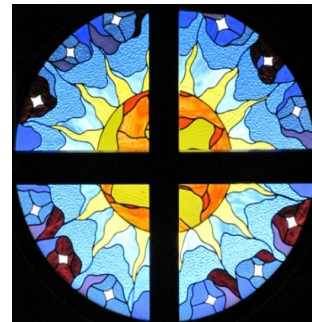


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

December 2020 Newsletter



Weekly Services and Communion

Sundays- 9 am Live Streaming

12/13 Car Hop Communion

10:30- 11 am

Office Hours

Kelly in on Thursdays

Inside this issue:

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Birthday & Anniversaries p. 3

Thank yous p. 4

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“The Spirit of the Lord GOD Is Upon Me”

by Peter J. Weller

The text for this month's column comes from Isaiah chapter 61: “The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

“For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth sends forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations,” (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

These verses were written after the return of the first Jews released by the Persian Emperor Cyrus, thus ending the Babylonian exile that had lasted for nearly 80 years. These returnees found their former homelands pillaged, their cities in ruins, and they found it difficult to relate to those natives living there that had not been exiled.

Jay Sunberg, a missionary for the Church of the Nazarene, writing in “A Plain Account,” wrote, “This exile called into question the very foundation of Israel's existence as a people and it threatened their relationship with God. If the land defined their covenantal relationship to God, made through their forefather Abraham, then exile was a forfeiture of all of their inheritance and a forfeiture of the promise – the promise of land, the promise of wealth, the promise of identity, the promise of a future.

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

YouTube- [luthwash](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8w8w8w8w8w8w8w8w8w8w8) * 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 11-24-20

General Fund ~ \$5,855.90

Savings ~ \$0

Building/Visions ~ \$5,389.51

Endowment ~ \$3,302.07

Community Assistance ~ \$3,822.54

Mortgage ~ \$68,388.58

Attendance

No Wednesday evening worship
Due to COVID-19

Sunday, October 25 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 290 views

Sunday, November 1 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 391 views

Sunday, November 8 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 447 views
Car Hop Communion ~ 39

Sunday, November 15 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 507 views

Sunday, November 22 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 470 views

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.

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of

+Jody Tanner,
Daughter of Charlane and +Tom Tanner

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

Annual Meeting Highlights

2021 Budget: **Approved**

Council Members Elected 5 needed; 3 January 2021 – December 2023, 2 January 2021 – December 2022 (replacing Kristin Jones who resigned and +Margaret Stangohr) terms will be decided at the December Council's meeting: **Naomi Erickson, April Six, Rob Taylor, and Deb Tisor**. Council will appoint the 5th member (no one was nominated nor stepped forward to be elected)

2021 Synod Assembly Voting Members (May 21-22, 2021 tentatively in Coralville) Elected: **Ron and Char Andersen**

2021 Nominating Committee Elected: **Bev Bailey** (outgoing Council member), **Ray Poe, Gary Fischer, and Judy Venzke**

Unanimously agreed to fully participate in the Funding Forward Learning Community if we are selected.



Birthdays for December

- 1- Quinn Wubben
- 2- Stephen Bay
- 11- Addison Six
- 14- Lyle Moen
- 14- Sandy Weller
- 18- Bill Zywiec
- 20- Lois Buchholz
- 29- Pastor Howard



Anniversaries for December

- 31- Jim & Kathleen Almelien



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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance- Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm

Council- Sunday, December 6th at 10:30 am
via conference call



Luther League

DEPENDING UPON COVID NUMBERS

- When:** Sunday, December 20th
- Where:** Wal-Mart and Pizza Ranch
- Who:** 6th – 12th Graders; friends WELCOME!!
- Why:** Shop for Children's Winter Clothes (HACAP)
- Time:** 4 p.m. Shopping at Wal-Mart
5:15 p.m. (ish) Supper at Pizza Ranch
- Cost:** \$5 for supper (LL will cover the rest)
- 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.



Thank you to all those that sent prayers or cards to our family. We are extremely grateful. As the holidays are upon us we are missing our dear Jack more than ever.

The family of Jack Quigley - **Margaret, Jay, Christal, Mason & Trevor.**

THANK YOU: I just wanted to thank Immanuel for the extremely thoughtful finals package! My thanks and gratitude to everyone who made that possible. - **Audrey Wubben**

THANK YOU to **Char** and **Ron Andersen** for setting up the Harvest Altar in November. It was a wonderful display of the abundance God provides for God's beloved people.

THANK YOU to **John Harris** for playing the trumpet during worship on Reformation Sunday, October 25th. Sharing of your talent brings an extra joy to worship and gives God glory. Thank you for blessing us.

