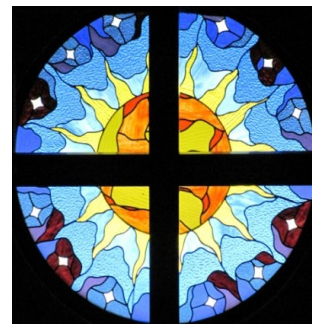


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

February 2020 Newsletter



Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday ~ 8 am
and 10:30 am

Faith Formation-

9:15 am

Wednesday ~
6pm

Office Hours

Weekdays

9am ~ 1pm

Inside this issue:

Monthly updates p. 2

Birthday & Anniversaries p. 3

Thank yous p. 4

Church Happenings p. 6-8

Activity page p. 9

Calendar p. 10



“But Who Can Endure the Day of His Coming,
and Who Can Stand When He Appears?”

by Peter J. Weller

This month's column comes from the 3rd chapter of Malachi, verses 1-4: “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 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)

Melinda Quivik, an ELCA pastor and Liturgical and Homiletical Scholar in St. Paul, Minnesota wrote in the Working Preacher, “Although the book of Malachi is deemed to refer to events in the years 515-445 B.C.E.— when the new [Jerusalem] temple was completed in the Restoration— the charges against the people pertain everywhere and in every century. We can say of ourselves, as well, that false prophets and priests among us do not uphold the righteousness of the temple, and that we fail to adhere to God's commands, to fulfill our duty, and to build up our neighbors. Some who claim to speak for our faith do not urge us to work for justice or to care for those in need but rather endorse policies that privilege the already-privileged.”

Indeed, on so many levels, there is a great need today for introspection as individuals, as Christians, as communities, and as a nation as to how are we living out our Christian beliefs and putting Christ's teachings into action. How well are we applying the principles that Jesus laid down in Matthew 25:31-46? Three of the four gospel lessons for February are from Matthew, chapter 5, where Jesus proclaims in his Sermon on the Mount those who are blessed, that he has not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it, and he then draws distinctions between obedience to the Law as written and obedience to the Law as he conceives it to be, or, if you will, obedience not only to the letter, but also to the Spirit, of the Law.

Continued to page 5

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

**You might be a Lutheran if you're watching Star Wars and
when they say “May the force be with you,” you reply, “and also with you.”**

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

Account balances as of 1-24-20

General Fund ~\$2,852.62

Building/Visions ~\$8,176.21

Endowment ~\$3,298.68

Community Assistance ~\$3,898.08

Mortgage ~\$73,574.42

Attendance

Tuesday, December 24 ~120

Sunday, December 29 ~ 62

Wednesday, January 1 ~13

Sunday, January 5 ~ 8 am ~ 36

10:30 ~ 43

Wednesday, January 8 ~ 8

Sunday, January 12 ~ 8 am ~ 37

10:30 ~ 49

Wednesday, January 15 ~ cancelled

due to weather

Sunday, January 19 ~ cancelled

due to weather

Wednesday, January 22 ~7

January Milestones



**I sang with all my friends Vivi, Ainsley, Axel,
and Thomas in choir.**

Kenzie

I am excited to go sledding and ice skating.

Maci

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian
sympathy to the families of

+Bill Leischner, Linda Six's brother

+Mary Conchran, Randy Poos' sister

+Dustin Ferguson, DeAnn Hakert's nephew

+Don Schmidt, Rich Schmidt's brother

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

**2019 Year End statements
are in your mailboxes.**



Immanuel's Golden Nuggets

As a people of God, the following are the identifying, non-negotiable characteristics of
Immanuel Lutheran Church.

- 1) God's Word and Sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion) are paramount in the life of Immanuel.
- 2) We are an inclusive congregation; ALL are welcome.
- 3) As disciples of Christ, we live in service to God and others.
- 4) We are an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregation.

As discerned by the 2019 Council.

Birthdays for February

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



Anniversaries for February

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



Hillcrest Academy (formerly IMS) Choir will be performing sacred music during the 10:30 am service on Sunday, March 1. Join us and be blessed through the voices of these teenagers.



