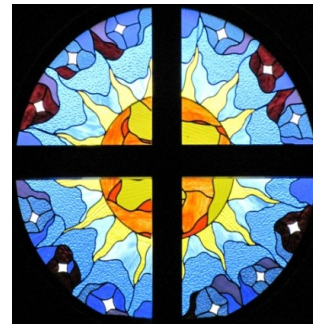


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Hear Love. Eat Love. Share Christ's Love.

June 2018 Newsletter



Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday ~ 9 am

Wednesday ~ 6pm

Office Hours

Weekdays

9am ~ 1pm

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“The Lord Whom You Seek Will Suddenly Come To His Temple”

by Peter J. Weller

One of the Old Testament readings for the month of June is from Malachi. It reads: “See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight— indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?”

“For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.” (Malachi 3:1-4)

Those familiar with George Frederick Handel’s great choral work, *Messiah*, will recognize the texts from these verses that Handel used as part of the prophecy of the coming of Jesus. In these verses, Malachi speaks of purification and judgement. In a commentary in *The Working Preacher*, Kathryn Schifferdecker, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, wrote that, “Malachi, for his part, also warns his hearers of the coming judgment. . . . Like one who burns away the dross in order to refine gold, God will burn away all the evil within us. Like one who uses harsh soap to clean a garment, God will bleach out the stains that sin leaves in us. Refining gold and cleaning clothes are positive activities, but from the perspective of the gold and the clothing, the process holds the prospect of much pain. We would do well to feel some fear.”

Professor Schifferdecker also quoted the German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “It is very remarkable that we face the thought that God is coming, so calmly, whereas previously peoples trembled at the day of God . . . We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God’s coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God’s coming should arouse in us. We are indifferent to the message, taking only the pleasant and agreeable out of it and forgetting the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us. The coming of God is truly not only glad tidings, but first of all frightening news for every one who has a conscience.”



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

Email us at luthwash@hotmail.com

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 ~ \$9,765

Benevolence, gifts outside of church ~ \$412

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

Building Fund Gifts ~ \$715

Monthly payment ~ \$810

Debt reduction ~ \$646 (April pymt)

Attendance

Sunday, April 29 ~ 8 am ~ 14
10:30 ~ 125

Wednesday, May 3 ~ 11
Sunday, May 6 ~ 8 am ~ 30
10:30 ~ 52

Wednesday, May 9 ~ 9
Sunday, May 13 ~ 8 am ~ 37
10:30 ~ 42

Wednesday, May 16 ~ 17
Sunday, May 20 ~ 8 am ~ 27
10:30 ~ 38

Wednesday, May 23 ~ 8

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the families of

+Tom Tanner

and

+Jerry Bielicke, uncle of Chrissy Middle

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



May Milestones

**Steven Howard purchased his first home in
Janesville, WI**

Wandering Worshipers

Richard Schmidt worshipped with our brothers and
sisters in Christ at Holy Trinity Church in North Liberty,
Iowa on May 6, 2018.

NO Ladies Bible Study at the church for
June, July, and August.

Will start up again at the church in September.

June Circle Meeting

The second Tuesday of every month is Bible Study/Circle meeting for all women of Immanuel. On June 12th, let's meet without the Bible study and wrap ourselves in Nature at the outdoor picnic spot of the Chmelars. We will meet at the church parking lot at 1:15 and car caravan out to the country for an afternoon of each other's company and conversation. Bring some simple finger food if you have some on hand; there will be drinks provided. Wear your walking shoes if you choose to take an optional hike around the pond and in the timber. We will look to seeing you there.

