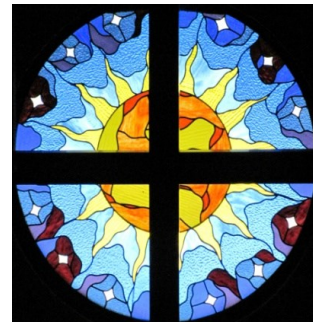


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

March 2019 Newsletter



“Everyone Who Calls On the Name of the Lord Shall Be Saved ”
by Peter J. Weller

Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday ~ 8 am
and 10:30 am

Faith Formation ~
9:15 am

Wednesday ~ 6pm

Office Hours

Weekdays

9am ~ 1pm

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One of the New Testament lessons for March is from the 8th chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. He writes, “ ‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart [Deuteronomy 30:14],’ (that is the word of faith which we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame [Isaiah 28:16].’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved [Joel 2:32].’ ” (Romans 10:8-13)

Paul is saying here that salvation is open to all who believe and confess that Jesus is the risen Lord whom God raised from the dead. God does not establish a criteria of works that one must perform in order to be saved. Nor must one know and obey scrupulously all the statutes of the Jewish Law. And, there are no distinctions as to race or nationality or ethnicity or class or socioeconomic status. All human beings are equal before God.

Susan Hedahl, Professor Emerita of Homiletics at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, wrote, “Paul's words indicate that he is not simply using Hebrew Scripture to argue his case but that he is speaking to those who are also familiar with it, as he stakes his claim regarding what God has done in Jesus. For modern day listeners, this scriptural information is useful in demonstrating that the Jesus event was . . . rooted in the history of Israel's life with God.

“Several topics fill these verses. One element is: the connection between confessing (verbally) and believing. . . . It is not enough to speak publicly. It is insufficient to believe without verbal expression: the two are linked. But what is the result of believing and speaking together? One is justified and one is saved. Thoughts and words of faith together yield—salvation!

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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 ~ No Update Available
- Benevolence, gifts outside of church ~\$
- Building Fund Gifts ~ No Update Available
- Monthly payment ~ No Update Available
- Debt reduction ~ No Update Available

Mike Moore has been hired.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, to meet monthly financial obligations, needs a minimum of \$13,000 per month. This translates into an average of \$134 per month per giving family.

Attendance

Sunday, January 27 ~ 8 am ~ 45
10:30 ~ 37

Wednesday, January 30 ~
Cancelled due to weather

Sunday, February 3 ~ 8 am ~ 44
10:30 ~ 40

Wednesday, February 6 ~ 7

Sunday, February 10 ~ 8 am ~ 38
10:30 ~ 45

Wednesday, February 13 ~ 9

Sunday, February 17 ~ 8 am ~ 33
10:30 ~ 34

Wednesday, February 20 ~ Cancelled due to Pastor Howard's family emergency



February Milestones

- 1) My birthday is February 15th.....(???)
- 2) I sang and played piano and had fun with my friends. Kenzie Quigley
- 3) I went sledding and made a big snow fort! Kenzie Quigley
- 4) My birthday is November 22nd.....(???)
- 5) I made two shots in basketball. Vivi Kroll
- 6) I started Sunday School! Armor Six

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the families of

+Dale Gonterman ~

Vickie Gonterman's brother-in-law

+Ethel Jewell ~ Mike Jewell's Mom

+Harold Ossman ~ Michelle Bartholomew's Grandpa

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



It's PAJAMA Day!!

On Sunday, March 10th, daylight savings time, come ready to worship in your pajamas. Give God the Glory in your comfy PJs, slippers, and robes. Stuffed animals, optional!!!

**HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

Holy Week Worship Highlights

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14th: 8 a.m. Worship, 9:15 a.m. Faith Formation, and 10:30 a.m. Worship

Palm/Passion Wednesday, April 17th: Holy Communion, Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m. ~ "Now the Feast and Celebration"

Maundy Thursday, April 18th: Seder Meal, Reservation only, 6 p.m.

