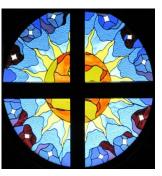
Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

May 2019 Newsletter



<u>Weekly Services</u> <u>and Communion</u>

Sunday ~ 8 am and 10:30 am Wednesday ~ 6pm 9 am starting May 26th

Office Hours

Weekdays 9am ~ 1pm

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"I Give Them Eternal Life, and They Will Never Perish" by Peter J. Weller

During the month of May, all of the gospel lessons are from John, and this column will address the verses found in chapter 10:22-30. There, John writes: "At the time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'"

There seems to be some question as to whom John refers when he uses the term, "the Jews." This phrase appears 71 times in his gospel, as opposed to only 16 times in the other three gospels. Some argue that he is condemning all Jews as rebellious to God's son, Jesus, that they killed him, and that, to our ears, he sounds anti-Semitic. Yet, John was a Jew, Jesus was a Jew, and all the disciples were Jews, as were most of the earliest Christian converts. Others argue that in using the term, "the Jews", John meant the Jewish religious leaders, the High Priest, the Sanhedrin, and the Pharisees and Sadducees generally, and not the Jewish people as a whole.

Looking at the text for this column, it appears that the phrase, "the Jews", clearly refers to the religious leaders. This is only one of several texts in John where the question is being asked regarding Jesus, "Who is he?" and, "Is he the Messiah?" Back in his home town of Nazareth, people wondered how Joseph, the carpenter's son, could be the Messiah. It was no different in Jerusalem when those Jews gathered around him and asked, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

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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) **April Milestones** 1)I'm testing for my black belt! ----Thomas I General Funds ~ \$4,450.50 Lueck Building Fund ~ \$3,108.52 2)My trio got 2nd place at PAC dance competition. ----Caitlin Kroll Monthly payment ~ \$808.30 3)I got to do choir with my friends! Debt balance ~ \$29.194.07 ----Kenzie Quigley 4) played the flute in the Mt Pleasant honor band. Hills Bank Account ~ \$11,214.43 ----Mikaila Matheson 5) Rachel (Pastor Maureen and Mike's daughter) and Ryan Peterson are purchasing their first home in Immanuel Lutheran Church, to meet Alexandria. MN. monthly financial obligations, needs a minimum of \$13,000 per month. Worship Times Change This translates into an average of \$134 per month per giving family. The "unofficial" start to summer is the three-day weekend of Memorial Day. Immanuel returns to the summer worship schedule on that **Sunday**, **May 26th**. Sunday, May 26th through Sunday, September 1st (Labor Day weekend) Attendance Immanuel Lutheran will hold one Sunday, Holy Sunday, March $31 \sim 8$ am ~ 49 Communion worship **9 a.m.** There will be no Faith $10:30 \sim 40$ Formation classes during the summer months. Wednesday, Holy Communion worship will remain at 6 Wednesday, April $3 \sim 32$ p.m. throughout the year. Please mark your calendars Sunday, April $7 \sim 8$ am ~ 30 about Immanuel's Sunday worship time change. $10:30 \sim 5.3$ Wisdom Gathering Wednesday, April 10 ~ 30 Sunday, April $14 \sim 8$ am ~ 36 Single women of Immanuel and the community are welcome to come join in the wisdom gathering on $10:30 \sim 7.3$ Saturday, May 25th at 1:30 pm. The women gather to visit, Wednesday, April 17 ~ 13 share stories and books, play games, and lift each other up. You won't want to miss out!! Please plan on attending and Friday, April $19 \sim 26$ invite a friend!! Sunday, April $21 \sim 6:30$ am ~ 73 $9_{am} \sim 93$ God's Blessing upon All Women In celebration of the faithful women of Immanuel Wednesday, April $24 \sim 8$ Lutheran, we will bestow upon them the blessings of God. Join us on Sunday, May 12th (Mother's Day) and bless the women of Immanuel who have been formed by God's grace.