HILLCREST ACADEMY
ACADEMICS that INSPIRE. FAITH that LEADS.



We will be hosting the choir on their rest day, June 1st and leaving June 2nd.
Start getting excited, invite friends, and clear your calendars!!
More information to follow.

It's **CANNED VEGETABLES** month
at Immanuel in support of
HACAP!!



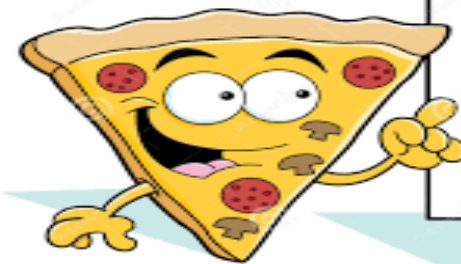
Thank you, truly, for your generosity!!

Washington School Kindness Closets
Each month we will spotlight items needed for the clothes closets at our schools.

February- Clorox Wipes

UPCOMING MEETINGS

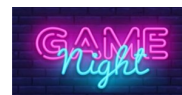
Denver meeting- Wednesday, January 29th at 7 pm
Exec- Thursday, January 30th at 4:45 pm
Finance- Thursday, January 30th at 6:30 pm
Council - Sunday, February 2nd at 12:00 pm
Worship & Music- Wednesday, February 5th at 10 am
Finance - Thursday, February 27th at 6:30 pm



Ladies Lunch Out
for February
will be
**Tuesday, February
18th at 12:30 pm.**
Meet at Pizza Hut!!



When: Sunday, February 16th
Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church
Why: Game night by Linda Six (Are you smarter than a Luther Leaguer?)
Who: 6th – 12th Graders and **PARENTS!!**
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Supper: Tacos- bring a topping or dessert to share
Leadership: Pastor Howard and Steve Vetter



Be Prepared. They're Coming.
WATOTO performing "We Will Go"
Sunday, May 31st at 7 pm

THANK YOU for the Christmas cards, gifts, cash, and even birthday wishes! It is an honor and humbling to be your pastor and partner in proclaiming the life we have through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. 2020 promises to be an exciting year. I am joyful to be partnering with you as we move forward in God's mission here at Immanuel Lutheran.

-Pastor Howard

Dear Immanuel,

Thank you for my care package. It made my finals a little sweeter. I appreciate you thinking of me during finals and sending a sweet gesture. Thank you again.

Mariah Howard

Thank you to Immanuel members and council for the cash gift at Christmas. It was very much appreciated and it's always nice to be remembered.

Yours in Christ's love,
Ron Brown

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gift of \$230.91 to Lutheran Disaster Response.
Thank you for sharing the gifts God has activated in you!
In Christ,
The Rev. Robin Brown
Mission Funding Director, Congregations

Council and Congregation-

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. It was so kind and thoughtful of you to think of me.

Kelly :)

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 **\$859.43** 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!



Thank you to the confirmation students: **Taylor Bartholomew, Caitlin Kroll, Emma Lueck, Mikaila Matheson, and Claire Wubbena** for preparing the purple paper to hang over the sanctuary windows for Lent. Your measuring, cutting, and pairing the paper makes hanging go all the more smoothly. The quiet, behind the scenes work is so important and most appreciated.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped with +Kate Glinsmann's Funeral. Thank you to **Ron Andersen, Gary Fischer, Steve Vetter, and Ron Brown** for setting up on Friday. Thank you to **Bev Bailey and Naomi Erickson** for setting up the altar and flowers. Thank you to **Ron Andersen, Gary Fischer, Steve Vetter, and John & Peg Harris** for serving as ushers.



Received another photo from Israel (Our 2019 Camp EWALU Counselor from Africa) at a recent concert with his choir.

Message says: "Greetings & blessed New Year from the choir"

February 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI! "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

"I Feel Like a Parent Now."

