

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
747 Ann Street  
Chadron, NE 6933

## **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 – Hannah Clark

### ***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

## Choir Resuming

Immanuel Choir will meet for practice Wednesday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. in the choir loft. They anticipate meeting again the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, in preparation to sing The Church's One Foundation, No. 654, on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to join this wonderful musical ministry. Contact Bill Huntington for more information: 308-638-4451

## Feeding the Community

We will serve Closer to Home on October 19. Look for the sign-up sheet on the kitchen door. All volunteer help to cook or serve is welcome and appreciated.

Our next Campus Ministry Supper will be October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. Lucinda Mays and Lorna Eliason will serve supper for any college students who wish to come and enjoy a home-cooked meal.

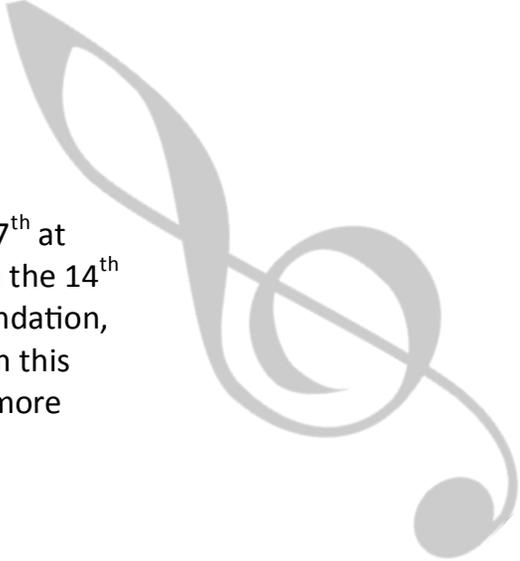
## Fall Feast Coming

November is just around the corner, which means time for our Fall Feast. Mark your calendar for November 15 and watch the "door" for sign-up sheets in a couple weeks. Thanks for your "anticipated" help! ~ Karleen Gramberg, Fellowship Chair

## Pie-Making Party

Do you love to eat pie?  
Do you love to bake?  
Do you know how to make pies?  
Want to share? Want to learn? Want to eat? ☺  
Plan on coming to a Pie-Making Party!

On Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, join us from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the church for a morning of fun! We'll make PIES – all kinds of pies... apple, pumpkin, pecan... bring your favorite recipe! Whether you are a master pie baker or haven't ever made a pie, COME! We'll make pies to take home (yum!) and pies to offer for sale to our congregation. (Proceeds to the Church's General Fund). Staples will be provided... Bring the apples, the pumpkin, the \_\_\_\_\_ you need to make your favorite! If you can't come, but want to donate pie making supplies (like apples), please drop them by the church before the 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Questions? Suggestions? Call Robyn at 308-207-5849



“Pie makes  
everybody happy”  
Laurie Halse Anderson

# Treasurer's Report

## September 2015

<b>Beginning balance August 26, 2015</b>		<b>\$ (7,230.55)</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Weekly Offering</b>	<b>\$ 9,475.40</b>
	<b>Thrivent</b>	<b>\$ 142.00</b>
	<b>Transfer from MIF</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
	<b>Interest checking</b>	<b>\$ .03</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 11,617.43</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 13,992.13</b>
<b>Ending balance as of September 30, 2015</b>		<b>\$ (9,605.28)</b>

## Worship Attendance

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sunday Service</b>
<b>September 6</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>September 13</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>September 20</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>September 27</b>	<b>44</b>

Pastor Ann will be on vacation from October 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, and also out of town while attending a theological conference, from October 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. In case of pastoral needs, contact Pastor Russ Seger at First congregational Church: 308-432-3206 or by his cell phone: 308-430-4351.

### Are you looking for unique Christmas gifts?

We will not have a booth at the Pine Bough Bazaar this year, but we will place orders with SERV, the fair trade company from which we have purchased merchandise in the past. Check out the catalog on the Fair Trade table in the fellowship hall and place your order with Hannah.

# live free...

Laurel Johnston

***“They are to do good. To be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they can take hold of the life that really is life.”***  
**1 Timothy 6: 18-19**

Do you ever get asked what your favorite passage from scripture is? It is a tough question, and most likely the answer will change during one's faith journey. When I set out to begin working towards the tithe, a common refrain that went round and round in my head was the passage from Deuteronomy: "I have set before you life and death. Choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19). I knew that the time had come for me to make a choice to tithe 10 percent of my income to God's purposes through the church the time had come for me to align my practice with my beliefs. I had come to realize that scarcity thinking was exactly that, a distorted thought process and attitude, not a reality for me.

