

GRACEVINE

September 2014



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

747 Ann Street – Chadron, NE 69337

Telephone: (308) 432-5408

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Pastor Ann Sundberg

Cell: (919) 475-9754

Where God is with us as we grow in faith!

Pastor's Message

As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
For the wind passes over it, and it is gone
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting...

Psalm 103:15-16

Over and over, I found myself realizing that the “theme” of our vacation this year was *CHANGE*. So many of our friends and family were going through major change in their lives: Graduations. Relocations to new cities for jobs. New relationships following divorce. A new relationship following the death of a spouse. Leaving a career and downsizing completely in order to live on a sailboat. Retirement. Deaths of one or both parents. The beginning of a new school year. Children growing up.

The places we visited were different as well. John and I thought we knew our way around Durham since we lived there for so long. But there was new housing being built everywhere we looked. New buildings have changed the skyline. In Loveland, CO we were amazed to see the progress on a new city park in what had been an open field behind the house where my parents used to live.

Change may require us to say goodbye to places and people that we loved. Change may require us to re-evaluate our identities and our relationships as parents, children, spouses, siblings. You can't avoid change. You can't go over it, or around it or under it. You have to go through it.

As the season turns to autumn, we can see the familiar changes in nature. The days are shorter, the nights are cooler. The leaves change color, birds migrate, animals prepare for winter.

Through all these changes, those that I have experienced and those that my friends and family are going through, it was good to remember that there is one constant in my life. God's love does not fail, or fade or waver. I could sense God's presence in the conversations I had, in the hugs I gave and received, in the meals that I shared.

It was good to be away. It is good to be back.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – August 2014

August 7, 2014 - Immanuel Lutheran Council Minutes

Attending: Robyn Baquet, Lisa Briggs, Jane Darnell, Julie Duncan, Karleen Gramberg, Jeanine Mohr, Laurie Schmidt, Pastor Ann Sundberg and Sharon Thurlow. Absent: Jarrod Briggs, Laurie Harris, Walt Mays and Leo VanderMay.

Secretary's Report: Moved by Robyn Baquet and seconded by Lisa Briggs and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Moved by Laurie S and seconded by Julie Duncan and approved. It was mentioned that there be more information given about the balances on the memorial funds. We are asked to consider financial support for Pastor to attend Seeking the Spirit Within Spiritual Direction Institute. This is a two year training.

Pastor's Report:

Looking to do Blessing of Backpacks on August 10; will be on vacation August 12 until August 27. She will be attending a one day retreat at Carol Joy Holling (Seeking the Spirit Within). In addition has been busy with weekly worship service, Sunday morning Bible study; visited with 12 individuals via phone or conversation; administered communion with individuals; Birthday coffee; Continues to be active in the community. She interviewed for Seeking the Spirit Within Spiritual Direction Institute.

Executive Committee: The Emmett Arbor Dedication was very nicely done and Carol's son was very happy with the results. The Mutual Ministry committee will meet.

Building and Grounds: New lights have been installed in front of the kitchen. The water heater has been repaired. There is an inside work day planned for September 27. Feel free to sign up to do the task of your choice at a time convenient for you. The prayer garden needs some work to make it more accessible to all and a meeting with original peoples involved will be scheduled.

Education: Wednesday school starts September 3 at 5:30. Confirmation Kids will meet then also.

We are looking to complete the youth group room. Check with Lisa if you have couches or other furnishings to donate.

Evangelism: we are signed up with NAEIRN. Turns out we have most of the pieces and parts right here in the church for the audio assistance headphones, etc. Mostly we need the get a mike for the assisting minister.

Fellowship: Planning College Move In Day on August 14.

Social Ministries: Gods Work Our Hands. Looking at T-shirts for helpers. A motion by Laurie S and seconded by Jeanine Mohr to purchase these t-shirts was made. The motion was passed. We are to serve meals on Mondays in November for the Closer to Home program.

Stewardship: No Report

Worship: Julie and Pastor met with Uati Paopao to look at the cost for various part of equipment for getting an overhead projector and screen for church service. Discussion will continue at the September meeting.

New Business: We need to do some constitution updates. These have been done and taken care of by Whitney Tewahade and the Synod Office.

Campus Ministry: How does it fit into the congregation? Maybe set up an advisory board within the community and the surrounding area.

Prayer requests were taken and the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectively Submitted by
Sharon Thurlow
Secretary

Book Club



Thursday, September 25th at 6:00 p.m. the Book Club will be meeting to discuss the book “Pastrix”, by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Copies of the book are available in the Church office. Dinner will be served.

