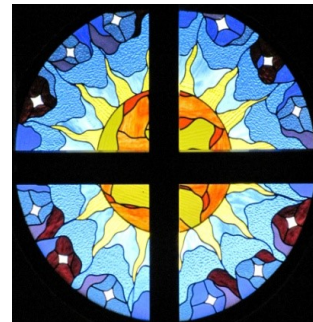


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

## December 2018 Newsletter



### Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday ~ 9 am

Faith Formation ~  
will resume 1/6

Wednesday ~ 6pm

### Office Hours

Weekdays

9am ~ 1pm

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**"Did You Not Know That I Must Be In My Father's House?"**  
by Peter J. Weller

This is a story about a 12-year old boy from a rural village left alone in a big city. Luke tells us that Jesus' parents attended the Passover festival every year, and when Jesus was 12, they took him with them. He writes, "When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." (Luke 2:41-52)

In 21st-century America, this would be looked upon as an example of child neglect, endangerment, and possibly abandonment. What parents would wait a whole day into a four-day trip to begin searching for a missing 12-year old? Considering the day out, a day back, and three days of searching in Jerusalem, this kid was missing for five days. Jerusalem was a big city. Modern historians estimate that its population in Jesus' time was about 100,000 or less. The Roman historian, Tacitus, thought it to be 600,000. Certainly, it was no Chicago or New York, but still large enough for a 12-year-old, alone, to get into some serious trouble and possibly life-threatening danger.



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

Email us at [luthwash@hotmail.com](mailto: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 ~ \$13,221  
Benevolence, gifts outside of church ~ \$33.34  
October expenses ~ \$17,532  
Building Fund Gifts ~ \$782  
Monthly payment ~ \$810  
Debt reduction ~ \$672 (October pymt.)

### Attendance

Sunday, October 28 ~ 8 am ~ 43  
10:30 ~ 70

Wednesday, October 31 ~ 15

Sunday, November 4 ~ 8 am ~ 46  
10:30 ~ 65

Wednesday, November 7 ~ 20

Sunday, November 11 ~ 8 am ~ 20  
10:30 ~ 37

Wednesday, November 14 ~ 16

Sunday, November 18 ~ 8 am ~ 24  
10:30 ~ 68

### **Faith Formation** **Winter Holiday class** **schedule**



Dec 2 & Dec 9: Christmas Program  
Practice at 10:30  
Dec 16: Christmas PROGRAM at 9:00--  
LINE UP NO LATER THAN 8:30--  
NO FF  
Dec 23 & Dec 30: NO FF (Christmas  
Break)  
Jan 6: Regular FF Rotations Return at 9:15

### **Christian Sympathy**

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the families of

+Lawrence Kowalczyk, Julie Giesmann's grandfather

+Dean Wagner, Grant Wubbena's uncle

+Robert Barnard, Jon Runaas' grandfather

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

### **Annual Meeting Highlights**

2019 Budget: Approved

2019-2021 Council Members Elected: Bev Bailey, Scott Bartholomew, Jon Runaas, and Addison Six (finishing Kelsey Striegel's term; 2-years left). Steve Vetter (was re-elected to finish Travis Brink's term 1-year left).

2019 Synod Assembly Voting Members (May 10-11, West Des Moines) Elected: Gary and Kathy Fischer

2019 Nominating Committee Elected: Deidra Baker, Naomi Erickson, and Nancy Baker. Linda Six (outgoing Council member)



### **November Milestones**

—I am going to be having an amazing  
Halloween—Kenzie Quigley

—I went to my Grandma & Grandpa's house—??

—I get to have fun in third grade with my friends—  
Kenzie Quigley

—I started my bible reading. Thank you—Sophie  
Wittmayer

—I went to trunk or treat—Vivi Kroll

—I'm going to trunk or treat tonight—Kenzie Quigley

—Tug Vetter, grandson of Steve & Kathy Vetter  
visited our preschool FF. Tugg is also a 2nd  
generation preschooler just like the other 5! Andy  
Vetter, Tugg's dad, was also in my class when he was  
3! —Linda Brown

—I sang in choir with my friends. —Kenzie Quigley

—I love church 10 —Ainsley Six

### **Congregational Old Fashion House-to-House Caroling**

Gather at Immanuel Lutheran on **Friday, December 7th 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!



## Birthdays for December

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



11-28 Stan & Sharol Kroll

## Anniversaries for December

31- Jim & Kathleen Almelien

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

Wednesday Worship Times remain 6 p.m.

