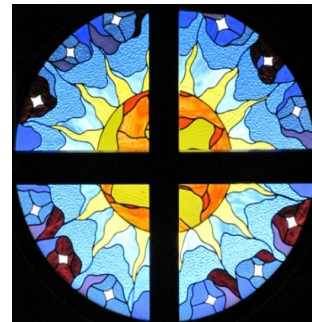


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

## July 2020 Newsletter



### Weekly Services and Communion

9 am Live  
Streaming  
7/19 Car Hop  
Communion  
7/19 Outdoor  
worship 7 pm

### 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



"And God Said, 'Ask What I Should Give You' "  
by Peter J. Weller

An Old Testament lesson for this month comes from I Kings, the third chapter: "Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David. . . . The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child. I do not know how to go out or to come in. . . . Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'"

"It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.' " (I Kings 3:5-14)

The above dream occurred early in Solomon's reign. What a dream! What an offer! Consider that Solomon was not the first-born. By tradition, David's eldest living son, Adonijah, should have become king. Two other sons were killed in rebellions. Bathsheba and Nathan convinced a dying David to grant succession to Solomon instead. Note here that God first approaches Solomon, saying, "Ask what I should give you." It is not the other way around, that Solomon first approaches God, asking, "Please give me. . . ." It would have been tempting for Solomon to ask God to slay Adonijah and any other pretenders to the throne, or to grant Solomon powerful armies or great wealth or successful conquests of Israel's neighboring territories or to help Solomon forge a mighty empire.

Yet, Solomon asks for none of these. Instead, he asks for understanding and a discerning mind to see the difference between good and evil and to govern wisely and justly. Unsure of his capabilities to govern, he confesses to God, "I am only a little child. I do not know how to go out or to come in." Solomon was actually about 20 years old at the time that he became king, certainly no longer a little child. Calling himself such seems a bit overstated. Perhaps, he felt insecure, that he lacked wisdom and experience in matters of statecraft and governance.

Yet, it pleased God that Solomon did not ask for riches and domination, but rather for wisdom, understanding, and the ability to discern good and evil. God granted him all that he asked and riches and honor, as well. God also said that if Solomon could keep God's statutes and ordinances, God would grant him long life as well.

Continued to page 5

Find us on Facebook at Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa or online at [luthwash.org](http://luthwash.org).

Email us at [luthwash@hotmail.com](mailto: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 6-24-20

General Fund ~ \$17,329.86

Savings ~ \$4,223.36

Building/Visions ~ \$3,990.36

Endowment ~ \$3,299.42

Community Assistance ~ \$3,822.54

Mortgage ~ \$71,064.94

**Christian Sympathy**

We extend our deepest Christian  
sympathy to the family of

+Elisabeth Crum, Kathy Fischer's birth mom

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

**In Christian Joy**

We extend our Christian Congratulations

Gehrig Joel Widmer, son of Maddie and Blaine Widmer and  
grandson of Joyce and Marty Westen.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15

Attendance

No Wednesday evening worship  
Due to COVID-19

Sunday, May 24 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 479 views

Sunday, June 7 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 291 views

Sunday, June 14 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 325 views  
Car Hop Communion ~ 58

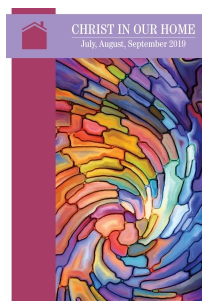
Sunday, June 21 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 406 views

**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.



July - Sept "Christ in our Homes" is available.  
Call the church if you would like a free copy.

## Birthdays for July

1- Jason Taylor  
2- Issac Giesmann  
6- Dale Scheibe  
11- Bev Bailey  
12- Kathy Fischer  
14- Sharol Kroll  
15- Amaya Gutierrez  
15- Mike Howard  
18- Grant Hill  
24- Rob Taylor  
25- Caitlin Kroll  
27- Kathy Vetter  
27- Richard Schmidt



## Anniversaries for July

3- Ken & Susan Baker  
4- Ben & Kelsey Striegel  
5- Pastor Maureen & Mike Howard  
8- Andy & Danielle Six  
11- Mike & Debbie Jewell  
15- Stephen Bay & Rex Findley  
17- Francis & Joan Johnston  
26- Aaron & April Six  
26- Gary & Kathy Fischer



Please make a note-

DeAnn Hakert has a new number  
319.461.5411 .The mobile  
directory has been updated.

