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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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Worship With Us
Saturday at 7:00 PM; Sunday at 10:00 AM

OUR COUNCIL

Dan Kock, Council Chairman
Bob Hansen, Vice-Chairman
Terry Ebberson, Treasurer
Angie Hall, Financial Secretary
Claudet Wege, Council Secretary
Jacie Burbach, Claude Hofeldt,
Dallas Graham, Steve Nordby, Council Members

FROM THE PASTOR'S KEYBOARD

By the time that you read this newsletter, most of our Christmas celebrations will have come to an end. Yet we can, and should carry Christmas in our heart. I would like to share a poem with you that speaks a word to us in this Post-Christmas season.

The Work Of Christmas
By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among brothers,
to make music in the heart.

Building on this theme, I would like to share a story I received via email, by an unknown author:

"A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists." "Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.*
Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber:

"You know what? Barbers do not exist." How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!" No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me." "Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

As we enter into this New Year, let us not forget the work of Christmas—to share the love of Christ with all in need. My prayer for all of you is that you will have a happy and healthy New Year, filled with all of God's blessings.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Deb

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<u>2016 Annual Meeting:</u>
Sunday, January 17th, the 2015 business annual meeting of Immanuel Lutheran Church will be held after the morning worship service. Look for annual reports in your mail coming soon.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Legal Meeting
December 22, 2015 @ 7:30 P..M.

Respectfully submitted by Claudet Wege, Council Secretary, pending approval at the January Council Meeting.

A special holiday treat of ice cream and cookies were served for council and their spouses preceding the meeting by Dan and Mary Kock. Thank you to them for our time of fellowship.

Present at the Immanuel Lutheran Church council meeting were Interim Pastor Deb Valentine, Chairman, Dan Kock, Claude Hofeldt, Bob Hansen, Dallas Graham, Terry Ebberson, Jacie Burbach, Angie Hall & Claudet Wege. Dan Kock brought the meeting to order & Pastor Deb led us in devotions.

Secretary's Minutes: MSC to accept the minutes from the last meeting.

Treasure's Report: Discussion was held on the proposed budget for 2016. Concerns were that the proposed budget may not have allowed enough to cover improvements of the parsonage as there will be some maintenance & improvements to be done before a new pastor comes. MSC to accept the budget as altered.

Property Committee Report: Thrasher Basement Systems, Inc. examined the south church basement wall stains. They took pictures to figure out what the stains were & will get back with us. In the mean-time, Kevin Krei & Dan will be working on the outside portion of the basement wall to see that no moisture is allowed there. Thrasher took the basement dehumidifier for repair as it was not working.

Call Committee: Have another skype interview scheduled for January.

Chairman's Report:

- Tuckpointing - received contract from Karr Tuckpointing LCC. They could not guarantee the time they could start the work, however, the estimate given would be honored regardless when the actual work began. This contract will not be signed in lieu of the congregation's voting decision at the 2016 annual meeting.
- Budget - regarding how to pay for the tuckpointing besides & in addition to the congregation's contributions - there is two areas that could be used for the project - we may use money from the Thrivant Choice Account & from the Unspecified Memorial Fund. If enough donations are collected, any over amount would be placed into the Property Improvement Account.
- MSC to move $12,000.00 from the Thrivent Choice Account to be applied for the tuckpointing project, if needed.
- MSC to move $5,000.00 from the unspecified Memorial Fund to use for the tuckpointing project, if needed.

Pastor's Report:

- Winter Convocation at St. Benedictine Retreat in Schuyler on January 18th & 19th, 2016. This would be a conflict for the January's council meeting which is scheduled for January 18th. Pastor stated she may want to attend but has not made a decision yet.
- Christmas communion - Pastor asked permission to invite Amanda Hefner to assist her with the communion due to the larger attendance expected for the Christmas services. Amanda will be available as she will be home for the holidays. It was also decided to enlist additional ushers & acolytes.
- Pastor asked if an announcement could be posted in the Christmas week-end bulletins & a verbal reminder for the congregation to be aware of a gift box for donations for our seminary student, Amanda Hefner. The plan was originally to have this available during the Advent services.
- Discussion was held on photos taken in church during services.