And the way that I had to change my thinking was by doing. Timothy, the long-time companion and helper of Paul, was being groomed by his mentor to take on the leadership community in Ephesus. Timothy's challenge was to help the community of faith in that particular place find congruence between what they believed and what they practiced. Paul tells Timothy that the measure of life in Christian community is to be rich in good works, generous, and willing and ready to share. He tells him life flourishes in giving. Today, the challenge remains the same for all of us who live in God's household. Are our beliefs and practices closely aligned, or do we find that they are far apart? Do we believe in a God of abundance yet make choices from a mindset of scarcity? How do we live our lives with open hands, ready to give and receive, and not with clenched fists? What are some of the characteristics of a Christian steward that readies us to be rich in good works and generous and to delight in sharing?

*Reprinted from GIVING, ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP EMPASIS publication. The Rev. Laurel Johnston is an ordained minister in the Episcopal Church and Director of Alumni Relations and Major Gift Officer for Church Divinity School of the Pacific. She is the former Executive Director of the Episcopal Network for Stewardship.*

We will begin our annual Stewardship Drive on October 11, 2015. The theme for this year's drive is **live free**, using some of the material from the booklet as listed above. November 15<sup>th</sup> will be our Commitment Sunday. I hope you find this year's drive to be spiritually enriching. In the meantime, here are a few questions from the **live free** booklet for you to ponder and reflect upon. \*How can I become more content in the knowledge of God's love and care? \*How can the gifts that I have been given be used as agents of change and for restoration and redemption? \*What am I grasping so tightly that is keeping me from taking hold of the life that really is life? \*How can I more fully seek God's kingdom and God's righteousness?



**Evangelism** – Laurie Schmidt, Rhonda Schommer, True and Katelyn Briggs will make shut-in communion visits. Laurie Schmidt served nine college students dinner August 26. The next dinner will be September 13. Lucinda Mays and Lorna Eliason will serve. Closer to Home has a new service schedule. Laurie will place a menu sign-up sheet on the door for September 14. Jeanine volunteered to get the key and open up since she is familiar with procedures. We will be serving one Monday a month. Highway Sign #2 is still being processed.

**Fellowship** – Karleen will begin planning and preparing for the Fall Feast.

**Social ministry** – Robyn feels good about the pantry. Tracy has been purchasing groceries, but Robyn would like other volunteers. We will not be participating at the Pine Bough, but will look for other community venues to support SERV. Robyn will set up a table for personal SERV orders.

**Stewardship** – Jeanine continues to gather photographs for the congregational directory. She and Pastor will meet to plan dates and material for Fall Stewardship.

**Worship** – Julie Duncan, Ron Wineteer, and Bill Huntington. We will begin using Setting 3 Sept. 6.

**New Business** – God's Work Our Hands Sunday is Sept 13. We will not be participating this year. Lucinda would like to be involved with the Christmas program, but she'd like someone else to be in charge.

CHECK OUT & PRAYER

## Shepherd's Pantry Update

Thanks to everyone for your help and support in keeping our pantry going! It certainly takes a village, I mean a congregation, to feed the hungry! Thank you for shopping, giving, sacking and delivering food. The need for continues to be strong... we are supporting an average of 60-70 people each month. Our shelves were beginning to get empty... but thanks to your donations and the community's response to our request for donations on Chadrad, our cupboards are not quite as bare! We continue to need fruit, canned meat and powdered milk. We are filling our food bags every Sunday immediately after the worship service and right before coffee. Please join us! If you can't help then, stop by the pantry and fill a bag whenever you can. We like to have 10 bags ready to go at any one time. The contents of each bag are posted on the wall and displayed on the top shelf. Thank you again in supporting this important ministry of our church.

As a representative of our Shepherd's Pantry and our congregation, I am participating in a group with other "pantry" people exploring the creation of a community wide pantry. We have been meeting every two weeks for the last several months. We have developed a vision and outlined a mission. We recently conducted a survey of people utilizing the food pantries and are in the process of analyzing those results. We hope to have a presentation ready to share with community groups and congregations next month. I'll keep you posted!

Robyn Baquet

# Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

September 3, 2015; 6:00 – 7:30

Present: Robin Baquet, Julie Duncan, Karleen Gramberg, Laurie Harris, Jeanine Mohr, Yvonne Moody, Laurie Schmidt, Pastor Ann Sundberg, and Kit Watson.

