

**TRUST  
IN THE  
LORD  
WITH ALL  
YOUR** ♥  
{proverbs 3:5}

# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2023

*Lord*  
I pray  
to be *Led* to  
and by you



## Fall Educational Programs

Jesus gave the Church a mission: make disciples or followers of Jesus. The Church is a school for discipleship. We continue to offer Sunday morning Adult Bible Class from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. This fall we are reading through the Gospel of John. All are welcome. Our popular Women's Bible Study will meet this month on Wednesday afternoons beginning September 20. They are continuing a study of the Gospel of Matthew. And the Men's Bible study (otherwise known as Steve Allen's class) will start up again to eat snacks and view and discuss "The Chosen" on Thursday evenings beginning September 21.

High School students are encouraged to join us for LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization). We meet together every Wednesday evening that school is in session from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for a meal, conversations, games, other activities, sharing of highs and lows, and prayer.

The 3-year confirmation program will meet every Wednesday that school is in session from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. for students in grades 6, 7, and 8. 6<sup>th</sup> graders will study an overview of the Bible with Dr. Allen and Dr. Olson. 7<sup>th</sup> graders will study the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer with Dr. Brelje. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will study the Apostles Creed and the Sacraments with Pastor Nielsen.

GROW (God Rocks our Wednesdays) is for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students every Wednesday that school is in session from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. We spend 3 years having fun while learning about the books of the Bible.

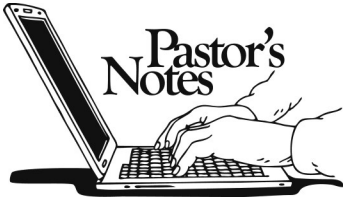
JAM (Jesus and Me) is for 3-year olds through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students and they meet Sunday mornings after the children's message at worship for 40 minutes of learning about Jesus. JAM begins Sunday, September 17.

## HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Homecoming Sunday or Rally Sunday is Sunday, September 24. We are planning a special program after worship to highlight the educational programs of Immanuel. You may be surprised by all that we are doing to make disciples. After the program there will be a pork dinner tailgate party on the parking lot and games for the children (and adults?)

## Worship in September 2023

Date:	Message:	
September 2-3 Pentecost 13	God and Government (Romans 13:1-7)	Communion
September 9-10 Pentecost 14	Living in the Light (Romans 13:8-14)	Baptism of Jonah Weis
September 16-17 Pentecost 15	Guest Preacher: Pastor Keith Menter	Communion JAM begins for children
September 23-24 Pentecost 16	Blessed to Be a Blessing (Genesis 12:1-3)	Baptism of Ruth Hoch Rally Sunday



Dear Friends in Christ,

This is an amazing time to be a Christian. There are great challenges to our faith. But there are also amazing blessings that we can receive from our fellow Christians all over the globe. I have found a sweet blessing in a television production called "The Chosen."

"The Chosen" is breaking new ground in television programming in several ways. One is the way it is funded. It is being crowd-sourced, that is, its funding is coming from donations. Costing more than \$1 million per episode, "The Chosen" is high quality television, and yet it is being funded strictly by donations and sales of merchandise. And secondly, it is ground-breaking in the way it is being distributed. You can watch all the episodes simply by going to a website on your computer, phone, or smart TV. It is free for anyone with a connection to the internet. You don't have to have a streaming service or pay to view it.

I have seen many movie productions based on the life of Jesus. One of my favorites is the NIV Visual Bible Gospel of Matthew which at over 4 hours long uses only the words of the Gospel of Matthew. But "The Chosen" is unlike anything I have ever seen before.

And it is all right there in the title. "The Chosen." Who is the Chosen or who are the Chosen? I don't think it refers to Jesus. The Chosen are the followers of Jesus. And "The Chosen" is really about them. Yes, Jesus is the main character, but he doesn't even show up until the very end of episode one. "The Chosen" really focuses on the followers of Jesus: Peter, Andrew, Mary, Matthew, and the rest.

