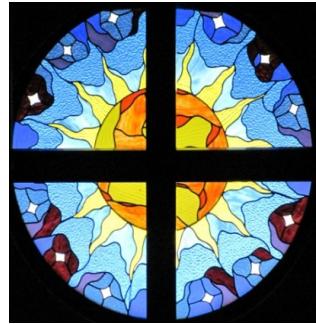


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

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



## February 2021 Newsletter

### Weekly Services and Communion

Sundays - 9 am Live Streaming

2/14 Car Hop Communion

10:30 - 11 am

2/17 Car Hop

Ashes 12-12:30 pm

2/17 Car Hop Ashes & Communion

7-7:30 pm

### Office Hours

Kelly in on Thursdays

9 am - 1 pm



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

"Have You Not Known? Have You Not Heard?"

by Peter J. Weller

The text for this month's lesson comes from the book of Isaiah, Chapter 40: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing."

"Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble."

"To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing."

"Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, and creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40: 21-31)

These words from the second Isaiah are addressed to those Israelites who returned from the Babylonian exile, somewhere around 530 BCE. No doubt, they discovered a destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in ruins. Having been away from their homeland for fifty years, only their older members would have remembered what Jerusalem and life there was like before they were exiled. The younger ones, born in exile, had no such knowledge. So, how then does this remnant of a former society, these returnees, pick up the pieces and rebuild from the ruins? How many might have felt either that their God had abandoned them, or that they really did not know who their God was? How do they relate to the current inhabitants of Jerusalem who had not left or had moved there after the exile? How easy is it to start over and attempt to build back what once was?

Continued to page 5

## Monthly Updates (Month to date)

Account balances as of 1-21-21

General Fund ~ \$7,132.20

Savings ~ \$0

Building/Visions ~ \$6,441.17

Endowment ~ \$3,302.89

Community Assistance ~ \$3,780.94

Mortgage ~ \$67,301.01

## Attendance

No Wednesday evening worship  
Due to COVID-19

Sunday, December 27 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 418 views

Sunday, January 3 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 408 views

Sunday, January 10 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 323 views  
Car Hop Communion ~ 54

Sunday, January 17 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 395 views

Sunday, January 24 ~ 9 am ~  
Live Streaming 218 views

## **Altar Flowers**

Since we are not currently worshiping 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 families of

+Lois Buchholz  
+Wilma Scott (Brian Lueck's Grandma)  
+Robert Knerr (Corrine Martin's Brother-in-Law)  
+Shirley Bengston (Mike Howard's Aunt)  
+Doug DeWolf (Son of Gary & Helen DeWolf)

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

## **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](http://luthwash.org) AND Immanuel's YouTube channel luthwash. You may go back to these locations and the video will still be available.

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 which will have the service live. This phone line will be opened at 8:50 a.m. on Sundays and it will end at the conclusion of worship.

# Birthdays of the Month

## Birthdays for February

- 3- Lee Buchholz
  - 6- Vi Kruse
  - 15- Susan Baker
  - 15- Vivienne Kroll
  - 23- Molly Zywiec
  - 25- Aden Six
  - 25- Avery Six
  - 25- Ajay Six
- 



## Anniversaries for February

- 15- Brian & Carrie Lueck
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## 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

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Finance:** Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:15 p.m.

**Council:** Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.,

Social Distancing in Sanctuary

**Worship/Music:** Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m.



### Luther League

- When:** Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>  
**Where:** Immanuel  
**Who:** Youth 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades Invite your friends!  
**Why:** Centered Prayer, Led by Deacon Fran Victor  
Holy Communion  
**Time:** 11a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Lunch:** Tacos (meat provided) bring a topping/side  
**Leadership:** Steve Vetter & 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 you 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](http://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.

The ladies of the Church Circle have taken up a donation in honor of +Margaret Stangoehr in her loving memory have donated it to the church. They will have the donation go to Immanuel's Altar Guild.

Immanuel-  
Thank you so very much for the gift, how thoughtful. I am grateful for you all!!  
Thanks, Kelly

Thank you to the Immanuel congregation for the cash gift for the new year . It is nice to be remembered and I do appreciate it.  
Yours in Christ,  
Ron Brown

Altar Guild wishes to give a huge thank you for the donation of money in memory of Margaret Stangoehr. We will be purchasing Fair Linen for the Altar. We are so appreciative.



