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Immanuel Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2017

Volume LIV, Edition 2

CHURCH TALK

A monthly publication of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Coleridge, Nebraska; a member of the Lewis & Clark Cluster in the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



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OUR COUNCIL

Herb Bose, Council Chairman Claudet Wege, Council Secretary Terry Ebberson, Treasurer
Dallas Graham, Vice-Chairman Sheri Krei, Financial Secretary
Claude Hofeldt, Alisha Stone, Jeff Hansen, Heather Loberg



FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

***You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.
(Deuteronomy 10:19)***

***The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.
(Leviticus 19:34)***

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31)

These are very clear scriptural commandments to be loving toward all people. Indeed, we are to love God first — with everything we are and have — and then we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Since the beginning of my ministry, and even before, American people have been up in arms about what to do about immigrants — particularly those without proper papers. Often I have heard, “Send them back where they came from.” That’s all well and good but it does not follow the command of God to love the stranger in our land, and to treat the stranger just as we would a citizen. And I understand how some folks might believe that we should close our borders. But what does that say about our Christian values?

Just this week, I received a letter from Brian Maas, Bishop of the Nebraska Synod which I believe bears notice. Here is a quote from that letter: “Called by the full witness of scripture to welcome the neighbor and care for the homeless, Lutheran Christians have excelled at welcoming and resettling refugees, and helping them become engaged, positive, contributing citizens. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) nationally, and Lutheran Family Services (LFS) locally, have done exemplary work for generations, and stand ready to continue to do so.

“Recent sudden policy changes in the U.S. have disrupted the smooth and secure process of resettling women, children and families fleeing violence, persecution and war. I am calling us as a church to pray for refugees, for those who work to vet, transport and resettle them, and for those who make and enforce policy regarding them. I also ask that we all avail ourselves of the many materials available through LFS and elsewhere to find deeper understanding of refugee resettlement; and finally to voice our concerns to our elected officials as policy is crafted and enforced.”

I stand with Bishop Maas in praying “refugees, for those who work to vet, transport and resettle them, and for those who make and enforce policy regarding them.” We are called to love our neighbor. Jesus was clear with the example of “The Good Samaritan” that our neighbor often is the least expected people whom we encounter. And so, I ask you to pray for refugees and to pray for all policy-makers in our country.

May we live into our Christian identity as people who care for our neighbor, regardless of who that neighbor is or what that neighbor looks like or believes in. May we not judge but rather care for and pray for all people — even our “enemies.” May we remember that as people of God, we are “refugees” on this earth. We are citizens of God’s Reign and that is diametrically opposed to being citizens of the world. I close with the pray that Bishop Maas included in his letter:

“Gracious Lord, you know what it is to be unwelcome, unwanted and alone. Give us eyes to see you in each of those, who know such rejection, and hearts to welcome them into our midst. Grant us confidence in uncertain times, courage in the face of our fears, and grace to work out your will toward all, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

-Pr. Russ+

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Please Clip and Save for your records: Voted Change for BL 2.05 in Constitution:

**Section 2: Officers and Congregation Council Members, BL2.05.)Amended 2017 Annual Meeting
January 15, 2017.**

BL 2.05 No Member-at-large of the Congregational Council can serve more than two terms consecutively.



Immanuel Lutheran Church Legal Council Meeting January 23, 2017 @ 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Claudet Wege, Council Secretary, pending approval @ the February Council Meeting

Those present were Pastor Russell Lambert, Vice Chairman Dallas Graham, Herb Bose, Claude Hofeldt, Sheri Krei, Dan Kock, Heather Loberg, Claudet Wege & guest Angie Hall. Alisha Stone & Jeff Hansen (both EMT's) absent due to an ambulance call.

Pastor Russ started the meeting with a report for "Future Planning". He began with Acts 10:34-48. He presented the group with a handout that explained that the church is a generational diverse community. The report explores twelve reasons why "Millennials" (ages from 22 through 35) "Are over Church".

Vice Chairman Dallas Graham brought the meeting to order.

Secretary's Minutes: MSC to approve the minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report: MSC to approve the treasurer's report as presented.

