

Faith
is not hoping
God can
it is knowing
the Will

IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS OCTOBER 2023



ILCW ANNUAL HARVEST LUNCHEON & BAZAAR



Come and enjoy the annual ILCW Harvests Bazaar and Luncheon on **Wednesday, October 18**. Serving will be from 11:00-1:00. Carry-outs are available or you can dine in. Be sure to visit the bake sale, Country Store, and check out the beautiful quilts made by our ladies. Don't forget to bring baked items, other goodies, crafts etc. for the Country Store. This is your opportunity to support our major fund raising event.. All profits from this event go toward various mission projects that ILC women support. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**

There will be sign-up sheets before and after church for the traditional Apple Harvest cake (recipe available), and other needed food items. A monetary donation could also be made to purchase food items. For the cake there are bags of two cups chopped frozen apples in the freezer in the hallway by the kitchen. Thank you Joanne.

Tickets are \$12 . They can be purchased before and after church services, in the church office, from ILCW women, or at the door. If you have questions, contact Sandy Nelsen 755-7373. nelsen@harlannet.com

Lutheran Youth Organization LYO is a small fellowship group for members of Immanuel who are in high school or recent graduates of high school. We meet every Wednesday evening that school is in session for supper and an activity or conversation. The LYO planning team met in September and made plans for the next few months. We encourage all high school age youth to make plans to join us on as many weeks as possible. Here is our schedule:

October 4 LYO will have a 6:30 p.m. bonfire and a good old game of GROG

October 10 (Tuesday) at 8:30 p.m. LYO will meet for an overnight lock-in at the church

October 18 at 6:30 p.m. LYO will have a conversation about why people dis religion

October 25 at 6:30 LYO will go to a pumpkin patch

November 1 at 6:30 LYO will go bowling

November 8 at 6:30 LYO will hold the LYOllympics


November 15 at 6:30 LYO will go to bonfire in a pasture

November 29 at 6:30 LYO will have another conversation about a hot topic of the day

December 6 at 6:30 LYO will have our Advent party with games and cookie baking

December 13 at 4 p.m. LYO will go to Omaha for an Escape Room and other fun

All our meetings will include sharing of highs and lows, encouragement, faith sharing, and prayer. We encourage all high school students to join us and friends are always welcome.



A WORD
FROM THE
PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have not been a big fan of preaching from the Old Testament. It is much easier to preach from the New Testament, and especially from the Gospels. A Christian sermon should clearly focus on Jesus and the New Testament makes that easy. But the Old Testament is the Bible that Jesus and the first generation of his followers used as they gave shape to our faith today. Before the gospels and the epistles of the New Testament were written, the Old Testament was the only Bible that was read and preached in the first-generation Church.

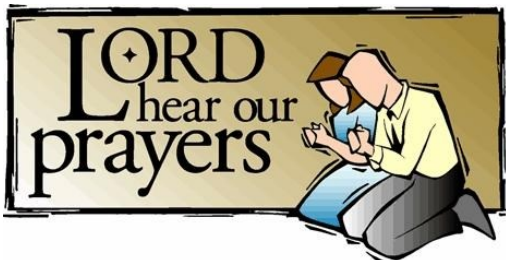
The Old Testament is not as accessible as the New Testament. It contains a great variety of genres of literature. It is filled with fascinating stories but also with boring laws and genealogies. Lutherans have always maintained that the Old Testament needs to be interpreted by the New Testament. Not everything in the Old Testament applies directly to us as Christians. The Old Testament is really a diagnosis of the human condition. We are hopeless idolaters. We are traitors to the Kingdom of God. The New Testament then gives us the remedy for our predicament: Jesus.

But even in the pages of the Old Testament, we can find signs and promises of Jesus. It is said that Martin Luther could find Jesus on every page of the Old Testament. That is probably an exaggeration. And yet, it is a good reminder of how to read the Old Testament. Too many preachers go to the Old Testament looking for role models and principles for our Christian lives today. There are no heroes and role models in the Old Testament. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians that the examples of the Old Testament are given to us so that we might find a better way.

There is only one hero in the Bible and that is Jesus. Everybody else is a sinner just like us. But the fact that God called and used the sinners of the Old Testament is a sign of hope for sinners like us.

This fall, I plan to preach a series of sermons based on the Old Testament. I would like to call this series: "Route 66: a Journey through the Bible". The Bible is a collection of 66 books that each give us a piece of the epic story of God's love for His people. So, we will travel along Route 66 by looking each week at a key passage from each of the first 12 books of the Bible. I hope that we can see how the books of the Old Testament all point us to Jesus.

