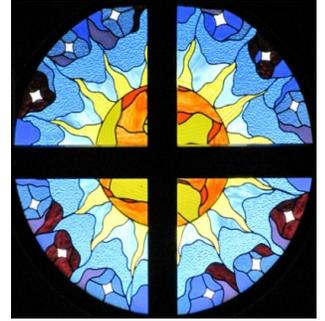


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

July 2021 Newsletter



Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday services

9 am

- * In-Person
- * Live Streaming
- * Conference Call

Car Hop Communion

Sunday, July 11th

10:30- 11 am

Office Hours

Kelly in office

Tuesdays and
Thursdays

9 am - 1 pm

“And He Was Amazed At Their Unbelief”
by Peter J. Weller

Most of the Gospel lessons for July are from the 6th chapter of Mark. The chapter begins with the story of Jesus' return to his hometown of Nazareth. While Luke recounts more specifically Jesus reading from the scrolls the words of Isaiah and then announcing that he is the fulfillment of those words (Luke 4:16-30), Mark describes instead, a more generalized setting without any references to Isaiah. Yet, Mark's account clearly notes that the people were astonished at Jesus' teaching and could not or would not believe what he said to them.

In Mark's words, they said “ ‘Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?’ And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin and their own house.’ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.”

I find it amazing that Jesus was amazed at their unbelief. These were people who knew him. He grew up there. He was the hometown boy. Yet, they questioned his credentials. They asked each other how could a carpenter become so learned in theology? Where did he get his education? How could he say that he was the fulfillment of the words of Isaiah? How is he able to heal all those people? Or, is he tricking us? Can we really believe him? It isn't too great a leap to go from these questions to accusing Jesus of being a fraud. And, that is what made it easy for the people of Nazareth to take offense at him. Mike Bennett, on a Church of God website, wrote, “The people of Nazareth knew Jesus hadn't received the education that the religious leaders had received, and they discounted His teaching because they knew Him.” And, they knew him to be a carpenter, not the Messiah. Therefore, it is not so amazing that the people of Nazareth did not believe that this carpenter was the Son of God. We must never underestimate the human capacity for self-delusion.

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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/UC...) * 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 6-24-21

General Fund ~\$7,220.76

Building/Visions ~\$4,120.32

Endowment ~\$3,304.35

Community Assistance ~\$3,825.94

Mortgage ~\$64,535.61

Attendance

Sunday, June 6 ~
9 am ~ 36 Views ~136

Sunday, June 13 ~
9 am ~ 30 Views ~222
Car Hop Communion ~13

Sunday, June 20 ~
9 am ~ 27 Views ~88

Don't Forget Immanuel Lutheran

Summer schedules are in full swing. Don't forget to support the work of Christ while you are on vacation. God continues to bless us daily; our response to God's abundant blessings does not go on vacation. Don't forget to write your offering check and mail it to the church. God's mission, God's church, and our response of thanksgiving.



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.



Birthdays for July

- 1- Jason Taylor
- 2- Issac Giesmann
- 6- Dale Scheibe
- 7- Scott Pemberton
- 11- Bev Bailey
- 12- Kathy Fischer
- 14- Sharol Kroll
- 15- Amaya Gutierrez
- 15- Mike Howard
- 18- Grant Hill
- 24- Rob Taylor
- 25- Caitlin Kroll
- 27- Kathy Vetter
- 27- Richard Schmidt



Anniversaries for July

- 3- Ken & Susan Baker
- 4- Ben & Kelsey Striegel
- 5- Pastor Maureen & Mike Howard
- 8- Andy & Danielle Six
- 11- Mike & Debbie Jewell
- 15- Stephen Bay & Rex Findley
- 17- Francis & Joan Johnston
- 26- Aaron & April Six
- 26- Gary & Kathy Fischer

60th anniversary Celebration and Alumni Reunion

Labor Day Weekend:
September 3-6, 2021

EWALU is strong, steadfast, and spirit-filled at 60! Come and see!

Stay for the day or the entire weekend. On Saturday, enjoy a community worship service, free-will lunch, stories from the decades, and a campfire with s'mores. *Sign up soon for your first choice of housing, which can be reserved on first come first serve basis.

More information and booking instructions:

Visit www.EWALU.org/event/60-anniversary or call 563.933.4700

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

Worship/Music: Tuesday, June 29th at 9:30 am

Finance: Tuesday, July 7th at 6:30 pm

Council: Sunday, July 11th at 11 am



Luther League

- When:** Sunday, July 18th
- Where:** Chmelar's Pond
- Why:** Faith, Fun, Fellowship
- Who:** 6th – 12th Graders (friends are WELCOME!)
- Time:** 6 – 7:30 p.m.
- Supper:** Grilling hamburgers/hot dogs bring a side dish to share
- Leadership:** Steve Vetter and Pastor Howard



Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the families of

+Carol Mulcox (Pastor Howard's Aunt)

+Phil Croft
(Margie Runaas' and David Croft's Grandpa)

+ Harlan Ranshaw (Linda Brown's Father)

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

Immanuel, I wanted to share another update from Israel who was an EWALU VBS counselor several years ago when I was leading the youth. So happy they are still getting such great use out of the shirts!! Here is Israel's message he sent along with the photos:



"Hi Carrie, Our Calvary team got a missionary chance to visit a Maasai tribe areas and donate food and some money to build their church, they are starting to build their small house that will help them to worship but they still meet under a tree for every service. We are so happy to do this ministry even though we can't help them a lot. They don't want to wear anything else on their trips, they always say we'll wear Carrie's shirts!"



