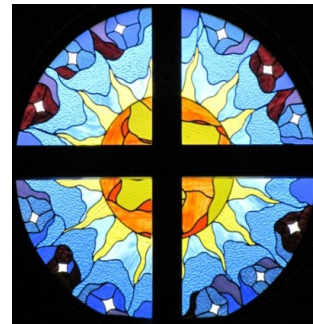


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

December 2017 Newsletter



“Then the Glory of the LORD Shall Be Revealed,
and All People Shall See It Together”
by Peter J. Weller

Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday ~ 9am

Wednesday ~ 6pm

Office Hours

Weekdays

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



All of December's Old Testament lessons are from Isaiah. Scottish theologian, George Alexander Frank Knight, called the second Isaiah, author of Chapters 40-55, a theological giant and the greatest mind of all the prophets of the Old Testament. Knight suggests that these sixteen chapters are “as decisive and significant for an understanding of the Christian faith as are the sixteen chapters of Paul's Epistle to the Romans.” Composer George Frederick Handel chose many verses from Chapter 40 as texts for solos and choruses for his oratorio Messiah. Readers familiar with Handel's work will recognize the texts below.

Second Isaiah wrote these words while the Israelites endured captivity in Babylonia, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

“A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’

“A voice says, ‘Cry out.’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.” (Isaiah 40:1-11)

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Find us on Facebook at Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa or online at luthwash.org.

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

Church ~ 319.653.3950

Pastor Howard ~ 319.333.7758

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! Psalm 133:1

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

General Funds- \$7,749

Benevolence-gifts outside of church \$51

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

Building Fund Gifts- \$410

Monthly payment- \$810

Debt reduction- \$593 (October payment)

Attendance

Sunday, October 29- 8 am ~ 29

10:30 ~ 50 Kinnick ~ 20

Wednesday, November 1 ~ 13

Sunday, November 5 ~ 8 am 40

10:30 ~ 55 Kinnick ~ 28

Wednesday, November 8 ~ 18

Sunday, November 12 ~ 8 am ~ 34

10:30 ~ 65

Wednesday, November 15 ~ 10

Sunday, November 19 ~ 8 am 33

10:30 ~ 34 Kinnick ~ 27

Welcome to Christ's Family!

Congratulations to **Anders Craig Almelien** who will be baptized in the name of our Triune God during worship on Sunday, November 26th.

Anders, we welcome you into the body of Christ and into your new family known as Immanuel Lutheran! Welcome into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

New Sunday Worship Liturgy in January

We begin worshipping with a new liturgical setting "Mass for a New World" by David Haas on **January 14th**. Go to YouTube (YouTube.com) and search "Mass for a New World" to listen to this uplifting and joy filled liturgy which will assist in drawing us into a deeper relationship with God while giving God glory.



November Milestones

"The entire Middle School FF class has agreed to help the elementary students & I put on our annual Children's Christmas Play! Thank you! Praise the Lord! Linda Brown

Wandering Worshipers

Dale & Judy Venzke worshipped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Iowa City, Iowa on October 29, 2017.

Ray & Alta Poe worshipped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Daytona Christian Church in Daytona, Florida on November 5, 2017.

Richard Schmidt worshipped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Hope Lutheran Church in West Des Moines on October 29, 2017. At Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hastings, NE on November 5, 2017. And at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rosemont, NE on November 12, 2017

Immanuel to Ring Salvation Army Bell

We are ringing the Salvation Army Bell again this year. Immanuel will be ringing the bell at **Wal-Mart** on **Saturday, December 16th, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** Money placed in Washington County Salvation Army Kettles serve Washington County residents in need. This is a great family service project; ring the bell as a family! Bell ringing shifts will be in one-hour increments, don't hesitate to sign up for at least one hour. The sign-up sheet is on the hallway table or call the church office. Write your name in the hour time slot of your choice and take the bell as a reminder of your commitment. Thank you for your participation.

ELCA Good Gifts Advent Tree

Beginning Sunday, November 26th Advent Tree Ornaments will be available for you to purchase (Sheep, \$125; Vaccinations for a Child, \$30; School Fees and Uniform for a Girl, \$40; Water Jugs, \$12; Chicks, \$10 - just to name of few ornament options). You will: chose your ornament(s) from the wide selection; on an envelope provided write your: name, ornament(s) selected, and place the money for the cost of the ornament(s); hang your ornament(s) on the Advent Tree; then on Christmas Eve and following take your ornament(s) home as a reminder of your generosity. These make wonderful Christmas gifts for those who have everything. Let's fill the Advent Tree with ornaments!



