



# Immanuel Lutheran Church

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## November 2024

### A Word from The Pastor

## Dear Friends in Christ,

### **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

We will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 3. The service will include a reading of the names of those the Lord called home this past year. Please let the office know by October 30 if you have a loved one outside of the congregation whom you would like included.

### **VOTERS MEETING**

Our Quarterly Voters Meeting will be November 3 at 10:30 AM. All confirmed members of Immanuel age 18 and over are voting members of the congregation. We will be adopting a budget for 2025 and hearing reports and recommendations from our boards and committees. Church Council meets October 29 at 7 PM.

### **WOMENS BIBLE STUDY**

A Bible Study for women meets Mondays at 6 PM in the education building. Check the calendar for the complete schedule. Each week is a different topic. Peggy Winter is the class leader.

### **WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS**

Our Wednesday Bible Class will be studying the shortest books of the Bible during November, 2nd and 3rd John. Anyone is welcome Wednesdays at 10 AM as we explore the message John gives us in these two short epistles.

### **YOUTH GATHERING**

The next LCMS Youth Gathering, held every three years, is July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans. The youth gathering is a once in a high school career opportunity for our youth to be with 20,000 other LCMS youth. Some of the best teachers, speakers and musicians in our church are involved in the youth gathering. Immanuel youth have been attending these gatherings for over 40 years. We have 18 youth and 5 adults who are registered to attend the Gathering. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare and fundraise to attend this event.

### **FOODSHELF COLLECTION**

Our youth are sponsoring a foodshelf collection. We will be collecting food from November 23 – December 1. On Sunday, November 24 our youth will be going around town collecting food. If you would like to make sure they stop at your house, let me know.

### **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER**

We will host the Community Thanksgiving Dinner again this year on November 28 at 11:30 AM. Please watch the bulletin or Independent for a list of food items that are needed. We will need help the days prior to Thanksgiving for food prep and help on Thanksgiving morning for serving food and for delivering meals to shut-ins. Everyone is welcome to come to this full Thanksgiving dinner with turkey, stuffing, pie and much more. Contact Gene Moske with any questions. If you know of anyone who would like their dinner delivered, contact the church office. Start Thanksgiving with worship and communion at 9 AM and stay for this special Thanksgiving community dinner.

### **ADVENT**

Advent begins December 1. We will have midweek advent services on December 4, 11 and 18 at 7 PM. We would like to have suppers at 6 PM on those Wednesdays. If you would be interested in organizing or helping with one of these meals, contact the church office.

### **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

We will have our children's service on Sunday, December 22 at 4 PM. We will have candlelight services at 3 and 5 PM on Christmas Eve. We will have a 9 AM service of Carols and Communion on Christmas Day.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Needed each month in 2024               | \$21,848.00 |
| September Offerings                     | \$18,619.00 |
| Oct. Offerings through Oct. 20          | \$11,752.14 |
| Offerings under budget through Sept. 30 | \$27,863.45 |

## God's Blessings,

## Pastor Kirk Lee

## **From the Vicar Joe's Desk (November 2024 Update)**

### **The Previous Month:**

- The Bible Studies on 1st John has been fun, and is in the process of getting close to being done and moving on to the next two letters that make up John's Epistle.
- Teaching the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation class continues to be fun and exciting. Heading into MEA break students were shown the movie "Luther" from 2003. I am excited to see what the students take aways are going to be.
- It was also fun visiting with Pastor Brady Finnern, the MN North District President, when he preached on LWML Sunday and took time to meet with Pastor Lee and myself.

### **The Current Month:**

- I am looking forward to participating in the Hunter's Service on November 7<sup>th</sup>, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Carlos, MN.
- I am about to start the meetings and interviews for Concordia Seminary's Call Process for Call Day 2025 (April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025).
- I am still working on, and will have to continue to work on, some of the work from the Seminary stuff. This will range from the Language Labs and some paperwork, to working out a Community Service Project as well.

### **Looking Forward:**

- I am really excited and looking forward to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. Not only is there great opportunities, food, and travel. It is also a great opportunity for us, especially the high schoolers, to see how much bigger the LCMS is and how we can all come together and work and worship together.
- I am waiting with anticipation for being able to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with family this year.

### **Bible Verse of the Month:**

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." – **1 Chronicles 16:34**

## November-December USHERING SCHEDULE

Following is the schedule for the next two months for ushering, greeting, and acolyting. Greeters will also help with the offering. A post card will be sent to you about 10 days ahead to remind you.

*If you cannot serve on your assigned time, please try to find someone to take your place. If that doesn't work, call Arvid Hoppe, 320-766-3904 or Byron Herdman, 701-371-5139 the co-head ushers, if you are scheduled for Sunday or midweek; or the church office, if you are scheduled for Saturday.*

In order for these activities to work smoothly please be at church 30 minutes ahead of the beginning of service. Arvid or Byron will explain the procedure to you for Sundays and midweek services, Pastor for Saturdays. Thank you!

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>USHER</u> | <u>GREETER</u> | <u>ACOLYTE</u> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|

### NOVEMBER

|                 |  |                         |                  |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| 2               | Grant & Nicole Betterman Family              |                         | Averyana Hammack |
| 3               | Brandon & Kim Crawford Family                | Dennis & Jeanette Bast  | Ryker Porter     |
| 9               | Carol Klimek, Marilyn Johnson                |                         | Annabelle Koehn  |
| 10              | Matt & Nancy Erwin Family                    | Bryce & Becky Cook      | Aaron Vogt       |
| 16              | Peter & Sonya Finbraaten Family              |                         | Braedyn Tvrdik   |
| 17              | Brad & Samantha Warzecha Family, Jeff Riedel |                         | Sophia Warzecha  |
| 23              | Todd & Heidi Lucht Family                    |                         | Sophia Gibson    |
| 24              | Dustin & Sheila Schilling Family             | Rich & Nancy Knutson    | Luke Schilling   |
| 28 (Thursday 9) | Donnie & Karla Kalpin                        | Leon & Cindy Wunderlich | Ryker Springer   |
| 30              | Greg & Joyce Iverson                         |                         | Tannen Stephan   |