**In Christian Joy**  
We extend our Christian Congratulations

Benjamin James Morrison was born on Monday, January 25th at 9 lbs, 12 oz. Proud grandparents are Mike & Debbie Jewell.

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



### Prayer in the Sanctuary

Immanuel's sanctuary is available to you to get away from the stress of COVID, to retreat from the pressures of life, to rejuvenate your soul, mind, and body through prayer. Give yourself the gift of silence to hear the comforting whispers of the Holy Spirit. Call the church, 653-3950, and reserve your private prayer time in the sanctuary.

February 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story- Happy Valentine's Day from LSI! "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19 Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families! We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building bright futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For 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.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day! Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

**Building a Bond-** Julie had made a promise years ago: If anything happened to her friend, Julie would take care of her son, Jacob. When Jacob's mom passed away and he had no place to go, Julie stepped up. Her six children had grown up and moved out of her home, and she had the resources and space needed to care for Jacob. She became a mentor through LSI's Host Homes program. The service enables Iowans with disabilities to move into a private family home and live with a specially-selected mentor instead of living in a shared space with roommates and several staff members. Jacob moved into Julie's home last December and now, the two are thriving. Jacob is learning to take care of himself and build the life skills he needs to feel more confident and independent. He is learning to cook and enjoys looking up new recipes to try, especially meatloaf.

"It's a great opportunity. You're changing their lives," Julie says. "You get to know each other more personally. We have a lot of discussions and heart-to-hearts." Jacob is finishing his senior year of high school. He enjoys learning new things and visiting new places, and he dreams of the day when he and Julie can go on more trips. Once it is safe to do so, Jacob is determined to visit more zoos and take a trip to Canada.

"It's good," Jacob says of his Host Homes match with Julie. "She makes me laugh."

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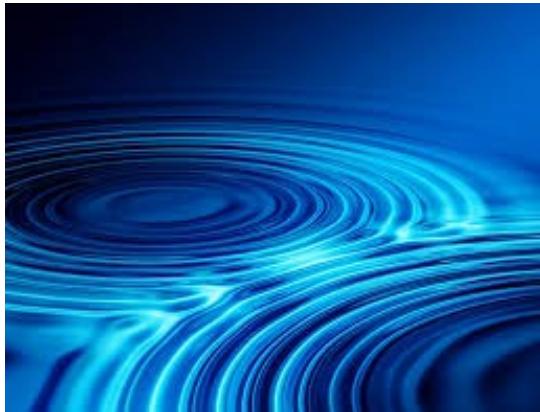
In this context, the questions asked by the prophet begin to make sense: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?" Second Isaiah also answers those questions: "The LORD is the everlasting God, and creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. . . [T]hose who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:27-31)

For those returning from Babylon, This was a time for new beginnings. It was also a time to recognize old truths: God is still in charge. God was with them all along. Second Isaiah challenges the people with a question, "Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'?" (Isaiah 40:27) Nothing can be hidden from the Lord. And, it is not for humans to question why God does or does not do certain things or that he chooses to exercise his power and authority in certain ways. God's understanding is unsearchable.

All that Second Isaiah writes in this chapter can apply to today. Truth is important. Truth matters. Understanding how we got to where we are today is important. Hence the prophet's questions: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?" Sadly, we forget. We deceive ourselves and choose to believe otherwise and embrace untruths. But, sooner or later, we come back to what is true, and with God's guidance, we move forward from darkness back into the light.

## **First Communion**

Congratulations to **Taylor Black** on receiving her First Communion at Car Hop Communion on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Welcome to Christ's Table ~ what a First Communion memory she has! Taylor Black attended the First Communion Retreat (April 2020) but did not receive on May 3, 2020 due to the death of her grandpa on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## **Centered Prayer: February 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

Deacon Fran Victor will be leading an hour of contemplative prayer in Immanuel's sanctuary (practicing social caring and wearing masks) the second and fourth Saturday mornings of each month; 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The hour begins with Centered Prayer and then moving into Lectio Divina (using a verse of scripture as the basis for prayer). No experience is necessary in either prayer practice to participate. No reservations needed, just come and enjoy the hour of contemplation. If you would like to join this intimate group, but are new to this type of prayer, come at 8:15 a.m. for explanation. Centered Prayer will be offered on Saturdays February 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. “God’s first word is silence.” – Thomas Keating

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Celebrate Recovery starts April 13th and will begin meeting at the Washington United Methodist Church at 206 W. 2nd Street.