Having one summer service brings with it a chance to visit after church in the fellowship room. Cookies, coffee, lemonade and cold water will be served for the summer months. Tom Lyons makes coffee and sets up, Judy Venzke cleans up, and Phyllis Hagensick makes the sign-up chart. The sign up for treats for June and July will be in the main hallway, instead of on the kitchen counter. We encourage members to provide treats at least once a summer even if you're unable to stay after church. You may buy your treats. Thank you. Judy Venzke



Birthdays for June

- 1- Lori Seubert
- 2- Ron Heineman
- 6- Emma Taylor
- 6- Erin Almelen
- 8- Grant Wubbena
- 9- Amy Statler
- 13- Wilma McKinstry
- 15- Barb Matheson
- 16- Kathleen Almelen
- 16- Sophie Wittmayer
- 17- Alex Six
- 17- Andy Six
- 17- Anders Almelen
- 19- Rich Baker
- 20- Gary Brown
- 28- Armor Six

Anniversaries for June



- 3- Tina & Craig Montz
- 5- Lee & Lois Buchholz
- 8- Jon and Margie Runaas
- 12- Sid & Donna Manfull
- 23- Dale & Judy Venzke
- 28- David & Jane Ann Croft

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council– Sunday, June 3 at 10:30 am



*There is a DIRE need for peanut butter!!
It's protein month at Immanuel!!*

Please consider donating proteins to send to HACAP this month. Other items will be accepted and appreciated as always. Tuna and Peanut Butter will be our focus items. HACAP sends out 150 jars of peanut butter each month.



Thank you, truly, for your generosity!!

NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION!!

Ladies Night Out will be
June 19th at 6:00 pm.

We will meet at Mi Pueblo Real.
See you there!!



God's Blessings on the birth of Martin Thomas Runaas. Congratulations to Jon & Margie on the birth of their baby boy.

My Father Is A Christian

*My father is a Christian;
He leads our household well;
With instruction from the Bible,
Right behavior he'll compel.*

*Yet he steers us with compassion;
His gentle love is true;
He conforms to our Lord Jesus,
So we know just what to do.
He teaches us with purpose,
Guides us in all Godly ways,
So we will take the right path,
And serve our Lord with praise.*

*I'm glad you're a Christian, Dad;
You help me see things clearly.
I'll always look up to you,
And love you very dearly.*

THANK YOU to Chef Steve Bay and DeAnn Hakert for preparing and serving the Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner on Saturday, April 28th. Your delicious meal and extreme show of hospitality was a blessing to the 28 guests you served. You honored Ryan Jones, Lucas Kroll, Rob Taylor, and Quinn Wubbena with a wonderful evening.



Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,
We are fortunate to have supporters like you who care about the less fortunate in our community. We appreciate your generosity!
Sincerely, Lyn White
Date: April 16, 2018 Donation: Misc. Food
Value: 97 lbs. equals to 80.833 meals
Program: HACAP Food Pantry

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for allowing us to speak to your congregation about Lutheran Campus Ministry. And many thanks to your extremely generous donations– you are helping our ministry thrive as we continue to grow and expand.

With love and thanks,
LCM

Thank you for the visits, flowers, phone calls, and prayers. I was covered in love with a prayer shawl and I will be home next week.

Thanks,
Bev Crandall

**Thank you for your overflowing generosity!!
Immanuel sent a check for \$1,210.41 to the
Synod Assembly for water ministries.
#InThisTogether**



Thank you to those who helped with the packaging of food for HACAP. These packages will be used by families in need right here in Washington County.

Thanks!!



Thank you for helping pack meals for Washington Against Hunger. 14,000 meals were packed!! And were sent to Texas for families in need.

You make a difference!!



June 2018, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Father's Day!

At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we strive to build up and empower Iowa kids and families. For us, Father's Day is a time to celebrate all the fathers and male role models we see every day.

Many of the boys and young men that LSI serves in our Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers have never had a positive male role model in their lives. But our caring volunteers are there to help guide them. In our Early Childhood fatherhood program, young men are learning to become dads. They're becoming confident and active in their child's life, and they are creating loving, bright futures for their families. You are making all of this possible through your support of LSI. Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

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 LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

On the Road to Success

As everyone was preparing for the Christmas season last year, Ali was eager to finally give his family a gift he'd been dreaming of: a second car. After Ali came to the U.S. as a refugee from Somalia in 2014, he dedicated his time to finding a job and building a better life for his family. But he and his wife struggled to keep up with both of their busy jobs and caring for their four children with one vehicle.

"It was a very stressful time for my family, especially when emergencies happened or schedules changed," Ali says. Ali decided to make it his goal to set aside money for a second car. He used LSI's Refugee Community Services Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program to save the money he needed.