**Sunday, December 2nd** First Sunday of Advent: 9 a.m., Choirs' Advent Program  
10:15 a.m., Decorate for Christmas, soup potluck fellowship following  
10:15 a.m. Family Advent Program

**Wednesday, December 5th** First Wednesday of Advent: 6 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, December 9th** Second Sunday of Advent: 9 a.m. Worship

**Wednesday, December 12th** Second Wednesday of Advent: 6 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, December 16th** Third Sunday of Advent: 9 a.m., - Children's Christmas Program "Joy to the World" during worship

**Wednesday, December 19th:** 6 p.m., Blue Christmas / Healing Service

**Sunday, December 23rd** Fourth Sunday of Advent: 9 a.m. Worship

**Monday, December 24th** Christmas Eve, Holy Communion, Candlelight Worship  
6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 26th:** Fourth Wednesday in Advent: 6 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, December 30th** First Sunday After Christmas: 9 a.m., ~ Service of Lessons and Carols

**Wednesday, January 2nd** Second Wednesday After Christmas: 6 p.m. ~ Service of Lessons and Carols

We will return to our normal Sunday worship schedule on Sunday, January 6th: Sunday worship 8 a.m., Faith Formation 9:15 a.m., worship 10:30 a.m.

## 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.



Contact DeAnn for patterns to make bedding items for HACAP.

*Thank you, truly, for your generosity!!*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council- Sunday, December 16th

Ladies Night Out for December will be Tuesday, December 18th, at the Frontier, at 6:00 p.m.



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

**When:** Saturday, December 15th  
**(NOTE DAY CHANGE)**

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

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

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. Wrapping Christmas Presents  
1:00 p.m. Lunch at Pizza Ranch  
2:00 p.m. Shopping at Wal-Mart

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

**Leadership:** Pastor Howard and Steve Vetter

Please join us following the Children's Christmas Program on December 16th for a cake reception. This time of fellowship will be to celebrate the children's Christmas message AND celebrate Steve's retirement effective, December 31st, from Agriland FS after 35 ½ years of service.

Steve and Kathy Vetter



## ONE Christmas Eve Service

Join us for Christmas Eve, Candlelight Service, Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

**The Christmas Eve, Candlelight, Holy Communion service will be at 6:30 p.m.**

Let us come together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



**THANK YOU to Deb Simmering** 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 to Carrie Lueck** for ringing the hand-bell (borrowed from the United Methodist Church) during All Saints' Sunday worship on November 4th and to **Brian Lueck** for ringing the hand-bell on Wednesday, November 7th. The ringing of the bell, during the reading of the names of the Saints who have died, is such a solemn and holy time.

Thank you to my Church family for the kindness through food, prayers, cards, hugs and comforting words at the time of my Mom's passing. She is truly missed, but my memories of her will live in my heart forever. She taught me how to love and live; I hope I can continue to make her proud.  
Kathy Vetter

### *The Meaning of Advent*

Advent begins a new liturgical church year. It is the season of four Sundays prior to Christmas. The word "advent" is derived from the Latin "adventus," which means "coming" or "arrival". In the societies of the Roman Empire, the word referred to the arrival of a person of dignity and great power – a king, emperor, or even one of the gods. For Christians, Advent is the time the church prepares for the coming of the King of kings Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate Dec. 25th. The Advent season focuses on Christ's threefold coming: past, present, and future. First, we remember the Lord's humble first coming in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. Second, we give thanks for Jesus' present and continual coming to us through Word and Sacrament. Finally, we look forward with hope and longing to Jesus' second coming in glory on Judgment Day. The liturgical color for Advent, which decks the altar and pastor's vestments, is blue which represents hope, expectation, and heaven.

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### *The Meaning of Christmas*

In our commercialized society, during November and December, we are bombarded with jolly Santas, reindeer, happy snowpeople, 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.

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### *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 30th at one service 9 a.m. and again on Wednesday, January 2nd, to hear and sing the promises of Christ's birth.

## December 2018, 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 have a family to love them. The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our most vulnerable neighbors. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org). 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](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

### Giving Back to Her Community

Two years ago, Sarah felt helpless. She struggled with her mental health, there was tension between family members at home, and she couldn't find support or resources that worked with her family's busy schedule. Sarah connected with LSI's Early Childhood Services, and through a local program she received flexible in-home parenting education to help her family thrive. Her LSI parent educator worked with her to learn about money management, healthy communication, and skills for parenting her two young children. Now Sarah feels confident raising her family. She has found a support system and is ready to give back to her community and help other young mothers in need. Whenever she can, she tells other moms about LSI and helps refer them for services. Because she felt empowered by LSI's Early Childhood Services, Sarah is creating a ripple effect across her community. She is passionate about lifting up and strengthening other families in need of the hope and healing she received.

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You can hear the relief, but also the anger, in Mary's voice when she asks, “. . . why have you treated us like this? . . . your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” One can only wonder what else she might have said to him. It would not be surprising if she said or implied to the young Jesus, “Don't you ever do anything like that to us again!” What parent wouldn't react like this? Any modern parent of a preteen or young teen, particularly in this era of abductions, mass-shootings in public places, and sex-trafficking, would react similarly.

