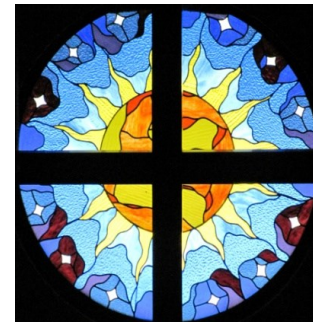


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

## October 2020 Newsletter



### Weekly Services and Communion

Sundays- 9 am Live Streaming

10/11 and 10/25  
Outdoor worship  
4 pm

10/11 Car Hop  
Communion

11:30- 12 noon

### Office Hours

Call for  
appointment or

Thursdays 9 am-

1 pm Kelly in office

### **Inside this issue:**

Monthly updates p. 2

Birthday & Anniversaries p. 3

Thank yous p. 4

Church Happenings p. 6-10

**"I Will Forgive Their Iniquity, and Remember Their Sin No More"**

by Peter J. Weller

The text for this month's column comes from Jeremiah: "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt— a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Dr. Dennis Olson, Professor of Old Testament Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey, wrote in *Working Preacher*, "The book of Jeremiah is dominated by doom and gloom, condemning the people of Judah for their great sin and announcing the imminent destruction of the nation and the exile to Babylon that would come in 587 BCE." Yet, midway through this 52-chapter book, one finds these above-written verses. Essentially, Jeremiah intended to explain to the Jews in exile in Babylon that this disaster of exile was God's response to Israel's pagan worship. Yet, in spite of God's anger, Jeremiah records God's willingness to start over with a new covenant and a new relationship with God's people.

Dr. Olson continues, "In the midst of this dark valley of despair and judgment in the book of Jeremiah, however, a dense cluster of promise oracles concentrated in Jeremiah 30-33 radiate . . . with bright promises of hope, comfort and restoration. These four chapters proclaim that after the judgment of exile is over, God will indeed bring God's people back to the land of Judah and restore them as a new and faithful people once again. [This] passage from Jeremiah 31:31-34 is a key element of a new future that only God can create."

The Babylonian exile lasted about seventy years (608-538 BCE) These dates are approximate, depending on one's choice of starting and ending events. Psalm 137 speaks to this exile and captivity: "By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. . . . our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!'"

Continued to page 5

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

YouTube- [luthwash](https://www.youtube.com/luthwash) \* 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 (Home)

**Monthly Updates** (Month to date)

Account balances as of 9-24-20

General Fund ~ \$12,008.24

Savings ~ \$0

Building/Visions ~ \$4,757.85

Endowment ~ \$3,301.08

Community Assistance ~ \$3,822.54

Mortgage ~ \$69,468.55

**Attendance**

No Wednesday evening worship  
Due to COVID-19

Sunday, August 30 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 200 views

Sunday, September 6 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 292 views

Sunday, September 13 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 414 views  
Outdoor ~ 22  
Car Hop Communion ~ 56

Sunday, September 20 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 426 views

**In Christian Joy**

We extend our Christian Congratulations

Luna Moria Isis Martinez the Great Granddaughter of Rose Lloyd. Luna was born on September 6th a few days after her birth she weighed 11lb. 5 oz. Luna is doing well in the neonatal unit in Des Moines.

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

**Altar Flowers**

Since we are not currently worshipping inside the building, the chancel is not being adorned with flowers from the congregation. If you would like to give God glory through bringing altar flowers/plant please call the church 653-3950. Arrangements will be made for the church to be open so you may adorn the chancel.

**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.

**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 AND Immanuel's YouTube channel luthwash. 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.



