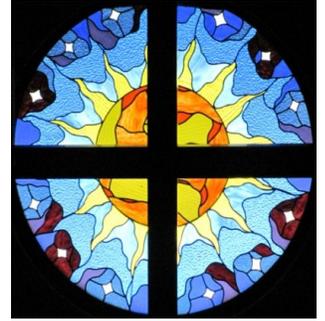


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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



June 2020 Newsletter

Weekly Services and Communion

9 am Live Streaming
6/14 Car Hop Communion

Office Hours

Call for appointment

Inside this issue:

Monthly updates p. 2
Birthday & Anniversaries p. 3
Thank yous p. 4
Church Happenings p. 6-9

WASH
your hands
AND
say your prayers
BECAUSE
Jesus & germs
ARE
EVERYWHERE

“What Are Human Beings That You Are Mindful of Them, Mortals That You Care For Them?”

by Peter J. Weller

In Psalm 8, the psalm for Trinity Sunday, David writes, “O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! “You have set your glory above the heaven. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have provided a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? “You have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea. “O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” In just a few short paragraphs, David expresses his wonder at the creation of the universe— not only the creation, itself, but also the wonder of the human being’s place in that universe. Certainly, he must have been awestruck by the vastness of the creation in the skies above. Astronomy, as we know it, was unknown to David, and yet, when he looked heavenward into a nighttime sky unpolluted by all the artificial light of modern invention, he would have seen an enormous array of thousands of points of light of varying brightnesses set within an overhead dome, which we would call the firmament. He would not have envisioned a concept of “Space” as we understand the term. Yet, as he looked skyward, he must have felt very small as he asked the question, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” It is an amazing thing that the human mind can grasp the concept of the wide range of distance and proportion, from the infinite to the infinitesimal, the vastness of the universe to the minuteness of the atom, both of which lie beyond our visual capabilities. To a limited extent, science might be able to theorize how the universe came into being. It cannot, however, tell us why it came into being. Nor can it tell us why human beings were added to the mix of species that inhabit the earth. Despite the great advances in knowledge in our modern history, we are no more able to answer David’s questions than he was. David believed, and so wrote, that the Lord God made humans “a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.”

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

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

Account balances as of 5-21-20

General Fund ~ \$24,288.70*

Savings ~ \$10,026.61

Building/Visions ~ \$4,034.53

Endowment ~ \$3,298.86

Community Assistance ~ \$3,612.58

Mortgage ~ \$71,570.81

*Included CARES Act Funding

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the families of

+Daryl Dillion (Molly Zywiec's Grandpa)
in April

+Herman Askland (Sherry Ives' Uncle)

+Karl Ostrem (Amy Black's Father)

+Angie Russell (Marilyn Bennett's Aunt)

+Dan Shirkey (April Six's Uncle)

+Justin Dennis

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

Attendance

No Wednesday evening worship
Due to COVID-19

Sunday, May 3 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 402 views

Sunday, May 10 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 302 views

Sunday, May 17 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 570 views

Sunday, May 24 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 464 views

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.

**GOD IS NOT CALLING US
TO GO TO CHURCH;
HE IS CALLING US TO
BE HIS CHURCH.**

— CRAIG GROESCHEL —

Birthdays for June

2- Ron Heineman
6- Emma Taylor
6- Erin Almelién
8- Grant Wubbena
13- Wilma McKinstry
15- Barb Matheson
16- Kathleen Almelién
16- Sophie Wittmayer
17- Alex Six
17- Andy Six
17- Anders Almelién
19- Rich Baker
20- Gary Brown
22- Anker Six
28- Armor Six



Anniversaries for June

3- Tina & Craig Montz
5- Lee & Lois Buchholz
8- Jon and Margie Runaas
12- Sid & Donna Manfull
23- Dale & Judy Venzke
25- Sara & Larry Bartlett
28- David & Jane Ann Croft



in a world
where you can
be anything.
BE KIND.

HACAP

Your dollar buys more when HACAP orders food,
consider sending a few dollars to:

HACAP

2175 Lexington Blvd # 1

Washington, Iowa 52353

Help your local families during this difficult time.