Old Business:

- Cemetery Rules - Discussion was held on rules for church cemetery plots.
- Member List - questions on categories - page 7, part 8, C8.02 of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Constitution lists the member's classification - **Baptized, Confirmed, Voting & Associate.** No action taken at this time & to be tabled for a later date.

New Business:

- A member asked about or suggested the church have additional paraments of the narrow kind like the blue Christmas ones that are used for the pulpit & lectern. This will be given to the Altar Guild Committee for further study. These items could be added to the church's wish list that could be paid for through the Unspecified Memorial Fund.
- A member expressed that the cross lights at the cemetery were of the warm or yellow color & thought that the white lights were more appealing.

MSC to adjourn the meeting 9:45 P.M.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2016 after church services.

Our next council meeting will be held on Monday, January 18th, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M.

January Prayer Ventures: The files weren't available when the newsletter was printed and ready for mailing, therefore not included with this Church Talk. If you are interested in a copy after the first of the year, please contact the office to send you a copy. Thank you for your patience on this matter.

January Circle News
January's Theme: Confidence in God's Beginnings and Endings
Theme Verse: Philippians 1:1-26

Grace Circle will meet January 12th, the second Tuesday of the month, at 1:30 PM at the church.

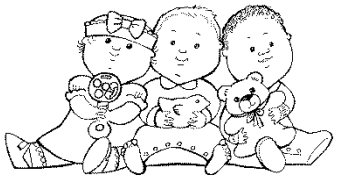
Bible Study: Pastor Deb Valentine
Hostess: Shirley Papenhausen

Peace Circle will meet January 13th, the second Wednesday of the month, at 1:30 PM at The Embers.

Bible Study: Pastor Deb Valentine
Hostess: Marilyn Dirks

Peace Circle will host the Birthday Party at Park View Haven on January 20th, 2016.

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



--Luke Joseph Meuret was born on November 30th. We congratulate Randy & Lisa Papenhausen for another adorable grandson. Parents of Luke are Kendra and John Meuret.

Sunday School News:

As our children transition from the birth of our Savior to the other great works he has done, we will be getting back into the swing of things in our classrooms. We will once again be singing on a regular basis to our congregation and starting more mission projects. Towards the end of the month we will be sharing our Christmas program songs with residents of The Embers and Park View Haven. We will also be gearing up for the next vacation bible school for summer 2016. If anyone would like to lead our youth with this fun time, please let Angie or Heather know.

We want to thank all that attended our Christmas program. The students worked very hard on their individual parts and shared all their voices with us in song.

Perfect Attendance for December: *Ande Hall, Aric Hall, Kayton Hall, Kinsey Hall.*

Reminder: The office is working on the Annual Report. If you have your article or report ready, feel free to send or drop a copy at your earliest convenience.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 01	Randy Wood
January 02	Peggy Bush
January 02	Robyn Hansen
January 04	Christopher Yunker
January 05	Norma Jean Vogle
January 05	Carol Wolfe
January 06	Eunice Nelson
January 06	Kolby Hansen
January 08	Jerry Bauermeister
January 08	Sharon Olsen
January 09	Amanda Cakebread
January 09	Aric Hall
January 09	Jack Franzen
January 12	Lynda Bartling
January 12	Gilbert Brummels
January 12	Clifford Peck
January 13	Betty Heitman
January 14	Tyson Jorgensen
January 17	Kelli Fox
January 17	Delaney Hall
January 17	Kody Bartling
January 18	Nicole Benson

January 19	Marilyn Jorgensen
January 21	Anthony Gray
January 22	Lois Brummels
January 22	Rodney Hall
January 22	Helen Hansen
January 24	Donovan Hahne
January 25	Heather Hansen
January 27	Lynnel Fiscus
January 28	Myrna Collins
January 28	Kerry Hefner

2—Ron & Julie Stone
17—Rick & Lori Arduser
29—Mike & Mary Biltoft

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.

The office would like to update or enter in your email addresses for an additional way to contact it's members. On your year-end checklist, please send the church a quick "hello" for us to enter your address into the contacts. Church office email address is:

immlc02@yahoo.com