Absent: Melvin High Hawk, Denise James, Alyssa Noble, and Sharon Thurlow.

PRAYER/DEVOTION

REPORTS



**Secretary Report** - Robyn moved and Karleen seconded approval of the August minutes.

**Treasurer Report** – There were outstanding bills in August that weren't paid including part of Pastor's salary. Laurie Harris moved and Jeanine seconded to transfer \$3800 to the Mission Investment Fund. Then \$2000 will be transferred from the Mission Investment Fund to the checking account. Jeanine and Pastor will be planning the stewardship campaign and will emphasize sustained giving and thankful living.

**Pastor's Report** – August had five Sundays with a special Blessing of the Backpacks. Pastor Ann preached four of them and Bishop Maas visited and preached August 23. Pastor Ann made preparations for Wednesday School to have a birthday party for the Holy Spirit on September 2 with children and their parents. Confirmation also began. Pastor had 18 pastoral care conversations and attended Wayne Brickner's funeral. Campus Ministry had three events – Move-in Day lunch, Uptown on Campus, and a campus ministry supper. Pastor Ann and Hannah also met with the birthday coffee group. Bishop Maas attended a dinner with council at Pastor and John's home. Church administration meetings were Council, Mutual Ministry, and the Worship Team. Pastor attended the Pine Ridge Retreat Center advisory board, played her cello for a wedding, attended the women clergy luncheon, and played her cello again at Crestview. Pastor was in attendance at the Panhandle Cluster retreat at Sullivan Hills and sought personal spiritual direction.

The council has had a tradition of honoring our departing secretary with a gift card. Whitney will be asked to attend a thank you reception during a Sunday coffee. There will be a card that parishioners may also sign and make a contribution. Hannah Clark, our new secretary, will also be asked to come to a Sunday coffee to meet parishioners.

Tuesday, November 3 Pastor, Jeanine and another volunteer will travel to Broadwater for a 7 pm meeting with Bishop Maas and staff. Pastor will be out of office September 8-11 Seeking the Spirit Within residency.

## *Committee Reports*

**Executive** – A four month master planning calendar of events was distributed – how do committee plans fit in?

**Building and Grounds** – Kit, Melvin, Brice Landen, Erica Lans, and Jerry Smith have accepted positions on the building and grounds committee. Issues under discussion are the lift, supplemental air conditioning for the sanctuary, and the future of the prayer garden.

**Education** – Yvonne, Chelsea Evans, Maddie, Crystal VanderMay, and Staci Larsen will serve on the education committee. They are charged with Wednesday School, Confirmation, and VBS.

## **Pastor's Message**

“If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36

The word “freedom” gets thrown around a lot, especially as we begin another Presidential election season. We Americans are proud of the freedoms we enjoy, enshrined in our Constitution: freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom to worship as we wish.

Martin Luther also wrote about freedom: “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” Luther did not live in the time of democratic government – he wouldn't even have known what that concept was. What he meant in this statement is that, as Christians, we are freed by Christ from having to work our way to salvation. We are free from having to earn God's love. Jesus' words from the cross, “Father, forgive them...” free every single one of us from captivity to our ingrained anxiety, our desires for power and control.

So how do we live free? Freedom in Christ is intended to turn us away from ourselves to our neighbor in need. Luther did not use the language of “friends” or “family” to describe Christian community. He consciously chose the word “neighbor.” We find our freedom and our identity by serving people who we may or may not know, people who may or may not live in a house down the street, people who may or may not look or act or speak like we do. Our neighbor is the person in need and it is every single Christian's work to attend to that need.

Our stewardship theme this fall is “Live Free.” Over the coming weeks, we will explore what it means to live in the freedom of Christ as it relates to our financial resources. How do we respond to God's gracious and abundant gifts of life and time and money and abilities? What does it mean to live in the freedom that God wants for us?

Pastor Ann

## **Council President's Message**

As we look forward to a bright October, let's consider where we might be of service to God's people. We contribute to serve “Closer to Home” once a month. This is a heartwarming way to do God's work. Contributions of food are wonderful, and if you can help with preparation and serving these meals you will walk away with a new concept of the needs of the community. There are many wonderful, hardworking people out there who need our help. And... it's easy and... Fun! Our commitment this month is Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. To find out more, call the church office at 308-432-5438 or Laurie Schmidt at 308-432-5143.

We have all been blessed in so many ways. Enjoy this month of Fall beauty.

Kit Watson, Council President

# GRACEVINE

October 2015



## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Ann Sundberg

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Where God is with us as we grow in faith!