When Harmony learned she was pregnant for the first time, she was excited, but apprehensive. She didn't know what to expect when raising her first child.

Harmony's mother, Lois, helped her enroll in LSI's Early Childhood Services, which provide parenting education and resources to families of young children across Iowa.

While she was pregnant, Harmony participated in prenatal programming, which helped her maintain a healthy pregnancy and ensure she had everything she needed when her baby was born.

When her daughter, Aya, arrived in October of 2018, Harmony and Lois began participating in LSI's Parent Education Program, where they now attend regular classes and connect with other families in their community. And at home, they receive weekly visits from their LSI Parent Educator, Amy. Each week, Amy brings resources for Harmony and age-appropriate toys for Aya. They work together to monitor Aya's development, and Amy is teaching the family what to expect as Aya begins hitting her developmental milestones.

"LSI helps you learn how to raise your baby and how to learn about being a parent," Harmony says. "Before, I felt like I was trying to swim, but I was drowning. I feel like a parent now."

Continued from page 1

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, however, continues on through Chapters 6 and 7, which, with the exception of Matthew 6:1-6, are not found in the Lectionaries. Jesus gives much good advice in Chapter 7: "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged." (verse 1) "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye?" (verse 3) "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." (verse 7)

In verses 21-23, Jesus sounds a warning that we dare not overlook or ignore or say that it does not apply to us: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'" Which begs the question, Who is Jesus talking about here—the unrighteous? the self-righteous?

Which brings us back to Malachi: "But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; . . . and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness."

These same verses are used on the second Sunday in Advent in Year C of the three-year lectionary cycle as part of the anticipation of the coming Messiah. That last occurred in December, 2018. Kathryn Schifferdecker, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota, wrote, "Malachi, for his part, 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. In this Advent text, we are far from Bethlehem and the sweet strains of 'Away in a Manger.'"

Dr. Schifferdecker concludes, "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."

Ignite the Church Conference

Pastor Howard will be attending this conference the week of February 10th in Orlando, Florida.

Why Ignite The Church?

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany to invite public discourse about the need for change and renewal in the Church. Luther's efforts ignited the Protestant Reformation that changed history.

500+ years later, with 80-85% of churches in the United States plateaued or declining, the Church needs to embrace a new season of change and renewal to ignite the Church for another 500 years.

In the bold spirit of Martin Luther, the Ignite the Church Conference is an annual gathering that seeks to further Kingdom impacting conversation among leaders that will ignite the Church and help it live out its heritage of renewal in the years ahead!



Youth Led Worship

Mark your calendars, **Sunday, February 23rd** the youth of Immanuel will lead us in our thanks, praise, and prayers to our Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The youth will be leading worship during both Sunday services; 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Let us worship God with the excitement and enthusiasm of our youth.

Save the Date: Lutheran Day on the Hill

Tuesday, February 25th 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Registration: Closes Tuesday, February 18th

Our faith in Jesus Christ who cared for the poor and the outcast calls us to speak for those who are left out or relegated to the edges of society.

Lutheran Day on the Hill provides you with an opportunity to join a group of passionate, faith-filled advocates in making a difference for tens of thousands of Iowans. Our legislators want and need to hear from us about critical human

services issues and needs – and our neighbors in need likewise need our voices and advocacy. **Join LSI and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on February 25!**

This year, we'll be focusing on four key issues facing Iowans: 1) Sustainable Funding for Iowa's Children's Mental Health System; 2) Investing in a Strong Human Services Workforce; 3) Support for Services that Empower Refugees and Immigrants; 4) Why We're Called to Clean Energy Advocacy: Leadership on Climate Action.

Following a group picture and a free lunch at the Capitol, participants will be free to visit with their elected officials. You are encouraged to email them prior to your arrival to let them know you will be there and that you would like to visit with them as a part of Lutheran Day on the Hill.

A chartered bus will be stopping at the Southeastern Iowa Synod office at 7 a.m. to go to the Capitol and leave the Capitol at 2:30 to return to Iowa City. This opportunity is offered at no cost to attendees.