Through the program, Ali has received guidance through basic financial literacy classes and one-on-one coaching to prepare him for the new car-buying experience. Now, Ali and his family are thriving. They have reliable transportation, and Ali feels confident knowing his family's needs will be met every day. "I'm very thankful for LSI and this opportunity," Ali says. "It is really good of them to offer this program, and it has made a great impact for my family."

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"Only when we have felt the terror of the matter, can we recognize the incomparable kindness. God comes into the very midst of evil and of death, and judges the evil in us and in the world. And by judging us, God cleanses and sanctifies us, comes to us with grace and love."

Professor Schifferdecker continues, "It is the Lord who is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. It is he who will purify the people of the covenant. And, despite our feelings or fears about the matter, this is actually good news! Sin separates us from God. Sin clouds and distorts the good creation God made us to be. And we are helpless to clean ourselves. Enter the refiner of gold and the washer of clothes, to do the cleaning for us.

"It is not an easy process, of course. There is pain involved in refining and cleansing. There is pain involved in dying and rising. But it is a process that is designed for our good, for our well-being, to prepare us for the coming of the Lord. God comes into our midst as Emmanuel, comes to destroy the evil in us and in the world, comes to draw us out of death into life. And though that is an alarming prospect, it is also one that should fill us with great joy."

It is very difficult for the human mind to comprehend the transformation from the life of sin to the sanctified life of salvation through grace, from life in this world to eternal life in the world to come. And, we do not fully understand how this transformation will take place. It is a fearful thing to contemplate when the unholy one meets the Holy One, when the sinful one meets the Sinless One, when the imperfect one meets the Perfect One. This is where our faith is so important. We believe that we are children of God. We believe that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We believe that God loves us deeply and unconditionally. We believe that Jesus is our Savior. We believe that by confessing our sins to God that God will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We, therefore, can be confident that, even though we may not understand how all this works, or how we might experience this transformation, we will emerge on the other side and be in that better place. As Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians, "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known." (I Corinthians 13:12) Blessed be God for his gifts of grace and salvation.

News from Synod Assembly

Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly 2018

Thank you for allowing me to attend the 2018 Synod Assembly of the Southeastern Iowa Synod. It is a wonderful and uplifting experience to come together with fellow Lutheran Christians to hear how the good news of Jesus Christ is proclaimed by SE Iowa Synod and ELCA. I hope more people would prayerfully consider going to future synod assemblies.

For 2018, there were no high profile concerns or resolutions discussed, so for myself, the highlights were Friday's worship and the two guest speakers.

Worship is inspiring because of the strong, powerful singing voices filling the ballroom and for the sharing of Christ's body and blood during communion.

The guest speakers were Mikka McCracken, program director of ELCA World Hunger and Pastor Julian Gordy, Bishop of Southeastern Synod (Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi)

The most memorable part of Mikka's presentation was about the ELCA's involvement in Indonesia. Indonesia has more Lutherans than the United States and Lutheranism is the predominant protestant domination. Mikka's story involved the often overlooked but vital feature of indoor plumbing and toilets. Due to lack of personal toilets, villagers leave their homes, seeking secluded locations. On one such excursion, a woman named Rooski was attacked by a male of her village. Rooski was taken into a shelter funded by ELCA. There she was taught a trade that enabled her to earn a living wage. After Rooski's time in the shelter, Mikka followed her progress and discovered she had her own personal latrine (long-drop Lutheran Latrine). Mikka had assumed ELCA had given assistance for the purchase, but was somewhat tersely informed that Rooski had purchased the latrine with her own money. The idea of a toilet does not seem very Gospel-like or glorious but the outreach of ELCA, provided for the health and safety of woman from Indonesia and it was not merely a handout.

Mikka's message gave me a sense that the ELCA is reaching out to the world and is not just concerned with those within the walls of our sanctuaries.