Immanuel Lutheran Church EWALU Day Camp Registration Opens April 1st, 2019!!!!

June 24-28 for children K-5 in 2018/2019 school year M-TH 9am-3pm Fri 9am-12pm

\$50 per camper for early registration by May 31st \$75 per camper if registered June 1st or after



Registration forms available online at luthwash.org or in the church office.

Birthdays for May

1- Nancy Baker
 3- James Montz
 3- Rosalie Montz
 4- Anna Gaughan
 5- Scott Bartholomew
 7- Corrine Martin
 8- Megan Hill
 16- Carol Woodruff
 17- Terry O'Neill
 18- Deb Tisor
 18- Martin Runaas
 19- Vanessa Westen
 29- Brayden Zywiec
 30- Kyle Middle
 30- Cris Gaughan

Anniversaries for May

12- Dale & Candance Talbot Scheibe 16- Jeremy & Kelly Smith

29- Steve & Kathy Vetter



A Mother's Love There are times when only a mother's love Can understand our tears, Can soothe our disappoints And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a mother's love Can share the joy we feel When something we've dreamed about Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a mother's faith Can help us on life's way And inspire in us the confidence We need from day to day.

For a mother's heart and a mother's faith And a mother's steadfast love Were fashioned by the angels And sent from God above. --Author Unknown

www.learnreligions.com/mothers-day-poems-forchristians-701008

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

Finance– Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 pm Exec– Thursday, May 9 at 10:00 am Education– Thursday, May 16 at 5:30 pm Council Retreat– Saturday, May 18 at 1 pm

Ladies Night Out for May 21st. We will car pool from the church at 5:30 pm and head to Gussy's (formerly Bryn Mawr).







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

When: Sunday, MAY 19th
Where: HACAP (2175 Lexington Blvd. Orchard Hill Complex Building 1)
Why: Boxing food for June distribution
Who: 6th – 12th Graders (friends are WELCOME!)
Time: 4 pm– 6:30-ish
Supper: Restaurant to be determined
Leadership: Steve Vetter and Pastor Howard



WELCOME to Christ's Family!

Congratulations to **Makenzie Belle Middle** who was baptized in the name of our Triune God during our Palm Sunday worship on Sunday, April 14th. "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."



WELCOME Ron Brown as our new custodian. We are grateful for Karl's ministry here and wish him well as he graduates high school. Thank you John Harris and Aden Six for helping me with my yard work and mulching my flowers beds. It's never looked so good. May God bless you both. Thanks, DeAnn Hakert

THANK YOU to everyone who generously donated at the Easter breakfast fundraiser. Through your generosity, the Luther League received \$740 that morning. The Luther League parents donated the food and served 85 people. Thank you to Deb Tisor, Nancy Baker, and Bill Baker for cleaning up the sanctuary windows after the tabs and paper were covering them.

THANK YOU Linda Six, Diana Wubbena, and Margie Runaas for decorating the sanctuary for Easter. The sanctuary is breathtaking and God is certainly glorified through it's beauty.

THANK YOU to Sara Bartlett, Mike Jewell, John Harris, the Immanuel Lutheran Adult Choir, Rob Taylor, Audrey Wubbena, Claire Wubbena, Quinn Wubbena, Peg Harris, Brian Lueck, Carrie Lueck, and Margie Runaas for your special music during the Easter Celebration worship services. Your talents blessed our worship and gave Jesus glory.