Good Friday, April 19th: Tenebrae (Service of Darkness), 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 21st: SonRise Worship 6:30 a.m., Breakfast served by the Luther League 7:30 a.m., Worship 9 a.m.



Birthdays for March

- 1- Yaro Chmelar
- 2- Laurie Pemberton
- 3- Marty Baker
- 6- Julie Hill
- 7- Sid Manfull
- 8- Clyde Pearce
- 9- Vicki Rebling
- 11- Deidra Baker
- 17- Margie Runaas
- 20- Ryan Jones
- 20- Neil Giesmann
- 23- Taylor Bartholomew
- 24- Tom Gaughan
- 24- Nathan Giesmann
- 26- Cody Jones
- 28- Kelli Gapinski
- 30- Nora Gutierrez



Anniversaries for March

- 18- Stan & Kristin Jones



Sunday, March 10th is
Daylight Savings Time
Don't forget to spring
AHEAD!!



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, March 3 at 11:45 am
Finance– Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 pm

Ladies Night Out for March will be Tuesday,
March 19th at Dino's at 6 pm.

See you there!!



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

When: Sunday, March 17th

Where: Immanuel Lutheran

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

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: ?

Leadership: Pastor Howard and Steve Vetter

Immanuel's Spring 2019 Faith Formation Schedule

March 3rd– Youth Led Service. Youth will lead BOTH worship services. No FF in between. If you plan on participating you must be at rehearsals!

March 10th– April 7th– Regular FF Rotations at 9:15 am

April 14th– Last FF at 9:15 for the year.

Enjoy Summer Break!!

Watch for VBS registration coming soon!!!!





THANK YOU to **EVERYONE** who purchased ELCA Good Gift ornaments. Through this program which provides gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives we bought **\$853** worth of unexpected Christmas gifts. Examples of ornaments purchased are: uniform and schooling for a girl, chicks, goats, bees, pigs, stock a backpack, and water jugs. Way to go!

I would like to thank the congregation for supporting our Quake weekend! Agape taught me that if ever have an event or a game that my family and friends don't show up for, God will be there supporting me. I liked our break out sessions and I did one called Power Shuffling. It taught me that everyone is different and even if they may act fine, they may have a lot going on in their life. I would like to thank Pastor and Mr. Six for taking us and chaperoning. Sincerely, Caitlin Kroll

THANK YOU to **Lee Buchholz** for preparing all the dried apple slices for the Confirmand's Valentine sales. We are grateful to you for your great generosity in preparing a healthy option for our sales. We deeply appreciate your kindness. Taylor Bartholomew, Caitlin Kroll, Emma Lueck, Ajay Six, Avery Six, Aden Six, Aaron Six, and Pastor Howard.

THANK YOU to the body of Christ here at Immanuel Lutheran for your prayers and financial support in sending Taylor Bartholomew, Caitlin Kroll, Emma Lueck, Ajay Six, Avery Six, Aden Six, Aaron Six, and myself to Quake in Des Moines. Through Hip Hop music, poetry, and motivational presentations we learned that we are loved by God, chosen by God, and called by God not to conform to the values of this world - we are to Diverge! We had a great weekend of deepening our faith and bonding with one another. Again, thank you! Pr. Howard

Congregation & Pastor
Thank-you for providing us the opportunity to be apart of the Des Moines Quake. It means so much to me that I get to learn about faith in a fun environment that this provides. I greatly appreciate all the support you provide the Luther League group in there extra activities.

Thanks for everything!
Taylor Bartholomew

Dear congregation,
Thank you for supporting us in going to **QUAKE**, I had such a blast meeting new people and learning about God. Thank you to Pastor and Aaron as well for getting us there safely and just making it a fun time, I can't wait to go next year - Emma Lueck

Dear Church family,
Youth Quake 2019 was my favorite Quake. The thing I liked the most was the Christian rap music. I had a great time hanging out with people and getting to know other people. Thank you for helping me get the chance to go. From, Aden Six

Dear Congregation,
Thank you for praying and supporting me so that I could attend Youth Quake. I enjoyed the Christian rap music. I appreciate your continuous support for youth events. Avery Six