Pastor Julian Gordy is a humorous and yet profound speaker. Two items from his presentation stood out. Pastor Gordy told of growing up in the South, in a fundamentalist family and learning to hate a God he was to love. Exposure to the Lutheran perspective gave him an alternative view of Christianity; a faith that said God loves all and is not a God that punishes for lack of do's and abundance of don'ts. Pastor

Gordy made mention of how his story is similar to Martin Luther's. Pastor Gordy also spoke of Lutherans coming down from the frozen north, during the 1950's and 60's and being involved in the forefront of our country's civil rights struggles. He also gave thanks to Lutherans from Iowa and the Midwest, who have traveled to the Southeast Synod to provide relief help from natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

Pastor Gordy's presentation gave me pride in knowing that Lutherans have been involved in the world and living out our faith in tangible ways. His message also gave me hope that our faith can be presented in a way that attracts not repels those who are not currently in relationship with God.

Blessings, Mike Howard





1) Please prayerfully consider being an evening meal host for our EWALU day camp counselors. We need a meal each night June 24-27 for 3-5 counselors. Signup sheets are on the hallway table; contact Education committee for more information.

2) Please prayerfully consider being an overnight house host for our EWALU day camp counselors. We need a house each night June 24-28 for 3-5 counselors. Signup sheets are on the hallway table; contact Education committee for more information.



EWALU Day Camp at Immanuel Lutheran Church

For Kindergarten thru 5th grade
(2017-2018 school year)

June 25 - 28 9am - 3pm and June 29 9am - Noon

Registration fee is \$50/child until May 31st,
& \$75/child June 1st-June 25th (at door).

Registration forms available at church office
9am-1pm M-F or at <http://luthwash.org/>

2018 Theme: "This Changes Everything"

Congratulations to Jon Runaas for being elected, at the 2018 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, to be a voting member at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; August 5 – 10, 2019 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The assembly will gather under the theme "We are church."

When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members: hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units; the election of the Presiding Bishop and Secretary as well as persons to the Church Council and to churchwide boards and committees; receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies; elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws; establish ELCA churchwide policy; worship together; adopt a budget; and conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

"When members of the assembly participate in and make decisions about the mission and ministry of the ELCA: We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world." ~ Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.



Congratulations to Our High School Seniors

On Sunday, May 20th we honored 2018 High School senior, **Marty Baker**, during worship service. On Sunday, May 27th we will honor 2018 High School senior, **Samantha Holz**, during worship service.

As Immanuel Lutheran tradition, the seniors process into church wearing their cap and gown, receive a prayer shawl from their church family, and are sent off with a special graduation liturgy.

Congratulations Marty and Samantha!!



Don't Forget Immanuel Lutheran

The 2017-18 school year has come to a close. The summer schedules will soon be in full swing with: ball games, swim lessons, picnics, fishing, and vacations. As we leave Washington and our normal routines for summer get a-ways, Immanuel Lutheran continues to do God's ministry. The work of Christ does not stop even though church attendance is low. While you are not worshipping with us, the ministry of the church continues to rely on your financial support. God continues to bless us daily; our response to God's abundant blessings does not go on vacation. When you're packing the sunscreen, fishing poles, and suitcases don't forget Immanuel Lutheran; write your offering check and mail it to the church. God's mission, God's church, and our response of thanksgiving.



Wednesday Worship 6 p.m.

If you are away for the weekend, enjoying the summer sunshine, don't forget we offer worship on Wednesday evenings. Make time in your very hectic schedules to give God thanks and praise. We worship God using Marty Haugen's "Now the Feast and Celebration" liturgy. The service is very relaxed with an intimate gathering. Depending upon attendance, we receive Holy Communion around the Altar or Baptismal font. Join us for worship on Wednesdays when you are busy with summer activities on Sunday mornings.

Houston, We Have A Gathering...

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.



The theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, "This Changes Everything." Our primary scripture will be Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as people realize they are enough because of what Christ has done and are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news.

Our logo is a visual representation of our theme and the 2018 Gathering experience. It incorporates the coming together of a mosaic to reflect the diverse host city of Houston, as well as the idea that we are a church where all are imperfect and incomplete, yet we each belong in – and have an important place in – God's masterpiece. The cross at the center of the logo is the focus – it is God's grace, through Christ's life, death and resurrection, that changes everything for all people.

Lucas Kroll, Rob Taylor, Mike Howard, and Pastor Howard will be attending The Gathering from Immanuel Lutheran. Join us for worship on Sunday, June 24th, when we will send our participants off with a special blessing liturgy. We will leave on Sunday, June 24th and return to Washington on Monday, July 2nd. Please keep all the attendees in your prayers.