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.



Ash Wednesday is February 26th

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the season of penance and reflection that prepares us to celebrate Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The ashes we receive on our forehead, in the shape of a cross, are an outward sign of our sinfulness and need for repentance. They also symbolize our mortality, a reminder that one-day we will die and our bodies will return to dust. Pastor Howard quotes Genesis 3:19, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” to each person as they receive the ashes. With ashes upon our forehead we return to God’s mercy and grace.

Immanuel Lutheran’s **Ash Wednesday service**, with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion, will be at **6:00 p.m.**; plan to attend this special worship service as we observe the beginning of the Lenten season.



The 2020 World Day of Prayer will be March 6th, Friday, at 1:30 p.m. Churches in our community take turns hosting and this year is our turn. The program is written by Christian women in Zimbabwe.

It's based on the Biblical theme from John 5:2-9. Rise, take your mat, and walk. Men, women, and children are invited to attend. It's one hour of information about Zimbabwe, short skits, singing and prayers for love, peace and reconciliation. Judy Venzke is the chairperson.

12 Hours of Prayer

Lent is a time for us to fast, be in prayer, and repent as we realign ourselves and renew our commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Do many of us really take the time to be silent and listen for the quiet whispers of the Holy Spirit? Many times, prayer is a self-absorbed, a laundry list of our wants (with stipulations attached) that we bring to God to fulfill. We are going to begin the season of Lent with an opportunity to be in prayer. We are going to give ourselves the gift and freedom to be quiet and be alone in the presence of God. On Ash Wednesday, **February 26th** someone will be in the sanctuary, in prayer for **1 hour, beginning at 5:00 a.m.** The Bible, candles, the church's photo directory, prayer books, and a tabletop labyrinth (paper) will all be available to you as you spend your hour in prayer. Sign up for an hour (beginning at 5:00 a.m. and concluding at 5:00 p.m.) of prayer in the sanctuary and open yourself up to the power of God; you'll be glad you did. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Howard.

Spread Grace through PRAYER

We at Immanuel Lutheran Church consider the health and safety of our congregation to be of the utmost importance. That is why when bad weather strikes we will on occasion cancel church services and activities. Please remember that financial obligations continue regardless of weather. So we ask you not forget your financial contribution even though it may not be possible for you to attend church.

Thank you,
Gary Fischer, Financial Chairman

Council Highlights

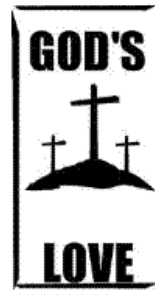
- The council says this is the year of action and it has already begun. A task force was formed to determine the needs of the sanctuary, nursery, hallway and fellowship area. You will be hearing from them soon.
- You have an opportunity to hear a concert at Riverside Casino. Just sign up to help usher and wear black pants. The casino will provide you with a white shirt. The mission trip will gain \$400 towards their expenses.
- Weight Watchers (Now known as WW) has asked to use our building for their weekly meetings. Their first meeting here will be Thursday, February 6.
- Faith Formation is in desperate need of people to teach our young people.
- Would anyone be interested in forming a Relay For Life Team? Talk to Bev if you are.



Measuring God's Love

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

Based on John 3:14-17 (NIV)

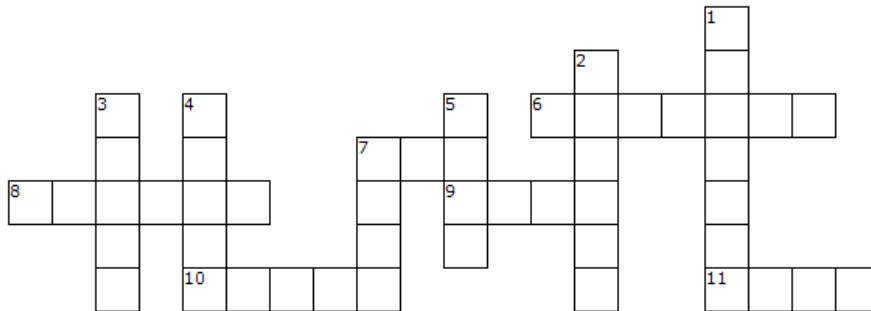


SAVE
PERISH
MOSES

LOVE
DESERT
WORLD

SNAKE
LIFE
ONLY

ETERNAL
SON
BELIEVE



ACROSS

6. To accept something as true, genuine, or real
7. A male child
8. To die or be destroyed
9. To care very deeply for someone
10. A serpent or reptile
11. The period of time from birth to death