## 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.

July- Shampoo

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance- Thursday, July 2nd at 6:30 pm

Council- Sunday, July 12th at 10:30 am

Faith Formation- Tuesday, July 14th at 9 am



## Luther League ~ SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**When:** Sunday, July 12th NOTE WEEK  
CHANGE

**Where:** Immanuel's lawn

**Why:** SEE EACH OTHER, eat, and paint  
rocks!

**Who:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. NOTE TIME CHANGE

**Lunch:** Pizza~ bring a side, drink, or dessert  
to share.

**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.

## Immanuel's OUTDOOR Summer Worship

We have been longing to physically come together and worship as the Body of Christ. We will have an outdoor worship on Immanuel's lawn on **Sunday, July 19th, 7 p.m.** The COVID-19 virus has not yet been eradicated from our lives, so worship will be celebrated with COVID-19 precautions. Being together is safer in the outdoors rather than inside, thus an outdoor worship service. Knowing that this is summer we will worship in the evening, 7 p.m., on the East lawn where shade will be plentiful. Ushers will seat you on the lawn, keeping distance between worshipers. The bulletin (a different bulletin from the Sunday morning live stream services) will be on the church website for you to use via your phone or print and bring for yourselves (no bulletins will be provided for you). Passing of Christ's Peace will be extended by remaining at your seats and bowing to one another. Four offering plate stations will be available for the receiving of your tithes and offerings of thanksgiving. You may deposit your monetary gifts to God upon arrival or departure from worship (offering plates will not be passed). At the conclusion of worship, the ushers will dismiss you, by family unit, to return to your vehicles and leave worship. Please note, that our "new normal" live stream and conference call of worship at 9 a.m. will still take place on the 19th. The same sermon will be preached at 9 a.m. as 7 p.m.

**Why:** Worship our Triune God!  
**Who:** Entire congregation of Immanuel Lutheran, Family, Friends, and Seekers  
**When:** Sunday, July 19th  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Bring:** Mask (adults), lawn chair(s)/blanket, hat, sunscreen, bug spray, bulletin(s)  
**Raining:** Cancelled only if it IS raining. Cancellation notice will be on Facebook, phone message, and website



Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for making me my prayer shawl! I appreciate you doing this for us seniors. I know this takes a lot of time to do and I am very grateful to have received my prayer shawl!

-Allison Rebling

## July 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story LSI's Host Homes Program

Each year, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) empowers hundreds of Iowans with disabilities. And despite the COVID-19 pandemic, this year is no different. There is no greater joy for us than seeing an individual develop greater independence, find their confidence, and thrive. And through our innovative Host Homes program, LSI has found a new way to lift up our Iowa neighbors and keep them safe in times of crisis. Through the program, adults with disabilities (or "mentees") move from a supported community living setting – like a 24-hour, fully staffed home with roommates – and into a private family home with a Host Homes "mentor." LSI collaborates with the individuals we serve and the contracted mentors to ensure each match is the perfect fit and create a shared living opportunity that is beneficial to mentors and mentees. With the extra safety precautions associated with COVID-19, this program is a safe option where participants are in a home setting, interacting with one trusted mentor instead of several staff members. LSI is seeking compassionate and dedicated caregivers to join us in the mission. If you have room in your heart and in your home, being a Host Homes mentor might be for you! Visit [LSIowa.org/HostHomes](http://LSIowa.org/HostHomes) to learn more. If you are interested in supporting crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

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](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

We are Still Here: LSI's Services for People with Disabilities-Becky, an LSI Direct Support Professional, supports her client every day through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. During the COVID-19 crisis, Becky has spent her shifts adding extra safety measures and precautions so she and her client could safely go to the grocery store for food and supplies when the time came. But her client regularly experiences PTSD, depression, and anxiety, among other mental health conditions, and the isolation and crisis measures around COVID-19 only heightened her experience of these conditions. Becky knew she needed to do something to keep her client feeling comfortable and safe. During their sessions together, Becky makes sure they practice good hand washing and wear masks. Her client knows she has someone walking alongside her every step of the way, and the client's young daughter found a way to thank Becky for her work: a picture with the words, "I don't like COVID-19, but I'm happy when you come over." "I can't imagine not seeing my clients through this," Becky says. "We are all in this together."

