

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023



Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the month of November, I have a question for you; what are you thankful for? As we gather on Thanksgiving Eve for worship, we will hear the familiar story of the ten lepers. Leprosy was a dangerous skin disease where a person basically rotted away. It was also very contagious. To protect the community from those who had leprosy, they were forced to live outside of community. The only problem in Biblical days was that diagnosing leprosy wasn't that easy compared to today with modern science. And so in the end if you had a skin condition that didn't clear up you were considered a leper and cast out of the community.

Imagine no longer being able to live amongst family and friends; it doesn't sound too great does it. Now imagine that one day you see Jesus walking by. Having heard of his power and ability to heal diseases and cast out demons, what do you do? You would cry out to him, wouldn't you? That is exactly what the lepers do in the story and Jesus responds by healing you. So, what do you do know? Well, nine of the lepers return to their old lives immediately. Who could blame them? I would be excited to be able to see my family and friends again. However, one response is different. The tenth leper when he notices he has been healed immediately turns around and worships Jesus and give thanks. The tenth leper recognizes where his healing has come from and praises God.

And so, I ask again, what are you thankful for? This story serves as a reminder for us of the many ways God provides for us. Luther, in his explanations to the three articles of the creed sums it up nicely. What do we have to be thankful for? From the first article we find that we are thankful that God provides for all of the physical needs of this body and life. From the second article we find that we are thankful because of God's free gift of love, grace, and forgiveness. Lost and dead in our sin, our Savior Jesus Christ has redeemed us from the powers of sin, death, and the devil and has named us as God's beloved children. From the third article we find that we are thankful for a God who continues to work among us through scripture and the sacraments bringing and keeping us in relationship with God. I encourage you as we enter the month of Thanksgiving to dust off those catechisms and read through Luther's explanations to the creed and see the many things that we have to be thankful for.

There is also one more theme of this familiar passage that I would like to highlight as we travel through the month of Thanksgiving and that is how Jesus acts with compassion upon those in need. Jesus was well aware of the risk of interacting with lepers and yet he is willing to take it. He doesn't see them as contagious people, as outcasts who are shunned or to be avoided. Rather he sees them as children of God in need, so he acts. The question is are we moved with the same compassion for those around us.

As we sit down to feast on Thanksgiving, the fact remains that for many there will be no feast. Whether it is the lack of food, homelessness, no family or friends, or the loss of family members or friends, and the list can go on and on; for many Thanksgiving isn't a joyous time. So, what can we do to show compassion and love like Jesus? As we prepare our Thanksgiving grocery list maybe we could pick up a few items so that someone can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. Maybe we could send some money to support communities and groups that sponsor a Thanksgiving meal. Maybe we pick up the phone and call or invite someone to be a part of our Thanksgiving and the list can go on and on. This story also reminds us that as God's people here on earth we are called to be faithful stewards of the resources that God has entrusted to us. From the call to Adam & Eve to care for creation, to Jesus' call to love one another as he has loved us; we as God's people are called to be a blessing!

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Joel

October 10, 2023

1. Pastoral Acts

- 46 pastoral visits
- 1 funeral: Frances Priebe
- 1 baptism: Tilletta Lou Doesken

2. Worship

- Reformation/Confirmation Sunday, October 29th @ 9am
- All Saints Worship, November 5th @ 9am
- Clara City Care center
 - Led worship on September 13th & 27th

3. Education/Youth

-Sunday School

- no Sunday school on October 22nd (MEA BREAK)
- K-6 attended Prairie Woods on October 9th.

-Youth

- 7 youth & 3/4 adults registering for ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.
 - Youth will be doing the Nov. 4th Luncheon & bake sale as a fundraiser.

4. Mission & Outreach

- “God’s Work, Our Hands” Food For Kidz packing event on September 16th
 - Thank you to all our volunteers who helped to meet our goal!
- Community meal October 1st, next meal November 5th.

5. Continuing Education/Pastoral Self-Care

- nothing to report at this time

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Present: Michele Shubert, Andrea Prekker, Jane Niemeyer, Harold Goedgedrag, Pastor Joel

Absent: Ross Pederson, Cheryl Colby, Randy Grussing, Michael Pankratz, Laurie Dieken, Katherine Schwitters (Treasurer)

Meeting was called to order by President Michele Shubert. This will be an informational meeting only as there is not enough present for a quorum.

Reports: Secretary's Report: Reviewed. Michele Shubert's name was not included for money counters for October.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed.

Committee Reports: Congregational Life – Reviewed. Favorable comments were made on the brunch served for Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

Pastor's Report: Reviewed.

Old Business: No report on the bell tower.
No other old business.

New Business: Carpet in fellowship hall and some of upstairs carpet was cleaned.
No other new business.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Niemeyer
Church Council Secretary

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HANGING OF THE GREENS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 9:00 A.M.