- It was noted that the church needs \$15,613.00 monthly to meet the 2017 budget.
- There was some discussion on possibly making available QR Code for offering choice option. The subject was tabled for more evaluation at another time.
- **Property Committee:** Furnace call today – (old furnace that heats the sacristy) – third time since the December Council meeting. Dan with Roger Koch from Koch-Tramp Plumbing & Heating discovered that the burner closest to the switch was causing the switch to get too hot, therefore, they eliminated that burner. It's working good now. At some point we may have to consider replacing that furnace. To determine the age of the furnace, it was said that the first four digits of the serial number will tell the month & year the furnace was manufactured.
- **Cemetery Trees:** It was determined that all the trees at the cemetery will have to be taken out.

ILCW:

- 500th Reformation Anniversary
- Lesson – No other gospel
- Stewardship Offering – Personal care kit items/monetary & general offering
- Annual Meeting – Immanuel Lutheran, Sunday, January 15th following 10:00 am service
- Monday, January 30th, 7:00 pm – Love Thy Neighbor
- Tuesday, January 31st, 8:00 am – Love Thy Neighbor

Evangelism Committee: "Tators for Tuckpointing" – Sunday, January 29th, 2017, 11:30 – 12:30 after the 10:00 am church service. This is a benefit to help to replace funds that paid for the church's tuckpointing project.

Chairman's Report:

- Tech. project – Elroy & Carol Hefner's original project donation was for the Embers Assisted Living & Park View Haven Nursing Home to have audio & visual church services technically provided for the residence at those locations. At this time they do have the audio part. MSC to have Elroy & Carol Hefner's original project completed by deadline of Sunday, June 4th, 2017.
- Mowers for the summer – It was suggested that an announcement be put in the "Church Talk" accepting bids for the summer mowing of the church & parsonage lawns & the cemetery grounds. The bids must be available for the Council by the March meeting.
- Corporate Resolution – a new second signature for treasurer check signing will need to be in place as the present second signature will be going off Council.
- Burial Sites – MSC to approve one burial plot site for Barbara & Richard Satterfield & one burial plot site for Robyn Cafasso.

Old Business: Thank you Bob Hansen, Dan Kock, Claude Hofeldt & Herb Bose for taking down the narthex Christmas tree & decorations.

New Business:

- Election of officers – President: Herb Bose
Vice President: Dallas Graham
Committee Council Members - Evangelism: Pastor Russ
Tech.: Heather Loberg
Worship: Alisha Stone
Property: Claude Hofeldt
- Thrashers will be delivering the basement replacement dehumidifier on February 16th at 8:00 am. This is a new unit to replace the one they took for repair but somehow got forgotten. This unit belongs in the kitchen area by the furnace door.
- Angie gave the Council a January, February & March calendar that included her days that she will be absent from the church office due to her commitment to do local school testing. She will simply have different hours in the office. If the Congregation needs to contact the church, Pastor will be available or messages can be left on the answering machine or the church email.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 20th @ 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting of January 15th, 2017

*Respectfully submitted by Claudet Wege, Council Secretary, pending approval of the Congregation
@ the Annual Meeting in January of 2018*

Chairman Bob Hansen brought the meeting to order, following the morning worship service.

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting & minutes from a Special Legal Congregational Meeting on March 13th, 2016 were both approved as read.

By Law BL2.05: The Church Council proposed a change to eliminate the By Law BL2.05 which states "No member at large of the Congregational Council can serve consecutive terms". This was announced in the "Church Talk" previously & to be voted upon by the Congregation at this Annual Meeting. The Congregation voted by ballot to accept the change, however, an amendment was proposed & separately voted upon by ballot by the Congregation to state "that no Congregational Member at large could serve more than two terms consecutively".

Election of Officers: Jeff Hansen & Heather Loberg were elected at large members of Council & Terry Ebberson was re-elected as Treasurer.

2017 Synod Assembly (June 1-3, 2017: Kearney): (three to be approved)

Pastor Russ Lambert & Mary Jo Hansen were approved as delegates for Synod Assembly with an opening for an additional one more voting member to attend.

Endowment Committee: Betty Colwell, Craig Ebberson & Lynn Papenhausen were voted by ballot as members of the Endowment Committee. Ron Broderson stated the Committee will determine the terms for the members. He said he is in through 2017 & Kevin Krei through 2018.

