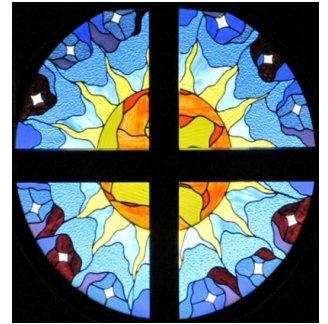


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

March 2021 Newsletter



Weekly Services and Communion

Beginning

March 7th all
services are In-
Person RSVP, Live
Streaming, and
Conference Call

Sundays- 9 am

Midweek Lent
Compline- 7 pm

3/14 Car Hop
Communion
11- 11:30 am

Office Hours

Kelly in on
Thursdays
9 am - 1 pm

“And Just As Moses Lifted Up the Serpent In the Wilderness,
So Must the Son of Man Be Lifted Up”

by Peter J. Weller

This month's column comes from the Old Testament book of Numbers, Chapter 21. In this story, the wandering Israelites grumble to Moses because they must endure the difficult conditions of the wilderness. Many even begin longing for the familiar comforts of their lives under Egyptian slavery rather than endure the privations encountered on this Wilderness trek. Rudyard Kipling, in a different context, penned a line drawn from this story, “Why brought ye us from bondage, our loved Egyptian night?”

As recorded in Numbers 21:4-9, the story is as follows: “The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there's is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.’ ”

We do not know the size and length of the pole or the size of the bronze snake. But these had to have been of significant size so that they could be seen easily from anywhere within the encampment. Otherwise, how would one have known where to look? Once bitten, getting oneself to a position where one could see the pole could be painfully difficult, if not impossible. And, if one were bitten at some distance from the campsite, how then might they be able to see the bronze snake? Another question: How long did it take to construct this pole and bronze serpent, and how many Israelites died from snakebites before it was completed? No answers are given to questions like these, however.

A more important part of the story, however, is the impatience and ingratitude of the Israelites regarding God's leadership and God's gifts to them. God, through Moses led them out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom. God provided them food and water when there was none. God gave them the laws for an organized and orderly society.

Continued to page 5

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

YouTube- [luthwash](https://www.youtube.com/luthwash) * Email us at luthwash@hotmail.com

Come visit us at 1226 East Washington Street, Washington, Iowa 52353

Church ~ 319.653.3950

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

Account balances as of 2-25-21

General Fund ~ \$12,457.36

Savings ~ \$0

Building/Visions ~ \$1,122.00

Endowment ~ \$3,303.26

Community Assistance ~ \$3,800.94

Mortgage ~ \$66,758.14

Attendance

No Wednesday evening worship
Due to COVID-19

Sunday, January 31 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 367 views

Sunday, February 7 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 424 views

Sunday, February 14 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 859 views
Car Hop Communion ~ 43

Wednesday, February 17 ~ 4 pm ~
Live Streaming 285 views

Sunday February 21 ~ 9 am ~
Live Streaming 199 views

In Christian Joy

We extend our Christian Congratulations

Beau Michael Stout, born Feb 7th (6lbs 9ozs and 19 1/2 inches long), Beau's beaming Great Grandma is Marilyn Bennett. Congratulations Marilyn!

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

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of

+Alice Gallerick (Sharol Kroll's sister)

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

Prayer in the Sanctuary

Immanuel's sanctuary is available to you 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.



IMMANUEL to OPEN IN PERSON WORSHIP Beginning Sunday, MARCH 7th!!!

Council has determined that with the COVID cases dropping in the county and people receiving the vaccine on the rise, it is time to reopen Immanuel's sanctuary for in person worship.



















Worship will REMAIN at 9 a.m.

Beginning March 7th, you will have three opportunities to worship our Triune God as Immanuel Lutheran: in person; live streamed to Immanuel's Facebook page (Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa), website (luthwash.org), and YouTube (luthwash); and conference call (319) 656-2663 using participant code 344238#. This phone line will open at 8:50 a.m. on Sundays and it will end at the conclusion of worship.

To worship together safely, Immanuel's Council has approved guidelines we will be following. **Please note that in person worship is through reservation only.**

Immanuel's Guidelines for Safe, Sanctuary Worship

BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH, 9 a.m.