In most movies based on the gospels, the disciples are a forgettable bunch of characters that we never really get to know. You can hardly tell them apart. But "The Chosen" tells the story of Jesus from the perspective of the disciples. We get to know the disciples as real human people.

In most movies based on the gospels, you might get the impression that Jesus chose his followers because they were a cut above the average person. But the gospels tell us that the disciples were prone to argue with each other and were rife with jealousies and rivalries. "The Chosen" shows us what it might have really been like to be among those bickering disciples.

The four gospels are very sparse in their descriptions of the life of Jesus. They don't give us many details or background. Parchment was expensive and they didn't have the space to give great detail to the life of Jesus. And so we are left to fill in the details and imagine the background.

A good friend of mine who is a Lutheran pastor disagrees with me about seeing "The Chosen." He argues that we shouldn't let a movie fill in the blanks of the gospels. If the gospels don't tell us the details, we don't need to know those details or that background.

But don't we all fill in the blanks in our own minds as we hear the stories? Don't we imagine the visual details of the stories? Don't we imagine the body language, the tone of voice, and the subtexts under the narrative? If you spend any time meditating on the narratives of the gospel, you have filled in the blanks in your own mind. You can't help but do it.

The problem is that much of our imagination about the gospels tends toward Docetism, pietism, and sentimentality. Docetism was an ancient heresy in the church that is still around today. Docetism downplayed the humanity of Jesus and imagined that Jesus was really divine and only seemed to be human. I think a lot of Hollywood movies about Jesus portrayed a Docetic Jesus. Pietism and sentimentality imagine that the disciples and other characters of the Bible were more saints than sinners. The Roman Church and American fundamentalists always interpret characters in the Bible as having holy motivations as if they were near perfect.



But the truth is that Jesus chose his disciples **NOT** because they were a cut above everybody else. Jesus chose his disciples because they were just like all of us. We see that clearly in “The Chosen.”

I haven’t agreed with all the interpretive choices made by the screen writers of “The Chosen.” I think they misinterpreted Jesus’ parable of the dragnet. I don’t think Jesus had Matthew give him a critique of his sermon on the mount. But I have enjoyed the way that “The Chosen” has challenged some of my sentimental, pietistic, and even Docetic imaginings of the gospels. I love the way “The Chosen” brings out the Jewishness of Jesus and his disciples. I love the way “The Chosen” shows us the humanity of Jesus who is hungry, thirsty, tired, humorous, playful, and fierce. He is not some solemn mystic who stares into space and speaks in churchy tones as he has sometimes been portrayed.

So was Matthew autistic? Was Peter having tax troubles? Perhaps not, but they had their own baggage when Jesus called them. Better to imagine Jesus’ followers with baggage than to imagine that Jesus called them because they were already on the way to sainthood.

The episode about the call of Mary Magdalene is pure imagination. All Luke tells us is that Jesus delivered Mary from some kind of demonic oppression. The way it is told in “The Chosen” is so beautiful and powerful that I could watch it again and again. The episode about the wedding in Cana is a beautiful attempt to explain why Jesus turned the water into wine when he just told his mother that it was not the right time. More often than not, I finish an episode of “The Chosen” and I want to talk about it. It makes me wonder about things in the Gospel that I haven’t wondered about before.

I am not a fan of a lot of Christian movies and television. They often miss the mark theologically for me. But I have been very impressed with the first two seasons of “The Chosen.” Currently there are 3 seasons of 8 episodes each. I’ve heard that there are plans for at least 7 seasons. You can watch “The Chosen” by going to [www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen](http://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen). The Men’s Evening Bible Study will be watching season 3 this fall. And if you want to talk about it, I’m always up for a conversation about the gospels.

Yours in Christ, *Phil Nielsen*



#### Happy Birthday to the following:

John Haas will be 95 on September 1.  
 Roger Schwieso who will be 88 on September 1.  
 Pat Pattison will be 91 on September 7.  
 Roger Christensen who will be 84 on September 14.  
 Betty Larsen will be 81 on September 18.  
 Kay Koos who will be 83 on September 25.  
 Hertha Haas will be 90 on September 26.