### DECEMBER

|                |                                 |                                 |                   |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1              | Gale & Becky Iverson            | David & Stacey Moske            | Gage Rud          |
| 4 (Wed 7 PM)   | Greg & Tammy Larson             | Corey & Holly Wendland          | Nolan Wendland    |
| 7              | Steve & Christina Martinson     |                                 | Reagan Pexsa      |
| 8              | Justin & Samantha Newberg       | Jason Schroeder                 | Karson Schroeder  |
| 11 (Wed 7 PM)  | Michael & Teresa Harstad Family | Shane & Molly Pauly             | Billy Bastyr      |
| 14             | Jeff & Nicole Meissner Family   |                                 | Elliana Hammack   |
| 15             | Kevin & Sherry Wendt            | Dar & Franchesca Grattan Family | Alexzander Castro |
| 18 (Wed 7 PM)  | Holly Downing                   | Paul & Hannah Downing           | Madisyn Fahlin    |
| 21             | Joyce Malmgren                  |                                 | Kaitlyn O'Brien   |
| 22 (9 AM)      | Rhonda Pooler                   | Chad & Heidi DeBoer Family      | Aiden Moran       |
| 22 (4 PM)      | John & Linda Barrows            | Alan & Darcy Peppersack         | Tenley Westad     |
| 24 (3 PM)      | Matt & Nancy Erwin              | Lynn & Bonnie Adam              | Sophia Gibson     |
| 24 (5 PM)      | Tony & Tonya Woodworth          | Tom & Bobbie Duberowski         | Tannen Stephan    |
| 25 (9 AM)      | Dennis & JoAnn Stende           | Tiffany Springer Family         | Kellen O'Brien    |
| 28             | Jesse & Mindy Meissner Family   |                                 | Katie Pexsa       |
| 29             | Josh & Alexandra Wilde          | Scott & Ashley Iverson Family   | Antonio Castro    |
| 31 (Tues 7 PM) | Tom Wilke                       |                                 | Braedyn Tvrdik    |

## November Anniversaries

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Ray & Dawn Stach          | 11-1-1980  |
| Dustin & Sheila Schilling | 11-15-2003 |
| Glenn & Christina Dodds   | 11/18/1995 |
| Steve & Sheila Thoennes   | 11-20-2020 |
| Carl & Lori Henning       | 11-29-1980 |

## November Birthdays

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Payton Rud        | 11-2  |
| Isaiah Jensen     | 11-3  |
| Janell Woodbridge | 11-3  |
| Lynn Adam         | 11-4  |
| Palmer Wagner     | 11-4  |
| Kari McDaniel     | 11-5  |
| Jane Rowe         | 11-5  |
| Jack Hanson       | 11-6  |
| Dan Moske         | 11-6  |
| Aiden Stewart     | 11-6  |
| Keisha Bertram    | 11-7  |
| Dustin Nordlund   | 11-7  |
| Cindy Petricca    | 11-7  |
| Sylvia Skrogstad  | 11-7  |
| Sheena Smith      | 11-7  |
| Mitchell Bullick  | 11-8  |
| Diane Koep        | 11-8  |
| Travis Koep       | 11-8  |
| James Bertram     | 11-9  |
| Adrianna Marotto  | 11-9  |
| Brianna Ratajesak | 11-9  |
| Colin Turchin     | 11-10 |
| Peggy Winter      | 11-10 |
| Tracy Riedel      | 11-12 |
| Shane Pauly       | 11-13 |
| Richard Brenner   | 11-14 |
| Beau Knapp        | 11-14 |
| Connor Lausten    | 11-14 |
| Payton Moe        | 11-14 |
| Lillie Rathcke    | 11-15 |
| Nathan Settle     | 11-15 |
| Josephine Newberg | 11-16 |
| Isaac Olson       | 11-16 |
| Jack Quitmeyer    | 11-16 |

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Kathy Capler       | 11-18 |
| AJ Woodworth       | 11-18 |
| Kevin Moske        | 11-19 |
| Elizabeth Westfall | 11-19 |
| Karen Leonard      | 11-20 |
| Ashley Wendland    | 11-20 |
| Kayla Duberowski   | 11-21 |
| Kolt Barrows       | 11-22 |
| Elizabeth Harstad  | 11-22 |
| Craig Marotto      | 11-22 |
| Connie Nordlund    | 11-22 |
| Zakkary Jahnke     | 11-24 |
| Carol Larson       | 11-24 |
| Travis Riedel      | 11-24 |
| Krew Rud           | 11-24 |
| Shelby Sowers      | 11-24 |
| Grant Bettermann   | 11-25 |
| Joanne Carter      | 11-25 |
| Remmington Lammler | 11-25 |
| Melanie Vanderwal  | 11-25 |
| Sylvia Iverson     | 11-26 |
| Darrian Hahn       | 11-26 |
| Tabitha Rutten     | 11-26 |
| Cheryl Scott       | 11-26 |
| Sherryl Suchy      | 11-26 |
| Allison Wendt      | 11-26 |
| Ella Westad        | 11-26 |
| Michael Ahlers     | 11-27 |
| Madison Hansen     | 11-29 |
| Page Kinzle        | 11-29 |
| Alannah Korkowski  | 11-29 |
| Riley Thoennes     | 11-29 |
| Isabella Woodworth | 11-29 |
| Donna Zimmerman    | 11-29 |
| Cheri Dodds        | 11-30 |
| Lori Johnson       | 11-30 |
| Briggs Iverson     | 11-30 |
| Ivy McKane         | 11-30 |
| Geneva Paulson     | 11-30 |
| Jeff Riedel        | 11-30 |

*If your November birthday or anniversary is not listed, please inform the church office.*

Christ Lutheran Church  
P. O. Box 39  
Elkhart, KS 67950  
September 27, 2024 (Friday of Trinity XVII)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
P. O. Box 66  
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Immanuel,

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father. [1 Thessalonians 1:1b-3]*

Please forgive the tardiness of my response; my bride Tanya and I deeply appreciate your remembering us this past spring with your generous gift of \$1,000 as she recovered from double-lung transplant surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. We thank you also for your well wishes for her through cards, texts, emails, and notes through Facebook and Messenger. They mean more to us than you can possibly know.