-  In person, sanctuary worship is **by reservation only**.
-  Reservations are to be made by calling Immanuel, 653-3950, by the Wednesday prior to Sunday. Reservations will be taken on a first come first served basis. Kelly will connect with you regarding your Sunday reservation.
-  If the sanctuary meets its maximum capacity prior to your reservation, you will be on the wait list for the following Sunday.
-  It is requested that cancelations are made no later than Saturday morning.
-  All doors will be available to enter and exit the building.
-  Face masks must be worn inside Immanuel Lutheran Church. Masks must be worn properly, covering both the nose and mouth. Face masks will be available if you need one.
-  It is requested that no fellowship occurs in the hallways and that you remain at least 6 feet from one another.
-  It is requested that you are at worship by 8:50 a.m., to receive any instructions prior to worship going live online.
-  Seating in the sanctuary will be assigned, an usher will seat you and dismiss you (from the back to the front).
-  Once seated, it is requested that all congregants remain in their pews for the duration of the worship service.
-  Bulletins will not be printed. Download from Immanuel's website: luthwash.org
-  There will be no congregational singing. Singing by the accompanist only.
-  Liturgical responses will be softly spoken.
-  When sharing Christ's peace, the practice of bowing to each other will be practiced.
-  Offering plates will be located at the back of the sanctuary, no passing the plate.
-  Holy Communion Sundays: prepacked Communion will be taken off a table in the narthex and consumed while seated in the pew.
-  Nursery: not staffed, but available.
-  Contact tracing: If someone tests positive within the week after attending worship, call the church. Pastor Howard will call the people who were in church that Sunday and tell them that an anonymous person tested positive on X date.



Birthdays for March

- 1- Yaro Chmelar
- 2- Laurie Pemberton
- 2- Evelyn Brown
- 3- Marty Baker
- 6- Julie Hill
- 7- Sid Manfull
- 8- Clyde Pearce
- 9- Vicki Rebling
- 11- Deidra Baker
- 17- Margie Runaas
- 20- Ryan Jones
- 20- Neil Giesmann
- 23- Taylor Bartholomew
- 24- Tom Gaughan
- 24- Nathan Giesmann
- 26- Cody Jones
- 30- Nora Gutierrez



Anniversaries for March

- 18- Stan & Kristin Jones

Don't Forget Immanuel Lutheran

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). We are grateful for your continued generosity to God through Immanuel Lutheran. The ministries of Immanuel Lutheran do not stop because we are in "safety/separation mode" due to COVID-19.

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

Education: February 28th, 10:30 a.m.

Finance: March 4th, 6:30 p.m.

Council: March 7th, 11 a.m.

(Social Distancing in Sanctuary)

Worship/Music: March 11th, 11 a.m.



Luther League



When: Sunday, March 21st
Where: Immanuel
Who: Youth 6th – 12th Grades AND Families
Why: Competition: Youth VS Parents
Questions prepared by Linda Six
Time: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Lunch: TBD
Leadership: Steve Vetter & Pastor Howard

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.

God's Hands at work

A big thank you to **Judy, Naomi, Marilyn, Pam, and Bev** for volunteering with Meals on Wheels. A special thank you to **Steve** for coming during a blizzard warning. The community Y takes orders for meals from individuals who want meals delivered to them. We met and delivered from 17 to 25 meals during this month weekly. The hospital cooks and sets up these meals and we are met with a smile at each delivery and much appreciation for our efforts. It's a true joy to see these faces and deliver healthy meals.

Thank you, DeAnn

We do this again in November, please volunteer, you are God's hands.

THANK YOU to **Brian Lueck** for all the behind the scenes work you do: overseeing Immanuel's website, YouTube channel, getting the new laptops ready for streaming, and doing the tech work on Ash Wednesday. Your generosity in using your expertise to enhance the ministry at Immanuel Lutheran is a blessing to the church.

THANK YOU to **Steve Vetter, Gary Fischer, and Ron Brown** for keeping the sidewalks of Immanuel Lutheran cleared of ice and snow regardless of the temperatures. Your diligence in snow removal have kept people safe as they walk on the property.

THANK YOU to **Aaron, Ajay, Avery, Aden, and April** for moving the heavy, wooden cross into the chancel for the Lenten and Easter Seasons. This cross is a focal point which draws us into the death and resurrection of Jesus our Lord and Savior. It is no easy task to carry this cross into the sanctuary and are grateful to you for moving it.

THANK YOU to **Mike Jewell** who has put endless hours in the sanctuary working with DB Acoustics and Ace Electric to get the sound, video, and lighting perfect in the sanctuary. MANY hours have been spent tweaking and re-tweaking our new system to provide the best worship experience.