Treasure's Report: The treasure's report was reviewed & approved.

Auditor's Report: The auditor's report was presented. The Church General Accounts, Sunday School, The Endowment Fund, ILCW & Luther League Accounts balanced with the bank. MSC to approve the auditor's report as presented.

Budget: MSC to approve the 2017 Budget as presented..

Technology Committee: Bob explained the progress towards the projection systems to be put in place for Immanuel. Questions & discussion was held. Some want to see the original project done within the next six months, while George Hefner realizes the importance of getting the projects done properly the first time which takes time with the advances of technology. Hymnals & projection system hopefully will be tied together but still separate issues. Question is - who will be willing to or able to run the new tech. project - Pastor Russ suggested we allow our young confirmed adults to run these systems as they already are advanced in technology. He said this is a way to keep our youth involved with their church. He suggests a sign-up sheet for those interested in being involved.

No Old Business:

New Business: Bob told the Congregation that Council has contacted another church who is looking for a pastor. Council has talked about meeting with this other church to have dialogue on possibly setting up a system of sharing a pastor. We may want to consider this but will not be done without the Congregational vote & approval. Discussion was held. Pastor Russ stated that he had no problem with this idea of sharing ministry. He said the face of the church is changing - keep an open mind. This is a way to join gifts with other congregations so we can have a strong ministry by joining other congregations - keep that word "survival" out of the picture & how can we be the church.

Pastor Russ thanked everyone for making Linda & himself feel welcome. He said we have made them feel at home. He told the Congregation about the University of Nebraska @ Lincoln is trying to build a Lutheran Center. They call it "Cross at the Heart". They are asking for donations to help build this. He said your donations will be matched from now until February 14th, 2017 & the donations can be put in the offering plates or taken to the church office. Checks are to be written to "Cross at the Heart".

Chairman Bob thanked the Council Members going out - Dan Kock who has made great strides in many projects during his time as Council Chairman. He thanked Terry Ebberson for her great work as treasurer & thanked her for agreeing to serve another term. Bob, who is going out as Council Member also, said he felt it was a great honor to serve on Council. He said he appreciated the support from the Congregation. He stated the job can be trying but very rewarding & even fun at times.

The meeting was adjourned @ 12:10 P.M.

February Circle News

Grace Circle will meet **February 14th**, the second Tuesday of the month, at 1:30 PM at the church.

Bible Study: Pastor Russell Lambert

Hostess: Jackie Domina

Peace Circle will meet **February 8th**, the second Wednesday of the month, at 1:30 PM at The Embers.

Bible Study: Pastor Russell Lambert

Hostess: Claudet Wege

PVH Bingo, February 14th, Peace Circle Hosts.

Stewardship project for January will be Personal Care Kit items or Monetary.

Prayer Concerns:

Bev Brodersen, Jay Hall, Dora Hansen, Eli Becker, Dave Nasland, Leona Heithold, Myrna Collins, Gloria Brummels, Ashley Lynn Schmit, Charles Rygiel, Sarah Naeve, Jackson Graham, Dennis Tullberg, Lois Brummels, Virginia Avenell, Norma Janssen, Diane Frerichs, Orlyn Frerichs, Trevor Hallman, Trent Luebberstedt, and Janet Meyer, as they are dealing with health concerns.



Thank You from Tators for Tuckpointing: Once again Immanuel has come together to provide for our building. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Tuckpointing Project, from monetary offerings to donations offered to make the Potato bake possible. A building is only as strong as the foundation it's built on, we are so thankful for our foundation in the Lord!

