

GRACEVINE

November 2014



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

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”
Ephesians 3:20-21

What would happen if...

So much of the time, when we speak or think these words, we expect the worse. But what if we expected something else, something more? What if we expected the best?

- * What would happen if...you lived as if God really were in charge of your life?
- * What would happen if...you lived as if everything you have really did come from God?
- * What would happen if...you trusted that God would provide in every circumstance of your life?
- * What would happen if...every time you made a purchase you stopped for a moment and thanked God for the resources you have been given?
- * What would happen if...you made the decision to give a percentage of your resources back to God through the work of the church?
- * What would happen if...you lived in fearless generosity?

God's abundant blessings are all around. So the question is:

What would happen if...you lived without fear, knowing those blessings to be real and true?

Council Meeting Minutes –October 2014

Church council was called to order at 6:00 pm by president Jane Darnell.

Present were David Coe, Jeanine Mohr, Lisa Briggs, Laurie Harris, Karleen Gramberg, Robin Baquet and Pastor Ann Sundberg. Not

Present were Sharon Thurlow, Laurie Schmidt, Jarrod Briggs, Walt Mays and Julie Duncan

Prayer and devotions were led by Pastor Ann. The devotion emphasis was: Our church and where is our place in this community? How are the things we are doing ministering to our community? How is God calling us to minister to people through Immanuel.

Uati Paopao was asked by the worship committee to present on the idea of adding a technology piece to the sanctuary. He had quotes of what it would cost to mount a screen and computer driven projector. Discussion followed which led to a decision to visit St. John's in Alliance and view how they use their projector and tour the Chadron public schools and see how they use similar equipment. In the meantime, council was urged to think about how we might or might not want to use technology and how we currently utilize our worship and how effective is that practice. Uati will meet with council next month, possibly at 5:30 instead of 6:00, to lead us through selected Chadron Public Schools classrooms.

Robin moved, Lisa seconded to accept the minutes from last month.

Treasurers report: Laurie had nothing out of the ordinary to report. Robin asked for clarification for her social ministry budget. Karleen moved, Lisa seconded to accept treasurer report.

Pastor report: Pr. Ann noted that she will need to be gone more to fulfill obligation as dean of the panhandle cluster and the spiritual guidance class. On the printout given to council, the Looking Ahead schedule, December 14 was added as the date for the children's Christmas program. Pastor reported that she has been informed by the synod that Portico, the Health insurance company used by ELCA for their pastors, will be increasing their premium by 11% this coming year. After discussion, Jeanine moved and Dave seconded to continue Pr. Ann's contract with Portico, which had a October 15 deadline.

Executive meeting: Jane reported that the revised constitution and bylaws for Immanuel Lutheran church were approved by the Nebraska Synod Council at its September 2014 meeting. Tentative date of October 12, was set for the delivery of the altar to Pine Ridge. There is a meeting with Kit Watson and Lucinda Mayes next Tuesday, October 7th to formalize the future plans for the prayer garden. Part of Pauline Bach's memorial money will go toward some new altar linens. The rest will possibly go to the mission endowment fund. December 7th will be the dedication of those linens. We have a vacancy on the endowment committee due to Marsha Mapes resignation from that committee as she is unable to serve.

Building and Grounds: Dave reported on the progress of the work sign up sheet and jobs completed. Pastor has a letter drafted that will be sent to Mr. & Mrs. Bill Armstrong who contributed money as a memorial for Raymond Eaton, which was used for the fellowship hall improvement project. The fellowship hall project will be formally recognized and blessed Sunday. Council members signed the letter.

Education: Wednesday school is going well. Work is progressing on getting the older kids room furnished. ELCA youth national gathering coming up. Pastor will send a letter out to high schoolers with information about that gathering.

Evangelism: Laurie was sick, but it was reported that four kids came to the campus ministry dinner. We need signage in nursery so folks know how to turn on the sound system.

Fellowship: Karleen reported the Harvest Dinner is coming up. There will be a Pot luck on the 26th of this month as part of the financial giving program with Chraig Stirtz that Sunday.

Social Ministry: Robin doesn't have a current report as Junice is on a three week holiday. Gods Work, Our Hands. Sunday was deemed successful. All the work projects were outstanding. The post playhouse took several boxes of vintage stuff that needed a home. She has the order ready to send in to SERRV for us to resale at the Pine Bough Bazaar coming up November 8th. We have Monday's in November for the Closer to Home program.

Stewardship: Jeanine reported that materials have been ordered for the 2014 stewardship campaign. Letters will be sent out to members inviting them to the financial planning seminar with Craig Stirtz, from Lutheran Planned Giving Services,

Worship: Julie was out of town, so there was no report besides the technology presentation she organized.

Council noted and thanked Merlyn and Karleen Gramberg, and Bob and Robin Baquet for the generous donation of a much needed new refrigerator for the church's kitchen. Dave will see about getting a water source hooked up to the refrigerator for the convenience of having ice.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Pro tem secretary, Jeanine Mohr

2014 Stewardship Emphasis

Fearless GENEROSITY...LOOK AROUND FOR Ways to Give...