Yet, Jesus responds, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” In saying this, Jesus takes the name “father” from Joseph and gives it to God. Jesus now knows who his true father is. Luke says that Mary and Joseph did not understand what he said to them. There may have been some confusion on their part as to what Jesus meant by this. Even though Joseph knew it from the beginning, however, he still must have winced when he heard Jesus refer to “my Father” as being someone else.

This is the only place in the gospels that, at such a young age, Jesus expresses the idea that he is no ordinary human being. Possibly, he felt it earlier. Exactly how or when he knew, or how that would register in his child's mind, we cannot say. Perhaps, in some way, he knew it intuitively from the beginning. Being the Son of God, he very likely could communicate with his Heavenly Father in ways that ordinary humans cannot. Luke writes that in the temple, Jesus listened to the teachers and asked them questions, and that “all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.” How would a twelve-year old carpenter's son acquire such a breadth of theological knowledge and understanding and ability, under such ordinary circumstances in a rural village in Galilee, to converse with these learned men on their level? Other than being given directly by God, we can only surmise, as no written record exists to give us any clues.

Unquestionably, Jesus' experience in the temple was far more important and profound for him than his parents could have imagined. At this moment, and in this setting, in the temple, in the presence of all those learned scholars and teachers and members of the Sanhedrin, Jesus knows, and the realization sinks into his consciousness, that he is the Son of God. In that sense, therefore, he was not lost. He was not missing. He was at home—in his true Father's house.



## ELCA Good Gifts Advent Tree

Beginning Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> 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 selected, and ornament cost; hang your ornament 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!



### 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, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 events like the February Quake in Des Moines and Confirmation Camp at Camp EWALU. The cost is a free will offering. Tell your friends!

### Hunter's Breakfast

**Saturday, December 1st 4:00 am–7:00 am at Immanuel**

Breakfast cost: \$10.00 Come, bring your friends, and enjoy a delicious breakfast!!



### Decorating for Christmas

Join us on **Sunday, December 2nd 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.

### The Faith Formation preschool class members are thankful for:

Mommy and Daddy, cats, and furniture—Alex Wittmayer

Everything in the World, crayons, markers, and pencils, and my family—Axel Six

Water, food, and rocks—James Montz

Baths, Mommy and Daddy, and my sister—Maci Quigley

God and Jesus, Mommy and Daddy, and mini oranges—Rosalie Montz

My family, my church family, and our Savior, Jesus Christ—Mrs. Brown

Please come our room to see our special Turkey "We Are Thankful" bulletin board display!

It will be up until Sunday Dec. 2.



### Little Lutherans Advent Workshop.

December 2nd. We will plan to prepare our hearts for Christmas immediately following 9 am worship. There will be a lesson, game, craft and cookie decorating station. Adults are welcome to help with church decorating or stay with their children. There will be a potluck lunch at 11:30 for everyone to bring a dish to share. I would kindly ask that anyone who wants to attend sign up in the hallway so we have a count for supplies. All are welcome to bring friends. Any adults interested in volunteering at a station please contact Kelsey Striegel.



### Lutheran Pastors to Immanuel

Pastor Howard will be hosting the Lutheran Pastors, in our Conference 7, on **Thursday, December 6th, 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!

**When:** Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
**Where:** The Old Creamery Theatre  
**Time:** 2 p.m. matinee  
**Who:** Families Welcome!  
**Cost:** \$27.50/Adult with 15 tickets sold  
**Supper:** Bryant's Off 6 Restaurant, Tiffin



## Women's Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 11th 11:30 - 12:45

Applewood Bistro (Halcyon House Game Room)

Followed by a 1 hour focused Bible study on Galatians, for those interested, at Fran Victor's apartment at Halcyon House.

### 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 **\$420 raised in 2017**. 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 12th!**

### Christmas Presents Wrapping

Luther League will be wrapping your Christmas presents on **Saturday, December 15th**. Bring your presents to worship before the 15th or on the 15th between 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. when we will be wrapping. Wrapped presents may be picked up Sunday morning, 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 events like the February Quake in Des Moines. 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 Sunday, December 9th. Thank you for your continuous support of the youth of Immanuel!



### 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 15th, 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.



### Blue Christmas/Healing Service Offered

Pastor Howard will be leading a Blue Christmas/Healing Service on **Wednesday, December 19th 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 and she will be happy to answer them.

## WELCOME to Christ's Family!

Congratulations to **Brayden Ray Zywiec** who was baptized in the name of our Triune God during worship on Sunday, November 11th. Congratulations to **Jonathan Earl McArtor** who was baptized in the name of our Triune God during worship on Sunday, November 18th. Brayden and Jonathan, 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



## WELCOME to Immanuel Lutheran

**Carly Bandy, Mary Temple, Bill Zywiec, and Molly Zywiec** were received as fellow disciples of Christ on Sunday, November 11th 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."