### Birthdays for October

- 1- James Almelien
- 5- Linda Brown
- 6- Aaron Six
- 8- Madelyn Widmer
- 10- Josh Gaughan
- 14- Doris Moore
- 16- Stan Jones
- 17- Emma Lueck
- 17- Rex Findley
- 20- Ron Brown
- 21- John Harris
- 22- Charlane Tanner (turning 92!!)
- 24- Betty Warren
- 25- Linda Six
- 28- DeAnn Hakert
- 28- Craig Bartholomew



### Anniversaries for October

- 5- Rich & Deidra Baker
- 7- Jason & Angela Taylor
- 12- Ron & Karen Heineman
- 24- Ron & Linda Brown

## 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.

October- toothpaste

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance- Thursday, October 1st at 6:30 pm

Council- Saturday, October 3rd at 9 am

Education- Tuesday, October 13th at 4 pm

Worship & Music- TBD



### Luther League

- When:** Sunday, October 18th
- Where:** Start at Immanuel Lutheran
- Who:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders
- Why:** HACAP Food Scavenger Hunt  
(Boys won the trophy in 2017, Girls won in 2018 and 2019 ~ though it was close, who will win in 2020?)
- Time:** 6- 7:30 pm
- Supper:** To be determined
- Leadership:** Steve Vetter and Pastor Howard

### Faith Formation Begins, October 4th

Pre-schoolers through the high schoolers will begin meeting on **Sunday, October 4th, 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.** An exciting year is planned as stories of the Bible become relevant for our youth. The youth will have the same teacher(s) throughout the school year: Linda Brown (pre-K), Bev Bailey (K-2nd grade), Barb Matheson and DeAnn Hakert (3rd-5th grade), Angela and Jason Taylor (6-8th grade), and Molly and Bill Zywiec (high school). Face coverings are required until the CDC/science tells us it is safe to be without. If you have not yet turned in your child(ren's) registration/health/liability waiver form, please do so as soon as possible. We NEED to know who/number to contact if there is an emergency. We're ready to hear the laughter of children once again!

I would like to thank everyone who prayed for my son-in-law, Mike Brinning, during the time he was hospitalized and passed. Also, the telephone calls and cards. Marilyn Bennett

THANK YOU to **Steve Vetter** and **Mike Howard** who have faithfully assisted with Car Hop Communion. Your commitment to this “new” ministry is greatly appreciated.

THANKS

THANK YOU to **Brad Kroll** and **Peg Harris** who were the “official” photographers during the Confirming of Taylor, Emma, Mikaila, and Caitlin. You captured Holy moments that will be treasure forever.

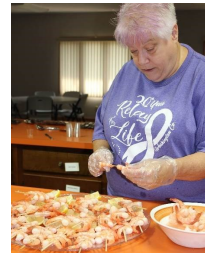
Thank you for the cards, letters, and calls. It always so nice to be remembered. Doris Moore

Congregation / Pastor –

Thank-you for your support throughout my journey of confirmation! Pastor and my classmates made things very interesting, fun, and enjoyable while teaching us how to grow in our relationship with God. Again, a special thanks to Pastor along with the congregation for sharing this journey with me. God Bless Taylor Bartholomew

THANK YOU to **Deb Tisor** for planning and cooking a delicious Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner: shrimp cocktail, salad, diner rolls, roast beef, baked potato, green beans, and cheesecake! YUMMMMM!!!!

Thank you also to **Michelle** and **Taylor Bartholomew** for assisting in setting up our beautiful table. You created a night that honored our confirmands with an evening to remember with fondness.



### College Student Addresses

Our college students have returned to their dorms or apartments and are fully focused on their studies. Earning an Associate, Bachelor, Master, or PhD degree is a long and arduous job. Many hours are spent alone in library cubicles writing papers and studying for exams. Now many colleges have gone to online classes only. Students LOVE to receive mail and care packages from home. We at Immanuel want to make sure that our students know they are prayed for, missed, and loved. PLEASE e-mail Kelly [luthwash@hotmail.com](mailto:luthwash@hotmail.com) the correct college addresses of our Immanuel family members attending college (regardless of degree being earned) – let the church know. We want to remain in contact with them by sending mail during the year and care packages during mid-terms and finals. Also include e-mail addresses. Support Campus Ministry of the ELCA which invites people in academic settings to grow more deeply into Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples. Pastor Howard will be thrilled to help our college students find a “church home-away-from-home” either through connecting them with Campus Ministry or a local Lutheran church in their college town.