Thank you, DeAnn

Washington School Kindness Closets

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

June- Bath soaps

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance- Thursday, June 4th at 6:30 pm

Council- Sunday, June 7th at 10:30 am via conference call



Luther League ~ SUBJECT TO CHANGE

When: Sunday, June 21st (yes, it is Father's Day ~ let Pastor Howard know if this NOT a good date to meet)
Where: Google Meets
Why: Connect and play a game
Who: 6th – 12th Graders
Time: 10:30 a.m. **NOTE TIME CHANGE**
Leadership: Steve Vetter and Pastor Howard

Don't Forget Immanuel Lutheran

During this time of social distancing, we continue to give God our thanks and praise through our tithes and offerings of thanksgiving for the mission of the church including the care of those in need. We continue to receive your tithes and offerings by: mailing your checks to Immanuel Lutheran (1226 E. Washington St., Washington 52353), call the church (653-3950) to have the automatic withdrawal (Simply Giving) enrollment form mailed to you, or give online through Immanuel's website (luthwash.org). We are grateful for your continued generosity to God through Immanuel Lutheran during this time of separation. The ministries of Immanuel Lutheran do not stop because we are in "safety/separation mode" due to COVID-19.

Thank you for the cards and calls received the last 8 weeks, nice to know someone cares, I'm missing my church family! Doris Moore

THANK YOU to **Steve Vetter, Brad Kroll, and Mike Howard** for overseeing that Car Hop Communion went smoothly and was photographed. Without your assistance this inaugural event would not have been the success it was.

Thank you to **Alta Poe** for creating the beautiful prayer shawls for our high school graduates. They will forever be treasured!! ♥

Thank you, **Emma Lueck, Julie Hill and family, DeAnn Hakert, and Phyllis Hagensick** for the cards with lovely messages. Also to **Pastor Howard** for her many calls to see how I was doing. I appreciated it very much. You have my blessings,
Corrine Martin

THANK YOU to **Mary Chmelar** for planting marigolds in the garden in front of Immanuel's marquee. They will be a beautiful addition to the landscape of Immanuel.



Thank you all for cards and calls lifting my spirits by staying in touch. Thank you **Bev Crandall** for coffee meeting in my back yard! Thank you **Pastor Howard** for keeping us in the bible study everyday and on Sunday Worship Service. You go above and beyond for us.
Thank you, DeAnn Hakert

First Communion

Congratulations to **Nate Giesmann, William McWhirter, Lason Montz, Ainsley Six, and Grace Taylor** on receiving their First Communion at Car Hop Communion on Sunday, May 3rd. The youth will prepare Communion bread as part of the First Communion Retreat experience and will be eaten when we are finally communing together in the sanctuary. Welcome to Christ's Table - what a First Communion memory they have! **Taylor Black** also attended the First Communion Retreat but did not receive on May 3rd due to the death of her grandpa on May 2nd.



A Letter from Council

Dearly Beloved of God,
Grace, peace, and health to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.
On May 3, 2020 the Council of Immanuel Lutheran Church made the decision to follow the CDC's recommendations for when to physically come together during this time of COVID-19 pandemic. Following Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor we will honor this commandment by continuing to social distance and worship our God through live streaming and conference call.
Our concern is for the health and safety of God's people here at Immanuel Lutheran. We will be following the CDC's guidelines closely and making decisions that would be best for the wellbeing of the people of Immanuel and Washington. The Council is not in a rush to open the doors of Immanuel Lutheran prematurely. We will keep you notified when Council deems it safe and appropriate for Immanuel to physically gather in this building space.
Live streaming of worship is conducted at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings to Immanuel's Facebook page: Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa and to our website: Luthwash.org
The conference call number is: (319) 656-2663 participant code: 344238#
The monthly bulletin may be downloaded from Immanuel's website using the "liturgy" tab and Pastor Howard will be emailing it out as well.
We will continue with Sunday "Car Hop Communion" once a month, 10:30 a.m.- 11 a.m., on the following dates: June 14th, July 19th, and Aug 23rd.
Council encourages you to reach out to each other in support through phone calls, cards, and prayer. You are not forgotten and are deeply loved and missed. Pastor Howard is in the office for your Spiritual needs.

In Service to our Lord,
The Council of Immanuel Lutheran Church

June 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story Happy Father's Day!

At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we strive to build up and empower Iowa kids and families. For us, Father's Day is a time to celebrate all the fathers and male role models we see every day. Through our Early Childhood Services, young men are learning to become dads. They're becoming confident and active in their child's life, and they are creating loving, bright futures for their families. Many Iowa children entering foster care need a positive male role model in their lives. And through LSI Foster Care and Adoption, our licensed foster dads are there to help guide them. This is only possible through your support of LSI! If you would like to make a gift, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065. Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

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.