THANK YOU to the following people who were instrumental in a successful Seder meal: Margie Runaas, Steve Bay, Pastor Howard, DeAnn Hakert, Bev Bailey, Naomi Erickson, Wilma McKinstry, Fran Victor, Steve Vetter, Kathy Vetter, Mike Howard, Linda Brown, Ron Brown, Kristin Jones, Jon Runaas, Peg Harris, John Harris, Mary Temple, Corrine Martin, Harold Frakes (farm fresh eggs), Mary Chmelar (Tzimmes—candied carrots), and EVERYONE who assisted with the clean-up. Without your help the Seder Meal would not have been able to be offered. For everyone who attended the meal, it was a meaningful event as we participated in a Messianic Jewish Passover Haggadah. Mark your calendars for the 2021 Seder Meal; Thursday, April 1st! Through the generous donations received during the meal, \$196 was split between Washington Against Hunger and flooding relief through ELCA's Disaster Relief Fund.

Ascension of Our Lord; Thursday, May 30th

We often cast our eyes upward to look for God. When we are feeling lonely or misunderstood, we raise our hands to ask why, or shake our fists in gestures of prayer, anguish, or praise. While the scriptures promise that God is king of all the earth, sitting on his holy throne (Psalm 47), we need not only look up for God's action in our lives. Our ascended Lord lives in the heavens, but Jesus does not leave his disciples—or us—to fumble while he naps in the clouds. Before he ascends, Jesus promises that we are clothed with the Holy Spirit's power, witnesses "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). We look up to the skies for help, then return our gaze to those among us in need of our care, to the body of Christ and the wind of the Spirit among the baptized, preparing for the time when Jesus comes again to gather us in. (From Sunday and Seasons)

May 2019, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children. We see moms turning to LSI's Mental Health or Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2018, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to 1,158 parents of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation. As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider giving a gift in her name at LSIowa.org. Thank you for standing alongside Iowa families.

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.

It's Worth Every Second

Nova and Brian always knew they wanted to become foster parents. With their two oldest daughters growing up and entering high school, they decided to take the leap and open up their home to more children in need. Over the course of four years, they have successfully fostered 16 children and adopted four into their forever family. Through LSI Foster Care and Adoption, the couple has wrapped their arms around sibling groups in need of a home where they can stay together, and the family is also a Cherokee Nation foster home, keeping children connected to their culture and heritage. Nova encourages more Iowa families to consider foster care, as every child deserves and needs a safe space, regardless of how long that child may stay in your home. "Foster care in Iowa is such a needed thing, and it's important to extend grace to parents of children in foster care and give them a chance to grow and heal," she says. "There aren't a whole lot of accolades for foster parenting, but it's worth it. It's worth the heartache, and it's worth the love and the smiles you see from these kids."

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Considering Jesus' humanity, one can only imagine the sense of frustration and exasperation and anger that he must have felt when significantly large numbers of people could not, or would not, believe that he was whom he said he was. Certainly, any of us may well have experienced similar feelings when we say something that we know to be true, or that expresses who we know we truly are, and we are not believed and are dismissed out of hand.

But, Jesus knows who he is. And, he proclaims who he is. When the woman at the well in Samaria says to him, "I know that Messiah is coming. . . . When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us," Jesus responded to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." (John 4:25-26) In a later conversation with the man whose eyesight he restored, Jesus asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man responded, "And who is he, sir? Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." (John 9:35-37) And in this column's text, when asked by those around him to tell them plainly if he is the Messiah, you can almost hear the frustration in his voice when he says to them, "I have told you, and you do not believe." These are just three illustrations of Jesus proclaiming in John's gospel that he is the Messiah. There are, of course, many others.

But, back to this text: Jesus tells those in the Temple why they do not believe. As he put it, it is "because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish." (John 10:26-27) Jesus indeed knows his sheep. They were given to him by his Father, and they know his voice. He, indeed gives them eternal life. Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, a Lutheran missionary serving in Cameroon, wrote, "The Good Shepherd tells us that everything depends on belonging to him. Never does our status before God depend on how we feel, on having the right experience, on being free of doubt, or on what we accomplish. It depends on one thing only: that we are known by the shepherd.

