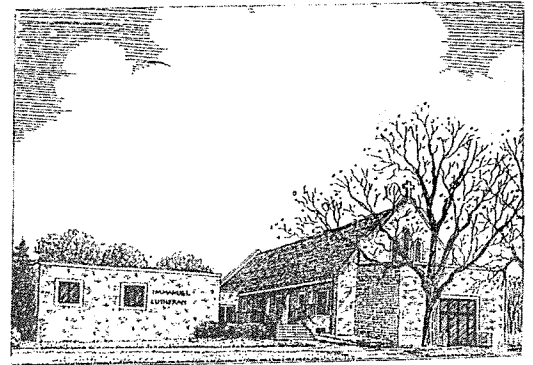
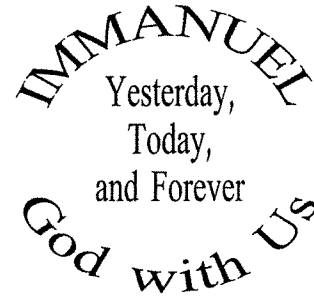


IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Alliance, Nebraska
762-4663



Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard C. Mueller
Assistant Pastor: Rev. Martin T. Schnare
Head Teacher: Mrs. Jill Mueller
School E-mail: office.ielschool@gmail.com
Church E-mail: immanuelevlcms@gmail.com



PASSING ON THE FAITH

¹⁵And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)

As a leader of the Israelites, Joshua was challenging the people of Israel to remember what God had done for them (*the ten plagues, the crossing of the Red Sea, the manna, the quail, the Ten Commandments, the miraculous victories, the fact that they had traveled for forty years in the desert and their clothes nor sandals wore out, etc.*). As a wise leader, Joshua was very aware of the ever present danger — the danger that the Israelites would forget what the LORD had done for them and was doing for them and follow the godless ways of their neighbors.

In his wisdom, Joshua realizes that it’s really a family thing, “choose this day whom you will serve, ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” So this important “family thing” keeps happening today. The passing on of the

Christian faith is something that most effectively happens within the circle of the family.

We ourselves must have some idea of why we believe the Bible is true and the importance of that truth for our lives. Then, and only then will we have something to pass on to our children. I am convinced that we will have spontaneous opportunities to pass on what we believe. When the TV, tablets, cell phones get turned off, when you find yourself riding alone in the car with one of your children, when we’re walking somewhere with your spouse or child or even over the phone when they are many miles away—those unplanned opportunities will present themselves and we must bare our souls to our spouse, our children and tell them what we believe. Don’t you sense that Joshua did this? “...as for me an my house, we will serve the LORD.”

As one of your pastors, I am challenging you to remember what God has done for you (*the birth, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, His ascension to the right hand of God the Father Almighty, His promised return, the amazing gifts and opportunities that you have*) and share what He has done for you with your family and one another. I am also aware of the dangers that

surround us. We have godless neighbors too, but they also need to hear the message of Jesus Christ. What a great message we have to share. Share with your family and friends and those around you John 3:16: “¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” What great news for all people.

Faith is passed from generation to generation when each generation shares what it believes with the next generation. “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

That is what is happening in our congregation and at our school. We hear and our students hear the Word of God. I ask that you please keep our school in your prayers. Our school has been a great mission opportunity for this congregation.

Stewardship Corner February 2020

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It’s something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn’t be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else’s possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles’ Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

It helps us reach out to our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a mission that God has called our congregation to do, a mission to support and encourage as we continue to proclaim the Word of God to our students and their families. Our school helps families grow in the Word of God. What an awesome responsibility for our congregation, as we continue to be in the Word of God and as our school continues to grow, we all work together to continue to carry out God’s Great Commission of proclaiming Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

May the word of Christ be a part of the message you share with one another in your home, in our school and out in the world. May God bless and keep you all in His gracious care!

Pastor Mueller

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner’s wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther’s Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let’s look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)

“Let the one who is taught the word share

all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’ ” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not

with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God’s people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.