## 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  $\text{ἰχθύς}$  ichthus, "fish": Jesus (I), Christ (X), God ( $\theta$ ), Son ( $\upsilon$ ), Savior ( $\varsigma$ )

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.



## Year of St. Luke's Gospel

Advent begins a new Liturgical year and we move out of the gospel readings of St. Mark and begin rehearsing the gospel readings from St. Luke. Throughout the year we will rehearse Jesus' birth, Baptism, ministry, crucifixion, death, resurrection through the writings of Luke. We will hear how Luke claims we are all made one through what God accomplishes in Jesus upon the cross. The year of Luke promises to be a GREAT year!

### Ministry Opportunity: Be a Confirmation Mentor!

Ajay Six, Avery Six, and Aden Six are preparing for their Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation) on May 5, 2019. One of their requirements is to choose a mentor who will walk with them during the spring of '19. 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 the day of their Affirmation of Baptism; Sunday, May 5th. **The confirmands will ask their potential mentor, between January 1st and January 15th. 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.

### QUAKE TIME - Des Moines!

**Theme:** Diverge

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Who:** All youth 6 - 12th grades

**When:** Friday, February 1st- Sunday, February 3rd, 2019

**Where:** Holiday Inn & Suites Des Moines Northwest

**Musician:** AGAPE (was a musician at the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston!)

**Speaker:** Gabe Kasper

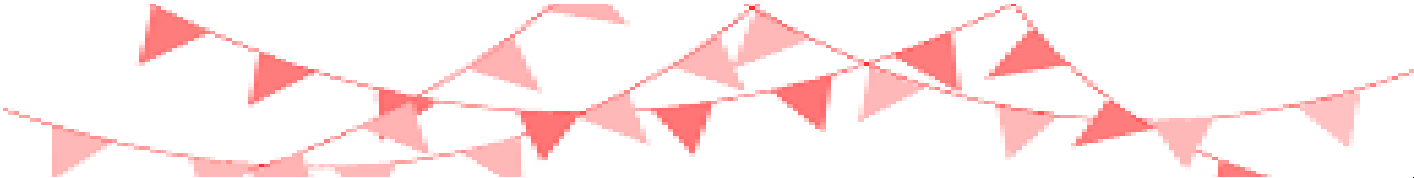
To attend this Quake, in Des Moines, see Pastor Howard. **Regular priced registration 11/28 - 12/18.** We had a great time in St. Louis (2014), Des Moines (2015), St. Louis (2016), Cedar Rapids (2017), Des Moines (2018), let's do it again in Des Moines (2019)!



### Fellowship after Church Change in December.

In December after the 9:00 service only drinks will be available but there are 2 treat Sundays. Dec. 2 Bev Baily will do her Christmas Rosettes as a special Christmas tradition. Dec. 18 Kathy Vetter will provide cake to celebrate Steve's retirement. That is also the day of the Christmas program. Dec. 9th, 23rd, and 30th, drinks only will be prepared, but anyone is welcome to bring treats and of course all are welcome to come back for drinks and conversation.

Thanks: Judy Venzke and Phyllis Hagensick



<b>Service Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Set up/Clean up</b>
<b>Dec 2</b>	9 am- Marilyn Bennett and Naomi Erickson	9 am- Rich & Deidra Baker and Marty Westen	9 am- Deidra Baker	9 am- Emma Taylor	Tricia Kroll Naomi Erickson
<b>Dec 9</b>	9 am- Sherry Ives and Carol Woodruff	9 am- Stan & Kristin Jones and family	9 am- Fran Victor	9 am- Issac Giesmann	Kristin Jones Kelli Gapinski
<b>Dec 16</b>	9 am- Alan, Vicki, and Allison Rebling	9 am- Aaron & April Six and family	9 am- Bev Bailey	9 am- Avery Six	Bev Bailey Corrine Martin
<b>Dec 23</b>	9 am- DeAnn Hakert and Doris Moore	9 am- Tom Gaughan 2 needed	9 am- 1 needed	9 am- Emma Lueck	Bev Bailey Naomi Erickson and Marilyn Bennett
<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Service- 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Please sign up</b>	<b>at the hall table</b>	Bev Bailey, Naomi Erickson, and Karen Heinemen
<b>Dec 30</b>	9 am- Ken & Susan Baker	9 am- Brad Kroll, Katie McWhirter, and Ray Poe	9 am- Tricia Kroll	9 am- Mikaila Matheson	Tricia Kroll Ray & Alta Poe

**Save the date!! Thursday, February 21st**  
**Sign Making at RePurpose It. Sign up out soon!!**

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