"The voice of the Good Shepherd is a voice that liberates rather than oppresses. It does not say, 'Do this, and then maybe you will be good enough to be one of my sheep.' It says, 'You belong to me already. No one can snatch you out of my hand.' Secure in this belonging, we are free to live the abundant life of which Jesus spoke earlier in the chapter: 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10).

Stewardship Committee. The stewardship committee is looking for people interested in increasing their personal faith as well as the overall faith of Immanuel Lutheran through the spiritual discipline of stewardship. Stewardship for many people means simply asking (whether nicely or forcefully) for money. However, real stewardship is about giving back to God, what God has richly given to us. The purpose of stewardship is to make us grateful and thankful and deepen our trust and reliance in God. Listed below is a description of the duties of our stewardship committee. If this interests or intrigues you, contact Mike Howard, 319-512-8830 or michaelhoward541@gmail.com. Blessings, Mike.

Duties of the stewardship committee include promoting the expression of Christian Faith in daily living, teaching the Christian use of money; create awareness of the congregation's local, national- and world-wide ministries; and encourage higher levels of proportionate giving to support these ministries.

This committee will evaluate stewardship programs, select appropriate programs and follow through with the presentation and conducting of activities of these programs; the goal of these programs is development of good stewardship attitudes in the members of Immanuel for the work of Christ's Kingdom through dedicated, proportionate, first fruits giving.

Specific duties of Stewardship include the following items:

- A. Study the Scriptural principles regarding stewardship and share these with the congregation;
- B. Maintain a congregational talent and volunteer file;
- C. Develop an annual year-long program of stewardship for the congregation to encourage appropriate use of the time, talents, and treasures of the membership; and
- D. Plan and conduct special fund-raising drives initiated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or the Congregation Council.



Information Meeting for Long Island, New York Trip In the summer of 2020, Pastor Howard will be taking the youth and chaperones to her "homeland" of Long Island. If you are interested in going on this week long trip, either as a youth (6^{th}) grade summer of $\overline{2020}$) or as a chaperone, please attend the informational meeting on Sunday, May 19th, 9:15 a.m. We will stay in homes of Pastor Howard's home congregation (Christ Lutheran), worship at the East Northport Jewish Center (a synagogue), "swim" in the Atlantic

Ocean, climb to the top of Montauk Point Lighthouse (commissioned by George Washington, 1795), tour Sagamore Hill (home of Theodore Roosevelt), tour NYC and see a Broadway play, and do a servant project... just to name a few. Join us for this meeting and hear from those who went to NY in 2017. After hearing the NY stories, you'll want to go too!!

Anamosa State Prison

Tricia Kroll, Fran Victor, Mike Howard, and Pastor Howard worshiped with the Free Indeed Congregation at the Anamosa State Penitentiary on Saturday, March 30th. We were joined by Pr. Chad Whaley and two congregants from Bethany Lutheran in West Branch. We were nervous about being inside the prison, but the men put us at ease immediately. They welcomed us into their worshiping community with genuine hospitality. The only sign that we were giving God



praise inside a prison was the bars on the windows. As one body of Christ we sang, prayed, exchanged Christ's peace, and Communed together. For the creed we sang "We Believe" by the Newsboys. As a sign of unity with our Christian brothers of Free Indeed, Immanuel will also sing "We Believe" as our creed during the season of Easter. If anyone is interested in worshiping with the Free Indeed Congregation, please see Pastor Howard.



Synod Assembly

To help us live into the 2019 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly theme – ONE Bread. ONE Body – every congregation has received a blue, reusable shopping bag. The bag is a visible sign of our partnership with the synod and our sister congregations. We are to fill the bag that represents a ministry of Immanuel Lutheran.

Immanuel's council has decided to display that Immanuel was/is an emergency shelter for the community of Washington (and county). This filled bag will be brought to the Synod Assembly, May 10 - 11, and will be on display with the other "ONE bread. One body." reusable bags. #inthistogether as we all are serving in the name of Jesus. All the ministries represented through the bags, will be blessed during worship at the Synod Assembly.