February 2- Tammy Lore, Robyn Jensen
9 - Deb Grant, Virginia Dennison
16 - Vickie Henton, Tessa Oestman
23 - Tara Stanec, Becky Herian

2020 FLOWER CHART is now available. If you would like to share flowers for the altar in 2020, please sign up today. We would like to remind you that flowers are not placed on the altar during the Lenten season.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES. . .

Sunday Adult Bible Study - 9 am Fellowship Hall.
Martha Circle - 2nd Monday, 6 pm
Rhoda Circle - 1st Tuesday, 7 pm @ Ida Mae Drabbels home, 1220 Missouri
Hemingford Bible Study - Mondays, 2 pm Hemingford Care Center
Highland Park Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9:30 am
Lydia Circle - 2nd Wednesday, 1:30 pm
Bible Break - Thursdays, 9:30 am, @ Sandhills Assisted Living
Men’s Bible Study - Fridays, 6:30, Korner Grill
Tabitha Circle - 4th Monday’s at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall



Bible Studies

QUILTERS meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet Wednesday February 12, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Janice Brixius will be the hostess and Janice Brixius will lead the devotion and Pastor Mueller will lead the Bible study.

MARTHA CIRCLE will meet Monday February 10, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Shirley DeVoogd will give the devotion. Pastor Mueller will lead us in the Bible study.

RETURN TO SENDER: A reminder to notify the church office of any address changes. *We are required to pay a fee for undeliverable mail.*

GREETING CARDS: If you plan to send greeting cards for any occasion please consider cards from our LWML. We have birthday, get well, sympathy, anniversary and others. These are nice and all have Scripture text. They are located in the lower level of the narthex of the church.

RAISING DISCIPLES total receipts to date as of January 20, 2020 is \$559,306.79.

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are now available and have been placed in your mailbox in the lower narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Dick Bloom.



2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the narthex. There are several boxes that need to be picked up. If you would like a box and did not receive one, please contact the church office.

ONGOING MISSION PROJECTS: Used bedding is needed by the quilters. Canceled postage stamps are needed for mission projects. Old eye glasses and outdated hearing aids are useful to others. Bedding may be left in the quilting room. Other items can be left in the cupboard under the guest book.



For the month of January, altar flowers were from the funeral of Robert Vogel.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: We are beginning to prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School and are looking for teachers. Currently we are looking for Preschool, Music, Games, and Craft teachers as well as adult helpers for preschool and crafts. Please contact Samantha Steinman.

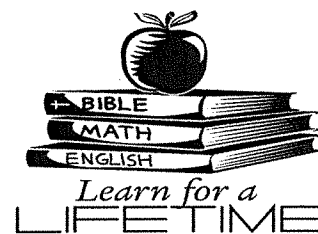


Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and food and a thank you also to the women who served the wonderful lunch.

—The Family of Marilyn Banks

SCHOOL TIDBITS

IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN SCHOOL ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE is an ongoing year-round fund raiser. This helps fund the operational costs of our school. Please ask everyone to collect and save all aluminum cans and bring them to the east side of the school and place in the bins that are labeled "Aluminum cans." We appreciate your help in this ongoing effort.



February 2020

Greetings from Immanuel Lutheran School. We pray all with you is going well. We are very busy out at the school and those kids never cease to amaze me. The last week in January we celebrated National Lutheran Schools week. It is hard to believe that we are over half way through our 6 year of school. AMAZING! One area that I feel blessed to address is that of the wonderful teaching staff that we have here at the school. These amazing women work tirelessly to bring Jesus to our students and their families. They are a wonderful team to lead. They are wonderful, loving Christian ladies. We are also blessed with an awesome support staff.

The students collected quarters for Lutheran Heritage Foundation for books for Ethiopia children. The first week, they collected over \$1000 worth of quarters!

We have Parent-Teacher conferences coming up as well as the annual Easter auction. We have also began the search for a first grade teacher. Micki Messersmith has chosen to resign her position for the 20-21 school year. We thank her for her service to our school. If you have any names to share with the board of prospects, please let me know as soon as possible.

We pray God's continued blessings on both our school and our congregation. As always, we invite you to join us at the school at any time.