Birthdays for December

- 1- Quinn Wubbena
- 2- Stephen Bay
- 3- Mike Jorgensen
- 9- Katie McWhirter
- 11- Addison Six
- 14- Lyle Moen
- 14- Sandy Weller
- 18- Jack Quigley
- 20- Lois Buchholz
- 29- Pastor Howard



Anniversaries for December

- 31- Jim & Kathleen Almelien

Important Dates

Sunday, Dec 3 & Dec 10 at 10:30-
Christmas Program rehearsals
Christmas Program Sunday, Dec 17 at
9:00 service
Sunday, Dec 17, 24, & 31- NO FF
Sunday, Jan 7 at 9:15 am- Regular FF
classes resume

**If your child is a part of the
Christmas Program please
make all attempts to be at the
rehearsals (there are only
three!!!)**

The Women's Bible Study group
will be meeting at Applewood
Bistro (Halcyon House) on
**Tuesday, December 12th at
11:30 a.m.** All women of the
Church are invited to join us,
please see sign up on hall table.

Upcoming Meetings

Council at Vetter's – December 5th @
6:30 pm
Property– December 13th @ 7:00 pm



It's PROTEIN month at Immanuel!!

Please consider donating proteins to send to HACAP this month. Other items will be accepted and appreciated but this month's focus will be proteins.

Thank you, truly, for your generosity!!

**Ladies Night Out will be meeting in January.
Tuesday, January 16th
at 6:00 pm at Panda Palace.**

NO DECEMBER Meeting.



Immanuel Lutheran Church is taking applications for the Custodian's position. The custodian works under the day to day supervision of the pastor. The Property (Building & Grounds) Committee will work cooperatively with the custodian by attending to repairs and maintenance which the custodian may point out. It is estimated that this will require 10-12 hours a week and extra hours for funerals or weddings. There is a full job description in the church office if you would view it and pick up an application.



**LUTHER LEAGUE
(Youth Group)
6th – 12th Graders**

When: Sunday, December 17th

Where: Immanuel, Pizza Ranch, Wal-Mart (pick up at Wal-Mart)

Time: 11 a.m. Wrapping Christmas Presents

1 p.m. lunch at Pizza Ranch

2 p.m. Shopping at Wal-Mart

Cost: \$5, Luther League will cover cost the rest of the buffet cost

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

Why: Wrapping Christmas Presents, Shopping for children's winter clothes at Wal-Mart (HACAP)

Leadership: Katie McWhirter, Angela Taylor, and Pastor Howard

Lutheran Pastors to Immanuel

Pastor Howard will be hosting the Lutheran Pastors, in our Conference 7, on Thursday, December 14th, 9 a.m., here at Immanuel. The pastors will gather for worship with Holy Communion (Pastor Howard presiding), enjoy refreshments, conduct Conference business, and fellowship. Following the meeting the pastors will enjoy lunch at Café Dodici's. The Conference 7 pastors meet monthly, taking turns hosting the meeting. The pastors always look forward and enjoy their time at Immanuel. If you are willing to provide a light snack for the pastors (fruit or coffee cake/cookies) please let Pastor Howard know. Thank you for your generous hospitality!

Thank you!

THANK YOU to Deb Simmering and Mary Gail Lyons for setting up the Harvest Altar in November. Thank you to everyone who provided harvest produce and homemade canned goods for our chancel. It was a wonderful display of the abundance God provides for God's beloved people.

Thank you Ron & Karen Heineman for cleaning the pews. Your hard work is appreciated!!

I just finished weighing the food the church donated recently. I thought you would like to know that it weighed 346 lbs. Thank you so much for that donation. It will be very helpful for families for the Holidays! The church will receive a thank you from HACAP soon. Thanks again! RenElla Crawford

The HOPE workers were surprised again recently by Phyllis Hagensick's visit with a box of cookies for our coffee break. We appreciate Phyllis's support. She is a good baker and we are the lucky recipients. **THANK YOU, PHYLLIS!**

Thank you to all who contributed to the Harvest Altar. It looks **BEAUTIFUL!!** We are grateful for God's blessings.