Gary and Kathy Fischer and Pastor Howard are Immanuel's voting members attending the Assembly.

Council Highlights

While the council meeting is generally held the first Sunday of each month the month of May we will be holding a retreat on May 18th in lieu of the first Sunday. On the agenda will be visioning for our church.



May 5th our congregation will be participating in Washington against hunger. Please come

help the community. May 5th is also confirmation day for three young men of our congregation.

The One Bread One Body bag you see is filled with some things that represent our church and will be taken to Synod Assembly.

There have been some changes made to the membership assistance fund. More to come on that next month. Happy Spring! Enjoy our new season.





April 2019 Seder Meal







Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner

The confirmands, their mentors, and families will gather at Immanuel Lutheran for a dinner on Saturday, May 4th at 6 p.m. Following the dinner (prepared by Steve Bay), we will add our handprints and Bible verses to the hallway wall, get our robes, and have rehearsal for the Affirmation of Baptism.

Confirmation Servant Project

During the 10:30 a.m. worship service, on Sunday, May 5th, confirmands/mentors Avery Six/ Steve Vetter, Ajay Six/Ike Glinsmann, and Aden Six/John Harris will talk to the congregation about the servant projects they have been working on. A requirement of the confirmands was to choose a mentor; journey together on specific subjects of faith; and plan and complete a servant project that addresses a need of the church or Washington. The confirmands and their mentors have been working very hard on their projects. We look forward to hearing about their projects and what they have learned about being a servant. Don't hesitate to ask the confirmands about their servant project!

Confirmation Sunday, May 5th, 10:30 a.m.

The following youth from our congregation have been instructed in the Christian faith, as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church, and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism: Avery Six, Ajay Six, and Aden Six. Please plan to attend the 10:30 a.m. worship service, May 5th, to support these confirmands as they affirm and underscore God's action in their Baptism. A cake reception will be held in their honor between services.

Washington Against Hunger

Join the Washington community for the Washington Against Hunger Food Packaging Event on **Sunday, May 5th, 3 p.m.**, at KC Hall. This has become an annual event overseen by the Washington Area Ministerial Association. The food packaging is through Take Away Hunger a non-profit organization which packages a specialized rice-based, soy mixture which is used locally and oversees. One packaging team, consisting of 10 – 12 volunteers, will package approximately 1,728 meals in about 45 minutes at a cost of .25 cents per meal for a total of \$432.00. Since January 2018, Take Away Hunger has packaged over 941,500 meals. Mark your calendars, you will feed the hungry and show the love of Jesus. Through Immanuel's efforts \$800 was given towards the purchase of food with over \$500 received in donations through the Spare Change Challenge. **THANK YOU** for your generosity!!



Meal on Wheels: coordinated by Judy Venzke

Churches in Washington take turns delivering Meal on Wheels. Immanuel's turn is for the 5 weeks of Monday, May 20 through June 21, Friday. Please consider partnering with someone (driver and deliverer) for one week. There will be complete instructions from me closer to May 20th. One energetic person could do it, but it's more fun with 2.

It takes approximately an hour of your time starting at 11:15. Please pick a week and let me know as soon as you can. DeAnn Hakert and I usually do it the first week to see if everything runs smoothly. So we would do May 20th through the 24. I'm always available as a driver.

Thrivent in Action event

Dale Venzke requested and received a Thrivent Action Team gift card of \$250. Most of it will be used to buy food to prepare a pancake breakfast at Lending Hands of Washington (adult day care). The breakfast and a 5-K relay will raise money to help pay for clients who need help paying the daily rates. The breakfast starts at 8:00 am on April 27th and the run follows at 9.

Immanuel at HACAP

In less than an hour's time, Immanuel filled 80 boxes for HACAP to distribute during April to families in need of food. What a great opportunity to be servants of Jesus while serving the hungry of Washington County. Join us in September when we box food for HACAP!