Jill Mueller

3rd Grade News:

At the beginning of the semester, we welcomed our student teacher, Miss Gilliland, from Wayne State College. She loves to teach math and science. She is very interested in special education, too! Miss Gilliland has a bubbly personality and loves working with children. It is a joy to see her teach!

Pastor Schnare began a mission project with the children. We are collecting quarters for Ethiopia. For every \$5.00 that we collect, Lutheran Heritage Foundation will send a book to the Lutheran Schools in Ethiopia where books are desperately needed. Each child is collecting their quarters in an M&M tube. The kids eat the M&M's first and return the full tube back to school. What a fun way to help other children!

National Lutheran Schools Week was successfully celebrated the last week in January. Did you know that there are 1,950 Lutheran schools? Our schools provide a nurturing environment where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared daily. Thanks be to God for this opportunity to learn the faith!

It's an exciting time to be a third grader! Third graders have been busy reading *The Wind in the Willows* during reading class. They are memorizing 23 helping verbs and regularly continuing to classify sentences. In our science lessons we have lately been studying the Ice Age and glaciers. Soon we will begin a unit on sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks.

We are collecting old markers as a project with Keep Alliance Beautiful. If you have any dried up markers at your home we would be happy to add them to our collection.

As always, we thank you for praying for the school. It is a wonderful place to learn about God's love for us!

dschnare.ielschool@gmail.com
Doce me semper adoro te.
Teach me always to adore you.



February Birthdays

2-2 - Zane Hinman
2-2 - Clint Kruckenberg
2-3 - Nancy Scherbarth
2-4 - Sandra Peterson
2-5 - Tanya Klinkerman
2-5 - Wyatt Walker
2-5 - Tanya Klinkerman
2-6 - Wiletta Dye
2-6 - Dion Gibson
2-6 - Kallista Vallejo
2-7 - Chris Camp
2-7 - JoElla Fritzler
2-7 - Connie Seidler
2-7 - Megan Odell
2-8 - Bill Boness
2-9 - Ayla Foster
2-10 - Tabetha Stanec

2-11 - Chris Romick
2-13 - John Lore
2-14 - Cassandra Williams
2-16 - Raquel Grant
2-16 - Darren McCune
2-18 - Jazlyn Hausmann
2-20 - Judy Dye
2-20 - Julie Jensen
2-20 - Alice Smith
2-23 - Payton Gomez
2-25 - William Ireland
2-25 - Bryce Vaughn
2-25 - Lucas Maynard

2-26 - Tonia Kruckenberg
2-26 - Diane Mitchell
2-27 - Mary Ring
2-27 - Darius Jensen
2-29 - Preston Pohlman



2-1 - Earl Bush
2-1 - Kathryn Barth
2-2 - Ida Mae Drabbels
2-3 - Whitney Hall
2-3 - Starla Schmidt
2-4 - Brady Behm
2-5 - Sheila Seidler
2-5 - Darleen Vogel
2-6 - Dani Bixby
2-6 - Lee Fritzler
2-6 - Clint Kruckenberg
2-8 - Andrew Shannon
2-10 - Amy Nielson

Baptisms

2-10 - Hunter Klinkerman
2-10 - Dahliah Pfeiffer
2-11 - Tabetha Stanec
2-11 - Karen Kelly
2-12 - Robyn Jensen
2-12 - Ford Swanson
2-12 - Asher Swanson
2-13 - Michael Eggink Jr.
2-13 - Rebecca Thomas
2-13 - BreAnna Holmes
2-14 - Jennifer Hinman

2-14 - Jody Meer
2-16 - Emma Freeze
2-17 - Jeffery Kaiser
2-17 - Mardella McFall
2-17 - Courtney Turner
2-19 - Casper Brixius
2-19 - Stephany Hausmann
2-20 - Michael Odell
2-21 - Lois Iossi
2-24 - Debra Neeley
2-25 - Chris Camp
2-26 - Bridger Mischnick
2-26 - Karena Soriano
2-28 - Jeffrey Heusman