THANK YOU to **Lucas Kroll** who continues to oversee the video/sound equipment on Sunday mornings. And to **Mike Howard** who continues to be Immanuel's acolyte and lector proclaiming weekly the Word of God. We are grateful to you for your service to Christ through Immanuel Lutheran.

THANK YOU to **Bev Bailey** who braved the cold temperatures to assist Pastor Howard with Car Hop Communion on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Bundled up you fed the congregation with the Love of Christ.

The family of Lois Buchholz thanks all those who have remembered us with prayers, visits, cards, food, and memorials. All of your efforts reminded us of your wonderful love for Lois and her family. Thank you so much.

Renee, Erik, Heidi, Brad, and Leroy (Lee) Buchholz

Hey Faith Formation Friends.

Get ready to come back in session on March 7th, time still to be determined.

Can't wait to see you all!!!

Easter Flowers needed.

Please share your spring flowers. Bring them to the church on Saturday, April 3rd.

We'll adorn the altar!!

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

Maybe you have never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you have had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves by overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide.

Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

A Path to Hope and Healing

Mike remembers feeling angry and depressed, and his family was at risk of falling apart. When he decided to start Therapy Services with LSI, he questioned the decision. Therapy wasn't easy and when he missed an appointment, he didn't want to go back.

But through working with his LSI therapist, Sherry, for the past several months, he has found ways to grow and heal. During each session, Sherry is there to listen without judgement, and she provides a listening ear for anything Mike wants to talk about. At the end, Mike is always given a type of homework or a lesson to think about until they meet again.

While they originally began meeting in person, Sherry has continued to be available through virtual therapy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual sessions ensure Sherry and Mike can continue meeting regularly, on a flexible schedule and from the safety of their own homes.

"Thank God for working through LSI in-person and through telehealth, and especially for Sherry, who helps people like myself who have been lost for years. If I hadn't chosen LSI, I wouldn't have met my therapist who has truly helped me keep my family and stay alive," Mike says. "I look back at the progress I have made and see some light peeking through to the end."

Continued from page 1

Yet, they complained: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there's is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." So much for manna from heaven. So much for appreciation of God's goodness and his love for his chosen people. What we have here is a lack of faith in God's laws and leadership, a rejection of the food that God has provided, as well as God's generosity, coupled with the demand that God do more and better by the Israelites. What God thought of this display of ingratitude and rejection can be seen in the proliferation of the snake population.

Clearly, most people do not deal well with adversity. Frankly, they would prefer not be anywhere near it. They would rather avoid it than face it. It takes a special kind of mindset to run towards danger when every instinct says to run from it. Wilderness conditions can be grueling, and it becomes easy to convince oneself that the difficult and dangerous life of the past was somehow not as bad as that of the present. This is where leadership becomes critical for the survival of the group. In this case, we have both Moses' leadership and God's.

Compared to the earlier difficulties and privations of the wilderness, the snakebites were even worse. The people also saw a cause and effect relationship between their rebellion against God and the appearance of snakes, and they felt remorse. They acknowledged their sin and asked Moses to pray to the Lord for relief from the snakes.

In his encounter with Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the story outlined above and tells Nicodemus, "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15)

In both instances, what is required is that one believe (that looking at the snake on the pole saves one's life; or that Jesus is the Savior who brings eternal life). This is the promise, and the gift. And, even though we continually seek them, there are no easy paths through life here on earth. There will be times when it will be difficult and uncomfortable and messy and possibly even scary. Yet, God is always faithful, even if we are not. God loves us, even if we are not always lovable. If we look to God, and have faith and believe in God, then we will have life eternal.

Greetings from the Renew-Refresh & Rejoice group!

This has been a trying time for so many of us from worship services, social gatherings, shopping and so much more, but we have been busy within the walls of the church. The pledges that came forward for matching funds from the Washington County Riverboat Foundation (WCRF) grant were put in a reserved account for the items we presented to you. With COVID-19, the WCRF put grant monies on hold as many businesses (profit and non-profit) had to close or reduce their hours of business due to mandates set by the State of Iowa by recommendations of the Centers of Disease Control (CDC). There was commitment to vendors that we wanted to start right away and with everything on hold with grant applications and funds the decision was to begin on the priority list with number one and see how things went.