Parents' Night Out

Do you need time away from the kids to: Christmas shop, have a date, or just relax in the quiet? **THEN** we have a night for you! The parents and older youth of Immanuel will be providing babysitting on **Friday, December 8th, 5:30 - 9 p.m.** The children will be fed supper, enjoy games, dancing, and movies. To register your child(ren) sign-up on the Parents' Night Out sheet on the hallway table. This is a fundraiser for the youth to attend the January, Quake in Des Moines and the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston in June. The cost is a free will offering. Tell your friends!

Gulf Coast Mission Trip January 6-13, 2018

Gloria Dei and Zion Lutheran Churches in Iowa City are co-sponsoring a mission trip to the Gulf Coast to aid and support those affected by recent disasters. We have reserved a 47-seat bus for January 6-13, 2018 and are now looking for people who are interested in going on the trip, or supporting it in other important ways. Cost for transportation on the bus will be \$200/person. Financial assistance is available to individuals who would like to go on the trip but find the cost prohibitive. We are hoping to keep additional costs to a minimum by staying in church basements or tent cities for volunteers. You are encouraged to sign up for the trip now. Seating is limited to 47 participants. We have created a Sign-Up Genius link www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b44ada62cab9-gulf where you can register for the trip online or see Pastor Howard. If you do need financial assistance, please register for the trip first, and then contact Deacon Pam Larabee-Zierath at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Pastor Jennifer Lutz at Zion Lutheran Church, or Pastor Sarah Goettsch at Lutheran Campus Ministries. We are also looking for people interested in supporting the trip financially even though they may not personally be able to attend. Donations of any amount are welcomed. One option you might consider is "sponsoring a seat" for a participant with a donation of \$200. And, of course – and always! – we cherish the support of those who keep the members of our trip and the people of the Gulf Coast in their continuing prayers.

Year of St. Mark's Gospel

With the change of the Liturgical year we move out of the gospel readings of St. Matthew and begin rehearsing the gospel readings from St. Mark. Throughout the year we will rehear Jesus' Baptism, ministry, crucifixion, death, and resurrection through the writings of Mark. Mark's writing illuminates Jesus' humanness through showing his anguish, pain, suffering, doubts, and questions. The disciples in Mark's gospel are relatable because they are like us; fallible. The whole gospel of Mark is centered on the cross. The cross is the last place we expect to meet God, but the cross is where we meet God most clearly. In Mark, God knows our suffering and meets us there. May we be drawn closer to our God, shown to us in Jesus, through the writings of Mark.



**December, Sunday, Worship Times;
ONE SERVICE 9 a.m.**

December 3rd: 9 a.m., First Sunday of Advent

10:15 a.m., Decorate for Christmas, soup potluck fellowship following

December 10th: 9 a.m., Second Sunday of Advent - Choir Cantata during worship

December 17th: 9 a.m., Third Sunday of Advent - Children's Christmas Program "The Greatest Gift" during worship

December 24th: 9 a.m., Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:30 p.m., Christmas Eve, Holy Communion, Candlelight Worship

10:30 p.m., Christmas Eve, Holy Communion, Candlelight Worship

December 31st: 9 a.m., First Sunday After Christmas - Service of Lessons and Carols

We will return to our normal Sunday worship schedule on Sunday, January 7th:

Sunday worship 8 a.m., Faith Formation 9:15 a.m., worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Holy Communion, worship continues to be offered, throughout December, at 6 p.m.



Decorating for Christmas

Join us on **Sunday, December 3rd immediately following the 9 a.m. worship** service to decorate the church for Christmas. After we decorate we will enjoy a potluck soup brunch/ lunch. Helpers of all ages are welcome and needed. Help us as we prepare for the birth of Jesus through decorating our holy space with symbols of Jesus, Advent, and Christmas.



Congregational Old Fashion House-to-House Caroling

Gather at Immanuel Lutheran on Friday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. to caravan throughout the town of Washington as we sing Christmas Carols at the front doors of Immanuel Lutheran's family. What FUN this event is! After singing we will return to the church for hot chocolate and dessert. Dress warmly; we go even if it snows! Pastor Howard will bring the flavored hot chocolate and you bring a dessert to share for the fellowship following. If you would like us to carol at your door, please let Pastor Howard know. Caroling has become a tradition at Immanuel, don't miss the excitement!

