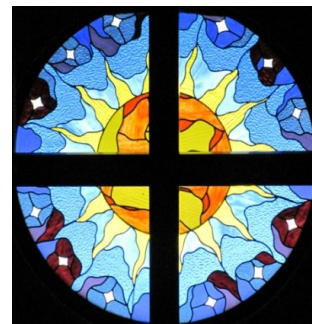


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

May 2020 Newsletter



“Indeed He Is not Far From Each One of Us.”

by Peter J. Weller

Weekly Services and Communion

9 am Live
Streaming

NO Communion

Office Hours

Call for
appointment

Inside this issue:

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Birthday & Anniversaries p. 3

Thank yous p. 4

Church Happenings p. 6-9



The Book of Acts tells the story of Paul's visit to Athens and presenting his Gospel message to the Athenians at the Areopagus, the hill south of the Agora (the central marketplace) and northwest of the Acropolis (the site of several significant temples). In Roman times, it came to be known as Mars Hill. The name, Areopagus, also referred to a judicial tribunal, called the Council of the Areopagus, which originally met on this hill, but was also known to meet elsewhere. In earlier times, it acted as a criminal court and held considerably more power than it did under the Romans. It is doubtful that Paul's appearance at the Areopagus could be considered a trial. Rather, it likely was more like an informal inquiry into these new ideas that Paul espoused.

Paul was disturbed by the large number of statues and monuments erected to the gods and goddesses that he found throughout Athens. He referred to them as idols. He argued with philosophers and others in the marketplace, and Jews in the synagogue, about Jesus and the resurrection. Very probably, he thought that here was a city that needed to hear the Word of God found in the gospel, and to repent and believe.

Luke writes in Acts 17, “Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made of human hands, nor is he served by human hands as though he needed anything since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor, he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”’

“ ‘Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged to righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

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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

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

Account balances as of 4-29-20

General Fund ~\$14,409.30 *

Savings ~\$12,896.94 *

Building/Visions ~\$3,923.70

Endowment ~\$3,298.32

Community Assistance ~\$3,822.54

Mortgage ~\$72,084.15

* Included CARES Act Funding

Immanuel Lutheran Church has been able to take advantage of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). We have qualified and received a loan for \$27,900.00 effective date April 9, 2020. This loan can only be used to make payroll and associated costs, including health and retirement benefits, facilities cost, and mortgage interest. If the loan requirements are properly followed, this loan may be turned into a grant.

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of

+Muriel Stangohr, aunt of Margaret Stangohr

may her family find comfort and peace
in the promise of the resurrection of Christ.

Attendance

Sunday, April 5 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 612 views

Wednesday, April 8 ~
Social Distancing~
No worship

Sunday, April 12 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 482 views

Wednesday, April 15 ~
Social Distancing~
No worship

Sunday, April 19 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 672 views

Wednesday, April 22 ~
Social Distancing~
No worship

Sunday, April 26 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 301 views

Wednesday, April 29 ~
Social Distancing~
No worship

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 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
- 18- Deb Tisor
- 18- Martin Runaas
- 19- Vanessa Westen
- 29- Brayden Zywiec
- 30- Kyle Middle
- 30- Cris Gaughan



Anniversaries for May

- 12- Dale & Candace Talbot Scheibe
- 16- Jeremy & Kelly Smith
- 29- Steve & Kathy Vetter



New Address:

Dale and Judy Venzke

1205 E Washington Apt # 155

Washington, Iowa 52353

HACAP

Each month we will spotlight items needed for HACAP.

May- Cereal

Washington School Kindness Closets

Each month we will spotlight items needed for the clothes closets at our schools.

May- Baby Wipes

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council- Sunday, May 3rd at 11:30 am via conference call

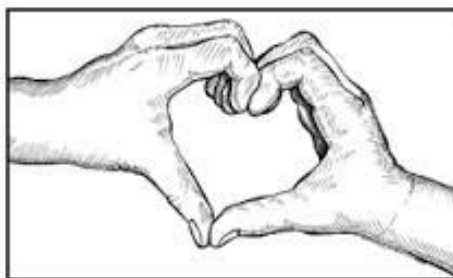


Luther League ~ SUBJECT TO CHANGE

When: Sunday, May 17th
Where: Google Hangouts
Why: Connect and play a game
Who: 6th – 12th Graders (friends are WELCOME!)
Time: 10:30 a.m. NOTE TIME CHANGE
Leadership: Steve Vetter and Pastor Howard

Synod Assembly

The Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly originally scheduled to take place in Coralville, May 1-3rd has been rescheduled for August 7th at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. During the Assembly we will be electing a new Bishop.