To update you on her progress and recovery, she has done very well and is only on a low level of supplemental oxygen. The doctors at the Mayo Clinic are confident that she will be successfully weaned off that in the near future and will only need room air for breathing. I have accepted a call to southwestern Kansas, where the elevation is 3,400 feet, as opposed to 5,000 feet in Tooele; this will help Tanya's breathing immensely. In addition, we will be closer to family, only seven hours from Tanya's father (Nebraska) and eight from my mother (Missouri).

On a personal note, when we received your check, I was grateful to the point of tears, overwhelmed by your care and compassion. It served as a clear reminder to me of the love you showed me when I was your vicar nearly a quarter-century ago. I am also reminded by the good number of friends I have on Facebook who are or have been members of Immanuel stemming from my time among you. You and Pastor Lee have demonstrated time and time again that Immanuel is a great place to be a vicar; to God alone belongs the glory. I have maintained since then that my vicarage at Immanuel was by far the best year of my life, and I have called Parkers Prairie my adopted hometown. That said, it is time that I make my return there, and, Lord willing, I plan to do that within the next year. I look forward to seeing you again.

As I mentioned, I have accepted the divine call to serve Christ Lutheran Church, Elkhart, Kansas, as pastor. My installation, if the Lord wills it, will be Sunday, October 6, at 4 pm. We are hoping to livestream at least the installation part of the service. Tanya and I ask for your continued prayers, for her continued recovery, for our move to Kansas, and my upcoming ministry there.

Thank you all for your support, care, compassion, prayers, and love. I love you, and I wish you God's peace.

In Christ,



The Rev. Pr. Mark A. Schlamann  
Pastor-elect, Christ Lutheran Church  
Vicar, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1999-2000



## SUMMER IN PUERTO RICO

### FAMILY DAY'S IN PONCE

During the summer, Iglesia Luterana Fuente de Vida, our congregation in Ponce has hosted "Family Days" as a way to gather in fellowship. At each event different members of the congregation take turns leading games and crafts and making some wonderful food. At the family event in June, I led facepainting.



### JUNE SHORT TERM TEAM SPOTLIGHT

From June 11th to 18th, we hosted a short-term group of volunteers from St. John's Lutheran Church, Arnold MO. The group of youth and adults helped in many ways at all three of our congregations. At Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz in Mayaguez, they helped organize and paint many rooms, hand out flyers in the Plaza to invite people to church, cooked a meal for the congregation during our Wednesday night fellowship time, and helped Missionary Ruth Maita with the end of the semester party for our English classes.



At Iglesia Luterana Fuente de Vida, in Ponce, they helped lead a craft workshop and then cleaned and painted various spaces around the church in the afternoon. At Iglesia Luterana Cordero de Dios in the San Juan metro area, they handed out flyers to promote a family day that the congregation will have at a park in July and had fellowship time with the new congregation.

This group was wonderful, and we thank God for their servant hearts and hard work during the hot summer heat. Thank you for coming back for a second summer in a row.



### PUERTO RICAN LUTHERANS 4 LIFE

In June, Church member Daniela and I took courses through [Youth for Life](#) part of Lutherans for Life, a registered service organization of the LCMS so that we can be leaders and begin a Lutheran's for Life, Youth for Life team here in Puerto Rico. Our team will be leading the congregations in life education activities with young adults and promoting our life in Christ with all the congregations.



**JOIN!**

**PUERTO RICAN**  
*Lutherans 4Life*

PRL4L EDUCATES AND EQUIPS OUR COMMUNITY TO BECOME GOSPEL-MOTIVATED VOICES FOR LIFE, DRIVEN BY THE BELIEF THAT MANKIND'S REDEMPTION, PAID FOR BY CHRIST ON THE CROSS, MAKES EVERY HUMAN LIFE INVALUABLE.

@PRLUTHERANSALIFE

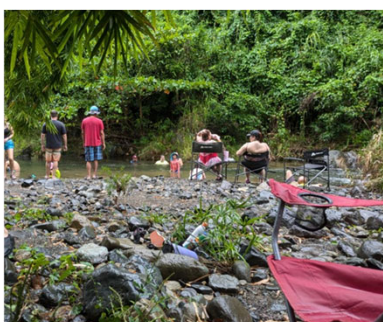


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## SHARING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS THROUGH SUMMER CLASSES

Summertime in Puerto Rico doesn't just mean the temperature has changed to hot, but everyone's daily schedules have changed as well. Schools have switched to a summer schedule including make up classes, day camps and tutoring. We too have changed our schedule to accommodate.

At Iglesia Luterana Fuente de Vida in Ponce, there are three children/youth who are members, who have an interest in learning guitar. The hope is that they can eventually play in the church services. The classes started with Pastor James leading some basic techniques but really hoping to have a music teacher lead the class. Around that same time, we connected again with an ESL student who had taken English classes from William and Ruth over the past several years. Her dad who she had been caring for in her retirement had recently passed away. The pastors had an opportunity to reach out to her and give her care during this very difficult time. During these conversations she expressed her desire to teach music and asked about the current classes being offered. Fast forward (again) to now, and she is volunteering and teaching guitar lessons twice a week for the children of the church for the Summer. We don't know how the Holy Spirit is using the connections we make; we continue to faithfully serve where He leads.



## MOVING BIBLE STUDY OUTSIDE TO THE RIVER

Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz, Mayaguez, has expanded our location for Bible study and fellowship to the river! At least one Sunday a month after Divine Service, the members and friends of the congregation head to a nearby river where they have Bible study, eat, and enjoy one another's company! This time in God's creation has been a great opportunity to bring guests to hear the Word of God as well as a time for members to spend time together as a family of God.

## July Short Term Team Spotlight

In July we had a short-term team of youth from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lakeland, Florida come to support the mission work here in Puerto Rico at all three of our mission sites. On Wednesday, they made the supper for the congregation in Mayaguez at our fellowship and bible study time. On Thursday, they helped in Ponce with many different mercy projects. On Friday, they supported our family and children's outreach in Mayaguez through a drama about Jesus calming the storm, as well as leading a game and helping with the craft. On Saturday they helped lead an outreach in the park with the church members in the San Juan metro area, where they performed their drama again. What a blessing this team was for the mission of Puerto Rico.





