

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

February 2018 Newsletter



Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday ~ 8am &
10:30 am

Faith Formation ~
9:15 am

Wednesday ~ 6pm

Office Hours

Weekdays

9am ~ 1pm

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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

“Therefore His Faith ‘Was Reckoned To Him As Righteousness.’” by Peter J. Weller

A selection from Romans, Chapter 4 is one of the New Testament lessons for February. “For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

“For this reason, it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations,’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls in existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations,’ according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him,’ were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.” (Romans 4:13-25)

In these verses, we find Paul’s quintessential argument regarding salvation by grace through faith. He plainly states that the promise that Abraham or his descendants would inherit the world “did not come through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” (Romans 4:13)

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

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

General Funds ~ Not yet updated

Benevolence, gifts outside of church ~

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

Building Fund Gifts ~ Not yet updated

Monthly payment ~ Not yet updated

Debt reduction ~ Not yet updated

Attendance

Sunday, December 31 ~ 80

Wednesday, January 3 ~ 19

Sunday, January 7 ~ 8 am ~ 17

10:30 ~ 46

Wednesday, January 10 ~ 12

Sunday, January 14 ~ 8 am ~ 51

10:30 ~ 42

Wednesday, January 17 ~ 17

Sunday, January 21 ~ 8 am ~ 40

10:30 ~ 51

Wednesday, January 24 ~ 20

2018 has arrived and Immanuel needs you more than ever. The leadership in our church wants Immanuel to grow and thrive for years to come. In order for that growth to happen, we need members to step forward. Some tasks require less time and commitment than other tasks, but there is something for every member to get excited about and be part of. For example, coming to a monthly cleaning day is a few hours commitment once a month, yet it helps our church thrive. I encourage all members, of all ages, to look at our bulletin board across from the bathrooms in the fellowship hall. Find a leaf, blade of grass or flower petal that you feel passionate about and make a plan to help it grow. Chances are you won't work at that task alone because others are just as passionate about that blade of grass as you are. There is something for every member to get passionate about in Immanuel. Let's grow our church together. -Angela Taylor, Council President

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the families of

+Terry Moore, Tim Johnson's Dad

and

+Steve Bennett, Marilyn Bennett's husband

may their families find comfort and peace in the promise of the resurrection of Christ.



January Milestones

I lost my 4th tooth. Ainsley Six

I was accepted for HS SEIBA Honor Band 2 years in a row for saxophone! Audrey Wubben

(Picture) Axel Six

The Children's Christmas Program was a success!

Thanks, kids for doing a wonderful job!

Linda Brown

Mariah Howard was named to the Dean's list for Fall 2017 semester at Hawkeye Community College.

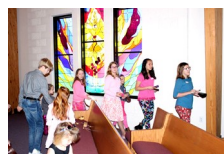
Wandering Worshipers

Richard Schmidt worshipped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Holy Trinity Church in North Liberty, Iowa on December 24, 2017 and First Presbyterian Church in Demopolis, AL on January 14th.

Youth Led Worship

Mark your calendars, **Sunday, February 25th** 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.

For the youth to be prepared they will be having run throughs during faith formation time (9:15) on Feb 4th, 11th, & 18th. If your youth is taking part in this please have them at these run throughs.





Birthdays for February

2- Nancy Rash
3- Lee Buchholz
6- Vi Kruse
15- Susan Baker
15- Vivienne Kroll
25- Aden Six
25- Avery Six
25- Ajay Six

Anniversaries for February



15- Brian & Carrie Lueck
16- Nancy Rash & Lyle Moen

Upcoming Meetings

Council—
Sunday, February 4 at 12 pm
Finance—
Thursday, February 22 at
6:30 pm



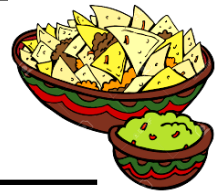
It's Soup and Protein month at Immanuel!!



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

Thank you, truly, for your generosity!!

**Ladies Night Out will be meet
Tuesday, February 20th at 6:00 pm
at Mi Pueblo Real**



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

When: Sunday, February 18th

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Why: Movie fun and fellowship (theatre popcorn provided)

Who: 6th – 12th Graders
(members and non-members... friends are WELCOME!)

Time: 6:00 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.

Supper: Pizza provided, bring a snack or dessert to share

Leadership: Katie McWhirter, Angela Taylor, and Pastor Howard

Lutheran Day on the Hill; Thursday, February 8th

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: <http://lsiowa.org/LDH/> (If you cannot register online, let Pastor Howard know you want to attend and she will register you).