Upon returning to worship, you will notice the sound system has been updated and it will speak for itself when listening to worship services or other events. The update included sound in the nursery, narthex, hallway and fellowship hall. The lighting has been updated. If you have driven by the church in the evening, you will see that the windows of the sanctuary are illuminated (and project a wonderful scene on the snow). New projectors and screens were installed in the chancel area with a lighting change so enable a full view of the screens. COVID-19 brought live streaming brought us something new to learn and view. Seeing that it wasn't going to be short term, decision was to spend funds from the Renew-Refresh & Rejoice a camera instead of using Pastor's cell phone and laptops (purchased from General Funds) to operate the camera (14 positions from one location) in the sanctuary. Mike Jewell and Lucas Kroll have worked many hours on tweaking the positions and video quality to bring the live streaming to be the best we possibly provide.

The funds raised through this fundraiser will be deposited into the reserved account for Renew-Refresh & Rejoice project to bolster the monies for a future application to the WCRF for items that remain on the list and the future.

4th Annual Women's Gathering on March 5, 2021; 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for March 5th for a women's night out! Even if it means a Women's Night In, we can reach out to our mothers, daughters, cousins, and friends for an evening of spiritual togetherness as the Holy Spirit moves through our lives to make God's way known among us.



Join us, share the registration link (**holyltrinityNL.org** under **EVENTS**) with all the special women in your life that would find a night of meaningful conversations, laughter, YOGA!, and worship. This Women's Gathering is FREE!!

RSVP: holyltrinityNL.org under **EVENTS**. A zoom link will be shared with all registrants. All registrants will also be able to view the recording of the event after March 5, 2021.

Our overarching theme is - "fearfully and wonderfully made" from Psalm 139

Our special theme this year - Conversations around the table

For women ages 12+

Special Guest Speakers include:

- * Else Schardt author, *Surprises at the Table*, Copyright by Else Schardt 2006 is the inspiration for our evening together.

- * Bishop Amy Current from the SEIA Synod

- * Pr Erika Uthe, Director of Evangelical Mision, SEIA Synod

- * **Pastor Maureen Howard, Immanuel ELCA, Washington, IA**

- * Pastor Kim Neace, UMC, Naperville, IL

- * Laura Secrist, former speaker for Women's Gathering

- * Tracy Berta, former speaker for the Women's Gathering

- * Kim Blackwell, YOGA instructor, and favorite presenter

Car Hop Communion: Sunday, March 14th

Pastor Howard will be serving Holy Communion on **Sunday, March 14, 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** under the portico in the church's parking lot. **43** people were nourished with the presence of Christ at Car Hop Communion on Sunday, February 14th during the coldest day of the winter.

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 mask when consecrating the elements and during distribution. The common cup will not be available only individual, plastic cups. Cars will enter the parking lot through the North entrance and exit through the 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).

A quick glance at Car Hop Communion Dates:

March 14 th	Serving 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
April 11 th	Serving 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

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

Mid-Week Lenten Worship; 7 p.m.

Pastor Howard is 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 is contemplative as Compline is simple, with meditative silence, penitential prayers, and concludes with our rest and peace in God. Worship opportunities: in person (following guidelines), live streamed to Immanuel's Facebook page (Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa), and the **conference call option** on **Wednesdays March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st at 7 p.m.** This Lent unwind, reorient, and reconnect with God using Compline as your mid-week worship experience.



Centered Prayer: March 13th and 27th, 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 13th and 27th. "God's first word is silence." – Thomas Keating

Sunday, March 14th, set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 13th. See you at worship (in person - RSVP, live stream, or conference call) on the 14th, 9 a.m.!



Worshipping in PJ's! March 14th, 9 a.m.

EVERYONE is invited to wear their pajamas to worship on Sunday, March 14th! The first day of Daylight Savings Time is always rough, as we lose an hour of sleep. So, roll out of bed and worship in your PJ's. Pastor Howard will be wearing her PJ's! Whether you will worship in person (RSVP only), online, or conference call we'll be praising God in robes and fuzzy slippers.



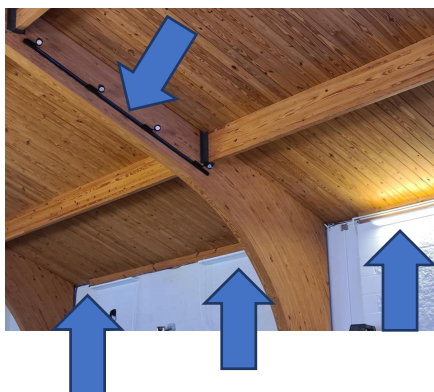
Palm Sunday Automobile Procession, 3 p.m.