Yours in Christ, **Phil Nielsen**



ON OUR PRAYER LIST: Lavon Christensen, Pam Jacobsen, Richard Daberkow, Lorene Thiede, Julie Vorm, Kayla Weis, Sandra Haney, Connie Benson, Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Shelia Mills), Wade Mills (son of Ed & Shelia Mills), Curt Olson (son of Sue Olson), Julie Duval.



Happy Belated Birthday to:

Pat Schug who turned 80 on September 26th

Happy Birthday to the following:

Philip Miller will be 80 on October 13.

Marilyn Anderson who will be 87 on October 28.

Happy Anniversary to the following:

Derald & Patti Kumm who will be celebrating their 69th anniversary on October 7.



ILCW

Mark your calendars!! The Ladies Christmas Program (Tea) will be **Saturday, December 2nd** at 10:00 A.M., in the Fellowship Hall. More information to come in the November newsletter.

We welcomed two little ones into the family of faith through the gift and call of Holy Baptism. On September 10, we baptized Jonah Alfred Weis, the son of Jason and Kayla Weis and brother to Emmet and Georgia. He was born May 19, 2023. His sponsors are all family members. On September 24, we baptized Ruth Ann Hoch, the daughter of Matt and Mary Hoch and sister to Hazel. She was born on October 23, 2022. Her sponsors are Buffy and Nathan Buresh.



Worship in October

September 30- October 1	“Called to Freedom” (Exodus 3)	Communion
October 7-8	“Called to Holiness” (Leviticus 19:1-4, 9-18)	
October 14-15	“Wilderness Wandering” (Numbers 21:4-9)	Communion
October 21-22	“Loving God” (Deuteronomy 6:4-12, 8:1-5)	
October 28-29 Reformation/Confirmation	“Be Strong and Courageous” (Joshua 1:1-9, 24:14-22)	Confirmation



WORSHIP SERVICES at Immanuel are streamed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ilcharlan) Sunday mornings. They are also recorded for viewing on HMU channel 15 (9:30 a.m. Sunday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday) and on FMCTC channel 48 (4:00 p.m. Wednesday). Our worship is also posted on www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html.



SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Church Council met September 12 with 12 of 13 members present. Eric Chipman led devotions. Vicki Strissel added an additional devotional message. October devotions will be led by Joey Hansen.

Treasurer: Income for August was \$22,747 and expenses were \$44,750 including a \$24,000 organ check. General fund is at \$76,962. Organ fund is at \$26,672. Building fund is at \$63,008.

Worship/Evangelism: The pipe organ has been removed and is expected back some time in December. Keith Menter has begun as our choir director. Still no director for the bell choir.

Fellowship/Education: We are reserving a week for VBS/Daycamp with Ingham-Okoboji for next July. JAM, GROW, Confirmation, and LYO are all starting up this month. Rally Sunday/ Homecoming Sunday is this Sunday with a program and tailgate party.

Outreach/Stewardship: Our October Mission partner will be Lutheran Bible Translators, which translates the Bible for language groups that don't yet have a Bible in their native language. Our good pantry donations stand at 771 pounds. The foster closet helped 1 family in the past month. Our Tanzania team returned from their visit to Tanzania and is putting together a presentation. We are working on a "Thank you" Sunday possibly in November. May invite people to make a donation for future seasons of "The Chosen".

Property: A task force was appointed to make recommendations for balcony renovations to better accommodate the new organ, the handbells, and other musicians. Painting of the balcony ceiling tiles will have to wait until after the installation of the organ.

Executive: Appointed John and Vicki to serve on the employee review committee. Approved Keith Menter to use space in empty office for his music computer. Appointed Ivy and Eric to serve on the Nominating Committee. Still working on the photo directory.

WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Sept. 2-3	15	+	133	=	148	\$ 5,523.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 5,698.00
Sept. 9-10	22	+	116	=	138	\$ 2,749.00		\$ 2,749.00
Sept. 16-17	16	+	122	=	138	\$ 3,292.25		\$ 3,292.25
Sept 23-24	8	+	176	=	184	\$ 4,303.00		\$ 4,303.00



ILCW

ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD September 6, 2023

The ILCW Exec Board met Wednesday, September 6 at 10:30 AM in the All-Purpose room with Sandy, Kathy, Janet, Sharon and Sally N present. Sandy called meeting to order at 10:30.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion by Sharon and seconded by Kathy to approve the August 9 minutes. Ayes all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy reported there are no bills. Income of \$272 received from a donation and for quilting. Expenses of \$124.35 were for bible school and the "thank you" recognition coffee for Dolly and Hertha. Ending August balance is \$1666.55.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank You's from Dolly and Hertha for the recognition coffee during fellowship following church services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Community:** Sharon reported there will be no bingo at Salem home in September.

OLD BUSINESS: ILCW purchased the chairs that Dolly and Hertha used for quilting. Via text message prior to our September meeting, a motion was made by Jean and seconded by Sharon to give their chairs to them for their many years of service. It was a unanimous decision.

