need to manage expiration dates on refrigerated items.

We realize this is a change to how the pantry has been operated. We ask for your understanding and your assistance as we trial this new method throughout the summer.

We are counting on your help each Sunday to continue our mission to provide food to the hungry! Just 15 minutes...

Kit, Robyn and Pastor Ann have also been participating in a group discussion along with other community members on the wider question of how to address hunger in Chadron and the surrounding areas. Currently there are several food pantries and food sources in our community, operating independently. We have a terrific opportunity to collaborate to create a community-wide hunger support system. By joining together, we can create:

- * A central food pantry where all food donations can be gathered and sorted for distribution;
- * A client choice “store” where people can actually choose what foods they want (within guidelines);
- * An expanded network of volunteers;
- * One location that people know where to go.

These meetings take place on alternate Thursdays at 4 pm at the offices of Northwest Community Action Partnership, 2nd and Pine Streets. If you are interested in being part of this discussion, or in assisting in any way, please let Robyn, Kit or Pastor Ann know. It is our hope that we can develop a way to keep the Shepherd's Pantry feeding the hungry, even amongst change. Thank you for your support ... and assistance!

New Directory Information

Immanuel has grown and changed creating the need to update our member directory. It would be helpful to connect names with faces, so we will create a photo directory. We haven't had one for some time.

We will prepare all the photos with the appropriate information and then send it off to the printers. You may recall in the past there were companies that would come and do that in exchange for the opportunity to sell you their photographs. Those companies no longer exist as the digital world makes it very easy to meet those needs through its own members.

Jill Paopao and John Parton have volunteered their talent and will be available to snap your photo. We plan to have a "photo booth" set up at church and all you have to do is show up and smile for a couple of photo opportunities.

If you would rather submit a recent photograph of yourself/family, you can turn that into the church office and I will scan the photo and then return it to you. Or, if you have a digital photo you can simply email that file to me at mohr308@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name, address, phone and email address with that file.

There is a sign up poster in the fellowship hall for you to schedule your photo appointment or you can call the office and Whitney will help you find an available slot. We have June 17, 18 and 19 available from 3:00 to 6:30 pm with Jill as our photographer. John will be available after church from 10:30 to 12:00 on Sunday, June 21st.

If you are not able to attend and do not have a photograph to let us scan, we can also schedule a time to come to you and take your photograph. Please let me know at 308-432-5144 or email me and I will coordinate a time with you and a photographer.

I hope you find the prospect exciting and will set up an appointment as soon as possible. Our goal is to have the directory ready for distribution by September 1. thank you for your cooperation and participation.

Sincerely,

Stewardship Chairperson
Jeanine Mohr

Vacation Bible School 2015

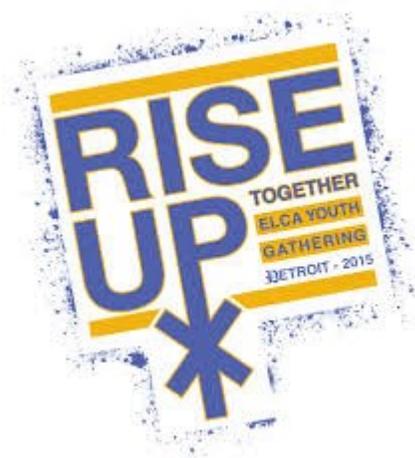
Planning for this summer's vacation bible school is underway. Summer Sparks VBS will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 7th, 2015 through Thursday, June 11, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A light supper will be served each night. Vacation bible school is open to all children ages 4 through 11.

Volunteers are a crucial part of a successful VBS! So volunteers are needed to help with leading games, teaching bible lessons, and making crafts. In addition, volunteers are also needed to plan/organize the supper meals and snacks, as well as, preparing the supper meals and snacks. If you are available to help 1 night, 2 nights, or all 5 nights with any of the above areas, please contact Yvonne Moody at(308) 432-5008 or the church office (432-5408).



Rummage Sale Fundraiser

The high school youth heading to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit are planning to do a Rummage Sale as a fundraiser on Saturday, June 6th. If you have any items you would like to donate for the rummage sale, please have your items to the church by 3:00pm on Friday, June 5th. The youth will price all items, however if you wish to have one of your items sold for a certain price please have that item clearly marked when you drop it off at the church. All unsold items will be donated after the sale. If you wish you have your unsold items returned to you please have that clearly marked on the item as well.



2015 Sullivan Hills Camp Schedule

Camp is an amazing, life-changing experience. This year, the cost is only \$50 per camper for all sessions (and family camp is \$150 for the whole family.) It would be terrific to send as many of our children and youth as possible to Sullivan Hills this summer. There is still time to register, but hurry!

Dates	Program	Cost
Week 1—June 3-5	Family Camp—Session #SH15-1	\$150
Week 2—June 7-12	1st-6th Grade—Session #SH15-2	\$50
Week 3—June 14-19 Lakota: June 14-17	6th-8th Confirmation Camp & Lakota Lutheran Week—Session #SH15-3	\$50
Week 4—June 21-26	1st-6th Grade—Session #SH15-4	\$50
Week 5—Sunday, June 28— Tuesday, June 30	Youth & Adults with Special Needs—Session #SH15-5	\$50
Week 6—July 5-10	Night Camp—7th-12th Grade - Session #SH15-6	\$50
Week 7—July 12-17	1st-6th Grade—Session #SH15-7	\$50
Week 8—July 19-23	1st-6th Grade—Session #SH15-8	\$50

To register for a week at Sullivan Hills, go to <http://sullivanhills.org/registration>. From there you can click on the Register button. You will be transferred to a secure site called UltraCamp. This is our new registration system. You'll set up an account then register your child. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Bower at 402-944-2544 or email mbower@nlom.org.

Treasurer's Report

May 2015

Beginning balance April 30, 2015		\$ (9,727.56)
Income	Weekly Offering	\$ 9,374.80
	Fair Trade/Coffee/tea sales	\$ 6.00
	Thrivent	\$ 281.00
	Transfer from Youth Savings	\$ 1,441.50
	Other	\$ 196.00
	Interest checking	\$.04
 Total Income		 \$ 11,299.34
 Expenses		 \$ 9,070.51
 Ending balance as of May 27, 2015		 \$ (7,498.73)

Worship Attendance

Date	Sunday Service
May 3	44
May 10	No service
May 17	50
May 24	40



Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet Thursday, June 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church for their regular scheduled meeting. Please plan to attend.

In Search Of....

The Buildings and Grounds committee is in search of one or two small cabinets with doors that could be given to the church to be used in the downstairs restrooms as a place to store extra toiletries. If you know of or are willing to donate such a cabinet please contact the church office at 432-5408 and let Whitney know. Thanks so much.



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, phone number
402-896-5311
ELCA Church wide Website: www.elca.org,
phone number 800-638-3522