

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.

September 2017

WENDESDAY SCHOOL:

Wednesday School classes will begin on September 6 at 5:30 p.m. The schedule for Wednesday school and confirmation will be:

5:30 - 6:15

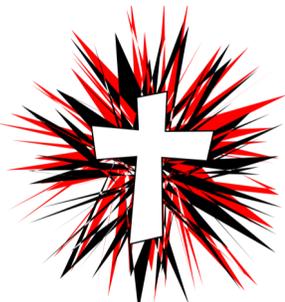
Wednesday School

6:15 - 6:45 Supper

6:45 - 7:45

Confirmation class

Once again this year we will use the Spark Lectionary curriculum. The lessons are connected to the following Sunday's readings.



Pastor's Message

A Prayer After Charlottesville

Lord God, we pray that you would arm us with courage and compassion sufficient to the challenges of these days and make us heralds of your grace and instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is harm, let us bring healing;

Where there is prejudice and intolerance, let us offer understanding;

Where there is enmity, let us be agents of reconciliation;

Where there is despair, let us speak hope;

Where there is doubt, let us spark faith;

Where there is fear, let us kindle courage;

And wherever there is darkness, let us offer the light of your mercy that enlightens the whole world.

Meet us in our fear, Lord God, and embolden us to side always with the defenseless. Protect all who put themselves in harm's way to keep others safe. Thwart the plans of those who harbor hatred and plot violence. Grant our elected leaders the wisdom to know what is right and the courage to do it. And bless this nation and people that we might be a blessing to the world you love so much.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

[This prayer comes from Rev. David Lose, President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. It can be found on his blog *In the Meantime*: www.davidlose.net]

“ Kindness is choosing love over hate, light over darkness, compassion over judgment. ”

- RAKtivist

Stewardship: Karen Rupp

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
There are several excellent resources to help open our minds to stewardship thinking and doing. Last year some of us read *Enough* by Adam Hamilton with an emphasis on living simply and this year some are reading *Stewardshift* by Bob Sitze.

Reading *Stewardshift* has increased awareness of a holistic approach to Stewardship – addressing body, mind and soul – sacred and secular. Our overall Stewardship emphasis has been “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind...and love your neighbors as yourself.

From an article appearing in this month’s Stewardship news letter from Luther Seminary, *The Gift of Mind*, by Neal Presa*:

I belong to the ecclesial tribe of the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition. This tradition prides itself on an educated clergy. The founder of our theological heritage, John Calvin, opens his magnum opus, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, by speaking about knowledge ~ knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves. Even the liturgical clothing most Presbyterian clergy types wear is not a cassock nor an alb, but a black Genevan gown, academic regalia.

Stewardship of mind, the gift of our mind, encom-

passes more than just our mental and cognitive abilities. It’s not merely about reading the right books, or taking upon the discipline of reading widely. For professor types, it’s not merely about multiplying the number of footnotes or endnotes to showcase the vast array of knowledge on a given subject, and imparting the wide knowledge of our careful study and reflection. Stewardship, of course, includes all of that, but it’s not just that.

There’s great truth in the old adage: “The longest journey is the 18 inches between the head and the heart.”

The biblical vision of “mind” is not just about cognition, mental capacity, intellectual acumen, or being able to answer correctly every question of Trivia Pursuit. **The comprehensiveness of “mind” in biblical terms is the mutual relationship of mind, heart, body, life; in short, “mind” is inclusive of what the greatest commandment exhorts, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all of your strength” (Mark 12:30).**

The Lord desires we bring to the fore the entirety of our being. After all, there’s no way we can isolate the heart, from the soul, from the mind, from our strength; they interact as one package even as they are distinct parts of who we are...

...Thus, Jesus Christ, the

Son of God, lives out the greatest commandments ~ love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love neighbor. It’s that same commitment to God and to humanity that pulsates in the wholeness of who Jesus Christ is and what Jesus Christ does that God desires that same mind, and, therefore, that same soul, heart, and strength to be in us.

When we commit our mind as an act of stewardship, as a sacrifice of praise and worship, we are essentially indicating our “Yes” and “Amen” to God’s call upon us to love God and to love neighbor as we love ourselves.

