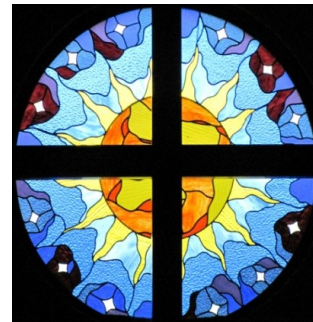


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

Children of God, called to proclaim the mighty acts of Jesus  
through lives of love and servanthood.

## February 2017 Newsletter



### Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday at  
8:00 am and  
10:30 am

Faith Formation  
9:15 am-10:15 am

Wednesday at  
6:00 pm

### Office Hours

Weekdays  
9:00 am-1:00 pm

### **Inside this issue:**

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### **“Lead Me in the Path of Your Commandments For I Delight In It” by Peter J. Weller**

In the February lessons, we find a thought-provoking contrast between verses from Psalm 119 and Jesus’ sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew. The Psalmist proclaims his love of the Law and his delight in obeying and keeping the Lord’s statutes. Matthew records Jesus probing for the deeper meanings of the Law, saying that it is not enough to merely obey the letter of the law, but to understand its spirit and all of its ramifications as well as the wider applications of the Law.

The Psalmist writes: “Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart, and who do no wrong, but walk in his ways. . . . Teach me O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understand that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. . . . Oh, how I love your law!” (Psalm 119:1-1-2, 33-35, 44, 97) The psalmist expresses joy in his knowledge and love of the law, and he is willing to follow it in every way.

Who among us possesses such passion for and total commitment to understanding and keeping the law? Many feel constrained by the law and look for ways around it, for exceptions, for loopholes. Those obeying merely the letter of the law rather than its spirit, and meeting just the minimum requirements of the law, then congratulate themselves on being “law-abiding.” As Paul so aptly put it, “For through the law comes knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20)

Continued to page 6



Find us on Facebook at Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa and online at [luthwash.org](http://luthwash.org)

**Come visit us** at 1226 East Washington Street, Washington, Iowa 52353

319.653.3950

Pastor Howard – 319.333.7758

**Monthly Updates** (Month to date)

General Funds~ \$10,474

Benevolence~gifts outside of church\$65.63

Monthly expenses~ \$12,000~\$15,000

Building Fund Gifts~ \$987.50

Monthly payment~ \$810

Debt reduction~ \$533 Dec. pymt.

**Attendance**

December 28th ~ 12

January 1st~ 59 January 4th~ 16

January 8th~ 8 am~44 10:30 am ~51

January 11th~ 9

January 15th~ 8 am~ 40 10:30 am~ 51

January 18th~ 14

January 22nd~ 8am 55 10:30 am~ 45

January 25th~ 16

**We extend our deepest Christian sympathies:**

To Naomi Erickson and family on the death of her husband, +Ken Erickson

To Peter Weller and family on the death of his cousin, +Marcia Welzel

To the Almelen family on the death of their nephew and cousin, +Keith Doyle

**May God hold you in comfort and peace.**

**January Milestones**

**First time to get the communion blessing.**

**1-8-17 Sophie Wittmayer**

**Happy Birthday, Jesus~ Ainsley Six**

**I got a wonderful care package from Immanuel Lutheran at college.**

**Maggie Baker**

**I went ice skating for the first time.**

**Kenzie Quigley**

**The children's Christmas program was amazing! I was very proud of each and every one of you children. Linda Brown**

**Wandering Worshipers**

Richard Schmidt worshipped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in North Liberty, Iowa on December 24, 2016 and Lutheran Church of Hope in Des Moines on January 21, 2017

Yaro & Mary Chmelar worshipped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Westtown Church in Tampa, Florida on January 8, 2017

Youth Led Service is at BOTH 8:00 am and 10:30 am services on February 26th. If you plan on your youth being involved they need to be part of both services. This is for all youth, Kindergarten through HS (not preschool). If your youth will be taking part they need to be at Faith Formation (9:15-10:15) on February 12 & 19 for rehearsals.



**WELCOME to Immanuel Lutheran**

**Bev Crandall and Bonnie Taylor** were received as fellow disciples of Christ on Sunday, January 22nd and have become part of the Body of Christ here with us at Immanuel Lutheran. What a joy it is to have you journey with us as we worship our Triune God and discover the deep, saving love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has for us. "We welcome you into Christ's family known as Immanuel Lutheran and into the mission we share: giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world."