## PERSONAL UPDATE FROM THE SUMMER

In June, I moved temporarily to Ponce, and lived at Pastor Adam Lehman's house to take care of his family dog while they were away on reconnect back in the United States. As a fun surprise for their return, I hid 60 mini-Jesus figurines around their house as a reminder that Jesus is with you wherever you go. They found one I had hidden in a tool kit on a stressful week that they had to fix a few things around their house. They were thankful to have Jesus with them during this time. They now say when I go on reconnect in September the Jesus figurines will be hidden in my house. We will have to wait and see.

In July, I officially began my deaconess studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Most of my classes during the program will be online done from Puerto Rico. However twice a year for the two years of the program in January and July, I get to attend in person intensive classes at the campus in Fort Wayne. I completed by first set of intensive class in July.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- My deaconess classes.
- The continuation of our summer classes into the fall.
- The start of our Puerto Rican's Lutheran's for Life group.

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The short-term team of volunteers from St. John's Arnold, MO.
- The short-term team of volunteers from St. Paul's Lakeland, FL
- The marriage of Courtney and Grant.
- The safe return of the Lehman family to Puerto Rico

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

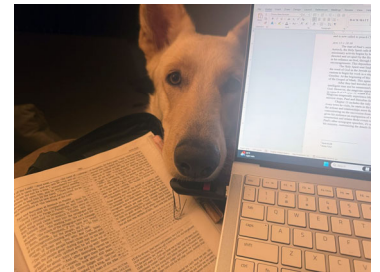
- The many congregations and individuals who pray, encourage, and support us in the work we are for the Lord in Puerto Rico.



On the way back to Puerto Rico, timing worked out well that I was able to spend the weekend in St. Louis for my friend Courtney's wedding. Where I got to reconnect with many past missionaries that served in Latin America with me.



## RANDOM PICTURES FROM THE SUMMER



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

You can continue to support my work by giving online to <https://www.lcms.org/lehr> or

A check can be made payable to the LCMS with ASHLEY LEHR in the memo to:  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Adopt me as your missionary by visiting <https://missioncentral.us/lehr/>

A check can be made out to **Mission Central** with "A10899-69467" in the memo and sent to:  
Mission Central  
40718 Highway E 16  
Mapleton, IA 51034



# Gathering the Faithful in Japan

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s only missionary in Japan seeks to bring together faithful Lutherans scattered around the country.

Story by Megan K. Mertz | Photography by Erik M. Lunsford | Fall 2024

*“[Jesus prayed,] ‘Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. ... But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.’” (John 17:11, 13)*

One by one, worshipers arrived at the Lutheran church in Shinjuku, Tokyo. After removing their shoes and donning the supplied slippers, they took their seats in the small sanctuary. Some had traveled over two hours to gather for worship led by the Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, who is currently the only missionary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) serving in Japan.

The church is located in the lower level of an apartment building. From this modest space, three Lutheran pastors — one American and two Japanese — serve people from a variety of backgrounds.

On a Sunday in May, attendees of the English service included an English teacher from Fort Wayne, Ind.; an exchange student from Sacramento, Calif.; a new Lutheran convert from San Diego and his Japanese wife; a Japanese man who works as a lecturer at a local university; and a Japanese woman who lives in Booneville, Mo., but travels back to Tokyo regularly to see her family.

All are grateful to find faithful Lutheran worship in an area like Shinjuku that is well connected by Japan’s extensive public transit system. In fact, more than 3 million people transit through Shinjuku Station each day, making it among the busiest in the world.

English teacher Ryan Huizing learned about the English service from his pastor in Fort Wayne. Huizing travels an hour by train to reach the church. “Why do I come? To worship Christ, of course,” he said. “To celebrate in a true LCMS fellowship in the way that I feel most comfortable and that I feel is the best way to glorify God. I am very blessed to be able to receive the Sacrament here.”

New converts Cacey and Moeko Barnett started attending the church after learning about Lutheranism online. They pass other churches on their two-hour drive, but they are drawn to the “biblically centered preaching in the Lutheran church,” according to Cacey.



CMS missionary Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram preaches during the English service at the Lutheran church in Shinjuku, Tokyo.



LCMS missionary Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram leads the English service at the Lutheran church in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

## ‘Something That Only God Could Arrange’

Jastram’s enthusiasm for his work is clear in every interaction. Born in Shibata, Japan, he spent the first 19 years of his life in the country and speaks Japanese fluently. When his parents arrived in Japan in 1953, they joined a group of about 35 LCMS missionaries there. His father served a house church, while his mother taught English lessons and cooking classes.

At 19, Jastram came to the United States for college and seminary, and he later took a call to St. Paul, Minn. Early on, he hoped that he might be sent to teach at a fledgling seminary somewhere in the world. But that wasn’t part of God’s plan.

It came as quite a surprise 40 years later when an unexpected encounter at an LCMS convention resulted in a phone call asking if he’d be interested in returning to Japan as a missionary.

“When a call came [from the LCMS Board for International Mission], I took a week to discuss it with my congregation and explain that to receive a call to mission work in Japan is something that only God could arrange,” Jastram recalled. Both his wife, Joan, and the congregation immediately recognized that he was uniquely suited for this role.

When Jastram returned “home” to Japan in 2016, he knew that the Synod’s relationship with the Japan Lutheran Church (JLC) was rocky. The JLC had long been debating women’s ordination and practicing open Communion. But Jastram soon saw that the situation was further along than Synod leadership had realized — a fact that was finally officially confirmed at the 2023 LCMS convention, when delegates recognized that fellowship with the JLC had been broken by false doctrine and practice.

Upon this realization, Jastram shifted the direction of his work. His top priority became “to establish faithful Lutheran worship. That’s why I started worshiping in my home, to make sure there was faithful Lutheran worship in English.” He also began forming relationships with a handful of Lutheran pastors who were either working independently or who were connected to other mission groups.

One of those is the Rev. Kiyoshi Taguchi, a second-generation Lutheran pastor whom Jastram met through mutual contacts at the Synod’s seminaries. The two men found that they had the same goal of providing essential Lutheran texts in the Japanese language, so Jastram asked Taguchi to assist the LCMS in this work. In nearly four years, Taguchi has completed seven significant translation projects, including C.F.W. Walther’s *The Church and the Office of the Ministry* and the Synod’s recent booklet *Women’s Ordination through the Lens of the Apostles’ Creed*.