Blast Off for Books ~

2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering

The Gathering has recognized the need to lift up literacy in Houston. Students who read at home become strong writers, critical thinkers, and more successful students than those who do not. Houston Independent School District estimates that 74% of the students in the district come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. This means the students begin each school year at a disadvantage. In joining the Gathering's Blast Off for Books campaign, you will help ensure bright futures for Houston's students. The books you donate will be distributed at community book fairs, camps and other events around the city as part of the Gathering's Service Learning experience. By putting books in the hands of Houston's economically disadvantaged students, you can help change lives. The goal is to collect 100,000 books through the Blast Off for Books campaign. We have a list of books needed, please inquire at the church.

A city-wide food collection event for Washington HACAP: Sunday, July 8th – Sunday, July 22nd. Immanuel will continue to be a drop off location for HACAP donations (including monetary donations). Items most requested: Baby Food, Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, spam, etc.), Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit, Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Rice or Pasta, Canned or Boxed Meals, Boxed Potatoes, and Diapers. THANK YOU for your continued support in keeping our HACAP cart full so people won't be hungry in the county of Washington.



Leadership School

Pastor Howard was selected to participate in the Southeastern Iowa Synod Leadership School; June 3-8, 2018 at Prairiewoods Ecospirituality Retreat and Conference Center in Hiawatha.

This school is made possible, in part, through a \$40,000 Renewing Congregations grant as part of the ELCA campaign Always Being Made New and in conjunction with a leadership network which identify, train, and coach talented congregational leaders. Through this leadership school Pastor Howard will be equipped with additional training and support, so she can boldly and effectively work toward a broader Christian imagination and change concerning what it means to be the church in a rapidly changing context over the next two years.

Specifically, the school will equip Pastor Howard with practical leadership skills to empower and move Immanuel Lutheran toward greater vitality/health and provide a spiritual foundation so that leadership is experienced as a joy rather than a strain.

The curriculum will include a project implementation after the school is over. The projects will be varied in nature, based on the gifts and skills of Pastor Howard and Immanuel Lutheran. Pastor Howard will be asked to choose a project that engages one of the following areas: faith practices, evangelizing outreach, or community engagement. The project will be implemented in the 18-24 months following the leadership school and Pastor Howard will present a final project report at one of the leadership network meetings. Pastor Howard has the full backing of the Council to participate and their committed cooperation in fulfilling the project. Please pray for Pastor Howard as she embarks on this leadership training.



Service Date	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Acolyte	Communion Setup/Clean up
June 3	9 am Mike & Virginia Jorgensen	9 am Brad Kroll, Ray Poe, and Steve Vetter	9 am Tricia Kroll	9 am Vivienne Kroll	Set up– Tricia Kroll Clean up– Judy Venzke
June 10	9 am Sherry Ives and Doris Moore	9 am Ron & Char Andersen and Bob Coker	9 am Lee Buchholz	9 am Issac Giesmann	Set up– Mary Gail Lyons Clean up– Naomi Erickson
June 17	9 am Alan, Vicki, and Allison Rebling	9 am Brian & Carrie Lueck and Marty Westen	9 am Mikaila Matheson	9 am Emma Lueck	Set up– Bev Bailey Clean up– Corrine Martin
June 24	9 am Aaron & April Six and family	9 am Stan & Kristin Jones and family	9 am Tom Gaughan	9 am Kylee Statler	Set up– Kristin Jones Clean up– Naomi Erickson



Watoto's excitement from past concerts



Please prayerfully consider being a host family for Watoto; Sunday, June 17th-Tuesday, June 19th. The Watoto performance is **Sunday, June 17th** (Father's Day) at 6:30 pm. They will also be in Washington on Monday, June 18th for their rest day and leaving Tuesday morning. We need 9-10 families able to provide housing for an adult and 1-3 children. Host families should be available to pick up their guests after the show on Sunday evening, provide transportation, bedding (kids may share a bed or sleep on the floor if needed), possible meals on Monday and Tuesday breakfast, and bring to church Tuesday morning. Kelsey Striegel (515-468-3248) is coordinating housing. Details are in the works and a sign-up sheet is on the table.