Dear Church family,
Thank you for keeping us in your prayers through out the weekend. My favorite part was going out with Agape, the singer. They were able to go out to supper with us. Thanks again for supporting us. From Ajay Six



March 2019, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our community! Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations. Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

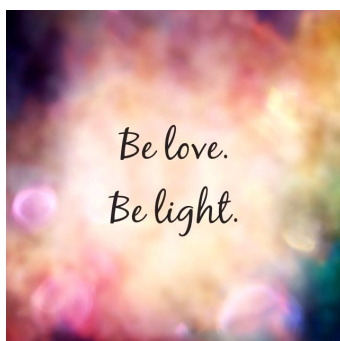
Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people 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.

Finding a Support System Aubreigh knew something needed to change. She was struggling with substance use and alcohol. She couldn't find a way to take care of her mental health. She was unable to provide a safe home for her son, who needed to move in with his dad. When she finally took a step in the right direction and found a home, all her belongings were stolen. Through LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services, Aubreigh connected with her worker, Kelsy. Together, the duo is working on budgeting Aubreigh's money, finding a good job, and building a safe home environment for her son. "I was in a bad situation, and I'm really thankful for LSI," she says. "Without them, who knows where I'd be." Aubreigh now meets with Kelsy once a week and feels like she is finally on the right path after plenty of hard work. She is working with her son and his father to build a healthy co-parenting relationship, and she knows Kelsy will always be in her corner, ready to cheer her on. "Kelsy has been an awesome resource. She helps if we have issues co-parenting, and we do a lot better now as a family," Aubreigh says. "If I have any problems, Kelsy is there."

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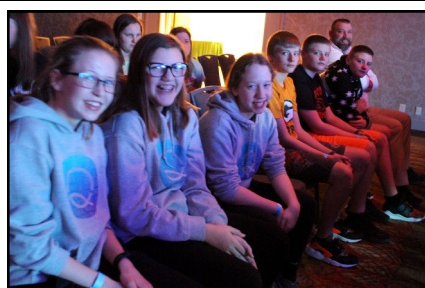
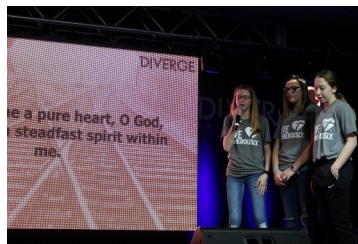
"Another set of related phrases also offer insight into the line of Paul's argument, and that is his naming of God. In verse 8 he says 'Jesus is Lord;' in verse 12 he asserts . . . that 'the same Lord is Lord of all' and finally that 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' (verse 13). Paul is saying several things here. He is saying Jesus is God. He is saying that God is for all people and that naming God in faith results in salvation, a faith which comes through Jesus Christ."

In Romans, as well as elsewhere in his letters, Paul declares that salvation is a gift of God through God's magnanimous grace to be received by faith. It is not earned. It is not a reward for good behavior. It is not for sale. We cannot purchase it. In these six verses, Paul points the way to salvation in very simple and yet soaring language: "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." And, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." And, "The Lord is generous to all who call on him." No other conditions are imposed here. One's wealth or station in life does not matter, nor does one's achievements or accomplishments or lack of them. No one human being is any greater or less than another. Whatever sins one has committed, confess them. Accept God's offer. Accept God's gift. Do not doubt, but believe. Confess your belief aloud. And, you will be saved.



Youth Led Worship

Mark your calendars, **Sunday, March 3rd** the youth of Immanuel will led 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.



Pictures from Quake!!

Check out our Facebook page for more!!