Campus Ministry Update

Thank you to all who helped to make the Move-In Day lunch a success for the fourth year in a row. We served a total of 126 students and family members. Since we have been fed at Christ’s table, we are freed in Christ to serve our neighbors, the students who are beginning their college years.

Beginning this year, our campus ministry will benefit from the presence of a peer minister – a student who will coordinate ministry activities on behalf of the congregation and the statewide organization. Courtney Pendleton is a junior majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences. She is from Geneva, NE. She just completed her second summer working as a camp counselor for Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, both at Carol Joy Holling camp in Ashland and at Sullivan Hills. She has been collecting names and email addresses of interested students, and will be working to launch Lutheran Campus Ministry at Chadron State College as a student organization. Please introduce yourself to her and welcome her.

Jon Fredericks, Director of Development for NE Lutheran Campus Ministry, will visit Immanuel on Sunday, September 14. He will be here to tell the story of campus ministry around the state and make the case for support.

Meditation Group

A morning meditation group has been meeting for several months here at Immanuel Lutheran Church. The group is non-sectarian, and meets simply to practice of quieting the mind and centering oneself. In Christian parlance, this type of silent practice is often called Centering Prayer.

Silent prayer or meditation prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Through this practice, we are better able to free ourselves from attachments that prevent the development of a deep relationship with God.

The group meets on weekday mornings from 6:45-7:15 a.m. An afternoon group will begin soon, meeting from 4:15-4:45 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. For more information, please contact John Parton at 919-475-9754



Christian Education Schedule of Classes

Wednesday School and Confirmation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 10, 2014. Wednesday School students will meet from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm for their lesson. The Wednesday School students and the Confirmation students will share a supper meal from 6:15 pm to 6:45 pm. Confirmation students will then have class from 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm.

Sunday Bible Study

Sunday Bible Study will resume on Sunday, September 14th at 10:30 a.m. following worship service and coffee time. Currently the group is studying the Animate Faith video series. All are welcome to join.



Christian Education - Wednesday School and Confirmation News

Children/youth Christian education has some exciting news to share – Immanuel Lutheran has the possibility of providing Christian education to 22 children/youth this year! How awesome that would be to once again have our classrooms filled with children/youth ready to learn and hear about Jesus! With that said, **adult and youth volunteers will be needed** in order to make this happen.

Wednesday School youth will be divided into three classrooms.

- PreK-Kindergarten
- 1st-3rd Grades
- 4th-6th Grades

Help us by being a volunteer teacher or assistant. All curriculum materials will be provided. This is a great way to help our youth learn about the love of Jesus and our faith.

Please consider being a part of this worthwhile experience – it is only a 45 minute commitment each week. Christian Education for our children/youth at Immanuel will not be possible without the help of volunteers. Contact the church office (432-5408) or Lisa Briggs (430-3544) with questions.



Wednesday School/Confirmation Supper Schedule

Wednesday, September 10th—Briggs Family

Wednesday, September 17th—Tewahade Family

Wednesday, September 24th—

Wednesday, October 1st—Peters Family and Rust Family

Wednesday, October 8th—Lans Family

Wednesday, October 15th—Paopao Family

Wednesday, October 22nd—Rust Family and Berry Family

Wednesday, October 29th—

Wednesday, November 5th—Peters Family

Wednesday, November 12th—Churchill Family

Wednesday, November 19th—Rust Family and Berry Family

Wednesday, November 26th—No Wednesday School/Confirmation

Wednesday, December 3rd—Larson Family

Wednesday, December 10th—

Wednesday, December 17th—TBD (Usually Schedule this for Christmas caroling.)

Please bring enough dinner for 25-30 people. Dinner is from 6:15-6:45 p.m. This is a casual dinner and should not be anything fancy. Sandwiches, chips, sloppy joes, pizza, tacos, etc. are all great choices. Thank you in advance. If you would like to volunteer to provide a meal for our students on one of the open dates please contact the church office at (308) 432-5408 or Lisa Briggs at (308) 430-3544



Treasurer's Report

August 2014

Beginning balance July 31, 2014	\$	(1,497.34)
Income		
Weekly Offering	\$	6,423.47
Other Income	\$	129.18
Coffee/tea sales	\$	9.00
Thrivent	\$	966.00
Interest checking	\$.12
 Total Income	 \$	 7,527.77
 Expenses	 \$	 8,482.79
 Ending balance as of August 31, 2014	 \$	 (2,452.36)

Worship Attendance

Date	Sunday Service
August 3	32
August 10	46
August 17	33
August 24	40
August 31	29

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