WATER

WITNESS

Wednesday Holy Communion Lenten Services ~ Water Witness

Our worship format for Wednesday evening Lenten Services (February 21st, 28th, March 7th, 14th, and 21st) is Holden Evening Prayer. The services are at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a soup supper at 5:00 p.m. During our sermon ponderings, we will be navigating through Scripture and life experience as communities and people encounter the waters of baptism as both raging and peaceful. Still, seeking to be about more than water, The Water and The Witness intends to draw participants in to a deeper encounter with the One who both calms and stirs these waters, the One who draws all creation into his own life, death, and resurrection. Bound together in baptism these promise-filled waters carry the faithful people forth to become the creation God intends, to proclaim God's transformative powers, to live a reconciled life. These worship services promise to be very meaningful; as we draw closer to Christ. Take time out of your hectic schedules to join us for these Wednesday evening worship opportunities.

February 2018, 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, 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 Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. 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 and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Healing through Harmony Jaden doesn't have many memories of his father. When Jaden was 5 years old, his father unexpectedly passed away. Now 14, Jaden has grown up without that loving connection. Through his grief, his connection to his mother became strained, and he struggled to manage his anger at home. After being placed in LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly, Jaden connected with LSI's Spiritual Life program. The voluntary program connects youth with faith-based art, music, and film. It serves as a safe space for children to open up about their emotions and get the support they need to thrive. "Jaden is one of the few kids who would actively set up lunch appointments with me," says Pastor Dennis Bauer, who leads the program. "He's really benefitted from being able to talk during the day." Having access to a support network and a trusting relationship with Pastor Dennis has helped Jaden feel empowered to make a positive change during his time at Bremwood. Jaden is finding his faith through music, and he's learning how to talk about his trauma and become a role model for other Iowa youth. Jaden has now been adopted into a loving family. As he finishes up his treatment at Bremwood, his family visits frequently and worships with him, and Jaden is enjoying being a new big brother.

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Such inheritance is not a reward for right behavior or for scrupulously following the law or for "being good," but rather it is because of belief and faith in God and God's promises. Abraham never wavered in his faith. He believed that whatever God said God would do, God would, in fact, do it, improbable as it might seem. If God said to him that he would become the father of many nations, then it would become so, regardless of his, and Sarah's, old age.

Paul goes on to say that God's promise to Abraham was not just to him, but also to all of his descendants. And, by extension, that would include us. Paul writes that Abraham's faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he writes further that these words "were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification." (Romans 4:22-25) It is through our belief in Jesus Christ as God's son, and that he was crucified for us and for our sins and trespasses, that God's grace is lavished upon us.

John said much the same thing in his gospel. He wrote, "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. . . . From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:12-18) In describing in his third chapter, Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus at night, John quoted Jesus in his memorable 16th verse: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Verse 17 and those following are equally important: "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Indeed, the world is saved through him, and through him, we gain access to God's amazing grace. Considering this then, we can only express gratitude and appreciation to Almighty God for such a gift, and also express deep humility that such grace would be showered on us.



Thank you for the generous mitten tree donations in December. We sent a donation of 33 gloves, 1 ear muff, 3 mittens, 12 hats, & 1 insulated glove to the local schools!!

Thank you to for the retirement cards and gifts we have received. Also thanks to the council for the lovely reception and those who attended. It was our great pleasure and privilege to serve as your custodians.

Ron and Linda

THANK YOU to Alta and Ray Poe, Steve and Kathy Vetter, Mary Gail and Tom Lyons, Harold Frakes, and Pastor Howard for attending the Epiphany party. Many hands make light work, undecorating the sanctuary from Christmas took no time at all. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

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 11th** to distribute to your loved ones. Individual, large cookies will be on sale Valentine's Day 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 2018 confirmation camp is \$479 (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 Wubben.

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,
We are fortune to have supporters like you who care about the less fortunate in our community. We appreciate your generosity!
Sincerely,
Lyn White

Date: December 21, 2017

Donation: Misc. Food

Value: 40 lbs. equals to 33.333 meals

Program: HACAP Food Pantry

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,
We are fortune to have supporters like you who care about the less fortunate in our community. We appreciate your generosity!
Sincerely,
Lyn White

Date: January 17, 2018

Donation: Misc. Food

Value: 132 lbs. equals to 110 meals

Program: HACAP Food Pantry

Thank you to EVERYONE who placed their spare change in the barn coin box for ELCA World Hunger. **Thank you** to those who purchased an ornament for our Good Gifts tree. We will send in \$1,156.00. **That's AMAZING!!**



Members of Immanuel Lutheran's council will be attending Re:Vitalize on February 24th, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. We will be joining others from congregations around the Southeastern Iowa Synod for a day of workshops given by real people making a difference in their community. Get ideas. Be inspired. Renew the church. If you are interested in being inspired and renewing Immanuel Lutheran, you are welcome to join us. Let Pastor Howard know, by Friday February 16th, that you want to be included and she will register you.



Lent: What is it? Why is it?

