

IMMANUEL SPEAKS
2022



Dear friends in Christ,

October is here, which means another changing of the seasons. Farmers will continue to harvest their crops, and many of us will begin raking leaves and doing extra lawn work as we prepare for winter. I think October is one of my favorite months of the year. Football is back, the New York Yankees begin another playoff push to win the World Series (sorry Twins fans), the weather is just right, and as a good German you get to celebrate Oktoberfest. October also happens to be one of the favorite months of the year for children. Who as a little kid wasn't excited about Halloween? Who wasn't excited to be able to dress up in costumes, head around town, and enjoy the sugar rush from all the candy they received from neighbors and community members?

However, there is one other event that excites me about the month of October. As we head towards the end of October we as a church will celebrate a special day in the church year. No, it isn't Halloween. Rather, it is Reformation Sunday. As we gather for worship on October 31st, 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. And this generosity is for all people. 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; we do not get eternal punishment for our sin. 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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Harold Goedgedrag, Jane Niemeyer, Andrea Prekker, Mike Pankratz, Ross Pederson, LuAnn Kruger, Michele Shubert, Pastor Joel, Kat Schwitters (Treasurer)

Absent: Jim Jaenisch, Isaac Gosseling

Devotions by Pastor Joel from Luke 15.

Meeting called to order by President LuAnn Kruger. The agenda was M/S/P.

Secretary's Report was reviewed and M/S/P.

Treasurer's Report: As of August 31, 2022 the checking account is \$83,438.02. Council discussed Portico Benefit Election for this coming year, decided to stay with Goldplus, it increased \$100.00 a month. M/S/P. \$10,000 was transferred from savings to checking August 12th to cover expenses. A check sent to New Directions (noisy offering) December 2020 and a check to Green Lake Ministry were not cashed so funds put back in general fund. M/S/P. Treasurer's Report M/S/P.

Committee Reports:

Property Management - Paul and Ross from Chappell Central are meeting with Ken Beyerl for discussion about HVAC at church. Larry Niemeyer met with Brian Pauling about railing in church courtyard.

Sunday School – October 3rd, children will be going to Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. Bus will leave at 8:00 a.m. from church and return to Immanuel at 3:30 p.m. A light lunch will be served.

Congregational Life – will be serving the meal for Gods Work Our Hands/Food for Kidz event. Planning a bonfire at Ken and Jan Beyerl's on Sunday, October 9th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Planning a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre on December 3rd at church.

Old Business:

LuAnn is working on the church signs.

LuAnn is working on lawn repair from the egress windows.

New Business:

Money Counters: October – Jane Niemeyer, Andrea Prekker
November - Harold Goedgedrag, Michele Shubert
December - Ross Pederson, LuAnn Kruger

Noisy Offering for October, November and December will go to Ridgewater Campus Ministry.

Ross Pederson is looking into solar garden for church.

God's Work Our Hands Food 4 Kidz packing event is looking for volunteers.

A committee was formed to interview applicants for the custodial position. Members are Mike Pankratz, LuAnn Kruger, and Tim Sabe.

No further business was offered.

Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m. Meeting was adjourned. M/S/P.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Shubert, Church Council Secretary

HAPPENINGS AT IMMANUEL

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL - from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 2nd. The menu is: lasagna, breadsticks, vegetable and dessert. 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!

FREE DAY AT PRAIRIE WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER – Monday, October 3rd from 8:00 – 3:30 p.m. This is for Pre-K through 6th grade. The bus leaves Immanuel at 8:00 a.m. and returns at 3:30 p.m. The hosts at Prairie Woods will help us look at bugs, mammals, birds, and even mountain climbing. Kids, please have a parent, grandparent, or adult accompany you, it is fun for them too! A light lunch is provided. Please dress to have fun and walk (preferably tennis shoes). Contact LuAnn Kruger to sign up (320)905-4195.

