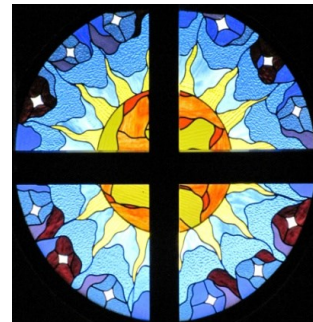


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

November 2020 Newsletter



Weekly Services and Communion

Sundays- 9 am Live
Streaming

11/8 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

*There is always,
always, always
something to be
thankful for.*

“Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters,
and Righteousness Like an Ever Flowing Stream”
by Peter J. Weller

One of the Old Testament lessons for November comes from the book of Amos, the fifth chapter: “Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; it is as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?”

“I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But, let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.” (Amos 5:18-24)

One of the twelve minor prophets, Amos was active during the years 760-755 BCE, during the rule of kings Jeroboam and Uzziah. Speaking against the rising disparity of wealth between the very rich and the very poor, his major themes of justice, God's omnipotence and divine judgement became staples of his prophecy.

In the verses cited above, we can certainly see in print, and our ears can almost hear the sound of God's anger and indignation at Israel's preoccupation with appearance and forms of worship and ritual while at the same time demonstrating neglect and lack of concern for the poor and those in need. The ancient Israelites believed that they showed God all due deserved reverence and respect and that they had done everything “right” in their worship of God. Very likely, they felt that they were “good” people, that God was pleased with them, that God smiled down on them, and that they deserved the prosperity that they then enjoyed.

Through his writings, Amos shows that God clearly felt differently, that God rejected their offerings, their songs, their festivals, and all else that they put forward to advance the belief that they were pleasing God. God asks the people, “Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light. . . .” (Amos 5:18)

Continued to page 5

Find us on Facebook at Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa and online at luthwash.org.

YouTube- luthwash * 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 (Home)

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

Account balances as of 10-22-20

General Fund ~ \$7,194.08

Savings ~ \$0

Building/Visions ~ \$5,293.68

Endowment ~ \$3,301.62

Community Assistance ~ \$3,822.54

Mortgage ~ \$68,933.61

Attendance

No Wednesday evening worship
Due to COVID-19

Sunday, September 27 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 246 views

Sunday, October 4 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 354 views

Sunday, October 11 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 980 views
Outdoor ~ 12
Car Hop Communion ~ 48

Sunday, October 18 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 226 views

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian
sympathy to the family of

+Lydia Andersen - Ron Andersen's Mom

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

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.

*** * Daylight Savings Time Ends ~ Sunday, November 1st * ***



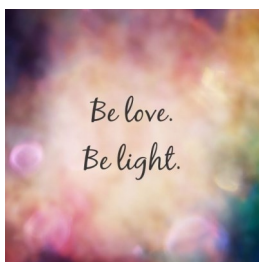
Birthdays for November

8- Tammy Virzi
 12- Steven Howard
 12- Alta Poe
 13- Mary Temple
 16- Steve Vetter
 16- Allison Rebling
 18- Jane Ann Croft
 21- Lucas Kroll
 22- Clayton Bartholomew
 23- Francis Johnston
 25- Katie Gaughan



Anniversaries for November

5- Alan & Vicki Rebling
 10- Peg & John Harris
 19- Gary & Helen DeWolf
 28- Stan & Sharol Kroll



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.

November- Hygiene products

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance- Tuesday, October 27th at 6:30 pm

Council- Saturday, October 31st at 9 am

Worship & Music- Tuesday, November 17th
 at 1:30 pm via Zoom



Luther League

When: Sunday, November 15th
Where: Wubben's backyard
Who: 6th – 12th Graders; friends
WELCOME!!
Why: Bonfire
Time: 6- 7:30 pm
Supper: Fire roasted hot dogs and smores
Leadership: Steve Vetter and Pastor Howard
Bring: Face coverings



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.

Julie and I would like to extend our congratulations to the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran for celebrating 60 years as faithful people of God, ministering to the people of Washington and surrounding areas. It was a privilege to have been able to serve as a part of that ministry as your pastor for 16 years. May you continue to grow in faith and love as you share the good news of the Gospel with our community and the world around you. And, a rather belated, but none-the-less heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent cards/remembrances, or who was a part of my surprise birthday parade in July, and to Pastor Howard for the part she played in helping make that happen. It truly made the day extra special!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Gentz and Julie

"Blessings" to all of you for your thoughtfulness, prayers, visits and cards during my hospitalization. Thank you for during God's Work Saturday. Washing my windows and blowing out my dryer, putting new batteries in my smoke detectors.