### Confirmation Classes Resume October 4<sup>th</sup>

Confirmation is the journey into adult faith formation for all students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Confirmation classes are held on Sunday mornings, beginning **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.** Another exciting year is planned for: learning about the Lutheran faith, servant projects, fellowship opportunities, Sunday Faith Formation classes, and confirmation camp in 2021. The requirements to be confirmed are to faithfully attend classes with Pastor Howard, Sunday Faith Formation classes, Sunday worship (online for now), and complete a servant project with a mentor (8<sup>th</sup> grade). Contact Pastor Howard if you have any questions. A **parent meeting** will follow the first confirmation class on **October 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 p.m.**

## October 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Warming Hearts with God's Love and a Good Pair of Mittens Far too often, children arrive at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with very little in their possession. We give thanks for Iowa congregations who faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for winter apparel for children at Beloit and Bremwood. Youth in residential treatment have little control over their lives, so it's important for us to give them the opportunity, when possible, to choose their new coat or mittens. Because of this, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, many children will have the simple joy of choosing their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

### A Path to Healing

When 14-year-old Bri first came to LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames, she was struggling with aggression, frequently ran away, and had a hard time focusing in school. And as she was trying to heal from years of trauma, Bri's beloved grandpa suddenly passed away. She felt stuck and nothing was getting better, no matter what she tried. But her Beloit team was there to cheer her on. The LSI team at Beloit provides 24-7 mental health treatment for Iowa children who have often experienced years of trauma, abuse, or neglect. Staff members are there to encourage children on their path to hope and healing, and they were there to lift up Bri when she decided to make a positive change in her life. Bri began actively participating in individual and group therapy sessions provided at Beloit, and she made it a point to encourage her peers on campus every day. Her Beloit team helped her to feel more comfortable opening up about her grief, and staff members were there to remind her of all the progress she had made to help her stay focused on the positives.

After months of hard work, Bri found a loving foster family and was able to leave Beloit's programming. And while she felt uncertain and anxious about leaving, she knew she was ready to move forward.

Bri continues to keep in touch with the team at Beloit, providing details on her new life, school, and her new room at home. Bri's anxiety about the unknown has diminished, she feels confident communicating her emotions, and she has hope for the future.

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Continued from page 1

"How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land? . . . May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember [Jerusalem], if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.

"Remember, Lord, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell. 'Tear it down,' they cried, 'tear it down to its foundations!' Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is the one who repays you according to what you have done to us. Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks." One can feel the sense of loss, the rising anger, the desire for revenge, reprisal, and retribution expressed here by the psalmist.

Getting back to the verses in Jeremiah, notice here that God takes the initiative. God speaks through the prophet: "I will make a new covenant." "I will put my law within them." "I will be their God." "I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more."

Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota, wrote in *Working Preacher*, "The themes of a new (or renewed) covenant and of God's overwhelming grace are, of course, fitting for a celebration of Reformation Day. Martin Luther did not believe that he had discovered something radically new in Scripture when he found there the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith. He rediscovered a treasure that the church of his day had largely lost. The movement he began was as much a restoration as a reformation — the rediscovery of God's abundant grace in the new covenant established in and through Jesus Christ. Luther was restoring the church to a right understanding of that covenant.

"There is, then, in Luther's theology a deep continuity with what had come before. Luther knew that God's nature does not change. God was, is, and will continue to be a God of great mercy, forgiveness, and love for a wayward people. It is that people's (the church's) understanding of God's nature that had become clouded in Luther's day. Like Jeremiah, then, Luther called the people of his day to a new understanding of God and a renewed emphasis on God's grace and God's abiding love even for a sinful people.

"And it is all God's doing. In and through Jesus Christ, the God of Jeremiah continues to forgive, renew, reform, and call God's people into right relationship with him and with one another. God is faithful, even when we are not. That is the good news that both Jeremiah and Luther proclaimed, and it is news that can and should be celebrated on this Reformation Sunday, preferably with trumpets and always with great joy." To which I can only add, "Indeed!"