#### Happy Anniversary to the following:

Galan & Janet Johannsen who will be celebrating their 57th anniversary on September 2.

Connie & Lyle Behrens will be celebrating their 54th anniversary on September 20.



On Sunday, July 16, we welcomed another little one into the family of faith through the gift and call of Holy Baptism. We baptized Millie Marie Pitts, daughter of Shane and Elizabeth Pitts. She was born December 20, 2022. Her sponsors are Leah Pitts and Lindsey Vorm. Her grandparents are Lonnie and Connie Pitts.



**Immanuel Lutheran Family:** Please accept my sincere gratitude and thanks for all your cards, emails and phone calls on my 85th date of birth. It was truly over whelming and very special to me! God's Blessings to each of you.

*Maggie Hatcher*

**ILCW** will be gathering Wednesday, September 13th at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for Fellowship, Fun, and Food. Everyone is welcome.

Our **Harvest Bazaar/Luncheon** will be Wednesday October 18th from 11:00-1:00. **Look for more information in the October Insights.** This is the only gathering in October. Please think about what you could contribute to the Country Store and/or bake sale. **If you have extra onions and/or green peppers in your garden, we would appreciate them as we use them in the casseroles.** Your volunteer help is needed. If you have questions, contact Sandy Nelsen 755-7373. Thank you.



## THANK YOU, GOD, FOR OUR WORSHIP TECH TEAM

We have a team of dedicated people who serve as our worship tech team. They run the projection system, the sound board, and the camera. We are grateful for Cheryl Nielsen and Teri Johnson who are our regulars running the projection systems. We want to thank Eric Torneten and Darin Haake for their years of service. They are both retiring from our tech team. We are also grateful for the rest of the team: Alan Ahrenholtz, Christopher Chapman, Rick Chipman, Seth Johannsen, Gaige Lytle, Mark Schechinger, and Kayla Weis. We really could use another 3 people to join the team. Anyone age 14 and above is welcome. We would be happy to train you on either the sound board or the camera or both. No experience needed.



**ON OUR PRAYER LIST:** Richard Daberkow, Dan Jensen, Julie Vorm, Kayla Weis, Sandra Haney, Connie Benson, Bill Broveak (son-in-law of Ed & Shelia Mills), Jerry Christensen (son of John Christensen), Wade Mills (son of Ed & Shelia Mills), Curt Olson (son of Sue Olson), Doug Beaman (son of Mary Beaman), Julie Duval.



## AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Immanuel Church Council met August 8 with 12 of 13 members present. Steve Allen led devotions from Isaiah 43:1. Eric Chipman will share devotions in September.

**Treasurer:** July income was \$17,369 and expenses were \$18,110. General Fund at the end of July was \$52,620. Building Fund balance was \$62,008.

**Worship/Evangelism:** We had to replace the remote controller for the sanctuary screens and projectors. The age of our projectors suggests that we may need to replace one or more in the near future. Suggestions to allow for silent prayer during worship was discussed. We need a few more members of the Worship/Evangelism committee. We also need some new sound and video tech volunteers. Training is available.

The pipe organ may be removed in mid-September and returned by Christmas. It was decided to paint the balcony ceiling tiles to provide better resonance for the organ. There was also discussion about removing the front 3 pews in the balcony to make more room for music performance. That suggestion was tabled.

**Fellowship/Education:** VBS had 52 children (13 were from ILC member families). Okoboji staff were outstanding. Our 6 youth volunteer helpers were outstanding. The kitchen help was outstanding. Thanks to DeAnn Nielsen and Sheila Mills for teaching the preschoolers. The cost was about \$1800. The Okoboji staff said our kids were outstanding, but we already knew that. Smore church was cancelled due to extreme heat, but we had good attendance at the VBS program. Fall programming begins Wednesday, September 6. Dr. Tim Brelje will teach his last year of confirmation for us. JAM starts September 17. Rally Sunday is September 24.