THANK YOU to **Brian Lueck** for ringing the handbell during All Saints' Sunday worship on November 1st. The ringing of the bell, during the reading of the names of the Saints who have died, is such a solemn and holy time.

THANK YOU to everyone at Immanuel for the care package, I really appreciate it! My semester ends at Thanksgiving, so the thoughtful treats arrived at the perfect time. **Mariah Howard**

THANK YOU to **Bev Bailey, Gary Fischer, DeAnn Hakert, Mike Howard, Pastor Howard, Margie Runaas, Jon Runaas, April Six, Avery Six, Ajay Six, Aden Six, Aaron Six, and Deb Tisor** for preparing the chancel/sanctuary for the celebration of Advent and Christmas. The adornments assist us in the waiting anticipation to the joy of celebrating Jesus' birth.

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.

December 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Merry Christmas from LSI! “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5. As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been challenging for all of us, and we are grateful for the Iowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping LSI in 2020. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services! At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family to love them. The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. 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. Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

As she prepared to celebrate her 18th birthday, Sam was also preparing to age out of foster care. She had lived with her foster mom, Marty, for years and Marty wanted to ensure Sam had a smooth transition into adulthood. That’s when they signed up for LSI’s Host Homes program. Provided through LSI’s Services for People with Disabilities, Host Homes provides personalized care for Iowans with disabilities who find greater success living in a private family home instead of a busier community living environment with roommates. Individuals are carefully matched with a Host Homes mentor and live with them in their home, where they can build strong relationships and become better engaged with their communities. Marty became a Host Homes mentor so Sam could continue living in her home and receive the same care and support she was used to. Sam is thriving and Marty gets to continue walking alongside her as she builds a bright future full of independence. They work on Sam’s goals every day, including cooking and planning meals. Marty especially loves fishing and going on picnics with Sam and as a Host Homes mentor, she can continue serving as a foster parent to other Iowa teens.

Continued from page 1

“The prophet Isaiah speaks bold words that bind the misery and make it temporary. The prophet declares that the distress of God’s people will soon pass. The prophet announces that a change awaits because the anointed one is coming. Isaiah, the prophet, proclaims the coming year of the Lord’s favor and for the land and for the people, ashes will turn to joy and mourning will turn to praise.”

Richard Neill Donovan, in “Sermon Writer”, wrote, “[God] has allowed them to return to Jerusalem, but has permitted opponents to dog them at every turn. Is [God] powerless to achieve what he promised? Is [God] faithful—will he keep his promises? Has [God] given up and abandoned them?”

“Second Isaiah dealt with these same questions while the people were still in exile (see 50:2). [God] is a passionate God who is in travail as he labors to achieve his goals (42:14). He is not like the Babylonian gods, who are made of wood and are powerless.

“Now Third Isaiah, addressing people who are no longer exiles, addresses those same issues—answers the same questions. He says, “Behold, [God’s] hand is not shortened, that it can’t save; neither his ear heavy, that it can’t hear” (59:1).”

So, these words of Isaiah give hope to the exiles. They show the path forward. They assure them that God is faithful, that he will make a new covenant with them, that he will not abandon them. Christians also believe that Isaiah’s words point to Jesus’ coming as the future Messiah.

It is fitting that this text would be included among the texts used during the Advent season. Jesus, preaching in the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth at the beginning of his ministry, read from the scroll that referenced the first verse of the above text. He then told the congregation, “Today, this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:17-19) In so saying, Jesus announces to them that he is the promised one, the Messiah. But, his saying so didn’t go over very well with his audience. (Luke 4:22) They could not believe that the carpenter’s kid that grew up among them could possibly be the Messiah.

Yet, we believe that Jesus indeed was (and is) the Messiah, the Savior, the Suffering Servant, God’s only Son, and that what Isaiah prophesied is indeed true. That is the reason that we look forward to celebrating his birth at this time of year. But, we not only celebrate his birth, but also that he is God in the flesh, that he dwelled among us, full of grace and truth, as testified to by the gospel writer, John. We are the recipients of this grace, and through Jesus, we can have eternal life. What an awesome gift that is.

Godspeed Mike Moore!

Mike Moore has decided to enjoy total retirement and is leaving Immanuel's Financial Secretary position. We are grateful to and for Mike for his expertise and professionalism as he served in this position. During his service at Immanuel, he cleaned-up and simplified our bookkeeping process. Mike leaves his tenure here with Immanuel's financial accounting in great shape. Thank you, Mike and Godspeed!

Eternal God, we thank you for Mike and for the time we have shared with him. As he has been a blessing to us, so now we send him forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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Welcome Linda Finke!