Bonnie Taylor

Bev Crandall



January 30—  
Brynlee Statler



- 2- Nancy Rash
- 3- Lee Buchholz
- 5- Jeanette Wagner
- 6- Mark Bradley
- 6- Vi Kruse
- 8- Ryan Zehr
- 11- Fletcher Green
- 11- Jacob Green
- 15- Susan Baker
- 15- Vivienne Kroll
- 16- Sam Shephard
- 17- Barb Bartholomew
- 20- Sean Soper
- 21- Ruth Jones
- 21- Rhonda Moore
- 22- Monique Rausch
- 25- Aden Six
- 25- Avery Six
- 25- Ajay Six



- 15- Mark & Christy Rueckert
- 15- Brian & Carrie Lueck
- 16- Lyle Moen & Nancy Rash



### Upcoming Meetings

- Finance meeting February 2 at 6:00 p.m.
- Stewardship meeting February 3 at 4:00 p.m.
- Council meeting February 7 at 6:30 p.m.
- Property meeting February 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- Education meeting February 28 at 6:30 p.m.



Sunday, April 30th

Bishop Michael Burk will be preaching at Immanuel. He will host a question/answer after worship. More details of the visit to come.

### Youth Led Worship

Mark your calendars, Sunday, February 26th the youth of Immanuel will lead us in our thanks, praise, and prayers to our Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The youth will be leading worship during both Sunday services; 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Let us worship God with the excitement and enthusiasm of our youth.



### Fellowship Potluck

February 19th at noon. Sign up sheet will be on hallway table. Come for great food and pleasant conversation!! See you there!!

### Luther League ~ Super Bowl Sunday (NOTE time change)

**When: Sunday, February 5th**

**Where: Immanuel**

**Why: Super Bowl fun and fellowship**

**Who: 6th – 12th Graders (friends are WELCOME!)**

**Time: Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

**Lunch: Pizza provided, bring a snack or dessert to share**

**Leadership: Katie McWhirter, Angela Taylor, and Pastor Howard**



Ladies Night Out will be  
February 21st at 6:00 pm.  
We will meet at Panda Palace.  
See you there!!



Thank you for the prayer shawls we received after Richard Taylor's passing to life eternal. These beautiful, warm shawls remind us of God's love and bring us comfort.

Sincerely,

Jason, Angela and Bonnie Taylor

Thank you for the support, cards and prayers during the loss of our dad, Richard Taylor. We deeply appreciate the love this congregation has shown us these past few months. We feel fortunate to be part of this wonderful church family.

Sincerely,

Jason, Angela,  
Rob, Emma and Grace Taylor

A **BIG** thank you to all of those who donated to the Mitten Tree. We gave Stewart and Lincoln schools: 1 pair of snow boots, 7 pairs of mittens, 25 pairs of gloves, 20 stocking hats, 2 scarves, and 2 sets of hats and gloves. You helped make some little fingers warm!!



We wish to thank everyone at Immanuel for your prayers and support during this difficult time. A special thanks to Pastor Maureen, the ladies for the their delicious lunch and Mike for his beautiful music.

Ken Erickson family

THANK YOU to everyone who assisted with the funeral of +Ken Erickson. Especially Mary Gail Lyons for overseeing the Altar, Kelly Smith for recruiting ushers and communion assistants, and Judy Venzke for overseeing the lunch. Naomi and the family were most grateful for the love and hospitality they received.



THANK YOU to Alta and Ray Poe, Steve and Kathy Vetter, Mary Gail Lyons, Ryan Jones, Lucas Kroll, Rob Taylor, Quinn Wubbena, and Pastor Maureen and Mike Howard for taking part in undecorating the sanctuary from Christmas. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!



To those who rang bells for the Salvation Army, Before anymore time goes by, I want to thank you (Immanuel Lutheran Church) for giving of your time, your life, your support, and your encouragement. For ringing the Salvation Army bells for the people, within our community, for people you know, for people you don't know, for people who are in need of love and grave along with God's coming. The gift of life and time had made a difference in this community. Thus I would like to announce to you: Your help raised \$15,838.00 for this community because of your acts of love and kindness. This is \$2,000 more than we raised last year. THANK YOU!! My prayer is that we will be able to work together next year. Now, may God grant you and your group a wonderful year.

Peace and Grace,

Jim Stiles, Daryl Carr, Dave Watson, Deb McCreedy and Tim Johnson



## St. Valentine's Day Word Search

F	N	K	T	T	T	G	K	I	E
G	O	T	K	N	R	T	M	N	L
L	L	R	R	I	M	U	I	G	D
Y	O	U	R	A	L	T	S	F	H
P	R	A	Y	S	N	T	S	T	E
T	B	N	G	E	R	E	I	E	V
R	C	O	L	U	M	W	R	V	O
A	D	A	E	O	L	Q	U	O	B
E	V	T	C	W	B	N	S	L	A
H	C	T	F	R	O	M	A	L	L

Trust  
in  
God  
with  
All  
Your  
Heart

True  
Love  
Comes  
from  
Above

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"And a little something for the wife."