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Continued from page 1

What makes a good leader? Where and how does one learn to lead? How is that taught? By whom? Is one leading if few are following? How do you get them to follow? What is the best way to govern? We should remember when the mantle of authority falls upon those chosen to govern and to lead, the first requirement of government is that you govern; the first requirement of leadership is that you lead.

The Chinese philosopher, Lao Tzu, spoke of leadership in this way:

"The best leaders are those the people hardly know exist.

The next best is a leader who is loved and praised.

Next comes the one who is feared.

The worst one is the leader that is despised.

If you don't trust the people,  
they will become untrustworthy.

The best leaders value their words, and use them sparingly.

When a great leader has accomplished his task,  
the people say, "Amazing:  
we did it, all by ourselves!"

It has been said during the Civil War, sometime in the late fall of 1863, when an enthusiastic minister told President Abraham Lincoln that God was clearly on the side of the Union, Lincoln responded, "My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right." And, President Lyndon Johnson, at one point in his presidency, fraught with rising civil unrest at home and increasing opposition to America's involvement in the war in Vietnam, said, "A President's hardest task is not to do what is right, but to know what is right." At moments like these, sensing the presence of God and doing God's will becomes so important for a leader.

We have reached one of those critical moments in our nation's history that require us to face truth, exercise good judgement, hold leaders at all levels accountable, expect them to discern between good and evil, to know and to do what is right, to understand and to care for the people, and to promote liberty and justice for all. And, then we must ask, "Would God be pleased with how we are doing?"



2nd Council Meeting June 14, 2020

2nd one of the month of June. Members listened to and asked questions of COVID-19 in Washington County. Information given by Kelsey Striegel. Council members have been approached by a few church members to open Immanuel Church especially to the Faith Formation group pertaining to Summer Vacation Bible School and Fall Classes.

Council voted to have summer activities and fall Faith Formation open upon response to teaching classes and helpers for summer activities . Also, evening services plus 9 am live streaming evening services would be in the open air, see worship report. Comments, concerns, and desires, please contact DeAnn Hakert or another council member or Worship committee.

DeAnn 319.461.5411

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HOPE has expanded its mission. The Lutheran World Relief organization has put out a request for face masks! Immanuel can join in this quest by sending facemasks with our quilts and kits offerings. The next shipment goes in October.

These face masks are simple to make, and can be made at home. There are directions and fabric for them in the sew room. Be like the WWII Rosie the Riveter on your sewing machine at home. This is a world-wide pandemic, and masks are needed everywhere. Join in the project. Make masks at home!

Mary Chmelar

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## Graduation Parties!!



You are invited to help us celebrate the graduation of Addison Six on Saturday, July 18th from 1-4pm in the fellowship hall. Aaron & April Six and family

Please join us for a graduation party for Audrey Wubbena, July 25, 2020 from 1-4 pm at 2446 280th Street Washington, Iowa. The Wubbena Family

## July Bulletins

**Immanuel will be using a different bulletin during the month of July. To fully participate in live streaming or conference call of worship download the July bulletin from Immanuel's website "luthwash.org". The bulletin is located at the "liturgy" tab. The July bulletin has different hymns, the weekly scripture texts, and the Holy Communion liturgy (July 19th).**

**A different bulletin will be used for our outdoor worship on Sunday, July 19th, 7 p.m. The bulletin for the outdoor service will also be available at Immanuel's website luthwash.org for you to download. No bulletins will be printed and available for you during this evening worship.**

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### Car Hop Communion: Sunday, July 19th

Pastor Howard will be serving Holy Communion on **Sunday, July 19th, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.** in the church's parking lot. 58 people were nourished with the presence of Christ at the Car Hop Communion on Sunday, June 14th.

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 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.

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### Story Time with Pastor Maureen, 10 a.m.

Pastor Howard continues to read the beloved stories of the Bible, 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. "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. Pastor Howard will be on vacation **Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>** and there will be **NO live "Story Time with Pastor Maureen"** during her vacation. However, the story time stays on Immanuel's Facebook page so you can enjoy past readings.

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## WELCOME to Christ's Family!