Bev Crandall



How do I begin to thank you for the prayers for my daughter Serenity. She's a fighter and needs all the support she can get with God's help.

Bev Bailey

THANK YOU to EVERYONE who supported the efforts of the youth to collect non-perishable food items for HACAP on Sunday, October 18th. The Luther League youth enjoy this opportunity to "grab and go" ~ puts a different spin on fast food. The hungry bellies of Washington County will find nourishment through your generosity. The coveted trophy for the most food went to..... **Quinn Wubbena, Thomas Lueck, Emma Kaye, and Steve Vetter** (driver)! Thank you also to **Tricia Kroll** who assisted in driving. The participants in the Luther League HACAP Scavenger hunt were: **Emma Lueck, Claire Wubbena, Tricia Kroll, Taylor Bartholomew, Caitlin Kroll, Emma Kaye, Quinn Wubbena, Thomas Lueck, Steve Vetter, and Pastor Howard.**



God's Work. Our Hands.
Day of Service:
Saturday, October 17th



November 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Adoption Month November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, loving home. In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment. But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 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.

As a young child growing up in multiple foster homes, Abby dreamed of a forever family. When she moved in with foster parents Joe and Dee, Abby knew she'd found the perfect family for her. Joe and Dee had already adopted two of their sons by the time Abby entered the family, and the children immediately bonded. When Abby was no longer able to reunify with her birth family, Joe and Dee decided to adopt her into their family. "The kids bless our lives," Joe says. "I wish people knew what kind of family you can have through foster care and adoption, and how much love these kids have to offer." Abby is now a 17-year-old preparing to graduate high school in the spring. She has found a forever family that encourages her to pursue her passions and with the support of her parents and siblings, Abby has found success as a high school wrestler, earning top awards and titles throughout her high school years. Since being adopted into Joe and Dee's family, Abby has openly shared her story at National Adoption Month events in her community. She wants to raise awareness about foster care and adoption across Iowa, inspire families to become foster and adoptive parents, and she hopes her story can inspire other kids looking for the same loving support system she has. "To other kids out there in my situation, there is hope," Abby says. "You will find the perfect family that will give you all their love and care for you, no matter what."

Continued from page 1

Yet, the final verse above offers a ray of hope from this text: "But, let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream." (Amos 5:24) Dr. Terence Fretheim, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Luther Seminary at St. Paul, Minnesota, writing in *Working Preacher*, suggests that this verse can be interpreted in two different ways: "One, justice has reference to God's judgment. If so, then God is calling for judgment to roll over Israel like flooding waters. Another interpretation is more likely, for Amos uses the word 'justice' exclusively for human beings (5:7, 15; 6:12). So, the language of 5:24 constitutes a call for the people to exercise justice and righteousness. Indeed, they are to flood the community with acts of justice and righteousness, like a stream that never stops flowing."

A film of water flows over the surface of the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. The Memorial, designed by Maya Lin (who also designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C.), contains on its surface the names of 41 civil rights leaders killed between 1954 and 1968. Dr. Martin Luther King incorporated Amos 5:24 into his "I have a dream" speech, when he said, "... we will not be satisfied until 'justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.'" The words of this verse are carved into the side of the Memorial.

Does this text have any relevance to our country today? Can God be happy with what he sees when he looks upon this nation? Where is justice? Is it equal? Is it affordable? Are all entitled to equal justice? Who benefits from justice? Who does not? Do we truly believe what we pledge allegiance to the flag and to the republic, "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."? Do we believe ourselves to be sheep rather than goats? Frankly, it doesn't matter what we believe. What matters is what God believes.

Dr. Fretheim continues: "If there is no social justice, there is no acceptable worship to God. God will not tolerate comfortable worship and social and political isolation. God will not tolerate a full church and a vacuum of justice. If you don't take care of the less fortunate, God does not want your praises and prayers. There is no form of worship, however devout or rightly observed or full of praise and prayer, that is invulnerable to the judgment of God." Indeed.



Third Graders Received Bibles

Congratulations to **Taylor Black, Ainsley Six, and Grace Taylor** on receiving a Spark NRSV Bible as a gift from their family at Immanuel during worship on September 27th. Here in the Holy Scriptures they will discover the deep love God has for them and the world. Encourage Taylor, Ainsley, and Grace to read, learn, and treasure the saving Word of God.

LAST Worship on the Lawn

Reformation Sunday, October 25th, 4 p.m. will be the last worship on the East lawn we will be offering in 2020. No bulletins will be printed and available for you during this afternoon worship. Outdoor worship will be cancelled if raining.