It is not always easy to be a generous person. One of the things many of us struggle with as brothers and sisters in Christ is our ability to share our plentiful gifts with those in need. The Bible reminds us that we are called by God to be generous people and to give our time, our love, and our money.

What holds us back from being generous? Greed? Simply being unaware of the needs of others? Many of us are stingy rather than generous because we fear we may end up living in scarcity if we are not careful now with our resources, especially money. If we give away a generous amount of money now and an unforeseen expense creeps up, will we be able to continue to enjoy the standard of living we have currently set for ourselves?

Fear of the unknown drives many of us away from living generous lives, since in the mind-set of scarcity, everything seems like a risk. No one knows what tomorrow may bring. If we have not yet prepared ourselves financially for unforeseen hardships, the worries and anxieties only seem more prevalent.

Jesus tells us not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself (Matt. 6:34). This does not mean we should not save money for emergencies, but rather that we should trust that God is in control of the future. If we understand and accept that everything is in God's hands, what lies ahead does not seem so frightening. The fear that prevents us from giving generously is diminished, and we can live as more generous children of God.

During worship on November 16, you will be invited to bring a pledge commitment forward to the altar. (Or, if you will not be here that Sunday you can mail it or drop it off to the church office.) Your pledge, along with all the others, will be used to help this congregation plan for the coming budget year. But these pledges are not only investments of money. They are reminders that we invest our whole selves in the ministries we have been given to do. They are reminders that as disciples, we are to be fearless in the ways of generosity and service.

May we continue to ask God to help us trust completely, to block out the fear of living in scarcity, to become aware of the needs of others around us, and to fill our hearts with compassion, empathy, love, and generosity.



Immanuel Quilters Shine with Talent



The Immanuel Lutheran Quilters have again proven their talents. The quilts they made this year were dedicated on Sunday, November 2nd, and the church's sanctuary looked magnificent with its pews decorated by the 119 quilts they created in the last year.

These quilts will be shipped off with other quilts from around the country to Lutheran World Relief where they will be distributed to those in need world wide.

This year we will be tracking our quilts as they make their journey around the world and are excited to see just where they will end up.

Great Job Quilters!

Wednesday School Update



Ruby Tewahade and Leah Weber enjoy a meal at Wednesday School. Mali Larson and her mom Staci get situated.



Emma Peters and Leila Tewahade, smile for the camera as Katelyn Briggs enjoys her meal.



Gunnar Lans, Matthew Peters and Jace Paopao take a moment to pose for a picture while Carter Peters and Aksel Lans in the background enjoy their dinner.



True Thorn, Sara Weber and Emma Peters are all smiles for the camera.

Upcoming Events

Pine Bough Bazaar—

On November 8th we will be manning a booth at the Pine Bough Bazaar. We can use helpers who are willing to work two hour shifts. The times are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We also need a couple of people who will help set up on Friday evening from 5:00 to 7:00. Last year the people who worked wanted to stay because they were having so much fun seeing all the people and visiting. Robyn Baquet will be filling in the work sheet but you can still volunteer.

We will have the items available after church on November 9th in the fellowship hall. Please consider doing some early Christmas shopping and helping us out. Most importantly, you will be helping out someone in a disadvantaged country by making your Fair Trade purchase at the Bazaar or at the Church.

Harvest Dinner



Sunday, November 16, 2013 - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Calling all Immanuel Lutheran Church Members!!



Come and help make this year's Fall Feast (formerly Community Harvest Dinner) a success. We need everyone's participation this year to invigorate our community to come and enjoy their Thanksgiving favorites with us.

We need help from all congregation members to promote the event to your family, friends and neighbors; distribute flyers and pre-sell tickets within the community. We would also like everyone to sign up for at least one of the food items that we will be serving.

We also need volunteers on the day of the event. Please sign up to: help in the kitchen, help in the dining room, or help at the entrance (with selling tickets, taking tickets and greeters). Or call the church office to let us know how you will help.

This year we will also promote the work of our Shepherd's Pantry. Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods to restock our shelves.

Looking Ahead....to Advent and Christmas



The four Sundays of Advent begin on November 30. Advent is not about counting down the shopping days to Christmas. Advent is about preparing our hearts, our homes and our families to welcome Jesus.

December 7—Hanging of the Greens following worship.

December 7—Ecumenical Advent/Christmas Choir Concert - 3:00 p.m. at the Chadron Latter Day Saints Church

December 14—5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas program, followed by supper.

December 17—5:30 p.m. Christmas caroling party.

December 24—5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion.

Treasurer's Report

October 2014

Beginning balance September 30, 2014	\$	(2,993.35)
Income		
Weekly Offering	\$	9,578.44
Other Income	\$	135.00
Coffee/tea sales	\$	65.00
MIF Interest	\$	111.65
Interest checking	\$.10
Total Income	\$	9,890.19
Expenses	\$	9,524.96
Ending balance as of October 31, 2014	\$	(2,628.12)

Worship Attendance

Date	Sunday Service
October 5	39
October 12	52
October 19	45
October 26	47

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, phone number
402-896-5311

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