THANK YOU Linda Six, Ainsely Six, and Axel Six for decorating the fellowship hall windows with a cross and hearts. Everyone who drives past the church, knows they are loved.

THANK YOU to Diana Wubben for magnificently decorating the Chancel for Easter and providing all the Easter celebration plants. The Altar was a display of triumphant glory.

THANK YOU to Bev Bailey and Naomi Erickson for stripping the altar during the Maundy Thursday worship. Your ministry added a special touch to a worship that needed to be live streamed.

How wonderful to go to the mailbox and receive the lovely Easter cards and missing you notes. Thank you for remembering me in such a nice way.
Blessings,
Bev Crandall

THANK YOU to Aaron Six for putting the heavy, wooden cross in the parking lot for Good Friday drive up meditation and then returning it to the Chancel. This was a meaning experience for the people who participated in personal prayer.

Thank you Taylor Bartholomew for the lovely card and message. I appreciated it very much!

From,
Bonnie Taylor

THANKS

First Communion Retreat via Google Hangouts

Taylor Black, Nate Giesmann, William McWhirter, Lason Montz, Ansley Six, and Grace Taylor, along with their parents, completed First Communion training on Saturday, April 4th. It was certainly a different experience having the retreat through video! These youth are outstanding, patient, and eager to learn so the retreat was a success. They will prepare the Communion bread for the Sunday we finally are able to Commune together in Immanuel's sanctuary. Welcome to Christ's Table!



The Church is not the building,
its the people, its not just the
gathering, its also the scattering...

John Wimber

May 2020, 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 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 2019, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to 1,282 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 making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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.

Raising Healthy Families

As a child, Morgan had endured trauma no one should experience. Addiction, divorce, and difficult family relationships all surrounded Morgan in her childhood home. When she found out she was pregnant for the first time with her daughter, Sophia, Morgan was determined to never repeat the past she grew up with. She decided to enroll in LSI's Early Childhood Services. Every week, her LSI worker, Ashley, would bring age-appropriate toys and games for Sophia to play with. She provided Morgan with educational resources to help her track Sophia's development and make sure her daughter was hitting all her important milestones. When Morgan welcomed her second child, Nolan, Ashley was with her every step of the way. It was Ashley who noticed that Nolan had developed a speech delay, and she helped Morgan connect with a speech therapist to correct it early. Sophia is now in preschool and loves telling her mom about her teachers, friends, and the new songs she learned at school. Nolan is an active two-year-old who is learning new words every day. Morgan is currently finishing her Registered Nursing degree, and she dreams of working in emergency care at a hospital after graduation. And all the while, Ashley has been there to cheer them on. "She's been more than a worker, she's been a friend when I've needed someone the most," Morgan says. "Being a new mom is hard. Having that extra person there, who doesn't judge you, who doesn't see your flaws, who is just there to help you – you can't put a price on that."

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"When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them." (Acts 17:22-34)

To my knowledge, this is the only reference in the New Testament to Paul being in Athens and saying anything to the Athenians. No letters written by Paul to the Athenians have been acknowledged. Paul's visit to Athens won only a few converts, although Dionysius the Areopagite, mentioned in Acts 17:34, became a convert and later became the first bishop of Athens.

Prior to visiting Athens, Paul generally reached out to the Jewish populations as he traveled, telling them that Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ. And, of course, they were familiar with the idea of a Messiah coming to them at some future point. That story was a part of their religion and their culture. The Greeks, however, had no such familiarity, and did not know what to make of this concept of a Messiah. Nor did they know how to handle the idea of the resurrection of the body. Greek philosophy generally considered flesh as temporary and not possessed by a divine absolute. The body was temporary housing for the soul, the body deteriorated over time, and upon death, the soul would be liberated from the body. How then would something that deteriorated over time be resurrected? What would it look like? Athenians had trouble wrapping their heads around that one, which is why some of them scoffed.