When asked about this work, Taguchi shared that he loves digging deeply into theology and wants to share these resources with other Japanese speakers.

## A Partnership in Niigata

Jastram also stays in regular contact with the Rev. Manabu and Michiko Wakabayashi, the force behind Kobari Evangelical Lutheran Church in Niigata City, an area several hours from Tokyo.

Wakabayashi took an unusual path to Christianity. When he was about 40 years old, he met a foreign missionary through a shared appreciation for the music of J.S. Bach. The woman insisted, “You should become a Christian,” so he started attending church and later was brought to faith through the work of the Holy Spirit. Soon after, he met Michiko, and she began attending church with him so they could spend time together on her only day off from work each week.

When Wakabayashi was in his 60s, he underwent heart surgery. The surgery was successful, and in thanksgiving to God Wakabayashi decided to become a pastor. He was interested in confessional Lutheran theology and found his way to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, where his family lived from 1996 to 2002.

He later returned to Japan and served in the JLC, until mutually agreeing to separate several years ago. Thanks to his pension from his previous career as an engineer, he is now able to fund his ministry independently.



The Rev. Manabu Wakabayashi,  
pastor of Kobari Evangelical Lutheran  
Church, Niigata, Japan

Exterior view of Kobari Evangelical  
Lutheran Church, Niigata, Japan



Kobari exists in a unique position as a “sister congregation” of the LCMS. Each week, the Wakabayashis receive the Sunday bulletin from Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, and translate it into Japanese. For the last few years, they also have worked on a monumental undertaking: translating all the Introits into Japanese and setting them to music. Once complete, this collection will be a one-of-a-kind resource for those looking for traditional Lutheran worship in the Japanese language.

“The reason why we want to chant the Introit is because it gives us a worship atmosphere,” Wakabayashi said. “So, we continue to translate it into Japanese and use it every Sunday.”

In late May, Kobari hosted a theological conference attended by 24 pastors and laypeople from the various confessional Lutheran groups in the country. “Not only did the presentations strengthen a solid foundation for ministry with their teaching from Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, but the conference itself gathered together pastors and laypeople from different church backgrounds not currently in altar and pulpit fellowship but who have mutual goodwill and a goal of learning about each other as brothers,” Jastram wrote in his May-June newsletter.

## Care for Military Members

Jastram’s focus on providing faithful Lutheran worship also takes him to Yokosuka, Japan, once a month. There, he leads worship for a small group of Lutherans at the American naval base, while Joan accompanies on the piano.

On May 11, Katie Terjesen brought her five children to the service. Her husband, Commander Steven Terjesen, serves on a U.S. Navy destroyer and was deployed with his ship that week.





LCMS missionary Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram distributes the Sacrament during a Divine Service at the American naval base in Yokosuka, Japan.

A view of the American naval base in Yokosuka, Japan.



The Lutheran service at the American naval base in Yokosuka, Japan.

“We feel beyond grateful and blessed that we have this opportunity [to attend an LCMS service] over here. We came over expecting absolutely nothing,” said Katie Terjesen. This is the family’s seventh move, so she’s grateful to be able to provide some continuity in church attendance for her children.

While most of those who attend the Lutheran service will eventually move on, Edward Robinson III, a retired U.S. diplomat and Navy commander, plans to stay in the area for the long haul. He’s not yet a confirmed member, but he attends worship regularly and loves Jastram’s preaching and teaching.

“He really preaches the Gospel,” Robinson said after the service. “He’s a real theologian. He asks difficult questions. He’s always putting me on the spot and challenging me.”

In addition to Yokosuka, Jastram has recently been asked to add Guam to his regular rotation so that he can provide pastoral care to a handful of Lutherans stationed there.

The groups that gather may be small, but Jastram never stops preaching, teaching and trying to build up Lutheranism in the country. “There’s only one Christian church throughout the entire world: all those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin through His death and resurrection,” Jastram reminded his listeners in his sermon for the week. “Jesus prays to the Father that we may be one, and that we could have His joy every day of our lives.”





## MEET THE WOOD FAMILY

Matthew, Kali, Laurel, Eleanor, Caroline, and Kermit serve in Medan, Indonesia with LCMS International. Matthew supports *The Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI)*, by mentoring pastors, providing continuing education, and managing mercy and translation projects.

GIVE NOW &

KEEP US IN INDONESIA!

SCAN BELOW



OR TEXT

'LCMSWOOD' TO 41-444

OR MAIL IN A CHECK

Payable to:

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

P.O. Box 66861

Saint Louis, MO 63166-6861

On the memo line include:

Wood-Indonesia

## TRAVEL, TEACH, REPEAT



Group picture at the GKLI Sinode Agung XXXI

It has been a whirlwind of activity since our last newsletter! Matthew hosted two workshops, presented at the GKLI Sinode, attended regional meetings in Chiayi, Taiwan, and began exploring the possibilities of beginning an LCMS non-profit foundation in Indonesia. The whole family had the opportunity to take a vacation together in early August. Kali and the kids, after enjoying a summer of rest, have begun the school year.

graciously invited to lead Matins in the morning, preach once, and lead a Bible study on the Beatitudes. The meetings were attended by about 300 pastors, elders, evangelists, and teachers of the GKLI.

### Workshops

Over the last year and a half I have been traveling around Sumatra doing workshops on Church and Ministry. The last two destinations took me off of Sumatra as I traveled to the Mentawai Islands (a chain of islands off the west coast of Sumatra) and the island of Batam (an Island just south of Singapore). These are probably the last of our workshops on Church and Ministry. I am waiting for the GKLI to select a new topic and I'll begin another series of regional workshops.



Chatting with Bishop Jon Albert (right) and Pastor Eben Ezer (left) during a coffee break.

### Asia Region Workgroup

During the first week of September I met with LCMS workers deployed in Asia at the regional headquarters in Chiayi, Taiwan. I first met with a core leadership team to discuss the vision and strategy for our work in Indonesia. We had a good conversation and I think we are moving in an excellent direction with the full support of our leadership. The rest of the week focused on a serious study of the Augsburg Confession. As I have personally and publicly bound myself the Augsburg Confession because of its faithful teaching, it is important to regularly return to it with peers and colleagues. This particular study focused on Church and Ministry, of all topics. It was a good opportunity to reflect on what I have been teaching over the last year and a half and see that I'm still a confessional Lutheran!