Car Hop Communion: Sunday, November 8th

Pastor Howard will be serving Holy Communion on **Sunday, November 8th, 11:30 a.m. – Noon** (following Faith Formation) under the portico in the church's parking lot. 48 people were nourished with the presence of Christ at the Car Hop Communion on Sunday, October 11th.

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:

November 8 th	Serving 11:30 a.m. – Noon
December 13 th	Serving 11:30 a.m. – Noon

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

November Bulletins

Immanuel will be using different bulletins during the month of November. To fully participate in live streaming or conference call of worship download the weekly November bulletin from Immanuel's website "luthwash.org". The bulletin is located at the "November Bulletin" tab. The November bulletins have different hymns, the weekly scripture texts, All Saints' November 1st, Holy Communion November 8th, Baptisms November 15th, Christ the King/Service of Thanksgiving November 22nd, and Advent 1 November 29th.

CHURCH *is not*
A BUILDING YOU GO TO,
IT IS *a family* YOU BELONG TO

The Meaning of Advent

Advent begins a new liturgical church year. It is the season of four Sundays prior to Christmas. The word “advent” is derived from the Latin “adventus,” which means “coming” or “arrival”. In the societies of the Roman Empire, the word referred to the arrival of a person of dignity and great power – a king, emperor, or even one of the gods. For Christians, Advent is the time the church prepares for the coming of the King of kings Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate Dec. 25th. The Advent season focuses on Christ’s threefold coming: past, present, and future. First, we remember the Lord’s humble first coming in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. Second, we give thanks for Jesus’ present and continual coming to us through Word and Sacrament. Finally, we look forward with hope and longing to Jesus’ second coming in glory on Judgment Day. The liturgical color for Advent, which decks the altar and pastor’s vestments, is blue which represents hope, expectation, and heaven.

Year of St. Mark's Gospel

The first Sunday of Advent, Sunday, November 29th, begins a new Liturgical year and we move out of the gospel readings of St. Matthew and begin rehearing the gospel readings from St. Mark. Throughout the year we will rehear Jesus’ birth, Baptism, ministry, crucifixion, death, resurrection through the “immediacy” writings of Mark. We will hear how Mark claims that Jesus, the Son of God ~ the Messiah, is realized through Jesus’ serving, suffering, death on the cross, and resurrection. That for Jesus’ disciples, even today, we discover the true meaning of life through our serving, in being last, and dying for Christ’s sake. The year of Mark promises to be a GREAT year!

VIRTUAL FILL THE SNOW BOOT!

Luther League is raising money to shop for winter clothes for children of Washington County. Luther League youth will do the shopping and the purchases will be distributed through HACAP. Last year we raised \$333 in the boot, \$250 Thrivent Visa Card, and Luther League added money from their Luther League account to be able to spend \$1039.02. Let's beat the **\$1039.02 raised in 2019**. We're filling the boot virtually this year, please mail your checks to the church. Checks are to be made out to “Immanuel Lutheran” and “Luther League winter clothes” written in the memo. Thank you in advance for your generous support of the Luther League’s effort to keep the children of Washington County warm this winter. The Luther League youth will go shopping in December.



Immanuel to Ring Salvation Army Bell

We are ringing the Salvation Army Bell again this year. Immanuel will be ringing the bell at Walmart on **Sunday, November 29th, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.** Money placed in Washington County Salvation Army Kettles serve Washington County residents in need. This is a great family service project; ring the bell as a family! Bell ringing shifts will be in one-hour increments, don't hesitate to sign up for at least one hour. Bell ringers must wear masks and stand 6 feet from the kettle. Pastor Howard will share an instructional video that Salvation Army is requiring ringers to watch prior to volunteering. Call the church office to sign up for your time slot. Thank you for your participation.



All Saints' Sunday is November 1st

We will observe All Saints' Sunday, during our morning worship on November 1st. We will remember those of our church family and their relatives who have departed from this life to life eternal since All Saints' Sunday, 2019. The Disciples and family of Immanuel Lutheran Church who have departed from this life with the promise of life eternal since All Saints' Sunday, 2019 are:

Christ Triumphant The Church Triumphant

+Kathy Staggs
+Mary Conchran
+Corrine Shower
+Mervin Geyer
+Muriel Stangohr
+Angie Russell
+Logi Lager
+Leanna Killian
+Phyllis Taylor
+Lydia Andersen

+Kate Glinsmann
+Dustin Ferguson
+Cindy Radden
+Peggy Gerot
+Herman Askland
+Justin Dennis
+Phyllis Hagensick
+Jack Quigley
+Rose Backstrom