Yet, what is important here is that Paul tied the argument regarding the true and living God to the stones and statues and altars of idols by his reference to that one inscription, "To an unknown god." Paul says that this "unknown god" is, in fact, the God that we know, "This I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it. . . is Lord of heaven and earth. . . . Indeed he is not far from each one of us." Many Athenians in Paul's audience did not grasp what he was saying here, and so they scoffed. But, our God is not unknown. And, he is not unknowable. Dionysius the Areopagite grasped it. So did Damaris. And, so did others who were with them. True, these were not thousands of converts at one time as had occurred elsewhere and earlier, but it was a beginning.

Congratulations 2020 Graduates....

Allison Rebling is graduating from Fairfield High School and will be attending Graceland University in the Fall. She will major in Elementary Education with a minor in Hispanic Studies. She also committed to playing softball for Graceland and was accepted into their vocal program too.



Addison Six is graduating from Washington High School and will be attending Central College to major in Elementary Education and continue her volleyball career.

Audrey Wubbena is graduating from Washington High School and will be attending Webster University in St. Louis to major in Lighting Design.

Denver Fundraiser: One Mission ~ Purchase With Purpose

Nine members from Immanuel Lutheran Church are traveling to Denver this July on a mission trip. We are partnering with the people of Denver to provide hope through God's word and our actions. "Hear Love, Eat Love, Share Christ's Love", Immanuel's mission statement, reflects our desire to participate in this mission trip. The 5 youth and 4 adults going on this mission trip are excited to have this opportunity to serve the people of Denver. Our host, Youthworks, will connect us to service partnerships and work projects. However, we won't know which service projects we will be assigned to until we get there. We need to raise \$2,300 to cover our expenses, including registration and travel. Please prayerfully consider supporting our cause. Thank you and God Bless!

There are 3 easy ways YOU can support Immanuel's Denver Fund:

Go to <https://onemission.fund/support/immanuel-lutheran-mission/?shopfor=198659>

1. You can purchase any of One Mission's great products and 40% of what you spend will be donated.
2. You can donate cash (One Mission does not charge a platform fee) ~ or make a donation directly to Immanuel Lutheran with "Denver" in the memo.
3. You can share this Fund with your friends and family.

A great way to purchase your Mother's Day and Graduation gifts!



Immanuel at HACAP

HACAP food boxes need to be put together more than ever. Immanuel needs 6-8 volunteers to meet at HACAP (2175 Lexington Blvd, Orchard Hill Complex Building 1) on Wednesday, May 6th at 2:30 p.m. You must: be feeling healthy, wear a mask, and gloves. Standing is a

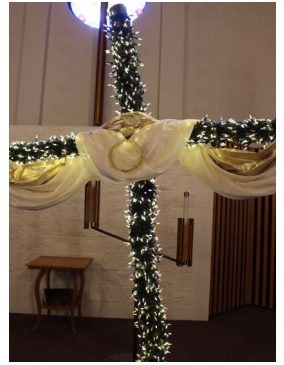
requirement for this volunteering service project. We will be completed in less than an hour. Please let Pastor Howard know that you will be boxing food at HACAP. THANK YOU for your willingness to help in this time of social distancing.

LIVE Streaming of Worship or Conference Call options

Until further notice, Immanuel is currently live streaming our Sunday worship at 9 a.m. Streaming is going to Immanuel's Facebook page: Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa. Brian Lueck is also putting it on Immanuel's website: luthwash.org. You may go back to these locations and the video will still be available.



If you choose not to use the streaming of worship, you may conference call in. Call this number: (319) 656-2663 and it will ask you for a participant code 344238#. Then you will be connected to the church phone and Pastor Howard will have it next to her during worship. This phone line will be opened at 8:50 a.m. on Sundays and it will end at the conclusion of worship. HOWEVER, when you use the conference call option, know that all talking you do is heard by the other participants on the conference call. If you begin talking to other people in your home, then all the people on the phone hear your conversation and not the worship service.



Story Time with Pastor Maureen, 10 a.m.

Pastor Howard is reading a story each day from The Jesus Storybook Bible written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and illustrated by Jago or from the Spark Story Bible published by Augsburg Fortress: Minneapolis. Join Pastor Howard on Immanuel's Facebook page, each day at 10 a.m., as she live streams the reading. Home is the primary location for teaching children the faith, God's love through our Savior Jesus the Christ. Don't miss out hearing that YOU ARE LOVED BY JESUS! The story time stays on Immanuel's Facebook page so you can watch over and over or view later. This has become a huge hit and people look forward to this each morning!