So now we are to the point of seeking more faith-filled leader candidates to become involved. We feel it is in the best interest of the community to have as many churches/congregations involved as possible. All leader candidates (those interested in helping to lead small and large groups meetings) must attend the weekly leadership training course. The course will be held Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 beginning Tuesday February 9th. Location for training is the City Point office on the North side of the square. We are also in need of individuals interested in volunteering in other capacities such as greeting, meal preparations, etc. And most importantly, we are asking for prayers! For more information contact Pastor Howard

## **Car Hop Communion: Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Howard will be serving Holy Communion on **Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.** under the portico in the church's parking lot. 55 people where nourished with the presence of Christ at Car Hop Communion on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

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 a face mask 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:

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**                             **Serving 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

**February 17<sup>th</sup>**                             **Serving 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.      ASH WEDNESDAY**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**                             **Serving 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

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

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### **Car Hop Ashes and Holy Communion**

Pastor Howard will be offering the imposition of ashes, under Immanuel's portico, with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19b) TWO times on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>; between Noon – 12:30 p.m. and again between 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion will be served ONLY during 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Drive into the parking lot from the North and exit to the West.

Holy Communion will be given to you in a prepackaged form with the wafer sealed onto a sealed cup of grape juice. This will make Communion distribution clean and safe as imposition of ashes is also offered.

### **Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Car Hop Ashes: Noon – 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Car Hop Communion: 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

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### **8 Hours of Prayer on Ash Wednesday; February 17<sup>th</sup>**

Lent is a time for us to fast, be in prayer, and repent as we realign ourselves and renew our commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Do many of us really take the time to be silent and listen for the quiet whispers of the Holy Spirit? Many times, prayer is a self-absorbed, a laundry list of our wants (with stipulations attached) that we bring to God to fulfill. We are going to begin the season of Lent with an opportunity to be in prayer. We are going to give ourselves the gift and freedom to be quiet and alone in the presence of God. On Ash Wednesday, **February 17<sup>th</sup>** someone will be in the sanctuary, in private prayer for **1 hour, beginning at 6:00 a.m.** Call the church, 653-3950, to sign up for an hour (beginning at 6:00 a.m. and concluding at 2:00 p.m.) of prayer in the sanctuary and open yourself up to the power of God; you'll be glad you did. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Howard.



**Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the season of penance and reflection that prepares us to celebrate Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The ashes we receive on our forehead, in the shape of a cross, are an outward sign of our sinfulness and need for repentance. They also symbolize our mortality, a reminder that one-day we will die and our bodies will return to dust. Pastor Howard quotes Genesis 3:19b, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" to each person as they receive the ashes. With ashes upon our forehead we return to God's mercy and grace. Immanuel Lutheran's **Ash Wednesday**

**Live Streaming / Conference call worship service** will be at **4:00 p.m.** The imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will only be distributed during Car Hop options on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Mid-Week Lenten Worship; 7 p.m.**

Pastor Howard will be offering Night Prayer (Compline) worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Compline is the final church service appointed for the evening bringing the day to a quiet close. This service will be contemplative as Compline is simple, with meditative silence, penitential prayers, and concludes with our rest and peace in God. Worship will only be live streamed to Immanuel's Facebook page, Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa, and the **conference call option** on Wednesdays February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. This Lent unwind, reorient, and reconnect with God using Compline as your mid-week worship experience.



## Lent: What is it? Why is it?

The highlight of the year for Christians is Easter, the day when our Lord rose from the dead. Lent is a forty-day (not counting six Sundays in Lent) season of preparation for Easter. It always begins on a Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, six and one-half weeks before Easter. It ends on Holy Saturday, the last day of Holy Week, which immediately precedes Easter Sunday.