**Outreach/Stewardship:** Our September Mission Partners are GoServe Global and LC Clinic (\$1000 each). 591 lbs. of food to the Pantry.

**Property:** We had 35 people helping at our yard clean-up party. Thanks to everybody.

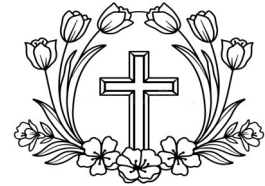
**Executive:** We hired Pastor Keith Menter as our choir director. Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings beginning September 10. Sharon Davidson will continue as accompanist. Bell choir is still on hold at this time.

### WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>July 29-30</b>	29	+	111	=	140	\$ 2,868.00	\$ 2,868.00
<b>Aug. 5-6</b>	23	+	74	=	97	\$ 7,737.00	\$ 7,762.00
<b>Aug. 12-13</b>	25	+	68	=	93	\$ 4,223.00	\$ 4,443.00
<b>Aug. 19-20</b>	25	+	101	=	126	\$ 2,102.00	\$ 2,102.00
<b>Aug. 26-27</b>	24	+	115	=	139	\$ 2,288.00	\$ 2,338.00



# ILCW



## ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD August 9, 2023

The ILCW Exec Board met Wednesday, August 9 at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen, Sally Nairn and Jean Whitfield present. Sandy called meeting to order at 4:00.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Motion by Jean and seconded by Sally to approve the May 10 minutes. Ayes all.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kathy reported May income of \$90 from donations. Jean Whitfield was reimbursed \$289.45 for printed special events napkins. In June a donation received of \$125 from Hansen funeral and disbursement of \$188 to Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp. July income was \$25 from a donation leaving the end of July balance of \$1518.90.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Community:** After a long time not being able to serve the community nursing homes, a birthday party was held at Salem Home in June and bingo held in July at Elm Crest. Residents really enjoyed!

**Kitchen:** Jean reported kitchen cleaned June 14 after Gathering program but ovens didn't get done. She returned days later and cleaned them.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Word was received of the Heartland District Women of the Word Retreat to be held October 7 at the St Paul Lutheran Church in Osceola NE. See bulletin board for more information.

**Harvest Bazaar October 18:** Mark your calendars. Tickets are made which will be available in Sept. Posters and decorations being prepared. Country Store projects needed as well as baked goods. Volunteers will be recruited soon.

Next board meeting will be September 13 with Gathering at 9:30 AM.

There being no further business, the committee prepared for the "5:15 Gathering."

## ILCW GATHERING

Nineteen ladies, Pastor and five committee members attended. Ice cream sundaes and bars enjoyed along with good conversation. Sandy had an "ice breaker" game. Each one picked a number from the envelope and according to number picked you read the same numbered question on the game sheet, you would tell what you'd do or what you thought? Kathy had game of matching up Bible verses. If you had the first part of a verse, you needed to find person with last half of the verse. Both good fun games in getting to know a person better or meeting for the first time.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mission Quilters: Monday August 28 9:00

Harvest Bazaar: Wednesday October 18 11:00 to 1:00

Christmas Tea: Saturday December 2 10:00

Janet Johannsen, Secretary





## TANZANIA HAPPENINGS

On August 9, Patty Allen and Rick and Cheryl Chipman set off on a journey to Kidugala, TZ to visit Immanuel's sister congregation. After 3 days of travel, we arrived to a warm welcome. We visited the orphans in 5 primary and 2 secondary schools. We also visited all 7 wells that Immanuel has drilled the last 3 years. We visited with many old friends and made some new ones.