Holy Communion in Immanuel's Parking Lot!

On Sunday May 3rd Immanuel will be offering drive-through Communion. Pastor Howard will consecrate the elements (wafers, wine, and grape juice) during the live stream/conference call worship, 9 a.m. Holy Communion will be distributed in the parking lot between 10:30 – 11 a.m. Pastor Howard will be wearing a mask and gloves when consecrating the elements and during distribution. The common cup will not be available only individual, plastic cups. Vehicles will enter the parking lot through the North entrance and exit through the East entrance. Pastor Howard will give you Holy Communion while you remain in your vehicles. You will then drive to the garbage can and throw away your plastic cup(s). If it is raining, Pastor Howard will be located underneath the portico (enter from North entrance, proceed under portico, and exit the West entrance). By Sunday, May 3rd it will have been six weeks of fasting from the Lord's Supper. However, if you chose not to participate in this meal opportunity, fasting is still an appropriate option. Immanuel will assess this distribution format and decide how we proceed into the unforeseeable future.





Mothers are a Gift
by Faye Diane Kilday

Mothers are a special gift
sent from God above,
They bless us with their nurturing,
And fill us with their love.

They pick us up when we are down,
And when we're sad they know,
They're always there to lend a hand,
And guide us as we go.

And mothers are like special jewels
that can't be bought or sold...
A mother's love's more precious
than the rarest gem or gold.

Yes, mothers are a special gift
sent from God above,
And we'll be blessed forever with
their never ending love!

www.ellenbailey.com/poems/ellen_661.htm

God's Blessing upon All Women

In celebration of the faithful women of Immanuel Lutheran, we will bestow upon them the blessings of God. Join us on Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day) and bless the women of Immanuel who have been formed by God's grace. The blessing liturgy is found in the "Scripture Readings", on Immanuel's webpage luthwash.org, for Sunday, May 10th.

Ascension of Our Lord; Thursday, May 21st

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)

High School Senior Recognition Sunday

During the 9 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, May 24th** we will be honoring our 2020 high school seniors; Allison Rebling will graduate from Fairfield High School, Addison Six and Audrey Wubbena both graduating from Washington High School. Allison, Addison, and Audrey will process into church wearing their caps and gowns, they will receive a gift from their church family, and they will be sent with a special graduation liturgy. You won't want to miss this opportunity to wish these outstanding, young women God's blessing upon their graduations and future. This special service will be held even if we are still live streaming worship.

Confirmation Dinner/Rehearsal and Confirmation Sunday **RESCHEDULED**

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: **Taylor Bartholomew, Caitlin Kroll, Emma Lueck, and Mikaila Matheson**. The Confirmation Dinner and Rehearsal have been rescheduled for Saturday, September 19th, 6 p.m. Confirmation Sunday has been rescheduled for Sunday, **September 20th, 10:30 a.m.** worship. Please keep these faithful, young women in your prayers as they wait to affirm and underscore God's action in their Baptism.

Only God can turn
a **MESS** into a
message, a **TEST** into a
testimony, a **TRIAL** into
a triumph, a **VICTIM**
into a victory.

YOU ARE the Church!

Beloved people of God, YOU are Immanuel Lutheran! We are experiencing a pandemic, the likes of which, we have never experienced in our lifetimes. To keep one another healthy and safe we are social isolating from each other. We grieve the major events and activities in our lives, which had to be cancelled, and our hearts are heavy with disappointment. Children are no longer in school; Grandparents are no longer kissing their grandchildren; friends are no longer socializing over coffee; families are no longer attending concerts, ball games, movies, restaurants; and employees are without work. The one entity that will NEVER close is the church! For the church is NOT stationary buildings in particular locations. YOU are the church wherever you are. YOU are the church when you are playing with your children. You are the church when you send cards to strangers residing in nursing homes. You are the church when you say your daily prayers. You are the church when you cheer your neighbors through song, dance, music. You are the church when you post uplifting, love centered, encouraging words on Facebook. You are the church when you obey the social distancing guidelines. Beloved people of God, the Christ in you cannot be silenced. The Christ in you cannot be halted. The Christ in you cannot cease being Christ. In this time of isolation, the church is still open and alive ~ for **YOU ARE THE CHURCH** wherever you are! The church will support one another, and God will lead us through this time of isolation. **Praise God!!!**

Pastor Howard