Wrapping Christmas Presents

Luther League will be wrapping your Christmas presents on **Sunday, December 17th**. Bring your presents to worship on the 17th or bring them and stay between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. when we will be wrapping. Wrapped presents may be picked up Sunday at 1 p.m., M-F 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., or by appointment (to make sure church is open). This is a fundraiser for the youth to attend the January Quake in Des Moines and the June ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston. The cost, to wrap ALL your gifts, is a free will offering. Tell your friends, we'll wrap theirs too! If you would like to donate gift wrapping supplies, Luther League will gladly and gratefully accept them. Please bring donated supplies to church by Wednesday, December 13th. Thank you for your continuous support of the youth of Immanuel!



blue christmas



a service of healing & hope

Healing/Blue Christmas Service Offered

Pastor Howard will be leading a Healing/Blue Christmas Service on **Wednesday, December 20th at 6 p.m.** This is a service recognizing that Christmas may not be joyful and met with great anticipation. This is a service recognizing that we are not whole, and healing is needed in our lives. This service is conducted near the longest night of the year when darkness seems to prevail. During the service you may choose to: light a candle and place it in a sand basin; come to the chancel and pray on the kneeler; and/or go to Pastor Howard for quiet and confidential conversation. After you have finished speaking with Pastor

Howard, she will call the church council members to come forward (James 5:13-15) and while they lay their hands on your head/shoulders a prayer will be lifted. You will then be anointed with oil. Choosing to remain in your pew, in quiet meditation, during the "laying on of hands and anointing" is perfectly acceptable. This is your opportunity to be in healing prayer with God in a manner that is most comfortable to you. This service will consist of hymn singing, scripture proclamation, a homily, laying on of hands and anointing, and prayer. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Howard, she will be happy to answer them.

Christmas Eve Services

Join us for Christmas Eve Night Candlelight Services, Sunday, December 24th at Immanuel Lutheran Church. The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Holy Communion services** begin at **5:30 p.m.** and **10:30 p.m.** Let us come together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Service of Lessons and Carols

Join us as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season with a service of Lessons and Carols adapted from the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has been celebrated annually at King's College, Cambridge, for almost a century. The Scripture lessons are those traditionally used at the festival, while the carols that accompany each passage have been selected from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book. Join us as we worship together, on Sunday, December 31st at one service 9 a.m. and again on Wednesday, January 3rd, to hear and sing the promises of Christ's birth.



FILL THE SNOW BOOT!

Luther League is raising money to shop for winter clothes for children of Washington County. Luther League youth will do the shopping and the purchases will be distributed through HACAP. Let's beat the \$836.04 raised in 2015. A \$250 Thrivent Card has been approved for this project. Checks are to be made out to "Immanuel Luther League" and "winter clothes" written in the memo, then place your donation inside the child's snow boot located next to the HACAP cart. Thank you in advance of your generous support of the Luther League's effort to keep the children of Washington County warm this winter. Fill the boot by Wednesday, December 13th!

Volunteer of the Month Jon Runaas

I am probably the laziest person who attends Immanuel Lutheran Church. If anyone thinks they may have me beat on the laziness scale, I propose a competition to see who is lazier. But let's do it tomorrow, because I just don't have energy for that right now. In fact, tomorrow doesn't look good, either, maybe check back next month.

But, unfortunately for my lazy self, God has blessed me with a brain that works most of the time, vision for the future (that makes me groan to think of the work to get to that future), an emaciated but able body to do that work, and eyes to see the need in his creation. As a Christian, I am called to act as Christ's hands and feet in this world, as Pastor Howard reminds us every week.

Scripture reminds us that to those whom are given much, much is expected. God has entrusted me with talents and abilities that I may not always like to use, but it amazes me that when I give those talents back to God, using them to spread his love and care in the world, I am fulfilled and nourished far more than I expect or deserve. It humbles me that even a lazy, disorganized person such as myself can be used by the Almighty to do good in this world, good that does not come from me, good that is better than I, and yet good that flows through me. All I have to do is show up and go through the motions, and God does the rest, replacing my grumbles with gratitude, changing my pride to humility.