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

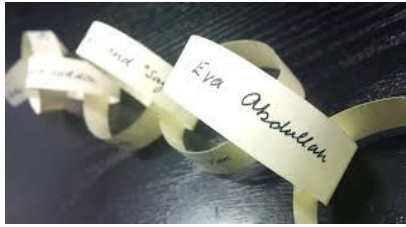
Lent is a time for us to fast, be in prayer, and repent as we realign ourselves and renew our commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Do many of us really take the time to be silent and listen for the quiet whispers of the Holy Spirit? Many times, prayer is a self-absorbed, a laundry list of 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, **March 6th** someone will be in the sanctuary, in prayer for **1 hour, beginning at 5:30 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 5:30 a.m. and concluding at 5:30 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 March 6th

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 **7:00 p.m.**; plan to attend this special worship service as we observe the beginning of the Lenten season.



Prayer Link Ministry

During Lent we will be praying for one another. On Sunday, March 3rd and Wednesday, March 6th you will be given a name of a brother or sister in Christ here at Immanuel Lutheran that you will pray for. We will hold our person in prayer through April 28th when we will come together for a pot-luck celebration. At the celebration we will link our papers together to make a large paper chain representing our oneness in and with Christ.



Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

The 2018 Church Council, and reaffirmed by the 2019 Council, has decided that the only Lenten soup supper will be on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. The Soup Supper will be served at 6 p.m. by the Luther League and their parents. To protect from volunteer burn-out, it was decided Immanuel would “give up” the soup suppers for Lent this year.

Passover Seder Meal ~ Thursday, April 18th (Maundy Thursday) 6:00 p.m.

Immanuel will be serving a Seder dinner to celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus in its historical, New Testament, setting as the disciples celebrated it with the Messiah. We can rejoice, “For Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

A festive main course is included in the middle of the Seder. Four cups of wine are consumed, with proper blessings, during the meal. Mark your calendars to attend this celebration, which has become an every-other-year tradition at Immanuel. Sign-up sheets will be on the table in the hallway on **March 10th** to sign up to **assist with the food preparations, set-up, kitchen, and clean up**, and to make your **reservations**. This is an **event for the whole family** as there are special parts in the Seder for the children.



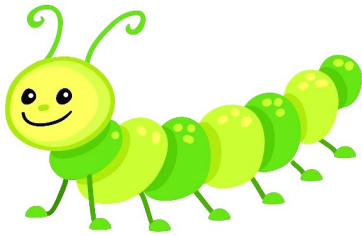
Wednesday Holy Communion Lenten Services ~ Faith Practices

Our worship format for Wednesday evening Lenten Services (March 13th, 20th, 27th, April 1st, and 8th) is *Holden Evening Prayer*. The **services** are at **6:00 p.m.** During our sermon ponderings, we will be looking at the seven Faith Practices that form a disciple of Christ: pray, study, worship, invite, encourage, serve, and give. We will look at these practices as ways to live out our Baptism which: draws us closer to God; shapes and forms us; nurtures us in faith; conforms us to Christ; deepens our relationships with God, community, and the world; and aligns us to the pursuit of God’s Will and God’s Kingdom. These worship services promise to be very meaningful. Take time out of your hectic schedules to join us for these Lenten Wednesday evening worship opportunities.



Did you know that Immanuel was an emergency shelter **two times** in February?

We had the opportunity to share Christ’s love by opening our doors to those needing somewhere warm and safe to stay. Our own Pastor Howard was also a bit of a celebrity. Here is the link to see ILC serving the community on the news. <https://kwwl.com/news/iowa-city-news/2019/01/30/community-responds-during-early-morning-power-outage/?fbclid=IwAR14LQir6CC1NRtAxfKn3YCZAaTMJkH6FdXBdiuHxdnRGsrPNLDao2G10Ns>



Caterpillar Children's Sermons

Caterpillars have been ordered! The children love watching as the caterpillars change into chrysalis and discover the metamorphosis into butterflies. Once the caterpillars arrive, the children's sermons will focus on our changed life in Christ. On Easter Sunday, we will release the butterflies into the Washington community. The children (and adults) LOVE releasing the butterflies on Easter Sunday! Don't let your child miss witnessing one of God's miracles.



Immanuel Lutheran Church is special because:

You learn about God and that's important because if people don't know about God then they can learn by Pastor telling them about Him. We also get to do fun stuff with other kids at Faith Formation.