# 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday, September 13, 2020

(Photos taken by Peg Harris)

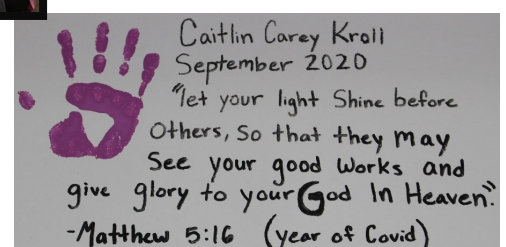
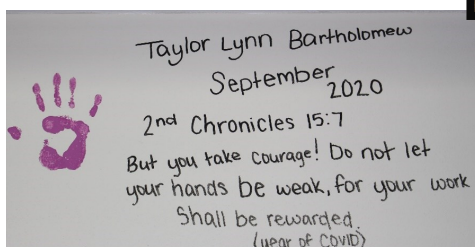
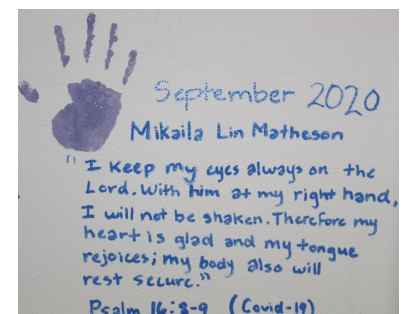
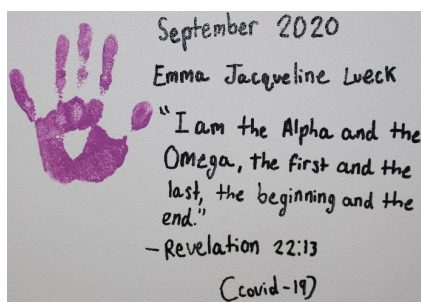


## Congratulations to the Confirmed

The following youth from our congregation have been instructed in the Christian faith, as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church, and on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> made a public affirmation of their Baptism: **Mikaila Matheson, Emma Lueck, Taylor Bartholomew, and Caitlin Kroll** (order pictured). We welcome you as full members of the body of Christ and we rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.



## Handprints and Confirmation verses added to our wall



## Disaster Response Derecho Storm

The storm that hit Iowa on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> has left catastrophic damage in its wake for the residents of Cedar Rapids and Marion. If you would like to donate to assist in the clean-up efforts and relief to our sisters and brothers to the North, the Southeastern Iowa Synod is receiving those monetary contributions. Go to: <https://seiasynod.org/synod-news/disaster-response-derecho-storm/> Or mail your checks to Immanuel Lutheran and put "Derecho" in the memo of your relief donations. Letting our fellow Iowans know they are not forgotten and are LOVED by God! THANK YOU for being generous.



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### 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.

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### Council News

We are working on options to open the sanctuary for prayer. Live streaming of worship will continue. Faith Formation will start October 4th with face coverings and safe distancing. Teachers for different age groups. Worship committee and council are working together on safe options to worship together. Please pray for us and give us your concerns. Be respectful and ask for information. Know that we are considering options for worship safety.

Every Wednesday from 1 pm- 4 pm I will open the church for those who want to pray in the sanctuary. Open other times if you call ahead.

DeAnn Hakert, 319.461.5411  
Council President



Ladies' Tuesday Bible Study enjoying scripture and fellowship at Mary Chmelar's pond this September.

Who are those fabulous, masked, Lutheran ladies? Left to right around the table:

**Nancy Baker, Kathy Vetter, Mary Chmelar, Pam Johnston, Bev Bailey, Margaret Stangohr, and Judy Venzke.** Photographer, Yaro Chmelar.



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

Pastor Howard is reading the stories of the Old Testament; live streaming, 10 a.m., Tuesday – Sunday. Enjoy past readings anytime you like as they remain on Immanuel's Facebook and YouTube pages. These stories are NOT just intended for children, adults are learning the stories of the Bible too!