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

February 01 Jesse Dirks
 February 04 Ron Wege
 February 05 Bridget Hetrick
 February 06 Hailey Russell
 February 06 Kaycian Hansen
 February 07 Curtis Janssen
 February 07 Judy Jorgensen
 February 08 Claudet Wege
 February 08 Amanda Rogers
 February 10 Jayson Mathiason
 February 11 Marlin Papenhausen
 February 13 Hannah Burbach
 February 13 Rick Lage
 February 14 Blake Eddie
 February 15 Sandy Wilkerson
 February 16 Richard Lentz
 February 17 Marilyn Hansen
 February 18 Nathan Gray
 February 19 Ardath Puntney
 February 19 Tiffany Ebberson
 February 20 Ellie Arduser
 February 20 Dean Benson
 February 20 Carlene Mathiason

February 22 Haley Hefner
 February 22 Fred Kalin
 February 22 Kevin Krei
 February 24 JoAnn Rathgeber
 February 24 Jeff Wolfe
 February 25 Wendy Pick
 February 25 Josh Loberg
 February 26 Bev Hansen
 February 26 Judy Wobbenhorst
 February 27 Axel Sudbeck
 February 28 Virgil Bayne
 February 28 Jan Jansen

*Anniversaries
to
Celebrate*



February 19 Marvin & Jackie Domina
 February 20 Dean & Jodi Benson

If your name was omitted or a correction needs to be made in this list of birthdays and anniversaries, please contact the church office at 283-4361

Scout Sunday, February 5th, 2017 at 10:00 AM Service

Scouts of our congregation will be recognized during the morning worship service. This day is set aside to acknowledge the partnership of all parties involved: the religious institution, Scouts, and their communities they serve.



"FAT TUESDAY" SOUP SUPPER

The Luther League will be having a "Fat Tuesday" Pancake Supper again this year on February 28th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Immanuel. A free-will offering will be taken. The funds will be used for activities and projects for the youth group. Please come to enjoy a bowl of warm soup and sausage and support our youth. Join us for a time of food, fun, and fellowship as we prepare for the season of Lent.

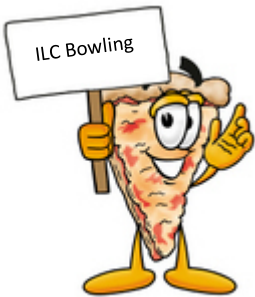
If anyone would be willing to help, please let Agnes Kurtzhals, Jay and Angie Hall, or Pastor Russ know. Look for donation sheets on the narthex table, soon. Your support is very much appreciated.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2017
7:00 PM

IMPOSITION OF ASHES ~ HOLY COMMUNION

ILCW PERSONAL CARE KITS: The ILCW is collecting items for personal care kits through the month of February. Items needed are: bath size towels (around 52" X 27") in a dark color, bath size bars of soap (4-5 oz.) in original wrapping, adult size toothbrushes, sturdy combs, and metal nail clippers. These items need to be new and in good condition. The kits will be sent to LWR to be used where necessary. These items may be placed in the marked box in the church entryway.



Luther League Outing: Sunday, February 12th, the Luther League will be doing their winter fun outing. This year's get together will convene after the 10:00 worship service. They will be having pizza in Norfolk followed by some games of bowling. All Luther League families are invited to join us in the afternoon to help transport everyone to our fun in Norfolk!

A MESSAGE FROM HAVEN HOUSE

The month of February is nationally known as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month." Dating Violence is a pattern of violent behavior that someone uses against a girlfriend or boyfriend. Abuse can cause injury or even death, but it doesn't have to be physical. It can take many forms including threats, emotional abuse, insults, and isolation from friends and family, name-calling, controlling what someone wears or with whom they socialize. It can also include education or economic background. Haven House can offer crisis intervention and support services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. All services are free of charge and confidential. Anyone requesting assistance can call the agency's 24 hour crisis line at 1-800-440-4633.

Giving credit where due?

Running late for a meeting, a man circled the block, looking for a place to park. Desperately, he raised his eyes toward heaven and prayed, "Lord, if you'll find me a parking spot, I promise I'll start going to church again." Just then, a car pulled out of a space right in front of the man. "Never mind," he said to God. "I found one!"



God's conversation hearts

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you — or to teach a child — of the greatest love of all: God's love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

- **TRUE LOVE:** What love is truer than giving up one's only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).
- **MINE:** Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
- **FOREVER:** God loves us with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).
- **LOVE ME:** The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).
- **TRUST ME:** "Let not your hearts be troubled." We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
- **SWEET TALK:** God's words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).
- **BE GOOD:** We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
- **CALL ME:** God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
- **FRIENDS:** The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) — precisely what Jesus did.
- **#1:** "We love because [God] first loved us" (1 John 4:19).