In short, I volunteer because I am a Christian, and without the chance to give to others what has been freely given me then my life is without cause. For though we are justified by faith, faith apart from works is barren.



Ministry Opportunity: Be a Confirmation Mentor!

Ryan Jones, Lucas Kroll, Rob Taylor, and Quinn Wubben are preparing for their Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation) on April 29, 2018. One of their requirements is to choose a mentor who will walk with them during the spring of '18. A mentor is a person of the same sex as the confirmand (men only this year), may not be a family member, be a faithful worshiper, and a person the confirmand has prayerfully considered. The mentor will meet with their confirmand once a week in February into March to journey together on faith topics: talking faith together; worship; learning; witness; and service (discussion sheets provided by Pastor Howard). The confirmands will write a faith review with the help from their mentor (due in March) and complete a service project with their mentor (completed by early April). The confirmand and mentor will explain their servant project to the congregation on Sunday, April 22nd. The mentor will be present with the confirmand at their confirmation on Sunday, April 29th. **The confirmands will ask their potential mentor, between January 1st and January 16th. Please, prayerfully consider this great ministry opportunity.** If you DO NOT feel called to this important mentoring ministry, please let Pastor Howard know prior to January 1st. If Pastor Howard does not hear from you, the confirmation students will consider you a potential mentor.

The Meaning of Christmas

In our commercialized society, during November and December, we are bombarded with jolly Santas, reindeer, happy snow people, and buy, buy, buy. Yet, there are hints and whispers that “Jesus is the reason for the season.” Yes, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. But exactly why is that fact so significant? For an answer, we need to look at the accounts of the birth of Jesus as recorded by Matthew and Luke. At the heart of these nativity narratives is a simple fact: amid the struggle of a people, who had longed for God to act in the world in new ways, God came to be with them in a way that totally identifies Himself with us as human beings. Amid the most unlikely of circumstances, to the most unlikely of people, God became a human being for the salvation of all people. Christmas is about possibility. It is not the kind of possibility that comes from a confidence in our own abilities. It is possibility that comes solely from the fact that God is God. Our God comes into our own human existence to reveal Himself and call us to Himself. Jesus is Immanuel – God with us. This fact brings the possibility of change for the world and all humanity who accept Jesus as their Savior. God has promised to be with the church and with us, His chosen people, as we live as His people in the world. It is this God, this possibility, which we celebrate at Christmas.



Chrismons

The sanctuary Christmas trees are decorated with fragile, stained glass Chrismons handmade by Tom Lyons, Sandy and Peter Weller, and Wendel Guy. A Chrismon is one of a number of Christian symbols representing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (his life, ministry, Divinity) and the church year. The term “Chrismon” comes from the Latin phrase “Christi Monogramma,” meaning “monogram of Christ.”

The monogram of Christ ~ the Greek letter X (“chi”) superimposed upon the Greek letter P (“rho”)

Other Chrismons are:

Alpha and Omega ~ God is the beginning and end

Shield ~ Jesus is our defender

Bible ~ Holy Scripture is God’s living Word

Star of David ~ Jesus is the descendant of David

Bethlehem Star ~ Jesus is the Savior of the world

Descending Dove ~ Holy Spirit

Fish ~ Jesus Christ is the Son of God; Greek ιχθύς ichthus, “fish”: Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (θ), Son (ύ), Savior (ς)

Candle ~ Jesus is the light of the world

Lamp ~ Jesus is the lamp of God’s light

Anchor ~ Jesus is our hope

Butterfly ~ Through Jesus we have everlasting life

Crown ~ Jesus is the King of Kings

Bread and Chalice ~ Body and Blood of Jesus

Crosses ~ Power of God

Help us place these holy symbols of Christ upon our Christmas trees on Sunday, December 3rd, immediately following 9 a.m. worship.