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### Preparing Lutheran World Relief School Kits

On Sunday, September 27th, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m., the K-5th graders will be putting together school kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. This is a great servant project for the youth, and they LOVE putting together the school kits. Youth reaching youth around the world sending the materials for education.





## October Bulletins

Immanuel will be using a different bulletin during the month of October. To fully participate in live streaming or conference call of worship download the October bulletin from Immanuel's website "luthwash.org". The bulletin is located at the "October Bulletin" tab. The October bulletin has different hymns, the weekly scripture texts, Blessing of Lutheran World Relief quilts, school kits, baby care kits, personal care kits (October 11th), the Holy Communion liturgy (October 11th), Baptisms (October 18th), and Baptism (October 25th).

A different bulletin will be used for our outdoor worship on **Sundays, October 11th and 25th, 4 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 afternoon worship. Outdoor worship will be cancelled if raining.

**A quick glance at Outdoor Worship Dates; 4 p.m.:**

**October 11th and 25th**

**November 8th and 22nd**

Outdoor worship will be on the East Lawn during favorable temperatures. Once it is too cold to sit outdoors, worship will be moved to the parking lot where you will remain in your cars. Outdoor worship will be cancelled if raining.

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### **Car Hop Communion: Sunday, October 11th**

Pastor Howard will be serving Holy Communion on Sunday, October 11th, 11:30 a.m. – Noon under the portico in the church's parking lot. 56 people were nourished with the presence of Christ at the Car Hop Communion on Sunday, September 13th.

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 face shield 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 West 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). However, if you chose not to participate in this meal opportunity, fasting is still an appropriate option.

**A quick glance at Car Hop Communion Dates:**

**October 11th Serving 11:30 a.m. – Noon (NOTE TIME CHANGE)**

**November 8th Serving 11:30 a.m. – Noon (NOTE TIME CHANGE)**

Communion is served under the portico in the church's parking lot, regardless of the weather.

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### **"God's work. Our hands." RESCHEDULED Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

Due to inclement weather Immanuel rescheduled our day of participating with our sisters and brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Nearly 10,000 congregations of this church gathered to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people the weekend of September 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>.



Last year for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, Immanuel helped do odd jobs around our members' homes and worked around Immanuel's yard. We will be doing the same activities on **Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. – noon.** At the conclusion of our work we will celebrate with a walking taco lunch! **Come and join us.** Masks will be required to enter people's homes and we will be social distancing while we work. COVID-19 cannot stop serving our neighbors in Christ's love.

### **Odd Jobs Needed?**

Do you have odd jobs needed to be completed around your home? Your Immanuel family will be available to complete your job(s) on Saturday, **October 17<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. – noon.** If your job(s) are inside your home, we will be wearing masks. Please have all necessary materials on hand to have your job accomplished (i.e.: light bulbs, furnace filters, batteries, lawn waste bags, cleaning products, etc.). **Call Steve Vetter, 319-461-2404,** and let him know what job you would like done, so we come prepared to accomplish your task. We look forward to serving you!





## **Installation of The Rev. Current as Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod**

*By the Grace of God*

The Reverend Amy LuAnn Current is called as the fourth bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She will be installed at a Service of the Word on

**Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will preach and preside. Following safe practices in a time of pandemic, your prayers and digital presence are requested for this distributed worship service that will be broadcast live from St. John Lutheran Church, St. Donatus, Iowa.

All are welcome to join worship via livestream  
[www.facebook.com/seiasynod](http://www.facebook.com/seiasynod).

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### **Leave Bagged Food on your Doorstep**

Immanuel's youth will be in a "friendly" competition to see who will bring back the most food for HACAP. The girls have the winning record leaving a bad taste in the mouths of the boys! On **Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** leave your food donations for HACAP in bag(s) on your front porch. The youth will come by between **6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** to pick up your food. Thank you in advance for your generous donation of food items. The hungry are still hungry during this pandemic. (Photo is the 2019 collection of food through this competition)



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### **Washington Against Hunger**

Immanuel will have the opportunity to prepare packaged meals for those in need on **Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. – Noon**, at the First Assembly of God Church. This will be a social distancing, face covering, meal preparing event. Details will be put on Immanuel's Facebook page.