With the retirement of Mike Moore, Immanuel welcomes Linda Finke to the position of Immanuel's Financial Secretary! Mike is staying on to train Linda on our system. Linda recently retired as President/CEO at Peoples Savings Bank after a 28-year career in the banking industry. Linda resides in Crawfordsville. We are thrilled and grateful for the addition of Linda to our qualified staff at Immanuel. Welcome to the Immanuel family, Linda!

A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love.

In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Canada



Car Hop Communion: Sunday, December 13th

Pastor Howard will be serving Holy Communion on **Sunday, December 13th, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)** under the portico in the church's parking lot. 39 people were nourished with the presence of Christ at the Car Hop Communion on Sunday, November 8th.

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:

December 13 th	Serving 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
January 10 th	Serving 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

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

Advent/Christmas Eve/Lessons and Carols Bulletins

To fully participate in live streaming or conference call of worship download the weekly Advent bulletin (December 6th, 13th, and 20th) from Immanuel's website "luthwash.org". The bulletin is located at the "December Bulletin" tab. The Advent bulletins have different hymns, the weekly scripture texts, weekly lighting of the Advent wreath, and Holy Communion December 13th. The Christmas Eve bulletin (December 24th) and the Lessons and Carols bulletin (December 27th) will be available for download after Sunday, the 20th.

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.

The Meaning of Christmas

In our commercialized society, during November and December, we are bombarded with jolly Santas, reindeer, happy snowpeople, and buy, buy, buy. Yet, there are hints and whispers that "Jesus is the reason for the season." Yes, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. But exactly why is that fact so significant? For an answer, we need to look at the accounts of the birth of Jesus as recorded by Matthew and Luke. At the heart of these nativity narratives is a simple fact: amid the struggle of a people, who had longed for God to act in the world in new ways, God came to be with them in a way that totally identifies Himself with us as human beings. Amid the most unlikely of circumstances, to the most unlikely of people, God became a human being for the salvation of all people. Christmas is about possibility. It is not the kind of possibility that comes from a confidence in our own abilities. It is possibility that comes solely from the fact that God is God. Our God comes into our own human existence to reveal Himself and call us to Himself. Jesus is Immanuel – God with us. This fact brings the possibility of change for the world and all humanity who accept Jesus as their Savior. God has promised to be with the church and with us, His chosen people, as we live as His people in the world. It is this God, this possibility, which we celebrate at Christmas.



Christmas Eve Worship



Join us for the live streaming of Christmas Eve, Candlelight Worship, Thursday, December 24th. The **Christmas Eve, Candlelight service** will be live on Immanuel's Facebook page at **4:30 p.m.** also available on conference call. Let us come together, in a most unique and different way, to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Join us as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season with a service of Lessons and Carols adapted from the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has been celebrated annually at King's College, Cambridge, for almost a century. The Scripture lessons are those traditionally used at the festival, while the carols that accompany each passage have been selected from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book. Join us as we worship together, on Sunday, December 27th, 9 a.m. live streaming to hear and sing the promises of Christ's birth.





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. We will gladly receive your donations during Car Hop Communion on Sunday, December 13th, 10:30 – 11 a.m. 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. Thank you to those who have signed up to ring and/or generously give to this Kettle campaign.

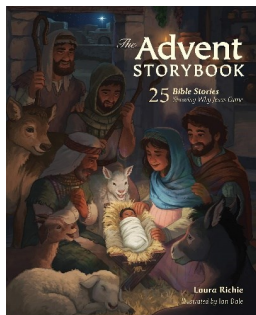
\$11,575 collected in 2019 \$9,260 for Washington use \$9,700 used ~ served 118 people with average help \$82.21

The spending of the money collected in the Washington Kettles is overseen by Pr. Darryl Carr (First Baptist) and Pr. Dave Watson (Assembly of God) of the Washington Area Ministerial Association (Pastor Howard is Chair). We are already using 2020 Kettle money to assist Washington County residents in need.



Ministry Opportunity: Be a Confirmation Mentor!

Claire Wubbena is preparing for her Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation) on April 25, 2021. One of her requirements is to choose a mentor who will walk with her during the spring of '21. A mentor is a person of the same sex as the confirmand (woman only this year), may not be a family member, be a faithful worshiper, and a person the confirmand has prayerfully considered. The mentor will meet with their confirmand once a week in February into March to journey together on faith topics: talking faith together; worship; learning; witness; and service (discussion sheets provided by Pastor Howard). The confirmand will write a faith review with the help from their mentor (due in March) and complete a service project with their mentor (completed by early April). Claire and her mentor will explain their servant project to the congregation on Sunday, April 18th. **Claire will ask her potential mentor, between January 1st and January 12th. Please, prayerfully consider this great ministry opportunity.** If you DO NOT feel called to this important mentoring ministry, please let Pastor Howard know prior to January 1st. If Pastor Howard does not hear from you, Claire will consider you a potential mentor.