NEW BUSINESS: Harvest Bazaar is October 18. Chairpersons for the Luncheon, Dining Room, Bake Shop, Country Store, Quilts, Publicity and Decorations have been secured. Chairpersons will be finding helpers if not already done so. Presales at some Harlan businesses will be done. The board signed up for dates of presales after church on Sat. & Sun. Sign-up sheets will be passed at the ILCW Gathering Sept 13 for donations of Harvest Cake, coleslaw mix, coleslaw dressing, Redi-Whip and Jello salads.

The ILCW board will meet Oct 4. Sandy will contact the newspaper to have a publicity picture taken that day. There will be no Gathering in October. November board meeting and gathering will be November 8. There being no further business we dismissed at 11:30.

ILCW GATHERING September 13, 2023

Sixteen were in attendance. Sandy passed out sign up sheets for bazaar food or working that day. She also encouraged donations of bake sale and craft items. She also mentioned that the West Central Food Pantry carts are looking rather empty. Linda enlightened with Lena and Ole jokes and also reminded us of the Christmas Tea Dec 2. Sally N provided treats.

Vicki's program was entitled "Connections". The group did three FUN activities where we connected with each other. We found our 2 or 3-person group members by a DUDE pronunciation game. Next a "onesies" game was played with lots of laughs and found we were very competitive. Last game was answering questions that were written earlier on cards. Such questions as who was your role model growing up, why did you choose occupation you did, name 3 top places you have visited in Iowa and more. It was a way to learn more about each other to be "connected" and made new friendships. Peg will have the program November 8 titled "Special Santas". She will share some special Santas and asked others to share a special Santa at the meeting as well. Sally S will provide treats. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary



Tanzania Happenings

In the last Insights Cheryl wrote about the seven well locations and the seven schools that we visited while in the Kidugala region. All of these were extremely rewarding as we saw excited students, headmasters, community members and pastors come out to warmly welcome their friends from Immanuel. They recognized our involvement in drilling the wells, supporting the orphans, and have now come back to visit after being away for four years. Since 2005, the longest it had gone between visits was two years and the people of the region were excited! We will try to bring our visit to life during the church services on November 4th and 5th. Frankly I am concerned about how to communicate the tons of smiles, bunches of hugs, extremely warm welcomes and even a bit of dancing during a church service! It may be a challenge even greater than the trip itself!

We didn't focus on agriculture as much as usual this year, our timetable just didn't work out on a couple of visits. We communicated with the two universities that we collaborate with just were unable to meet with them while there. We will certainly continue the conversations to work together to enhance agricultural production in the Kidugala region. During the first meeting that we had with the evangelists this year we were able to visit about several agricultural topics. These evangelists are an excellent source of feedback since all 15 evangelists are scattered throughout the region at preaching points, all farm, and unlike the pastors that come and go frequently we have a relationship with some of these evangelists that goes back 15 years. These are a few of the many questions that were asked:

- 1) How well are the principles of improved agronomic practices being adopted by the farmers in the region?
- 2) Is agricultural production increasing in the region, declining, or staying about the same?
- 3) During COVID we discontinued support of agronomy plots near every preaching point for local education of these improved production practices. Do we need to have the committee consider bringing that project back?
- 3). How well are the SOCCOS and AMCOS functioning in the region.
- 4) Years ago, we supported an irrigation project in Masilu. Years later we spoke of other irrigation projects in other local valleys. What are your thoughts on that?
- 5) What is new in agriculture in the region?
- 6) How devastating was African Swine Fever to the region?



We asked different groups, in multiple places, how ag production was doing and the impact of the education that we had brought to the community. It was rewarding to hear that this education is being credited at least in part for bringing substantial improvement in production and that it was being adopted quite widely in the region. Certainly, it was hard to quantify the percentage of acceptance or the improvement in yields, but I am convinced with the feedback we received that those efforts have been a huge success. Certainly not all farmers have adapted these practices though and thus the request by all the evangelists to bring back the preaching point educational plots. So, the committee has voted and recently sent funds to support these plots which will be planted soon.