Immanuel Lutheran is NOW an AmazonSmile Charitable Choice!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Immanuel Lutheran Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Immanuel Lutheran. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select Immanuel Lutheran Church Washington IA to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. There are over 450 "Immanuel Lutheran Church" choices, please make sure you choose Immanuel Lutheran Church Washington, IA as you scroll down all the Immanuel Lutheran Church charity choices. AmazonSmile will remember your Immanuel Lutheran Washington IA selection, and then every eligible purchase you make, from that point on, at smile.amazon.com (must be at the smile.amazon.com website and not the Amazon.com site) will result in a donation to our Immanuel Lutheran. If you have already designated a charitable organization, and now want to have Immanuel Lutheran receive the donation, sign in to smile.amazon.com and simply select "Change your Charity" in "Your Account." Then search for Immanuel Lutheran Church, scrolling until you find Washington IA. **OR come into the office and Kelly will be happy to set it up for you.** Sign up today for Immanuel to be blessed through AmazonSmile's generous foundation.



Night to Shine

On Friday, February 9th, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., KC Hall, an unforgettable prom night will be held for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. Washington will be one of the 500 host communities, worldwide, celebrating people with special needs that evening. It's a night not only for guests to shine, but for churches to shine, for volunteers to shine, and most

importantly, for Christ to shine. The prom night will include: a red carpet, dinner, dancing, karaoke, hair and make-up stations, shoe shining stations, limousine rides, corsages and boutonnieres, prom favors, photographer, and a quiet space. The Night to Shine event will be supported by the Washington community through volunteering to: serve on the Night to Shine committee, set-up, be a buddy ~ must be age 16 or older (each prom attendee will have a buddy), be a dancing participant, provide salads or finger food desserts, provide make-up/hair styling, or clean-up. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please see Pastor Howard. Immanuel's Luther League will be volunteering the night of the Night to Shine prom. This will be a night no one will forget as we celebrate people with special needs! The United Methodist Church has applied for a Tim Tebow Foundation Grant of \$8,700 and it was awarded.

MAJOR OMISSION

The Annual Report did not mention the name of DORIS MOORE as a member of our H.O.P.E. group. Doris has been a member of this group since the 1980's when the then pastor's wife, Eloise Caltvedt, challenged our congregation to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Doris has made hundreds of quilts with this group and more by herself at home. Doris is our rock!!



Thank you for all you do for our HOPE group, Doris!!

GOODIES NEEDED!!

Please sign up on the hallway table to bring donations for college care/ finals week packages! Donations needed to the church no later than **Sunday, December 3rd!**



Please sign up on the hallway table to bring donations for the Children's Christmas goodie bags! Donations needed to the church no later than **Sunday, December 17th!**

December 2017, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story Merry Christmas from LSI!

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5 As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others. At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little to no resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system, who fear they will never belong to anyone or have a family to love them. LSI’s work is Christmas work, shining love, compassion, and light in places of darkness, despair, abuse, neglect, addiction, and loneliness. We could not do this important work without you, and we are so grateful. Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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 and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Voice for Change

Morgan struggled with anger management before coming to LSI’s Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly. When she was in stressful situations, she tried to escape her emotions by running away. But she can remember the exact moment she knew she wanted to make a change. “One day at Bremwood, another resident lashed out at a staff. I was just sitting there thinking this is not the life I want to live,” Morgan says. “This is not me. This is not who I want to be.” She worked hard to practice her coping skills and soon graduated out of Bremwood. But Morgan wanted to do more to give back and help others. Morgan, now 19, is going to college for Agricultural Business. She recently took her first international trip to Haiti to study local farming, and she’s already saving money to take a similar trip to Brazil next year. Morgan turned to LSI once again – but this time, not for herself. Instead, to help others in need: youth just like her who need support, a listening ear and words of encouragement. LSI and Woodhaven Shelter had been there for Morgan during some of her darkest times. Now, she wants to be there for those who need it. She is now employed as a Youth Associate in LSI’s Woodhaven Shelter! When a new resident comes through the doors, Morgan is there to show them that no matter the odds, they can make a better life for themselves. She is there to help other youth find their path to hope, healing and wholeness.

Continued from page 1

“Then the Glory of the LORD Shall Be Revealed, and All People Shall See It Together”

by Peter J. Weller

Professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, F. B. Huey, Jr., wrote, “The most obvious theme of Isaiah 40-66 is that of salvation; no other theme occurs so frequently. The opening words, ‘Comfort ye, comfort ye my people . . .’ (40:1-2), are a proclamation of salvation which expresses itself in the forgiveness of Israel and the end of her punishment. Forgiveness is an essential part of salvation. God has swept away their sins like a cloud that nothing might hinder their return to him (44:22). . . . [God] proved his power by his salvation of Israel (43:8-13; 45:20-25). No other god had done such a remarkable thing as to bring a people that had perished back to life. . . .”