FAMILY FUN BONFIRE – on Sunday, October 9th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Ken and Jan Beyerl home in Clara City. We will have s'mores, roasted hotdogs, hot cocoa and warm apple cider. Bring your own lawn chairs. 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 OCTOBER 9TH! A celebration with cake and coffee will be held after the worship service, in the church basement. **Thank you Pastor Joel for all you do! For your guidance, kindness, humor and work too. We are blessed that you have truly touched each of our lives in so many different ways!**

QUILTING – has started up again for the fall/winter season. We meet every Tuesday, in the fellowship hall, at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and help!

COFFEE FOR GALS – meets every 4th Wednesday of the month. We meet in the fellowship hall for laughter, fellowship and treats, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 26th. Hope to see all of you there!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – is on Sunday, October 30 at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. A reception with cake, coffee, lemonade and water will be held in the fellowship hall afterwards. Come and celebrate with the newly confirmed members!!

JOY BIBLE STUDY – meets on Monday, October 10 at 1:30 p.m. This is a Women's Bible Study that meets once a month. Everyone is welcome to come and learn more about God's Word.

TRIBE MEMBERSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 2022

Below we have printed the Tribe Membership for November 2022. The chairperson will be calling you in the near future asking you to serve Immanuel in some way. Start thinking today what you can volunteer to help with ...oh, and please say yes! If everyone takes one job, the "needs" list will be filled. Thank you so much!

Gad Tribe

- Jerry and Colleen Andresen
- Charlene Bloch
- Harold and Megan Goedgedrag
- Gary and Lori Kruger
- Murlaine Rieger
- Keith and Sarah Rand
- Dwight and Jan Mulder
- Jeff and Cari Stager
- John and Kathy Fritz
- Doug and Jan Boike
- Marcia Hanson

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OFFERINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday, September 4	\$1260.00
Sunday, September 11	\$4042.00
Sunday, September 18	\$2672.99
Sunday, September 25	\$2090.00

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER

- Sunday, October 2 PowerPoint/Acolyte: Brielle Niesen
Lay Reader: Annette Rosen

- Sunday, October 9 PowerPoint /Acolyte: Emersyn Pederson
Lay Reader: Annette Rosen

- Sunday, October 16 PowerPoint/Acolyte: Kylie Prekker
Lay Reader: Cindy Meyer

- Sunday, October 23 PowerPoint/Acolyte: Kailee Rosendahl
Lay Reader: Michele Shubert

- Sunday, October 30 PowerPoint/Acolyte: Eva Swenson
Lay Reader: Duane Dieken

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR FOOD FOR KIDZ

Thank you to all the generous people who volunteered for Food for Kidz. You helped pack 41,904 meals!! This food will make a big impact as it is shared with children and families in Ukraine, Honduras and Haiti, as well as the Chippewa and Kandiyohi County food shelves. As volunteers from 5 to 92 worked joyfully side by side we saw God’s Work/Our Hands in action. We also appreciate all the financial support to purchase ingredients from Endowment, Lutheran men in Mission, Wome’s Group and Giving Tree tags. Tia and Bo Schwitters receive a special thanks for their very successful lemonade stand! And thank you to Congregational Life for preparing and serving the delicious noon meal, with financing from Thrivent.

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OPEN RADIO BROADCASTS FOR 2023

Listed below are the open radio broadcasts for the year of 2023. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast, please contact the church office at 847-2138 or stop in the church office, or talk to Kathy. The cost is \$100.00 for each broadcast. Thank you to all of you who have supported this outreach of Immanuel Lutheran Church!

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| January 1, 8, 15, 22 | July 2, 9, 23, 30 |
| February 5, 12, 19, 26 | August 6, 13, 20, 27 |
| March 5, 12 | September 3, 17, 24 |
| April 9, 23, 30 | October 8, 15, 22, 29 |
| May 21, 28 | November 5, 12, 19, 26 |
| June 4, 11, 18, 25 | December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 |

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SOLES FOR SOULS

The Clara City Lions are still taking shoes for Soles for Souls. Shoes of any type are accepted (even singles). They are put to good use all over the world. They also collect eye glasses. Boxes have been placed in the narthex for your donation of shoes and eye glasses.

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