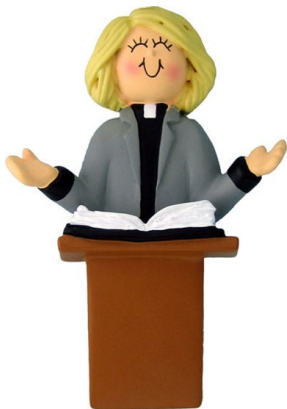
We had already spoken to the leadership of the SOCCOS and AMCOS organization in Kidugala but wanted to get a second view while speaking to the evangelists about these organizations. The SOCCOS is the micro loan organization and the AMCOS is the cooperative to help the small farmers buy inputs and sell their produces for an enhanced price and out of the region when oversupply is an issue locally. Both the organizational leadership and the evangelists gave of similar reports on the strengths and struggles that they face. Overall, it was a great report, and we already know that Kidugala is one of the top SOCCOS/AMCOS organizations in the whole Iringa Hope system. The reason I believe is that they are focused on improving their condition, they are very hard working, and care about their community. Since Immanuel was very influential in bringing Iringa Hope to Kidugala, the southern Diocese of Tanzania, and the Kidugala SOCCOS (Hekima) is named after Immanuel, we are always interested to see how they are doing. The H is for Harlan, the e is for Immanuel which they spell with an E.

After our irrigation discussion one evangelist came to us to discuss the irrigation project at her preaching point. We encouraged her to create a proposal that would enhance production for many families at her preaching point and submit it to the pastors. The pastors were then informed that this was our idea and that they are welcome to submit it to us. In the last irrigation project at Masilu, it involved several rolls of plastic tube to use as main line. Expensive for them, but well within the annual budget that Immanuel has for Kidugala ag improvement.

Avocados are a new, but a huge thing in the entire region. The world found out several years ago that the region is great for avocado production. Potatoes are on the increase as well. Unfortunately, not all the new news is great news. The Kidugala region had been hit with African Swine Fever sometime last year. They still have some pigs around, but it devastated the population in the area. We were exceptionally careful on the return trip. African Swine Fever is only in Haiti and the Dominican Republic in the western Hemisphere. Stay tuned, hope you can make it on November 4th or 5th!

Rick

Ordination of Pastor Laura Webb



You are invited to participate in the ordination of a new LCMC pastor at Elk Horn Lutheran Church. Pastor Laura Webb has been trained by working toward her M.Div degree from Luther House of Study in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She has been called by Elk Horn Lutheran Church and she will be ordained at Elk Horn Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 22, at a special 11:30 A.M. worship service.

The ordination service will be followed by a fellowship meal served in the church basement. All are welcome. It would be great to have a good group from Immanuel to participate in this important event.



Immanuel Lutheran
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Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098
Home Number: 712-766-3178
E-mail: peacephillip@gmail.com
www.harlanimmanuel.org

Staff:
Pastor Phil Nielsen
Office Manager: Connie Boysen
Custodian: Slava Aleev

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee NO Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	2 6:30 Garden Club Jean Whitfield (LCMC GATHERING	3 9:00 CF Quilters 6-9 Boy Scout Dist. in St. Louis)	4 NO GROW 4:00 Women's Bible 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	5 7:00 Men's Bible	6	7 5:00 Worship
8 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	9	10 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 6:30 Executive Bd 7:00 Church Council 8:00 LYO Lock-In	11 9:00 ILCW Bd Mtg. 9:30 WOW Gathering 4:00 Women's Bible	12 7:00 Men's Bible	13	14 5:00 Communion
15 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	16	17 9:00 CF Quilters 7:30 Fellowship & Education	18 ILCW BAZAAR 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	19 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Ladies Homestead 7:00 Men's Bible	20	21 5:00 Worship
22 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	23	24 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	25 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	26 Assemble Newsletter	27	28 5:00 Worship
29 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	30 9:00 Mission Quilters	31 9:00 CF Quilters	1 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	2	3	4 5:00 Communion

Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	October 21-22	October 28-29	November 4-5	November 11-12	November 18-19
Acolytes	Rex Swanson Kolton Jensen	Trinity Haas Abbey Brue	Jace Palmer Cade Neve	Gavin Sisson Collin Burchett	Gavin Herbst Trevor Herbst
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Lee Gittins	Warren & Sue Grummert	Jeff Hastert	Darlene Hess	Ken Hursey
Saturday Altar Guild			Sandy Nelsen		DeAnn Nielsen
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Jim & Joyce Folley	Ernie & Stacie Foss	Larry & Nancy Gessmann	Ty & Amy Haas	Tim & Kristi Herbst
Sunday Altar Guild			Vicki Strissel Stacy Torneten		Peg Haas Mary Taggs
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Judi Olson	Confirmation Class	Dave Pedersen	Mitch Petersen	Pam Rust
Communion Servers (Sunday)			Kayla Jacobs Jennifer Malone		Donna Nelson Verne Nelson
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	George & Jan Applegate	Rick & Cheryl Chipman	Richard & Sharon Daberkow	Duane & Vicki Errett	Ken & Vicki Carstens
Sound	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis
Video	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman
Projection	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen(Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)	Cheryl Nielsen(Sat.) Teri Johnson (Sun.)
Council Person	Rich & Barb Furst	John Taggs	Ivy Nielsen	Ivy Nielsen	Vicki Strissel