Group picture at the Mentawai workshop

### GKLI Sinode

Late in August all GKLI pastors and elders met together in Tarutung to worship together, study the Scriptures, and receive reports from leadership on the condition of the GKLI. I was



## PRAYERS

### SUPPLICATION

- That the Indonesian Hymnal would be printed in time for the November pastors' conference.
- The upcoming pastors' meeting and LCMS Church Relations visit, Nov 13-17. That the Lord would bless the meeting and bring the LCMS and GKLI closer to Altar and Pulpit Fellowship.
- For Matthew's upcoming travel to Taiwan and Japan to strategize with colleagues on how to realize the goals of LCMS OIM in Asia.
- For the beginning of another homeschool year, that the Lord would bless Kali and the children as they teach and learn.

### THANKSGIVING

- For all the work put into the Indonesian Hymnal and finally sending it to the
- The continued support of this ministry from our partners in the US.
- For God's protection upon all the travel over the last three months.



To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter write to:

**Matthew.Wood@lcms.org**

with ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

## FAMILY UPDATE



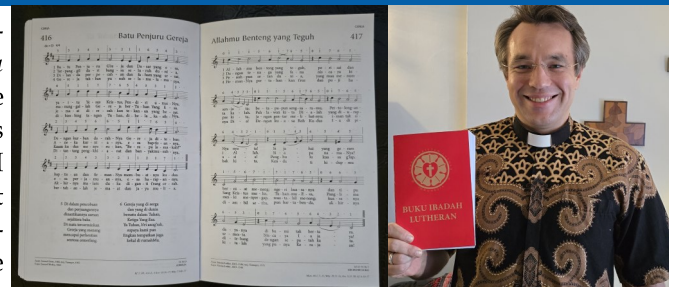
The family had a great summer and early fall. After the home school year was finished, Matthew's PhD course work was completed, and workshops in Mentawai and Batam had taken place, the family took an opportunity for a much needed vacation. It was a wonderful



week and a half with nothing on our minds but the time we were spending together. It was an important time of refreshment and reinvigoration to get us going for the upcoming school year and work commitments. Now Laurel is in 6th grade, Eleanor is in 2nd grade, Caroline is in Kindergarten, and Kermit is building his vocabulary with his favorite question, which he asks about 1,000 times every day, "What's that?" Once he figures out what 'that' is he runs to show off his new vocabulary to everyone else in the family.

## BIL SENT TO PRINTER

I am proud to announce that the *Buku Ibadah Lutheran* (AKA the Indonesian Hymnal) has been sent to the printer. I have received the first hard copy proof and given the green light for the first 200 copies to be printed.



This project was first conceived by LCMS workers in Jakarta ten years ago! Since its conception the LCMS has changed strategies in Indonesia, choosing to work closely with the GKLI rather than establish a new and independent church body. Our work with the GKLI necessitated that we reassess what the hymnal was going to look like and involve GKLI leadership in the process of its compilation. Then there was the pandemic which must not be named.

Through it all, hard work has paid off, the delays are over, and we have a tangible result. The BIL is coming hot off the presses in a matter of weeks.

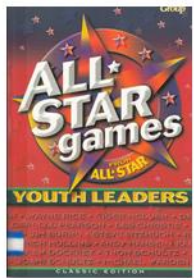
This initial printing of 200 copies will be distributed to Pastors, Evangelists, and congregational teachers at the upcoming pastors conference. They will be given time to review, ask questions, and provide feedback. Based on what we hear we will make minor adjustments for the second printing and release it to a broader audience.



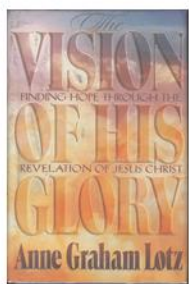
# From Our Library–Nov.–2024



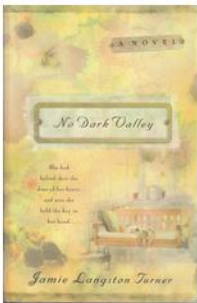
**Already gone** (Why your kids will quit church and what you can do to stop it.) Look around in your church today, where are the young people? Some in the church are already gone in their hearts. We are losing our kids in elementary, middle school and high school rather than college. The “Sunday school syndrome” is contributing to the epidemic rather than helping it. An alarming wake-up call for the church—our Christian education is failing and our children are paying the price. We can make a difference today that will affect tomorrow.



**All Star games** from youth Leaders. These are the all-time favorite games of the youth leaders and include: icebreakers, Mixers, cooperative games, competitive games, off-the-wall games and games that make a point and Event games. See tricks for finding the best way to turn a good game into a GREAT game. Code: blue 790 Gro.



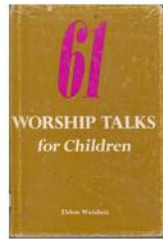
**The Vision of His Glory** by Anne Graham Lotz. Has your life taken an unexpected turn? Have you had to face tragedy? Is there Hope? The book of Revelation written by apostle John, answers with a resounding YES. If you started to read Revelation, but lost your way or grew weary of numerical symbolism, let her guide you to a new understand of the vision of Christ’s Glory. Code: blue 228 Lot



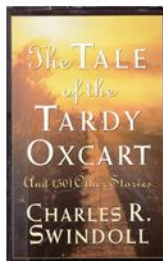
**No Dark Valley** by Jamie Langston Turner. Beyond the remorse, forgiveness beckoned. Bruce is struggling guilt over his past & Celia wants nothing to do with this neighbor of hers. But God has better plans. Code: White Tur



**Refuge** by Liane I. Brown. A true story of steadfast faith amidst the horror of Russian occupation. In this book Liane Guddat Brown recounts 16 month of her life as a young German girl under Russian occupation in an area that is now part of Poland. Little is told about the people of Germany, who lost the war twice. The villagers, grandparents, wives and the children who had little more control over their future than did the victims of the concentration camps. Code: Biography (Green) Lia



**61 Worship talks for children** by Eldon Weisheit. Build memorable picture ideas with brief 3-5 min. action talks. Related objects are not just to be looked at, but should be seen in action. Used for children’s worship service, Sunday School devotion or hospital visit with a child. Code: Blue 268.4 Wei

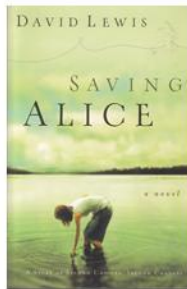


**The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart & 1501 other stories** by Charles Swindall. Do you need a perfect story or anecdote to hook listeners or readers or to make your points tick? This is Mr. Swindoll’s lifetime collection, organized by topics and cross referenced by Acceptance, Communication, Future & Giving. Code: Blue 808.37 Swi.