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### **Camp EWALU Workday**

Join volunteers, families, and church groups to help Ewalu get ready for the winter season. Take time to explore camp and meet staff and volunteers. Return home renewed and refreshed from your time in this special place in God's Kingdom. Projects include Trailblazer roof repair, spreading wood chips on the ropes course, repair of garden fence at the farm, staining picnic tables and benches, splitting wood, and trail trimming.

For More Info: Paul Frantsen at 563-933-4700 or [www.ewalu.org/event/fall-vww-20/](http://www.ewalu.org/event/fall-vww-20/)

**Date: Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> 8 am- 4 pm**

RSVP with: Diane Parker at 563-933-4700 or email [office@ewalu.org](mailto:office@ewalu.org)

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### **Wear RED on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

Reformation Sunday is October 25<sup>th</sup> and we remember our Lutheran heritage when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door over 500 years ago. The reformation lasted between the years 1517 and 1546. "After Luther's death Luther's followers struggled with questions that threatened to split the evangelical movement. Fifty years after the presentation of the Augsburg Confession, they drafted a solution to those questions and pointed to other writings that defined what they believed. This Formula of Concord and those writings were published as *The Book of Concord* (1580) and form the core of Lutheran teaching and shape its preaching."\* Pastor Howard has a copy of *The Book of Concord* if you would like to look at it. Let's wear **red** on Reformation Day to celebrate our Lutheran roots! Take a photo of yourself/family wearing **red** on the 25<sup>th</sup> and post them on Immanuel's Facebook page! We're Lutheran's together even if we are worshiping apart.

\* The Lutheran Handbook II (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2007) 23.

### **Ecclesiastical (Church) Balloting**

The church council has adopted a Holy Spirit led approach to raising up leaders for Immanuel Lutheran. We invite the congregation to enter into a time of prayer asking God to lead your thoughts to persons who have spiritual gifts in leadership and vision to serve as church council members for 2021-2023. We ask that you begin praying for God's wisdom on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> concluding on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Please mail the names God has revealed to you no later than Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> to Steve Vetter, Nominating Committee Chair, 114 McCreedy Dr., Washington, IA 52353. The nominating committee will then contact each viable person, to prayerfully consider serving on church council. At the Annual Meeting (November 22<sup>nd</sup>), we will vote from the pool of candidates that have prayerfully accepted the nomination.

### **Prayers for Leaders:**

"Faithful God, you raise up leaders for your Church in every generation. Guide our thoughts to the persons you desire to lead Immanuel Lutheran Church in the next years. Give them the will to serve and peace to leave the final election in your hands. We ask this for the sake of Jesus, our Lord. Amen."

### **What are the qualities of an Immanuel Lutheran Council Leader?**

After the Ecclesiastical ballots are received, the nominating committee prayerfully discerns the calling of the Holy Spirit's work from the names submitted. The nominating committee uses the guidelines in Immanuel's Constitution C12.04 to discern the Holy Spirit's calling. The following is the section in Immanuel's Constitution the nominating committee uses:

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

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### **Immanuel's Annual Meeting: NOVEMBER 22, 11:30 a.m.**

We will be having a blended Annual Meeting this COVID year. We will hold the meeting in the sanctuary, with social distancing and face coverings, using the balcony and fellowship hall for additional seating if required. The Annual Meeting will also be on Conference Call (319) 656-2663 code 344238# if you do not want to enter the church building. An Immanuel moderator will be on the phone relaying your comments, questions, votes to the Council/gathered assembly. Council wants to make sure that as many people interested in participating in the Annual Meeting can do so. Details about the meeting will be in the November newsletter as well as on Immanuel's Facebook page.