Congratulations to Ellis Joy Almelien who was baptized in the name of our Triune God during our social distancing, live stream worship on Sunday, June 21st. "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."

## **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.

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## **Faith Formation Book of Exodus Bike Rodeo**

- WHERE:** Immanuel Lutheran Church Parking Lot  
**WHEN:** Sunday, **June 28<sup>th</sup> 5-7 pm**  
**WHO:** All current Immanuel youth & families and those interested in joining in the fall are **WELCOME!**  
**WHAT:** Bring your bike, trike or other age appropriate outdoor toy and helmet for an evening of fun and fellowship  
**WHY:** We will have 10 stations that we ride our bikes to in the church parking lot as we learn more about the Book of Exodus  
**SUPPER:** Pizza from 5-5:30  
**RSVP:** Kelsey Striegel at 515-468-3248 by June 24<sup>th</sup>, so we have an accurate food and



Parents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs/blankets and sit around the perimeter of the Immanuel parking lot which will be blocked off. We ask that if you are feeling unwell, please stay home. We can't wait to see you!

### ***How can parents help?***

- Bring your child, bike, and helmet to the event.
- Spend time at home talking about the book of Exodus. At our bike rodeo we will be learning about Baby Moses, Moses and the Burning Bush, The Plagues of Egypt, Crossing the Red Sea, and Ten Commandments just to name a few.
- Pray for Faith Formation as we make plans in a COVID-19 sensitive manner for the year and prepare for the unknowns that may come.
- Pray about filling the teacher position for 3rd – 5th combined grades for the entire 2020-2021 year or being a dedicated helper on a rotation for one of the classes.
- Consider volunteering for our August 2nd Bike Rodeo Event for Faith Formation



## A Letter from Immanuel's Council and the Renew Refresh Rejoice Committee

May 28, 2020

During the time we have been worshipping remotely, we have been live streaming worship services on Facebook using Pastor Maureen's phone. We have been excited to notice that through our live stream we have been able to share our ministry with not only members of our congregation, but non-members in our community and even people from across the nation! We certainly did not expect to be preaching the gospel every Sunday to people hundreds of miles away. What an incredible and unexpected gift this has been.

When we planned out the Renew Refresh Rejoice project, we had no idea the community, nation, and world would be turned on end by the Covid-19 pandemic. It has affected the project in numerous unforeseen ways, some positive and some unfortunate. We had hoped to apply for a Riverboat grant to match our funds and stretch your gifts farther, but all Riverboat grants have been suspended for the foreseeable future. On the other hand, after years of talking about live-streaming our services, we have jumped in with both feet and have been very pleased with the response thus far, especially considering the bare-bones technical equipment we have been forced to use. Our sound system, which self-destructed 4 years ago and was patched together with a tenuous and unstable band-aid solution, is now finally scheduled to be replaced with an appropriate system and should be installed soon.

The Renew Refresh Rejoice committee, through prayer for God's guidance and approval from the council, has decided to add an integrated video-recording system to our sound system installation. This was not part of our initial proposal because at that time we had not considered the usefulness of such a system and had no way to predict the imminent need for live-streaming services. Had we known months of at-home worship was coming, it would certainly have been a part of our initial proposal! The video system will be integrated with the sound system so that all recordings and live-streams will have greatly improved sound quality. This system will not only enable us to improve the efficiency and quality of our current live-stream but also allow us to live-stream services seamlessly when in-person worship begins again. It will also allow us to easily record special church occasions such as weddings and baptisms.

With the purchase of this video equipment we have not depleted the funds already collected for the Renew Refresh Rejoice project. However, if you would like to contribute toward the purchase of this new equipment, to strengthen Immanuel's mission "Hear Love", we will receive your donations with gratefulness. The church council is attempting to be flexible and responsible in these unprecedented times.

We are excited for this new development and are thankful that some good things are coming from this difficult situation. The purpose of our church is not only to tend to our members but also to preach the gospel to the world, and this video system will be a powerful tool to aid in that mission.

# Renew Refresh *Rejoice*

**Washington Against Hunger** will be food packaging on **Saturday, July 18th starting at 10 am.** Packaging with two tables going at a time. Packaging for an hour during the day. Let Pastor Howard know if you would like to be a part of the Immanuel Team. Our goal is to package 18,000 meals that day.

Masks required.

## **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