-Lauren McWhirter



Bev Crandall volunteers at Immanuel because she feels it's her responsibility as a church member. Tying quilts, purchasing flowers for the alter and being a greeter are ways she volunteers. Bev says the benefits of volunteering at Immanuel include friendship and a sense of belonging.

Council Highlights

Are you ready to receive your prayer link? It's humbling to know someone here is praying for me and I'm excited to know who I will be adding to my prayer list.

What have you done to reach out to our community of Washington? Does Washington know we are here? Have you invited someone to join us in worship? Are you bringing something for the HACAP cart? Washington against Hunger is May 5th, will you help pack food? Will you join Pastor Howard in the prison ministry? They promise not to make you stay!

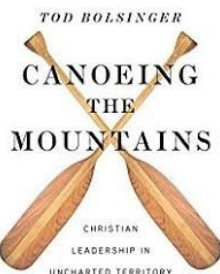
Exciting news - Mike Moore will be our new Financial Secretary.

The worship committee has made plans for the Lenten/Easter season. Do you know who covers the windows? Do you know what the seven faith practices are? Come on Wednesdays during Lent to find out.

Any questions or suggestions? Contact a council member.



Council Is Reading: Canoeing the Mountains



Immanuel's Council has embarked on an exciting adventure: Lead Immanuel into the future following God's guidance. Council recognizes that the landscape of our past is not the landscape of our future. Council will be reading Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger to frame the adventure Immanuel faces.

If you would like to engage Council in this conversation, do not hesitate to buy this book and read it along with Council.



MARCH

Service Date	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Acolyte	Communion Set up/Clean up
<i>March 3</i>	Youth Led	Youth Led	Youth Led	Youth Led	Set up- Bev Bailey Set up/Clean up- Kelli Gapinski Clean up-
<i>March 10</i>	8 am- Ken & Susan Baker 10:30- Naomi Erickson and Carol Woodruff	8 am Rich & Deidra Baker and Brad Kroll 10:30 Tom Gaughan and Brian & Carrie Lueck	8 am Tricia Kroll 10:30 Tom Gaughan	8 am Caitlin Kroll 10:30 Thomas Lueck	Set up- Tricia Kroll Set up/Clean up- Naomi Erickson Clean up- Corrine Martin
<i>March 17</i>	8 am- Bev Crandall 10:30 Phyllis Hagensick and Vi Kruse	8 am- Gary Fischer and Steve Vetter 10:30 John & Peg Harris and Marty Westen	8 am- Taylor Bartholomew 10:30- Margie Runaas	8 am- Emma Taylor 10:30- Issac Giesmann	Set up- Bev Bailey Set up/Clean up- Ray & Alta Poe Clean up- Bev Bailey
<i>March 24</i>	8 am- Stan & Kristin Jones and family 10:30- DeAnn Hakert and Sherry Ives	8 am- Michael Howard, Ray Poe, and Steve Vetter 10:30- Aaron & April Six and family	8 am Ray Poe 10:30- Clyde Pearce	8 am- Claire Wubbena 10:30- Avery Six	Set up- Kristin Jones Set up/Clean up- Stan Kroll Clean up- Bev Bailey
<i>March 31</i>	8 am- Craig & Tina Montz and family 10:30- Doris Moore and Carol Woodruff	8 am- Stan & Kristin Jones and family 10:30- Bob Coker and John & Peg Harris	8 am- Kristin Jones 10:30- Peg Harris	8 am- Vivienne Kroll 10:30- Mikaila Matheson	Set up- Kristin Jones Set up/Clean up- Naomi Erickson Clean up- Naomi Erickson

WELCOME Mike Moore

As we say farewell and Godspeed to Tim Johnson who has served us well as Immanuel's Financial Secretary, we welcome Mike Moore into this position. Mike is the retired CEO of the UP Home and was hired as Immanuel's Financial Secretary on February 8, 2019. Mike will begin his service at Immanuel the last week of February. We are overjoyed that Mike has joined us as Financial Secretary.

Welcome, Mike!



Welcome
Glad you're here!