Joined us at the Lord's Table

Congratulations to **Clayton Bartholomew and Brayden Zywiec** on receiving their First Communion on Palm Sunday, April 14th. During the First Communion Retreat, Clayton and Brayden prepared the Communion bread served on Palm and Easter Sundays. Welcome to Christ's Table!





Check out our Facebook page for more pictures. :)

Cross Walk

Volu

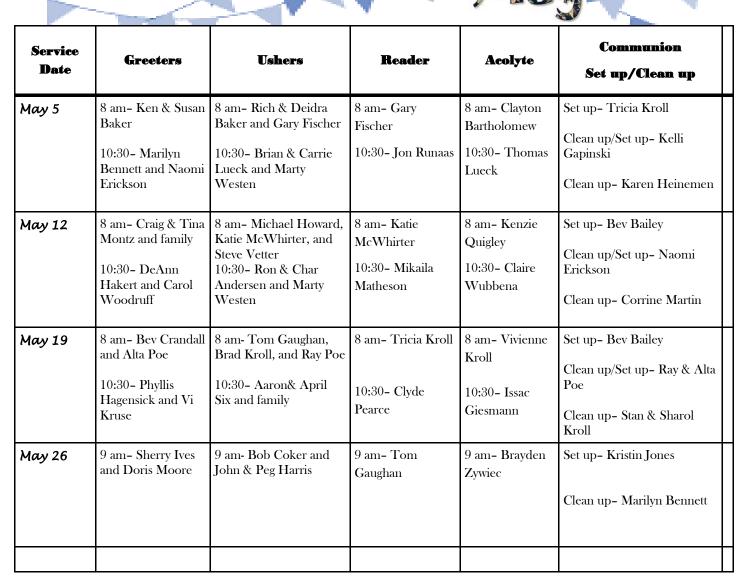
Immanuel had a wonderful turn out for the Cross Walk on Good Friday. The cross was carried, in the formation of a cross, through the square. We read scripture, prayed, and sang. What a wonderful opportunity to be unified as the one body of Christ and carry the cross together, regardless of our denomination affiliation.



Why do I give time for service, AKA, volunteer.

I think my reasons for giving time for volunteering are twofold. One reason is that I feel a sense of obligation or duty. I typically feel uncomfortable or uneasy seeing others work while I am essentially doing nothing. I want to feel useful, so stepping up to give some help, whether it is big or small, makes me feel needed.

I also feel that giving of your time is a form of stewardship. Stewardship is far too often thought of only in terms of money (e.g. giving money). Stewardship is about giving back what God has entrusted to us. Most of us have either said or heard about how precious time is, so by giving of our time, especially to those who can't repay it, we are giving a valuable gift. Stewardship, along with other faith practices, is a form of discipleship. Discipleship or practicing a discipline is way of bringing us into closer relationship to God. Volunteering my time is not always easy or fun, but when I finish, I usually have a sense of accomplishment or satisfaction. When I recall that the time is given to someone in need, the sense of satisfaction I receive is intensified. Mike Howard



Congratulations to the 2019 Graduate!!



High School Senior Recognition Sunday During the 9 a.m. worship service on **Sunday**, **May 26th** we will be honoring our 2019 high school senior; Cody Jones will graduate from IMS on Sunday, May 26th. Cody will process into the sanctuary wearing his cap and gown, he will receive a gift from his church family, and he will be sent with a special graduation liturgy. You won't want to miss this opportunity to wish Cody God's blessing upon his graduation and future.

Cody Jones: Cody is undecided on his future path. He has decided to take a year away from the classroom. He's planning to work and is looking into various technical/vocational courses. The congregation is invited to come share the celebration of Cody's graduation. Sunday, May 26th 11:30– 2:30 at West Chester Heritage Building, 510 Main Street (Old High School) - Stan & Kristin Jones