+Bill Leischner
+Don Schmidt
+Susan English
+Daryl Dillon
+Karl Ostrem
+Elisabeth Crum
+Richard Davidson
+Mike Brinning
+Dorothy Howell

We will also remember the Saints who joined our Christian family through the waters of baptism since All Saints' Sunday, 2019. The Saints who joined us in the body of Christ are:

+Ellis Joy Almelien

+Kennedy Rose Striegel

+Avenley Rose Six



Q&A on the Proposed 2021 Budget/Annual Reports

The 2020 Annual Reports, including the proposed 2021 Budget, will be emailed to you the first week of November. If you do not have email, hard copies will be available for you to pick up at the church. Annual Reports may also be downloaded from our website (luthwash.org). Immanuel's Council and Finance Committee will be holding a question/answer forum regarding the 2021 Budget/Annual Reports on **Sunday, November 8th**, at **Noon**. The Q&A will take place in the sanctuary (practicing social distancing and mandatory face coverings). This Q&A will also be available on the Conference Call (319) 656-2663 code 344238# with a moderator overseeing the call. This is NOT the annual meeting (which is Sunday, November 22nd, 11:30 a.m.) this is an opportunity to have your proposed budget questions answered. No voting will take place during this Q&A forum.

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

We will be having a blended Annual Meeting this COVID year. We will hold the meeting in person with social distancing and mandatory face coverings in the sanctuary. The balcony and fellowship hall will be used 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.

Christ the King Sunday

The liturgical year, or church year, ends November 22nd as we observe Christ the King Sunday. We end the year acknowledging that Christ is our true King; "he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords" 1 Timothy 6:15. The following Sunday, November 29th, begins the new church year; Advent. As we enter the Advent season, let us submit to the Lordship of our Savior Jesus Christ in our lives.



Harvest Altar in November

The chancel will be decorated with the fruits, vegetables, and homemade canned goods of the harvest. Please donate pumpkins, apples, ears of corn, oranges, homemade canned goods, etc. for Immanuel's harvest Altar by Thursday, November 5th. The chancel will be decorated beginning Sunday, November 8th through November 22th. You may claim your donated items after worship on the 22th. We give God thanks and praise for the bountiful harvest and the abundance of food the Iowa soil brings forth.

Social Caring

When the words "social distancing" engages our eyes in print form and ring in our ears from the voices of authorities, we grab our mask and stand apart from others, or we avoid doing so, or we honestly forget, or we touch another person, or we refuse to comply. People claim they want to be "free" to do whatever they want. This is such a focus of public concern and debate. In such a time as this, I am concerned with the implicit and hidden message of this "social distancing" agenda. There is a lack of awareness and no alert signs flashing that the persistent use of these two words hold danger. We soak in these "stay a part words" that on a subtle level influence us not to engage or connect with our family members, friends, and neighbors. What if we said and meant the words "social caring" rather than social distancing. Research is demonstrating the mask and distance is one way to protect my neighbor from the virus. The question I address to myself is, "Am I as concerned about love of others as I am about my social distancing?" Let us say the words "social caring" when we offer the other person six feet of space and wear a mask. Pray that people worldwide will seek to connect and care for each other. May the Holy Spirit assist each of us to weave a fabric of social caring in just "such a time as this."

Fran Victor

Giving Thanks

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4

The puzzle is based on Psalm 100



C	T	Y	A	E	E	G	G	E	F	W	S	O	Z	D
W	Q	K	V	B	O	F	H	A	N	E	N	V	G	S
Y	Q	O	X	Q	Y	P	O	G	T	D	A	G	C	F
W	L	K	Z	R	S	N	W	R	O	E	U	R	J	U
V	O	S	O	N	G	S	Q	V	E	T	S	R	T	W
O	U	R	F	E	I	X	E	U	U	V	H	N	E	H
Y	O	T	S	D	J	C	H	O	K	F	E	N	B	S
A	T	E	T	H	J	R	H	O	J	O	Y	R	H	W
Y	R	G	F	N	I	S	O	E	B	J	Y	H	Z	E
Z	L	O	N	R	O	P	S	E	Q	S	M	X	I	N
G	L	A	D	N	E	S	S	F	S	H	L	N	A	T
X	A	T	W	C	L	I	P	A	S	T	U	R	E	E
Q	U	U	H	Q	A	G	F	C	H	N	Y	L	R	R
D	A	P	I	R	H	M	V	I	Q	S	H	E	E	P
X	N	N	P	G	O	H	H	Z	T	H	A	N	K	S

WORSHIP	EARTH	JOY	LOVE	ENTER
ENDURES	FOREVER	SHEEP	THANKS	SHOUT
SONGS	PASTURE	GLADNESS	GATES	PRAISE

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