**Take Courage** by Matthew C. Harrison. “Encouraging words for discouraging times.” Take courage. Jesus, who has overcome the world, is for you—for your good. In Him is courage. Code: Blue 248 Har

## Inspirational Fiction

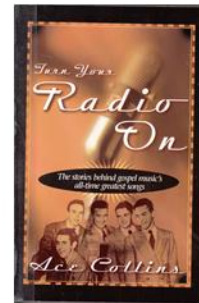


**Saving Alice**, by David Lewis. (A story of 2nd choices, 2nd chances.) Early in life, Stephen decided he was not going to be like his loser Dad. Everything good, then the gradual downward spiral began slowly that even Stephen didn’t notice as his life started to spin out of control. Too late? Or was it? Code: white Lew

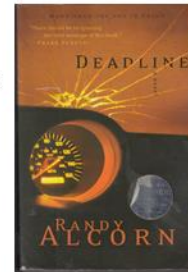
Going thru our library books—found some to encourage us to take a look at our values. Check out some ideas that might help us step up and share our faith.



**Speaking in Stories** by William R. White (Resources for Christian Storytellers.) We like a good story cause they give us joy, hope & visions. How can we learn to tell Christian stories, make them interesting? This book is full of practical ideas on how to begin, what to avoid and how to use stories in classrooms, camps churches. Code: Blue 268.6 Whi



**Turn your Radio On** (The stories behind gospel music’ all-time greatest songs) by Ace Collins. These are the fascinating stories behind Gospel’s most unforgettable songs inc: Amazing Grace, He Touched Me, I’ll fly away, Were you there? Find out what Bill Gaither tune was recorded by Elvis Presley, Which one during carriage ride thru Washington DC at on set of Civil War and more interesting facts. Code; Blue 264’.23 Col

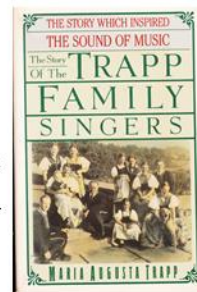


**Deadline** by Randy Alcorn. (His body hung suspended between two friends —His soul between two worlds.) Deadline is a dramatic & vivid novel of substance, filled with hope & perspective for every reader who longs to feel purpose in life. Great read. Code: white

In Every-thing—Give Thanks!



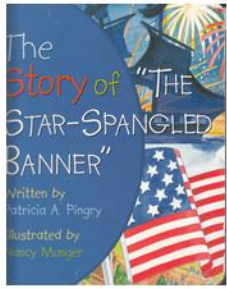
New to Library  
Thanks Brenda



**The Story of the Trapp Family Singers** (The story which inspired the Sound of Music.) by Maria Augusta Trapp. The Baroness, Mrs. Trapp since her American citizenship—tells her story simply & eloquently. Her devotion to her family, her resignation to the will of God—are evident. Code: Biography (Green) Tra



# LLLibrary—November 2024

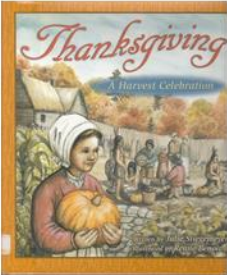


**The story of the star spangled banner** written by Patricia Pingry. In fewer than 200 words tells the story of how the words to our national anthem came to be written.. Toddlers will learn basic flag manners. Code yellow

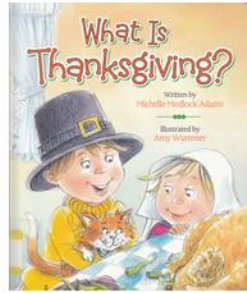


Give thanks to the Lord!

## THANK YOU JESUS!



**Thanksgiving (A Harvest Celebration)** by Julie Stiegemeyer. The 102 travelers left England for the Promise land, life was hard. At 1st harvest they celebrated to give thanks to God. Now, today we too, thank God for the



**What is Thanksgiving?** By Michelle Adams. A Board-book especially for younger kids. Is Thanksgiving about big parades, turkey dinners, football games NO—teach your kids that

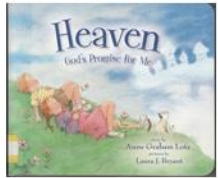
Thanksgiving is really about showing gratitude for all the blessings in our lives. Code: Yellow Ada



**Sunday School sing-a-long songs**— includes: The B-I-b-L-E, Deep & wide, This little light of mine etc. has lyrics, bright-colored graphics & high-energy motions for he whole family. **DVD** Code: yellow

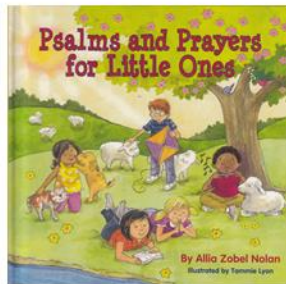
Music

blessings He gives especially he blessing of His Son, Jesus Christ. Give thanks everyday. Code: yellow Sti



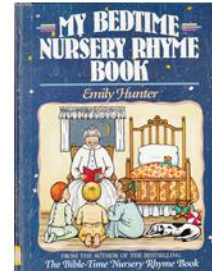
**Heaven** God's promise for me by Anne Graham Lotz. A beautiful boardbook to read with your

child & a prayer on the back for you and your children. Code: yellow Lot.