Story Time with Pastor Maureen RESUMES

"Story Time with Pastor Maureen" will resume for the season of Advent. Pastor Maureen will be reading a story a day from The Advent Storybook 25 Bible Stories showing Why Jesus Came by Laura Richie. These stories will remind us WHY Jesus, our rescuer, came to us. We begin reading the Creation story and journey through the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) stories which tell of God's promises to save humanity from sin. Story Time will resume on **Sunday, Nov 29th** (first day of Advent) at **10 a.m.** Pastor Howard will continue to rest on her Sabbath day of Monday. Two stories

will be read on Tuesdays during Advent. Let us prepare not only our homes for the arrival of Jesus, let us prepare our hearts. "Jesus LOVES me! And Jesus LOVES our neighbors too!"

Chrismons

The sanctuary Christmas trees are decorated with fragile, handmade, stained glass Chrismons. A Chrismon is one of several Christian symbols representing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (his life, ministry, Divinity) and the church year. The term “Chrismon” comes from the Latin phrase “Christi Monogramma,” meaning “monogram of Christ.”

The monogram of Christ ~ the Greek letter X (“chi”) superimposed upon the Greek letter P (“rho”)

Other Chrismons are:

Alpha and Omega ~ God is the beginning and end

Shield ~ Jesus is our defender

Bible ~ Holy Scripture is God’s living Word

Star of David ~ Jesus is the descendant of David

Bethlehem Star ~ Jesus is the Savior of the world

Descending Dove ~ Holy Spirit

Fish ~ Jesus Christ is the Son of God; Greek ἰχθύς ichthus, meaning “fish”: Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Θ), Son (Υ), Savior (Σ)

Candle ~ Jesus is the light of the world

Lamp ~ Jesus is the lamp of God’s light

Anchor ~ Jesus is our hope

Butterfly ~ Through Jesus we have everlasting life

Crown ~ Jesus is the King of Kings

Bread and Chalice ~ Body and Blood of Jesus

Crosses ~ Power of God

Washington County Toys for Tots

Assisting families in need with children ages newborn to 15 years with new toys for Christmas. **2020 Registrations are ONLINE:** <https://iowa-city-ia.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites-toys.aspx>

The last day to register is Friday, December 4, 2020.

The following is required to register:

- Photo ID for Head of Household (Adult registering children must be adult to pick up toys)
- Proof of Date of Birth for each child (Birth certificate from any country or medical record)
- Proof of Washington County Residency (Valid address on photo ID, lease, utility bill, mail from government agency)

Pick up of toys: • Washington County will be at **Immanuel Lutheran Church @ 1226 E. Washington St. in Washington on December 17 and 18.**

For questions or additional information: email usc.hrt.iowa.city@usc.salvationarmy.org or call The Salvation Army at 319-337-3725 or HACAP at 319-653-7275.



The Altar Guild is again providing Poinsettias during Advent/Christmas. If you want to purchase one in honor of, memory of, or in celebration for a loved one, they will be \$10 per plant. To order, send a check for \$10 to the church (1226 E Washington, Washington, Iowa 52353) Please include who you wish to honor. We would like to have the orders in by Monday, November 30th.

Bev Bailey and Naomi Erickson

Prayer in the Sanctuary

The season of Advent is a busy time as we decorate our homes, bake Christmas treats, buy and wrap gifts, and send Christmas cards. Living through this holiday season will be like no other we have experienced. With the CDC urging us to remain home and not visit family and friends, to curtail the spread of COVID, we are becoming disheartened. Do you need to ground yourself in God's presence? Do you need to be in the holy setting of Immanuel's sanctuary? Do you need the gift of silence, to hear the comforting whispers of the Holy Spirit? Immanuel's sanctuary is available to you to get away from the stress of COVID, to retreat from the pressures of preparing for Christmas, to rejuvenate your soul, mind, and body. Call the church, 653-3950, and reserve your private prayer time in the sanctuary. You will be glad you opened yourself up to the power of God.



Washington School Kindness Closets

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

Stewart- Pants & Underwear size 6-8

Lincoln - Leggings & Sweatpants age 8-14

Both schools - stretch gloves

Please bring your donated items with you to Car Hop Communion on December 13th from 10:30 - 11 am. OR feel free to drop off at the church but please call ahead.