DOWN

1. Lasting forever, without end
2. Hot, dry area of land with few trees or plants
3. The earth with its inhabitants and all things upon it
4. Received the ten commandments from God
5. Alone in its kind, nothing like it
7. To rescue from danger or harm



Measuring God's Love

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



let all
that
you do
be done
in Love

1 Corinthians 16:19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	H	Q	M	B	U	O	N	C	S	G	F	A	K	Z	J	L	E	V	W	P	T	Y	R	D	X

1. 20-7-24-17-25 _____
2. 17-1-12-18 _____
3. 10-7-8 _____
4. 11-7-25 _____
5. 5-18-17-1-18-19-18-10 _____
6. 18-22-18-24-8-13-17 _____
7. 21-18-24-1-10-2 _____
8. 17-7-19-18-25 _____
9. 11-13-19-18 _____
10. 20-2-7-18-19-18-24 _____

ETERNAL WHOEVER	GOD LIFE	LOVED GAVE	SON PERISH	BELIEVES WORLD
--------------------	-------------	---------------	---------------	-------------------





Service Date	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Acolyte	Communion Set up/Clean up
February 2	8 am Ken & Susan Baker 10:30 Marilyn Bennett and Sallie Graves	8 am Gary Fischer, Michael Howard, and Ray Poe 10:30 Bob Coker, Tom Gaughan, Marty Westen	8 am Linda Brown 10:30 Tom Gaughan	8 am Emma Taylor 10:30 Issac Giesmann	Set up- Bev Bailey Clean up/Set up- Naomi Erickson Clean up- Karen Heineman
February 9	8 am Bev Crandall 10:30 Phyllis Hagensick and Vi Kruse	8 am Gary Fischer, Brad Kroll, and Steve Vetter 10:30 Joh & Peg Harris and Fran Victor	8 am Tricia Kroll 10:30 Bev Bailey	8 am Caitlin Kroll 10:30 Mikaila Matheson	Set up- Brad Kroll Clean up/Set up- Stan & Sharol Kroll Clean up- Corrine Martin
February 16	8 am Alta Poe 10:30 DeAnn Hakert and Sherry Ives	8 am Michael Howard, Ray Poe, and Steve Vetter 10:30 Brian & Carrie Lueck and Marty Westen	8 am Taylor Bartholomew 10:30 Mikaila Matheson	8 am Clayton Bartholomew 10:30 Thomas Lueck	Set up- Bev Bailey Clean up/Set up- Ray & Alta Poe Clean up- Margaret Stangohr
February 23	8 am Craig & Tina Montz family 10:30 Carol Woodruff	8 am Rich & Deidra Baker, Brad Kroll 10:30 Aaron & April Six and family	8 am Deidra Baker 10:30 Margie Runaas	8 am Brayden Zywiec 10:30 Claire Wubbena	Set up- Kristin Jones Clean up/Set up- Naomi Erickson Clean up- Marilyn Bennett
February 26 Ash Wednesday	Please sign up	Please sign up	Please sign up	Please sign up	

First Communion Retreat

All children in the 2nd grade, along with their parent(s)/guardian(s), will participate in a First Communion retreat. This retreat will be held on **Saturday, April 4th** (1 p.m. – 5 p.m.). As part of the learning experience, the children will prepare the Communion bread to be used during worship on Palm and Easter Sundays. The children will receive their First Communion on Sunday, April 5th (Palm Sunday).