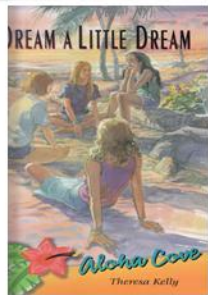
**Psalms and Prayers for Little Ones** by Allia Nolan. People of long ago had thoughts like you do. They wanted to tell God about happy days and what made them sad & questions about life. ..just like you do. After reading the Psalms, open

your Bible and discover even more to understand God as your amazing Creator & loving Shepherd. Code: yellow Nol



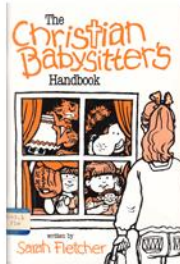
**My Bedtime Nursery Rhyme book** by Emily Hunter. Each nursery rhyme teaches that: God hears us

when we pray, God sees us wherever we go, God shows us we are loved. Code: yellow Hun



**Dream a little Dream** by Theresa Kelly Cass & Tabitha's high school years are coming to a close. As the two step-sisters look forward to graduation, they notice that their friends are struggling. In addition to

worrying about their friends they realize they are not exactly the best of friends. They ask. God to help them put away habits & attitudes. Youth Fiction from Concordia. Code: black Kel



**The Christian babysitter's Handbook** by Sarah Fletcher. If you are thinking of baby sitting or know someone who does—this is a great guide. She tells how to dress for first time meeting, what to ask parents, how to relate to the

kids, the discipline question and how to handle emergencies. As a CHRISTIAN you are actually doing honest-to-goodness Christian ministry & that brings rewards greater than \$\$.. From CPH. Code; Blue 649.1 Fle



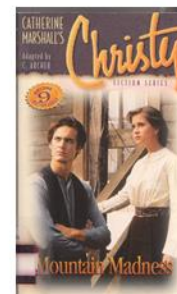
**The Secret in the Old Book** by Vicki Berger Erwin. Elizabeth Bryan Mysteries. Her life is changing, they are moving to another house. But things happen like hearing footsteps, a light is on in her room. Who is there? What is it? Ages 8-12. Code: black Erw



**A Horse of a Different Color** by Dandi Daley Mackall. Scoop is a business woman and is worried about taxes & money to cover new costs. When faced with possible loss of the stables, she gets caught up in a series of white lies which she later regrets. Ages 12-16. Youth Fiction Code: black Mac



**Home is where your Horse** is by Dandi Daley Mackall. No matter who her mother is, Sarah learns that her real home is where her heart is—with Aunt Dotty , her brother & her horse. And that God placed her there for a very good reason. Youth Fiction Age: 12 –16.. Code: black Mac



**Mountain Madness** based on Catherine Marshall's Christy. When Christ travels alone to a nearby mountain, she vows to discover the truth behind a terrifying legend of a strange mountain creature.

But what she finds at first seems worse than she ever imagined. Code: Black JR/TN Mar.



# NOVEMBER 2024

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
|   |  |   |   |  | <b>1</b>                                       | <b>2</b>   |
| Pastor Lee 338-5351<br>Church Office 338-2511<br>Charlie/Jodi Klimek, Cust. 338-2929<br>Vicar Joe 763-498-1393  | <b>The Lutheran Hour</b><br>WCCO Mpls 830 6:05 AM    KWAD Wadena 920/1430 8:30 AM<br>KXRA Alex 1490/100.3 6:30 AM    KFGO Fargo 790/94.1 7:30 AM<br>KWAD Wadena 920/1430 8:30 AM    KPRM Staples 94.7 9:30 AM<br>KMRS Morris 1230/107.7 12:30 PM |   |   |  | 4:00<br>Jirik/Herrman<br>Wedding @<br>Glenwood | 8:30 LWML Fall<br>Rally @ Villard<br><b>7:00 Worship<br/>w/Communion</b> |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b>                                       | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>9:00 Worship w/Communion,<br/>also Livestreamed</b><br>10:00 Coffee<br>10:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Voters Meeting<br>2:00 St William's<br>7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14 | 6 Women's<br>Bible Study<br>7:30 Dartball<br>@ Immanuel  | 9:00 Bible<br>Breakfast                                       | 10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom<br>3:30 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation<br>6:00 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation<br>6:30 ACT Class | 9:00 Footcare<br>1:00 LWML<br>2:00 Women's<br>Bible Study  |  | 1:30 Baptisms<br><b>7:00 Worship</b>                                     |
| <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>   | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b>                                      | <b>16</b>  |
| <b>9:00 Worship, also Livestreamed</b><br>10:00 Coffee<br>NO Sunday School<br>7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14   | 6 Women's<br>Bible Study   | 9:00 Bible<br>Breakfast                                       | 10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom<br>3:30 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation<br>6:00 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation<br>6:30 ACT Class |  | 1:00 Shoebox<br>Packing                        | <b>7:00 Worship<br/>w/Communion</b>                                      |
| <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b>                                      | <b>23</b>  |
| <b>9:00 Worship w/Communion,<br/>also Livestreamed</b><br>10:00 Coffee<br>10:30 Sunday School<br>7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14  | 6 Women's<br>Bible Study   | 8:30 Winkel<br>@ Zion, Alex<br>9:00 Bible<br>Breakfast        | 10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom<br>3:30 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation<br>6:00 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation<br>6:30 ACT Class |  |  | <b>7:00 Worship,</b>   |
| <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b>                                      | <b>30</b>  |
| <b>9:00 Worship, also Livestreamed</b><br>10:00 Coffee<br>10:30 Sunday School<br>2:00 JCT Foodshelf Hunt<br>7:00 Service on Cable Ch 14                                   | 6 Women's<br>Bible Study   | 9:00 Bible<br>Breakfast<br>11:00 St<br>William's<br>Communion | 10 Bible Class at Church & Zoom<br>NO Confirmation or ACT   | <b>9:00<br/>Thanksgiving<br/>Day Worship<br/>w/Communion</b><br>11:30<br>Community<br>Thanksgiving<br>Dinner | 5:00 ACT<br>Alexandria<br>Parade               | <b>7:00 Worship<br/>w/Communion</b>                                      |



# **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

**P.O. BOX 66—PARKERS PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 56361**

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Forwarding & Address Correction Requested



**Thanksgiving Worship**  
**Thursday, November 28 at 9 AM**  
**Followed by our Community Thanksgiving Dinner**  
**Serving 11:30-12:30**