Second Isaiah begins to see God not just as a Hebrew God, but as a God of all the earth. He writes, “Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and *all* people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 40:5 *Italics mine*) The words “all people” suggest all people everywhere and not just the people of Israel.

Second Isaiah radiates optimism as he proclaims to his people, “Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion. . . say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Lord GOD comes with might. . . . He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.” (Isaiah 40:9-11) In second Isaiah, we have a glimpse of Christ, the Messiah, the Shepherd.

We also see here the beginnings of an understanding of God’s great grace and capacity to forgive. As Dr. Huey stated above, “Forgiveness is an essential part of salvation. God has swept away their sins like a cloud that nothing might hinder their return to him.” We must also understand that God took the initiative here and chose to do this not as a reward for anything that the Israelites had done to earn God’s favor, but rather out of God’s great love and compassion that far exceeds our human capacity to understand.

This is what we must remember as we anticipate and then celebrate Christ’s birth. This is God coming to earth in human form. To see Christ is to see God. To know Christ is to know God. Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins, and through his sacrifice, our sins are forgiven. “The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6) This is God’s true gift to us this Christmas season.

Service Date	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Acolyte	Communion Setup/Clean up
December 3	Aaron & April Six	Brian & Carrie Lueck and Katie McWhirter	Katie McWhirter	Avery Six	Set up – Bev Bailey Clean up – Mary Gail Lyons
December 10	Bev Crandall and Doris Moore	Rich & Deidra Baker and Michael Howard	Adult Choir Program; no reader	Rob Taylor	Set up – Tricia Kroll Clean up – Naomi Erickson
December 17	Craig & Tina Montz and family	Yaro & Mary Chmelar and Richard Schmidt	Children's Program; no reader	Kylee Statler	Set up – Tricia Kroll Clean up – Ray & Alta Poe
December 24	9 am Advent service DeAnn Hakert and Sherry Ives 5:30 Christmas Eve PLEASE SEE SIGN UP 10:30 PLEASE SEE SIGN UP	9 am - Brad Kroll, Dale Venzke, and Steve Vetter 5:30 pm PLEASE SEE SIGN UP 10:30 PLEASE SEE SIGN UP	9 am - Lee Buchholz 5:30 pm PLEASE SEE SIGN UP 10:30 PLEASE SEE SIGN UP	9 am - Quinn Wubbena 5:30 pm PLEASE SEE SIGN UP 10:30 PLEASE SEE SIGN UP	9 am Set up – Bev Bailey 9 am Clean up – Ray & Alta Poe 5:30 pm Set up – Ray & Alta Poe 5:30 pm Clean up/Set up – Naomi Erickson 10:30 pm Clean up – Mary Gail Lyons
December 31	Linda Six and Carol Woodruff	Stephen Bay, Gary Fischer, and Ray Poe	Lessons & Carols service; no reader	Thomas Lueck	Set up – Tricia Kroll Clean up – Doris Moore

Annual Meeting Highlights

2018 Budget: Approved

2018-2020 Council Members

Elected: DeAnn Hakert, Kelsey Striegel, and Deb Tisor

2018 Synod Assembly Voting Members (May 18 - 19, Coralville)

Elected: Bev Bailey and Mike Howard

2018 Nominating Committee

Elected: Lee Buchholz, Karen Heineman, Margie Runaas, and Steve Vetter (outgoing Council member)

Valentine's Gifts

The Confirmation youth will be selling homemade, heart shaped, Valentine's cookies and dried apple slices for Valentine's Day. The youth will be receiving pre-orders for individual large cookies, boxes of a half-dozen cookies, boxes of a dozen cookies, or dried apple slices on Sundays January 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. It's not too early to begin planning on treating your loved ones (or yourself) for Valentine's Day. 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 was \$439 (that's the early registration discount!). We thank you for your generous support of the confirmation youth

Ryan Jones, Lucas Kroll, Ajay Six, Avery Six, Aden Six, Rob Taylor, and Quinn Wubbena.