Hanging of the Greens will be on Saturday, November 25, 9:00 a.m. It is hard to believe, but the season of Advent, preparing for our Lord, is coming the end of the month. That being said, it will be the time to decorate Immanuel into its Christmas season finery! **Everyone** is invited to help decorate Immanuel. Please come and help! Many volunteers are needed to help with this!!

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 7:00 P.M.

Please join us for our *Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service with communion* on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24. Also, there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, November 26th.



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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 5:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Leia Colby	
	Lay Reader:	Laine Rieger	
	Altar Guild:	Judy Gosseling	
Sunday, November 12:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Kailani Hansen	
	Lay Reader:	Cindy Meyer	
	Altar Guild:	Char Pankratz	
Sunday, November 19:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Logan Jaenisch	
	Lay Reader:	Michele Shubert	
	Altar Guild:	LuAnn Kruger	
Wed. November 22:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Gavin Gueningsman	(Thanksgiving Eve Worship)
	Lay Reader:	Duane Dieken	(7:00 p.m.)
	Altar Guild:	Nancy Gosseling	
Sunday, November 26:	PowerPoint/Acolyte:	Alivia Strommer	
	Lay Reader:	Judi Boike	
	Altar Guild:	Ken & Jan Beyerl	

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FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 5:00 -6:00 P.M.

The Community Meal will be served on Sunday, November 5th from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The menu is: meatballs, mashed potatoes, corn, and pie. We will be serving in the fellowship hall, also doing drive thru in the alley way. Please let us know how many meals you need by either calling the church office or signing up on our Facebook page. This meal is free and all are welcome!!



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TRIBE MEMBERSHIP FOR DECEMBER 2023
EPHRAIM TRIBE

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for December 2023. The chairperson will be calling you, in the near future, asking you to serve Immanuel in some small way. Start thinking about what you can volunteer to help with...oh, and please say yes! If everyone takes a job, the “needs” list will be filled. Thank you so much!

- Ephraim Tribe
Gary and Cindy Meyer
Andrew and Tracy Neville Family
Jim and LeAnn Essendrup Family
Steve and Denise Miller
Randy and Julie Pieper
Jim Jaenisch
Ron and Karin Koenen
Roger and Linda Wilkens
Kyle and Desirae McNeil Family

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CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2023

*May the faith you affirm today be your key
To open the doors to...
Hope, when all seems lost,
Joy, when despair consumes you,
Love, when hatred affects you,
And peace, when turmoil surrounds you.
Guard it well and keep it close,
This precious key will set you free
And always guide you home.*

Breanna Charleen Dirksen

Baptized: March 2, 2008, Maynard Lutheran Church in Maynard

Sponsors: Justin and Kara Dirksen

Confirmation Verse: "Look. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. I will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised." (Genesis 28:15)

Sam Andrew Miller

Baptized: July 13, 2008, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Clara City

Sponsors: Heidi Graves, Nathan Korn

Confirmation Verse: "When the time is right, I the Lord will make it happen." (Isaiah 60:22)

Peyton James Schlagel

Baptized: December 16, 2007, St. John's Lutheran Church, Renville

Sponsors: David Schlagel, Rebecca Zabel

Confirmation Verse: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

PULLED PORK DINNER & **BAKE SALE**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUTH FUNDRAISER

NOVEMBER 4TH



Dinner Served

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Free Will Donation

TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE

Bake Sale

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

ALL PROCEEDS
GOING TOWARDS
YOUTH ATTENDING
NATIONAL YOUTH
CONVENTION





COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

**YOU ARE
INVITED!**

*Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner
Will you be alone? Family members have other plans?
Come join others for food and fellowship.
Thursday, November 23 rd at 12:00 p.m.
Clara City Community Center
Everyone Welcome
Hope to see you there.
Rides are available if needed.
Please call to let us know you plan on attending.
Call Dennis/ Donna Roberts 847-2688 or
Dean/Judy Gosseling 847-2601*

November

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 Confirmation	2	3	4 10:00-2:00 Bake Sale 11:00-1:00 Pulled Pork Luncheon
5 9:00 Worship/Commu nion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour 5:00-6:00 Community Meal	6	7 7:00 NA Meeting	8 6:30 Confirmation	9	10	11
12 9:00 Worship/Commu nion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour	13 1:30 Joy Bible Study	14 1:00 Quilting 7:00 Church Council Meeting 7:00 NA Meeting	15 6:30 Confirmation	16	17	18
19 9:00 Worship/Commu nion 10:00 SS/Fellowship Hour	20	21 7:00 NA Meeting	22 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship No Confirmation	23 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 9:00 Hanging of the Greens
26 9:00 Worship/Commu nion 10:00 Fellowship Hour No Sunday School	27	28 1:00 Quilting 7:00 NA Meeting	29 6:30 Confirmation	30		