Creating Her Community

Paulynn had a dream of what she wanted in life: lots of friends, a job she loved, a healthy lifestyle, and a sense of community. But it was difficult for Paulynn to leave the apartment she shared with her dad, Lee. Though Lee had dedicated his life to serving as his daughter's primary caregiver, they didn't have reliable transportation that could accommodate her wheelchair. And Paulynn's risk of seizures meant she always needed to be accompanied by her dad. Despite the obstacles, Lee was determined to give his daughter the life she dreamed of. He enrolled her in LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. Fifteen years later, Paulynn's dream has become a reality. Through LSI, Paulynn's team provides transportation that allows her to travel to and from her apartment with ease. While Paulynn is out, Lee is able to take a well-deserved break from his caregiving role. With support from LSI, Paulynn is able to give back to her community. Each week, she helps package meals for individuals in need. She has created a community of her own through her volunteer work. And for every moment, her LSI team is there to support her. "We're very grateful for LSI," Lee says. "They've been really great supporting my daughter."

Continued from page 1

The King James Version puts it that God created humans to be a little lower than angels. David continues, "You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea." And we could add, "all the minerals and other natural resources, the rivers, lakes and other water resources, the land and other agricultural resources, transportation and other human infrastructure, and so much more."

In this psalm, David does not directly speak to the responsibilities that go along with having dominion over the works of God's hands. But, being a king, he certainly would have understood the responsibilities of having dominion over God's works, and perhaps these responsibilities are implied in what he has written here. Surely, in today's world, we must be cognizant of the responsibilities of and the need for good stewardship of the earth's many resources and blessings. Species must not become extinct because of gross environmental mismanagement. Profit should not gain a higher priority than quality of life. Sacrifices on the part of some should not be required to support the comfort of others.

Theologian Elizabeth Webb of Liberty, Missouri wrote in the Working Preacher: "How to interpret humanity's proper governance over the rest of creation must go into assessing questions regarding ecology; food production, distribution, and consumption; medical and technological advancements; even the morality of puppy mills. To be human is to be responsible for our fellow creatures, and we must take that responsibility with the utmost seriousness.

"Moreover, at the same time that Psalm 8 recognizes our dominion, it also reminds us of our humility. We are each still that awestruck person gazing in wonderment at the stars. We bear the image of God; we are not God. Our finitude and fallibility must be kept in mind as we exercise our responsibility. We are also reminded that we are a part of the creation over which God has granted us dominion. We do not stand apart from our fellow creatures, but we stand with them.

"All creatures, including human beings, live in interdependence with one another. As much as we have dominion over creation, we are also dependent upon it for our well-being. Our sovereignty can never mean that we place ourselves over-against the creation. As 'lords' over creation, we are in fact servants of it."

My Father Is A Christian

*My father is a Christian;
He leads our household well;
With instruction from the Bible,
Right behavior he'll compel.*

*Yet he steers us with compassion;
His gentle love is true;
He conforms to our Lord Jesus,
So we know just what to do.
He teaches us with purpose,
Guides us in all Godly ways,
So we will take the right path,
And serve our Lord with praise.*

*I'm glad you're a Christian, Dad;
You help me see things clearly.
I'll always look up to you,
And love you very dearly.*

Catherine A. Herbert RAW 05/29/2012

God's Blessing upon All Men

In celebration of the faithful men of Immanuel Lutheran, we will bestow upon them the blessings of God. Join us on Sunday, June 21st (Father's Day) through live streaming or conference call and bless the men of Immanuel who have been formed by God's grace.

While our doors stay closed, let's remember our prayer link members and our whole congregation. Prayer changes everything. Continue to be the body of Christ with loving concern and prayerful hearts.

DeAnn Hakert, Church Council President

Psalm 100 Make a joyful noise.



HACAP Food Boxing

Thank you to **Ron Andersen, DeAnn Hakert, Pastor Howard, Lucas Kroll, Caitlin Kroll, Jane Kruse, Jeanne Schwab, April Six, Avery Six, Ajay Six, and Aden Six** for boxing food, on Wednesday, May 20th, for hungry families. Wearing masks and gloves did not slow the group down! In 35 minutes, all the large boxes were filled with food to nourish families in Washington County. You ARE the Hands of God!



Holy Trinity Sunday; June 7th

The doctrine of the Trinity invites us to consider how a God constituted by relationship—the Father with the Son, the Son with the Spirit, the Spirit with the Father—draws us into that relationship with God and one another. Gradually or suddenly, through the work of the Spirit, we come to know our belonging to the Father and to Christ's body.

In such loving relationships, truth is discovered. But people cannot bear the truth all at once, so discipleship and faith formation are gradual processes of listening for the Spirit's voice. Christian practices such as worship, learning, and service are occasions for people of all ages to be "guided into truth." Such practices are rooted in baptism, in which God draws us into a lifelong relationship in which we grow into truth and love over time—guided by the Spirit, accompanied by Jesus, and having peace with the Father.