To do so, is daily to take upon Jesus Christ in our lives, to be united to Christ in each and every part of our life. That’s not mere knowledge; that’s wisdom. And wisdom is the gift and act of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, whose power and presence promises union with Christ.

*The Rev. Neal D Presa, Ph.D. is Associate Pastor of the 1100-member Village Community Presbyterian Church in Rancho Santa Fe, California; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Worship of Fuller Theological Seminary; Fellow of The Center for Pastor Theologians; and previously Moderator of the 220th General Assembly (2012) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Again, thank you for all you do. Please consider sharing your experience(s) 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

Treasurer's Report August 2017

Beginning balance August 1, 2017		\$	3,799.57
Income	Weekly Offering-includes VANCO	\$	9,414.93
	Thrivent	\$	72.00
	Interest	\$.36
Total Income		\$	9,487.29
Expenses		\$	8,630.78
Ending balance as of August 31, 2017		\$	4,656.08

Thrivent Social Security Workshop

On Tuesday evening, September 26, Immanuel will host a Thrivent workshop titled *Social Security: Strategize to Maximize*.

Whether it will be there when you retire or not, Social Security is still important to understand. In this workshop, we'll help you learn the basics and

how to optimize its benefits.

This workshop is free and open to anyone. You do not have to be a Thrivent member to participate. No products will be offered for sale.



Social Ministry: Barb Landen



We served 18 meals at Closer to Home on Monday, August 21. Our Shepherd's pantry served 33 adults and 18 children in

August. Thank you for your donations. Please continue to support Closer to Home and Our Shepherd's Pantry with your donations and prayers.

Worship Appreciation Corner: Hannah Norgard

Big special shout out to all who helped and lent their time to worship in the month of August!

The CJ Bach Family, the Briggs Family, the Churchill Family, Stephanie Cogdill, Julie Duncan, the Gramberg Family, Bill Huntington, Bill and Joan Lemen, Dr Jim Margetts, Maddy Nygren, Laurie Schmidt, Tony Serbousek, the Shuck Family, Bev Stitt, Sharon Thurlow, and Ron Wineteer!



A Clean Kitchen

Our kitchen gets a lot of use for Sunday coffee hour, Wednesday School suppers and special events. It takes all of us to keep the kitchen tidy and organized. Please DO NOT leave open containers of leftovers in the refrigerator, freezer or on the counters. Take them home or throw them out. Unopened food may be donated to the Shepherd's Pantry. Similarly, please pick up your casserole and food containers from the tables opposite the restrooms.

Thank you to Lorna Eliason and Bill Huntington for cleaning and straightening up the kitchen counters and drawers.



A big thank you to my church family for the concern and well wishes extended to me these past weeks during my recovery from foot surgery. And I am most grateful to Mary Kienitz for giving the plants in the narthex such great TLC. I love and appreciate you all.

~ Denise James ~

God's Work, Our Hands



God's Work,
Our Hands
Sunday is
September
10th. God's
Work, Our

Hands Sunday is an opportunity for us to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. God's Work, Our Hands is the dedicated day of service where we join with other congregations throughout America in serving others. Mark September 10th on your calendar as Your Hands are needed to do God's Work that day! If you'd like to assist in planning this service day, please let Robyn know!



Inspirational Thoughts:

Just One Step *by F.L. Booth*

As I walked down life's road one day,
A mountain rose to block my way.
I couldn't go around, you see,
The pass was narrow -- closed to me.

I asked the Lord, How shall I climb?
Just one step, He said, at a time.
How can I scale that awesome height?
Look up, said He, you'll do all right.

I took some steps and it was great,
I'd go right up and celebrate!
Then I looked down and slipped and fell.
Get up, said He, you're doing well.

So once again I started up,
The road is steep and sometimes rough,
But near the top, the way is smooth,
And there I'll find a well-worn groove.

I'll reach the top one day then stand,
Survey the view that's truly grand.
The Lord waits there and all my friends,
My family, too -- love never ends.

Now I look up, and I can see
The hand my Lord holds out to me.
So carefully each day I climb,
Just one step I take at a time.



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-

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ELCA Church wide Website, www.elca.org,