

IMMANUEL SPEAKS
OCTOBER 2024

October



Dear friends in Christ,

Oct. 27th will mark the 507th anniversary of the reformation. As we gather for worship, we will celebrate the reformation message, “the righteous shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17). But what exactly does this message mean?

To understand this, we need to delve into our Lutheran history. Martin Luther grew up within a tradition where you were taught that you had to earn your salvation. You had to be righteous. You had to live a godly life otherwise, God who is righteous, would punish you for your sins. Luther later in his life would share these thoughts on Romans 1:17, “I hated that word, ‘the righteousness of God,’ by which I had been taught according to the custom and use of all teachers...that God is righteous and punishes the unrighteous sinner.”

Luther knew that he was to live a godly life, to strive to follow the example of Christ in word and deed. However, he could never escape the feeling that he was a sinner, that he had not done enough to atone for his sins. And because he had not done enough, he knew that God would punish him for his sins.

But as time went by Luther came to a new understanding of what the apostle Paul meant by “the righteous shall live by faith”. While earning his doctorate and teaching as a professor at the University of Wittenberg, he came to see this passage in a new light. Luther would write, “At last mediating day and night, by the mercy of God, I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely faith. Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open.”

Luther came to understand that this passage from Romans is not talking about how we must fill all the requirements of the law or God will punish us. Rather he came to understand that the righteous will live by faith, that is, they trust in the grace, mercy and forgiveness given to them in Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.

Picture this way. In Matthew 20:1-16 Jesus tells a parable of a vineyard owner who hires workers early in the morning for the usual daily wage. The vineyard owner returned to the marketplace four more times during the day, at: 9

a.m., noon, 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. to hire more workers. He told those workers he would pay them the normal daily wage.

At the end of the day the vineyard owner pays the workers; starting with those who began work the latest. He gives them a full day's wage. The ones who began early in the day expected to receive more being they worked longer, but in the end they got the same, a full days wage. And so they begin to grumble about fairness, they endured the heat of the day and worked longer. But the vineyard owner tells them he is doing nothing wrong, they agreed for the usual daily wage. As for those who worked less and yet received the same, the vineyard owner asks, "Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:16).

What we see in this parable is what Luther came to understand. It isn't about our works or what we do, or what we think we deserve. Rather it is all about the generosity of God. Simply put, it is all about grace. Those who worked for a shorter time did not get what they deserved. Rather, they received grace from the vineyard owner. They were given what they didn't deserve. In the same way, we who are sinners do not get what we deserve; rather we receive grace; we get what we do not deserve, namely forgiveness and a place in the family of God.

My friends, this is the good news we hear as we celebrate the reformation. We do not have to earn our salvation. We do not have wonder whether God loves us, or whether we have done enough to make God love us. Our sin, our failings, our shortcomings, will not separate us from the love of God. For as we turn towards our heavenly Father we find that Christ has made us righteous! The apostle Paul wrote, "The righteous shall live by faith." May we continue to live by that faith! May we continue to trust in those promises that God has made to us in our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ!

Happy Reformation!

Pastor Joel

September 15, 2024

1. Pastoral Acts

- 54pastoral visits

2. Worship

-Clara City Care center

-Led worship on Aug. 14th & 28th, & September 11th

-Rally Sunday, September 8th.

-presentation of Bibles, blessing of backpacks and teachers.

-Confirmation Sunday, October 27th @ 9am

3. Education/Youth

-Sunday School

-First week of class room instruction 9/15

-Prairie woods environmental learning for prek-9th on Sept. 30

-Confirmation/Youth

-First night of confirmation (7-9) is Sept. 11th.

-4 students from Maynard Lutheran will be joining us this year.

4. Mission & Outreach

-No community meal in September, will return first Sunday in October

-Thank you to all who helped with the Food for kidz packing event, Sept. 14th

-Looney Lutheran through community ed. Oct. 5th

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

-Faith+lead (Luther Seminary) courses

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Present: Randy Grussing, Laurie Dieken, Cheryl Colby, Andrea Prekker, Gabby Rognlie, Addisyn Pederson, Derek Rand, Jane Niemeyer, Pastor Joel

Absent: Terry Noble, Katherine Schwitters (Treasurer), (Katherine is teaching Sunday School, but will be available if there are any questions on her report).

Reports: Secretary's Report: M/S/P to accept report.
Treasurer's Report: As of August 31, 2024 for General Fund:
Checking: \$10,325.60, Savings: \$55,984.42
Approximate amount needed yet to fulfill the 2024 budget as of August 31, 2024 is \$125,000. M/S/P to accept report.

Old Business: Accepted bid from Gutter Helmet for new gutters for church building.

Offering Envelopes: Ongoing discussion of ways to reduce the cost of offering envelopes.

New Business: Money Counters: October – Laurie Dieken, Gabby Rognlie
November – Jane Niemeyer, Andrea Prekker
December – Derek Rand, Addisyn Pederson

Noisy Offering for October, November, and December will go to God's Global Barnyard.