The highlight of the year for Christians is Easter, the day when our Lord rose from the dead. Lent is a forty-day (not counting six Sundays in Lent) season of preparation for Easter. It always begins on a Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, six and one-half weeks before Easter. It ends on Holy Saturday, the last day of Holy Week, which immediately precedes Easter Sunday.

“Lent” is an Old English word for spring, the season when the days lengthen. Why 40 days? We remember the 40 days in the ark surrounded by water, the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for purification, the 40 days that Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness, and the 40 days of preparation for Easter baptisms. During Lent God’s people: fast, pray, demonstrate acts of love, and long for the baptismal waters of Easter – our spiritual rebirth. Lent is not required anywhere in scripture, but a custom Christians have practiced for most of the last two thousand years.

The color used in the sanctuary is purple, a color which symbolized both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. Purple is also the color of royalty and so anticipates, through the suffering and death of Jesus, the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Sunday. Simply put, Lent is a time to carefully examine our relationship with God and for spiritual renewal.

Pastor Howard invites you to a discipline of making the sign of the cross upon your forehead with God’s baptismal water. Remind yourself that through your baptism you are a claimed, beloved child of God and an inheritor of all of God’s promises through Jesus Christ.

12 Hours of Prayer

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, February 14th** 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 is February 14th

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.



First Communion Retreat

All children in the 2nd grade, along with their parent(s)/guardian(s), will participate in a First Communion retreat. This retreat will be held on Saturday, March 24th (1 p.m. – 5 p.m.). As part of the learning experience, the children will prepare the Communion bread to be used during worship on Palm and Easter Sundays. The children will receive their First Communion on Sunday, March 25th (Palm Sunday).



By Heart Class will break until
Sunday, March 4th.

Lent

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

almsgiving
ashes
ash wednesday
cross
crucifixion
easter
fasting
forgiveness
holy week

lent
meditation
penance
prayer
prepare
reconciliation
sacrifice
sorrow
spring

There are two ways of
spreading light:

*be the candle or
be the mirror that
reflects it.*

Deb Marchant



Across:

2. Number of days in lent
3. The day lent begins (2 words)
4. A word that means the suffering and death of Jesus
7. Disciple who betrayed Jesus
8. Branches waved at Jesus upon his arrival to Jerusalem
12. The prayer which follows Jesus on the way to his death (4 words)
15. A sacrifice for the poor
16. Jesus died on this
17. Liturgical color of Lenten Season
18. Placed on forehead on first day of Lent
19. The garden where Jesus prayed before he died
20. What we call Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday

Down:

1. The final three days of lent (2 words)
5. The hill where Jesus died
6. Where Jesus spent 40 days in prayer
9. The 40 day season before Easter
10. A crown made with these was placed on Jesus' head
11. Jesus gave us the Eucharist at this event (2 words)
12. Word that means Jesus was whipped
13. Lent ends with this great celebration
14. An act that shows how much we love God by putting others before ourselves.

Word Bank:

Last Supper
Ash Wednesday
Stations of the Cross
Desert
Cross
Thorns
Easter
Forty
Holy Triduum
Alms
Judas
Purple
Scourging
Gethsemane
Calvary
Lent
Passion
Holy Week
Palms
Sacrifice



Service Date	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Acolyte	Communion Setup/ Clean up
February 4	8 am Bev Crandall and Carol Woodruff 10:30 Doris Moore and Linda Six	8 am Gary Fischer, Michael Howard, and Steve Vetter 10:30 Stephen Bay, Bob Coker, and Marty Westen	8 am Tricia Kroll 10:30 Mikaila Matheson	8 am Caitlin Kroll 10:30 Kylee Statler	Set up– Bev Bailey Clean up/Set up– Mary Gail Lyons Clean up– Judy Venzke
February 11	8 am Ken & Susan Baker 10: 30 Mike & Virginia Jorgensen	8 am Rich, Deidra, and Marty Baker 10:30 John & Peg Harris and Richard Schmidt	8 am Linda Brown 10:30 Taylor Bartholomew	8 am Rob Taylor 10:30 Quinn Wubbena	Set up– Bev Bailey Clean up/Set up– Kristin and Cody Jones Clean up– Doris Moore
February 18	8 am Michael Howard and Don McAvoy 10:30 DeAnn Hakert and Sherry Ives	8 am Stan, Kristin, and Cody Jones 10:30 Brian & Carrie Lueck and Kelsey Striegel	8 am Kristin Jones 10:30 Lee Buchholz	8 am Ryan Jones 10:30 Thomas Lueck	Set up– Mary Gail Lyons Clean up/Set up– Ray & Alta Poe Clean up– Naomi Erickson
February 25	Youth Led	Youth Led	Youth Led	8 am Lucas Kroll 10:30 Issac Giesmann	Set up– Tricia Kroll Clean up/Set up– Doris Moore Clean up– Corrine Martin



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