Cut out and give a Valentine to a friend!!



**“Lead Me in the Path of Your Commandments For I Delight In It”  
by Peter J. Weller**

This month’s gospel lessons from Matthew’s fifth chapter explore the meaning and significance of obeying the Law and being “good,” or “righteous.” Jesus makes a series of statements that begin, “You have heard that it was said, ‘\_\_\_\_\_.’ But I say, ‘\_\_\_\_\_.’” Jesus extends the applications of the Law to new but related situations that require much higher moral and ethical standards be met to comply with the Law. For example, Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But, if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give him your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:38-42)

This goes against every human instinct, and humans generally want the opposite of what Jesus is saying. They want revenge. They want justice. They want thieves punished. They do not want beggars or frivolous lawsuits. They want the righteous vindicated and the unrighteous condemned. Yet, Jesus sets the higher standard: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, pluck out the eye that causes you to sin, be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect.

Jesus also said, “I have not come to abolish [the law or the prophets] but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass away until all is accomplished. . . . For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:17, 20)

This can seem very deflating. How can anyone be that good, that moral, or that righteous? In our human condition, are we being set up to fail? The answer is “No.” We must remember that Jesus, God’s Son, was sacrificed so that our sins were forgiven, that belief in him will bring us eternal life, that if we but ask, all manner of good things will be given to us from our heavenly father. “Ask,” said Jesus, “and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and it will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8) So, while the psalmist loves the law and lives to obey it, Jesus reminds us to look beyond the letter of the law, understand its spirit, and before all other things, seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

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## Valentine Cookies and Dried Apple Slices

Thank you to everyone who pre-ordered your Valentine cookies and dried apple slices from the confirmation youth. Your orders will be available on Sunday, February 12th to distribute to your loved ones. Individual, large cookies will be on sale February 12th for \$3 each. This is a fundraiser for the confirmands to attend confirmation camp at Camp Ewalu. The cost to send one confirmand to Ewalu's 2017 confirmation camp is \$439 (that's the early registration discount and an increase from 2016!). We thank you for your generous support of the confirmation youth:

Ryan Jones, Lucas Kroll, Rob Taylor, and Quinn Wubben.



February 2017, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

### Happy Valentine's Day from LSI! "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners of both individuals and congregations who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults! We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in refugee farmers who share their love of the land with the Des Moines community, in struggling parents who learn positive ways to build love and trust with their children and in so many other moments of hope every day. Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day! Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa). Building Brighter Futures Learning new things can always be difficult. Especially when you're learning to be a first-time parent. Sarah's first son, Mark, was a happy baby. But as he grew into his toddler years, Sarah was unsure how to handle his behavioral changes. When he started acting out at home, she felt herself growing more frustrated. Sarah knew she needed help. That's when she turned to LSI's Parents as Teachers program. Parents as Teachers provides free and voluntary parent education and support for families in Boone and Story County, with children up to age 5.

The program was with Sarah every step of the way, providing home visits, introducing her to community support groups, and teaching her how to adjust to Mark's developmental stages. "With help from Parents as Teachers, I learned his behavior was just a phase, and they told me it was normal," Sarah says. "Before, I thought there was a problem with me, or that I wasn't a good parent." Mark, now 3, entered preschool last fall, and Sarah is proud to see how much progress he has made. He's meeting new friends and at home, he's become the best big brother to his baby sister, Hannah. Learning how to handle Mark's developmental stages has made Sarah more confident in raising Hannah. She knows what to expect as Hannah grows up, and she's ready to face each day and create the brightest future for her children. "Parents as Teachers helped me so much with my parenting," Sarah says. "The program is the best thing I have."

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines! This day is essential for giving voice to those who are not heard, for seeking social justice, and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process. Complimentary chartered buses will leave from Iowa City at 7 a.m. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m. at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines, later heading over to the Iowa Capitol. The day's schedule includes: A morning training session with speakers, box lunch provided by LSI, and time to meet with legislators at the Iowa State Capitol building. Buses will then depart the Capitol at 2:30 p.m. to head home. To register go to: [events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventeidk=a07edo3tas1faf67423&llr=uurnjsgab](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventeidk=a07edo3tas1faf67423&llr=uurnjsgab) (If you cannot register online, let Pastor Howard know you want to attend and she will register you). Register by February 2nd to receive a Lutheran Day on the Hill event t-shirt.