Next Church Council Meeting will be on October 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

M/S/P to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Niemeyer
Church Council President

HAPPENINGS AT IMMANUEL

THE LOONEY LUTHERANS – are coming to the **MACCRAY Auditorium on Saturday, October 5th!** Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the MACPAC program. The Looney Lutherans are a trio of wacky gals who use music, comedy, and some help for the audience to share their age-old wisdom for living a long and lively life, the Lutheran way . This event is sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, MACCRAY Community Ed and community sponsors. **Tickets can now be purchased at the MACCRAY High School Office, on the MACCRAY website, or at the door. The cost is \$20.00. Come and enjoy this hilarious show! Laughter is the best medicine!!**

YOUTH GATHERING THANK YOU MEAL – on **Sunday, October 6th starting at 11:00 a.m.** The kids that went to the Youth Gathering Convention in New Orleans this summer will be preparing a free meal, to thank the members of Immanuel for all their prayers and financial support. The menu is: taco in a bag and beverage. Everyone is welcome!!

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL – **from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 6th.** The menu is: pizza hotdish, green beans, breadsticks and pudding. We will be serving to go orders in the church alley way and also serving in the Fellowship Hall. Please comment on the Facebook page or call the church office at 847-2138 with the number of meals you are wanting. Everyone is welcome!

FAMILY FUN BONFIRE – on **Sunday, 13th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Ken and Jan Beyerl home in Clara City.** We will have s'mores, roasted hotdogs, chips, hot cocoa and warm apple cider. Bring your own lawn chairs. The last Bean Bag Tournament will be held also. Come for a time of fellowship, fun and of course, food! Ken and Jan's address is 700 NW 5th Street.

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY – is **Sunday, October 13th.** We will celebrate Pastor Joel during the worship service. **A celebration reception and a free meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall by the Church Council. The meal will be served at 11:00 a.m.** The menu is: pulled pork sandwiches, salad, chips, pickles and beverage. **Please join us to honor Pastor Joel and to thank him, for all he does for each of us, our congregation and our community.** Everyone is welcome!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – is on **Sunday, October 27th at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.** The following Confirmation Students will be confirmed: Leia Colby, Kailani Hansen, Logan Jaenisch, Grant Meyer, Brielle Niesen, Emersyn Pederson, Kylie Prekker, Kailee Rosendahl, and Eva Swenson. A reception will be held after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Come and celebrate with the newly confirmed members!

COFFEE FOR GALS – meets the **4th Wednesday of the month, October 23rd.** All women of Immanuel are invited to come! We meet in the Fireside Room for laughter, fellowship, and treats, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Hope to see you all there!

JOY BIBLE STUDY – meets on **Monday, October 21st at 1:30 p.m.** This is a women's Bible study group that meets once a month. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about God's Word.

QUILTING – has started up again for the fall and winter season. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

MANNASSEH TRIBE UP FOR NOVEMBER 2024

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for November 2024. The chairperson will be calling or texting you in the near future, asking you to help serve Immanuel in some small way. Start thinking about what you can volunteer to help with! If everyone takes a job, the “needs” list will be filled. Thank you for volunteering!!

- Glen Miller
- Gary and Lori Kruger Family
- Allan Dieken
- Shane and Stephanie Swenson Family
- Daryl Niemeyer – Tribe Leader
- Lonnie and LuAnn Hanson
- Malinda Klaassen
- Gary and Deb Nelson
- Terry and Judy Noble
- Roger and Linda Wilkens

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FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

As of August 31, 2024 for General Fund: Checking Account Balance- \$10,325.60
Savings Account Balance - \$55,984.42

The approximate amount needed to fulfill the 2024 budget as of August 31, 2024 is \$125,000.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to a Church Council member.

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HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

CentraCare Hospice currently has a high need for volunteers in your area and we invite you to consider learning more about this opportunity. As a volunteer, you will be able to enrich the lives of others during their final journey on this side of heaven.

Our Fall volunteer training will be held at Rice Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, October 8, and Thursday, October 10. The 2 day training will give you a comprehensive look at the hospice program including communication and caring skills, infection control, overview of our complementary therapies and so much more. CentraCare is looking for men and women of all backgrounds who have hearts of compassion and a genuine interest in helping others. We do have a high need for veteran volunteers. For more information, please call Deb VanBuren at CentraCare Hospice, 320-231-4450. Or visit CentraCare Hospice online at www.centracare.com/hospice.

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October

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	3	4	5 7:00 p.m. Looney Lutherans
6 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship 11:00 Thank You Meal 5:00 Community Meal	7	8 1:00 Quilting	9 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	10	11	12
13 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship 11:00 Pastor App. Meal 6:00 Family Bonfire	14 7:00 Church Council Meeting	15	16 No Confirmation	17	18	19
20 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship	21 1:30 Joy Bible Study	22 1:00 Quilting	23 2:00-3:30 Coffee for Gals 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	24	25	26
27 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Confirmation Sunday	28	29	30 6:00 Confirmation Meal 6:30 Confirmation	31 Happy Halloween!!		

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