We learned that Pastor Konga, him and his wife visited Immanuel in 2009, was in an accident earlier this year and passed away. We also visited the bishop, 2 preaching points, the Iringa Hope SOCCOS and AMCOS and attended a 25th wedding anniversary. There are lots of stories to share with you in the future. We returned home on August 26. From left to right, is a picture of Pastor Yuaja Mgeni, the Pastor of Kidugala, Patty, Cheryl, Rick and Hilda Chaula, our interpreter. Hilda blessed us with matching clothes for the Sunday church service. We are blessed.



Walk with  
**JESUS**

**WORSHIP SERVICES** at Immanuel are streamed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ilcharlan](http://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](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org/sermons.html).



Immanuel Lutheran  
Church  
LCMC  
1700 19th Street  
Harlan, IA 51537

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Church Office: 755-5207  
Office Hours: 9-1(M-F)  
Office Email: [ilc@fmctc.com](mailto:ilc@fmctc.com)  
Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098  
Home Number: 712-766-3178  
E-mail: [peacephillip@gmail.com](mailto:peacephillip@gmail.com)  
[www.harlanimmanuel.org](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org)

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



# SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>27</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> 9:00 Mission Quilters	<b>29</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 5:00 Communion
<b>3</b> 9:00 Communion 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 6:00 Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> 3:30 GROW 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 3:00 Hopp/Hoegh Wedding 5:00 Worship
<b>10</b> 8:00 Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco 6:30 Executive Bd 7:00 Church Council	<b>13</b> 9:30 ILCW Gathering 3:30 GROW 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:00 Communion
<b>17</b> 9:00 Communion/JAM 10:00 Fellowship Coffee 10:15 Adult Bible Class 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 6pm Worship & Ev. Comm.	<b>20</b> 4:00 Women's Bible 6:30 LYO	<b>21</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:30 Ladies Homestead	<b>22</b> Rehearsal	<b>23</b> Kloewer/Burchett Wedding 5:00 Worship
<b>24</b> 9:00 Worship/JAM 10:00 Rally Day Program 10:15 Adult Bible Class 11:00 Tailgate Party 5:00 Boy Scouts	<b>25</b> 9:00 Mission Quilters	<b>26</b> 9:00 CF Quilters 2:00 Bunco	<b>27</b> 3:30 GROW 4:00 Women's Bible 5:15 Confirmation 6:30 LYO	<b>28</b> <b>Assemble Newsletter</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:00 Communion

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

# Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule

	September 16-17	September 23-24	Sept 30-Oct 1	October 7-8	October 14-15
Acolytes	Colin Burchett Trevor Herbst	Gavin Sisson Gavin Herbst	Aubrey Petsche Maggie Petersen	Katie Stern Zoey Olson	Grant Chipman Will Chipman
Saturday Greeter/Usher	Karen Brasch	James Burmeister	LaVon Christensen	Linda Christensen	Kathy Dirks
Saturday Altar Guild	Maggie Hatcher		Kayla Jacobs		Sandy Nelsen
Sunday Greeters/Ushers	Marty Burchett Lee Burchett	Ryan & Julie Carter Lori Christensen	Charlie & Jonelle Conrad	Tom & Lisa Conry	John & Judy Davis
Sunday Altar Guild	Erin Hastert Becky Brelje		Janet Johannsen Donna Nelson		Jan Applegate Mary Petersen
Scripture Reader (Sunday)	Donna Nelson	Sandy Nelsen	Vern Nelson	DeAnn Nielsen	Craig Olson
Communion Servers (Sunday)	Rich & Cheryl Chipman		Dave Greve Larry Haas		Erin Hastert Maggie Hatcher
Coffee Hosts (Sunday)	Terry & Stacy Torneten	Phil & DeAnn Nielsen	Calvin Twenhafel Jason Weis	Ken & Julie Vorm	Art & Linda Andersen
Sound	Gaige Lytle	Gaige Lytle	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen	Seth Johannsen
Video	Alan Ahrenholtz	Alan Ahrenholtz	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger	Mark Schechinger
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	Scott Shannon	John Taggs	Joey Hansen	Steve Allen	Craig Olson