The Washington Area Ministerial Association (WAMA) is holding a Palm Sunday "Palm Automobile Procession" on Sunday, March 28th. Everyone is invited to participate! (Please stay home if you are not feeling healthy). Meet at the Washington County Fairgrounds, 3 p.m., and bring your palms (extras will be distributed). Please park on the paved/gravel areas of the fairgrounds only. For health concerns, NO ONE may leave their automobiles (except for the pastors handing out palms). Our tentative route

will be: Fairgrounds, down Monroe to 2nd, South to the High School, East and through Halcyon House, East on Polk through Pearl Valley, North on 6th, West on Tyler through McCreedy, South on 4th to E Washington, South through the UP Home and cottages, conclusion of procession. If the procession needs to be cancelled, it will be posted on KCII Radio. Questions contact Pastor Howard, WAMA Chair, 653-3950.

New Lighting in the Sanctuary

Ace Electric spent over a week in the sanctuary installing new flood lights onto the stained-glass windows, dimmable flood lights onto various sections of the Chancel, and dimmable lighting on both the East and West walls. The sanctuary now is bright and radiates the truth that Jesus IS the Light of the World. Drive by the church at night and notice how beautiful the stained-glass windows shine and reflect off the snow. These glowing windows are a vibrant witness to our Triune God whom we worship (Father ~ East window, Son ~ center window, Holy Spirit Dove ~ West window) and that Immanuel Lutheran professes two Sacraments (Holy Communion ~ West window nearest the Altar, and Baptism ~ West window nearest the Baptismal font). Thank you to everyone who gave generously to the Refresh, Renew, and Rejoice appeal from which these new lights were purchased.



Updates on The Forward Funding Community

Gary Fischer and Pastor Howard have been participating in this year-long journey since January. During this year-long course Immanuel will:



- Gain a clearer understanding of Immanuel's current financial model and renewed sense of our mission in Washington.
- Listen to community members, discern where the Spirit is leading, and determine what creative and conventional funding sources might be required to follow the Spirit's lead.
- Engage in funding experiments that allow Immanuel to deeply engage Washington, live out God's mission, and create more financial sustainability.

We are one of ten church chosen across the United States and all denominations! One church has since dropped out. The pastor and lay leader of each church have met four times via Zoom; twice with all nine churches and twice in our accountability group of three churches (Immanuel's group meeting on Thursday, Feb 25th). Immanuel Lutheran's accountability group comprises Church of the Savior - Lutheran in Paramus, NJ and Atonement Lutheran Church in Muskego, WI. Each month, throughout the year, Gary and Pastor Howard will meet with the large group (two hours) and with the accountability group (one hour) via Zoom.

Each participant has been given the book THE COMING REVOLUTION IN CHURCH ECONOMICS Why Tithes and Offerings Are No Longer Enough, and What You Can do About It by Mark Deymaz with Harry Li to read. We have watched two Ted Talks, the first by Ernesto Sirolli titled "Want to help someone? Shut up and listen!" and the second talk by Navi Radjou titled "Creative problem-solving in the face of extreme limits". We have engaged in active listening and playing a game called "Mission Possible" (engaging in steps to address a particular problem in a community). Our March homework is for Gary and Pastor Howard to each complete a "Money & Privilege" autobiography.

Immanuel is in the process of putting together a Learning Community Guiding Team from members of our congregation. The team will consist of four – six people who want to assist in moving Immanuel Lutheran into an innovative, financial sustainable future as we engage in God's mission. Our Forward Funding leaders suggest that the team be comprised of people with one of these gifts: listener, creative entrepreneur, astute businessperson, project manager, and creative thinker. If you possess one of these skills and would like to serve on this team, please contact Gary Fischer or Pastor Howard.

Information from Judy Venzke:

Part of a letter sent from former Pastor Caltvedt: You probably wondered why you didn't hear from me at Christmas 2020. The short answer is that I suffered a stroke in early November and did not get home from therapy until Dec. 12. I still use a walker and I must type this letter with one finger. The stroke affected my left side. My balance is not good.....I still continue my work with compost producing 2 tons each year from the over 100 gardens on our property.....God has not abandoned us, but we sure can do a better job caring for God's creation.....I need your prayers for healing. Ernie Calvedt

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