Thank you!

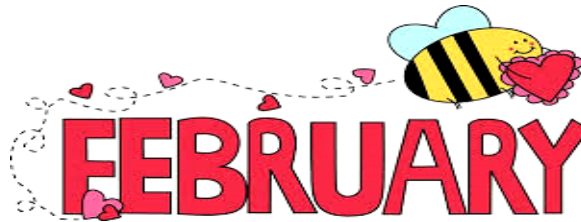


Lent is a time for us to fast, be in prayer, and repent as we realign ourselves and renew our commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Do many of us really take the time to be silent and listen for the quiet whispers of the Holy Spirit? Many times, prayer is a self-absorbed, a laundry list of our wants (with stipulations attached) that we bring to God to fulfill. We are going to begin the season of Lent with an opportunity to be in prayer. We are going to give ourselves the gift and freedom to be quiet and be alone in the presence of God. On Ash Wednesday, **March 1st** someone will be in the sanctuary, in prayer for **1 hour, beginning at 5:00 a.m.** The Bible, candles, the church's photo directory, prayer books, and a tabletop labyrinth (paper) will all be available to you as you spend your hour in prayer. Sign up for an hour (beginning at 5:00 a.m. and concluding at 5:00 p.m.) of prayer in the sanctuary and open yourself up to the power of God; you'll be glad you did. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Howard.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the season of penance and reflection that prepares us to celebrate Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The ashes we receive on our forehead, in the shape of a cross, are an outward sign of our sinfulness and need for repentance. They also symbolize our mortality, a reminder that one day we will die and our bodies will return to dust. Pastor Howard quotes Genesis 3:19, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return: to each person as they receive the ashes. With ashes upon our forehead we return to God's mercy and grace. Immanuel Lutheran's Ash Wednesday service, with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion, will be at 6:00 p.m.; plan to attend this special worship service as we observe the beginning of the Lenten season.







Service Date/Time	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Acolyte	Communion Setup/Clean up
February 5 8 am & 10:30 am	8am-Steve & Kathy Vetter and Carol Woodruff  10:30-Mary Chmelar and Sherry Ives	8am-Rich, Deidra & Marty Baker  10:30-Dale Venzke, Marty Westen and Yaro Chmelar	8am-Mike Howard  10:30-Peg Harris	8am-Cody Jones  10:30-Emma Lueck	8am-Mary Gail Lyons  9 am-Jane Kruse  10:30-Judy Venzke and Barb Matheson
February 12 8 am & 10:30 am	8am- Matt & Katie McWhirter family 10:30-Phyllis Hagensick and Vi Kruse	8am- Brad Kroll, Katie McWhirter and Steve Vetter 10:30-Aaron, April, Addison, Ajay & Avery Six	8am- Katie McWhirter  10:30- Margie Runaas	8am- Caitlin Kroll 10:30- Aden Six	8 am-Brad & Tricia Kroll 9 am-Kristin & Cody Jones 10:30-Corrine Martin
February 19 8 am & 10:30 am	8am- Craig & Tina Montz family  10:30- Alan & Vicki Rebling family	8am- Gary Fischer, Tom Gaughan and Ray Poe  10:30-Stephen Bay, Rich Schmidt and Dale Venzke	8am- Ray Poe  10:30- Mary Gail Lyons	8am- Emma Taylor  10:30- Claire Wubbena	8 am-Jane Kruse 9 am-Ray & Alta Poe 10:30-Doris Moore
February 26 8 am & 10:30 am	8am- Rich & Deidra Baker family  10:30- Sherry Ives and Doris Moore	8am- Stan, Kristin and Cody Jones  10:30- Brian & Carrie Lueck and Laurie Pemberton	8am-Deidra Baker  10:30- Peter Weller	8am-Ryan Jones 10:30- Mikaila Matheson	8 am-Mary Gail Lyons 9 am-Jane Kruse 10:30-Judy Venzke and Barb Matheson

### 2017 Purchased Good Gifts Ornaments ELCA



5 Pigs \* 5 Goats  
 7 Chicks \* 6 Honey bees  
 5 Water jugs \* 1 Vaccination for a child  
 6 Mosquito nets \* 4 School fees and uniform for a girl  
 6 Fruit trees \* 2 Train an Evangelist \* 4 Backpacks



*Thank you to those who purchased a Good Gift ornament.  
 We were able to bless those in need with  
 \$1081.63 worth of Good Gifts.*