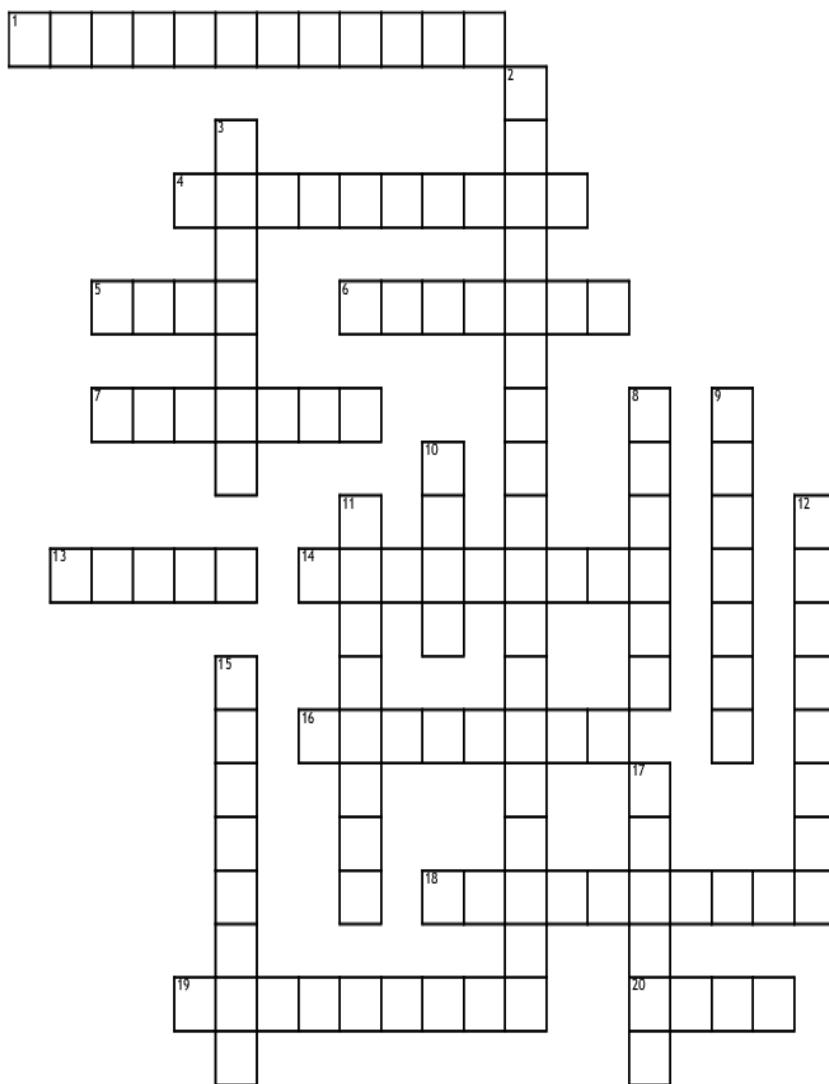
"Lent" is an Old English word for spring, the season when the days lengthen. Why 40 days? We remember the 40 days in the ark surrounded by water, the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for purification, the 40 days that Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness, and the 40 days of preparation for Easter baptisms. During Lent God's people: fast, pray, demonstrate acts of love, and long for the baptismal waters of Easter – our spiritual rebirth. Lent is not required anywhere in scripture, but a custom Christians have practiced for most of the last two thousand years.

The color used in the sanctuary is purple, a color which symbolized both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. Purple is also the color of royalty and so anticipates, through the suffering and death of Jesus, the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Simply put, Lent is a time to carefully examine our relationship with God and for spiritual renewal.

Pastor Howard invites you to a discipline of making the sign of the cross upon your forehead with God's baptismal water. Remind yourself that through your baptism you are a claimed, beloved child of God and an inheritor of all of God's promises through Jesus Christ.



# lent



## Across

1. dust to dust
4. Special Day
5. Jesus was buried in a
6. do not eat
7. to stay away from something
13. the tree Jesus was nailed to
14. to give up something for something else
16. last week of Lent
18. happy day
19. Jesus' crew
20. Easter Season

## Down

2. jesus' road to crucifixion
3. holy day
8. sorry for sins
9. on your knees
10. Jesus' mother
11. hand over
12. Nailed to the cross
15. Type of Religion
17. color of lent

## HACAP Food Boxing

Thank you to **Michelle, Taylor, and Clayton Bartholomew, Lucas, Caitlin, and Viv Kroll, Sharol and Stan Kroll, Emma and Carrie Lueck, April, Addison, Avery, Ajax, and Aden Six, Kathy and Steve Vetter** for packaging 96 boxes of food on Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, for hungry families. In 22 minutes, all the boxes were filled with food to nourish families in Washington County. You ARE the Hands of God!