In Romans, we hear the truth of how love originates and grows in us: Poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, God's love gives us a hope that will never disappoint. Christian community offers the delightful opportunity to experience one's own growth in hope, faith, and love, and to witness others' growth as they too are drawn more deeply into relationship with the triune God. (from Sundays and Seasons)

June Bulletin

On June 7th, the church year changes to “Ordinary Time” or “Sundays after Pentecost”. Immanuel will be using a different bulletin during the month of June. To fully participate in live streaming or conference call of worship download the June bulletin from Immanuel’s website “luthwash.org”. The bulletin is located at the “liturgy” tab. The June bulletin has different hymns, the weekly scripture texts, Holy Communion liturgy (June 14th), and the blessing of men liturgy (June 21st).

Story Time with Pastor Maureen, 10 a.m.

Pastor Howard is reading a story, Tuesdays – Sundays, from The Jesus Storybook Bible written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and illustrated by Jago or from the Spark Story Bible published by Augsburg Fortress. Join Pastor Howard on Immanuel’s Facebook page, at 10 a.m., as she live streams the reading. Parents are the primary teachers of the faith, God’s love through our Savior Jesus the Christ, to their children. 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. “Story Time with Pastor Maureen” is NOT just for children, adults are enjoying the readings too! This is a fun, non-threatening way to learn the stories of the Bible.



WEAR RED Pentecost ~ Sunday, May 31st

Pentecost is an especially important day in the church year. The name “Pentecost” comes from a Greek word meaning “fifty.” It is fifty days after Easter and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the early Christians. It is the birthday of the church! The color of the day is red, to remind us of the flames of fire that rested on each of them as they gathered together; “They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:3-4a). We thank God for giving us His Holy Spirit at our Baptism. “The Holy Spirit calls us through the Gospel, enlightens us with God’s gifts, and sanctifies us and keeps us in true faith. In the same way the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith” (The Small Catechism by Martin Luther; the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed). Let us celebrate the birth of the church through the Holy Spirit at Pentecost by wearing red! Though we are worshiping from home, we are unified by the Holy Spirit. Worship on Sunday, May 31st through your electronic devices wearing red.

Car Hop Communion: Sunday, June 14th

Pastor Howard will be serving Holy Communion on **Sunday, June 14th, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. in the church’s parking lot.** Our inaugural Car Hop Communion, in May, was a HUGE success with four lines of cars lined up with excited people to be fed from the Lord’s Table.

Pastor Howard will consecrate the elements (wafers, wine, and grape juice) during the live stream/conference call worship, 9 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. Cars 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 cars. 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). However, if you chose not to participate in this meal opportunity, fasting is still an appropriate option.



LIVE Streaming of Worship or Conference Call options

Until further notice, Immanuel is 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. We are reaching people across the country who are choosing to worship with us!

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.

Denver Mission Trip CANCELLED

It was with deepest sorrow we received word that YouthWorks cancelled the mission trip to Denver due to safety reasons from COVID-19 (all trips requiring travel were cancelled). **THANK YOU** to everyone who financially supported the fundraising (purchase of prepared frozen meals and One Mission online shopping) so 9 Immanuel members could go on this trip. The money raised to go to Denver will be used to support the youth on a future mission trip or to Minneapolis for the National Youth Gathering 2021.

Pastor Howard IS in the Office

Pastor Howard continues to work in her office at Immanuel. She is available to you for your spiritual concerns. Feel free to connect with her if you have: prayer concerns, need someone to visit with, or you need anything. She may not be able to do home visits **BUT** you are **NOT** forgotten. The church building is very quiet, and you are missed deeply. She continues to hold you in prayer for good health, patience, and to feel the presence of our loving God.



Congratulations to our Community College Graduate

Marty Baker has graduated from Iowa Central Community College and is headed to UNI this fall. He wants to teach Industrial Tech.

Congratulations Marty!!

Grant, O Savior, to Marty the knowledge of your continued presence as he goes forth into the future. Bless Marty and keep them. Guide his steps. Hold him in the hollow of your hand. Amen.



Congratulations to Our High School Seniors

On Sunday, May 24th, we honored our 2020 High School seniors Allison Rebling, Addison Six, and Audrey Wubbena during worship. Allison, Addison, and Audrey processed into church wearing their cap and gown, were sent with a special graduation liturgy, and received a prayer shawl from their church family. The prayer shawls were knitted in the colors of the college they will be attending: Allison's shawl is gold and blue for Graceland University, Addison's shawl is red and white for Central College, and Audrey's shawl is gold, white, and blue for Webster University.

Congratulations Allison, Addison, and Audrey!

Grant, O Savior, to Addison, Audrey, and Allison the knowledge of your continued presence as they go forth into the future. Bless Addison, Audrey, and Allison and keep them. Guide their steps. Hold them in the hollow of your hand. Amen.



CONGRATULATIONS

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