THANK YOU to everyone who sent me condolences on the death of my Aunt Carol. I was comforted through your well wishes and sympathy. My Uncle Fred (87; my Dad's brother and my Godfather) was so grateful I came immediately to walk him through all that needed to be done upon a death. I assisted with the funeral service which my uncle found strength in. Mike, Steven, and Mariah also flew to North Carolina to support my uncle and attend the funeral. Again, thank you for your warmth and love.

THANK YOU to **Bev Bailey** who acted as secretary on Tuesday, June 1st and Thursday, June 3rd while Kelly was on vacation. The office ran smoothly with your expertise.



AGENT OF TRUTH VBS THANK YOU'S

THANK YOU to **DeAnn Hakert, Bev Bailey, and Deb Tisor** for overseeing and preparing our delicious suppers

Judy Venzke for preparing meatballs for Thursday's spaghetti meal

Kelsey and Ben Striegel, Angela and Jason Taylor, and Pastor Howard for your leadership in preparing, overseeing, and leading VBS nightly

Rich Baker for leading music and teaching the youth the vibrant camp songs

Lee Buchholz for assisting nightly and overseeing the lanyards

Emma Taylor and Caitlin Kroll for being youth leaders assisting the campers

Megan Vanderlinden for assisting whenever needed

Char and Ron Andersen for assisting with creating the sensory bottles and gluing them closed

Linda Brown for your assistance in preparing for VBS

Kelly Smith for preparing all the paperwork needed

Steve Vetter for creating a safe environment by erecting/taking down the snow fence

Washington Police / Sherriff's Departments for stopping traffic so we could cross to the UP Home safely

Agents of Truth ATTENDEES for your enthusiasm and participation

All the PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS for entrusting your children into our care to teach them Biblical stories of God's truth.

Congregation of Immanuel Lutheran for your encouragement, financial support, and prayers. During evening camp week, Immanuel was filled with the laughter, singing, praying, dancing, learning, running, and excitement of 18 children experiencing the love, truth, and presence of God in their lives. **THANK YOU** everyone for making this week a fun filled, faith formation week for these children!

July 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story God’s work. Our hands.

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry! Thanks to you, we are able to provide education to parents of young children, empower Iowans with disabilities, and offer critical mental health care to community members of all ages. This month, we would like to give special thanks for those of you who have made LSI a focus on your congregation’s “God’s work. Our hands.” project.

On a planned day in September, each congregation is encouraged to reach outside of the church and do good deeds in the community by participating in a project for “God’s work. Our hands.” This is a perfect opportunity to combine community projects with a special project for nonprofits like LSI, whether it’s raising money or contributing in-kind gifts.

We thank you for your service! If you are interested in supporting the Iowa children and families served by LSI or would like to get involved in a “God’s work. Our hands.” project with LSI, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Hali grew up in a home surrounded by addiction. Her own struggle with substance use and trauma continued for more than 20 years but when she learned she was pregnant with her son, Apollo, she knew she needed a change. After giving birth, Hali entered treatment and when she was ready to return home, LSI Early Childhood Services were there to provide support and walk alongside her. Her LSI worker, Gretchen, provided parenting education and resources, all while empowering Hali and making sure Apollo had a healthy home. Gretchen helped Hali keep track of Apollo’s growth to ensure he hit all his important developmental milestones.

More than a year later, Hali is thriving. She is now in college and is also a sponsor to other women who are on the same path to recovery. At home, Hali is busy keeping up with Apollo as he is learning to walk, and she is excited to see him continue to grow.

“Gretchen has given me a lot of hope. She’s always had my back,” Hali says. “She’s my go-to person for any resource and it’s nice to have her in my corner.”

Continued from page 1

But, Jesus knew who he was. And, understandably, he must have found it frustrating to not be believed. You can sense his frustration when you read what he says in any of the gospels. One particular example is from John 10:24-25, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe.” Another example appears in Matthew 17:17, “You faithless and perverse generation, . . . How much longer must I put up with you?”

This is why truth is so important. What is truth? Where is the truth? Is truth respected? Can truth be stretched? Who is telling the truth? Who and what can be believed? How easy is it to deceive? Is deceit a useful and rightful part of mass communication? How does one get to the truth? These are important questions for us today, which we must consider when we look at our advertising, our politics, the media—both legacy news organizations and the newer forms of social media. Truth matters. From truth comes trust. Trust cannot be based on falsehoods.

Lies and falsehoods cannot survive for thousands of years; truth endures far longer than lies. So, it becomes vitally important that writers be as truthful as possible in what they write if they want to be believed and their writing to endure. The word, either written or spoken, will vanish over time, unless God is at work. In the case of the Bible, it has lasted for several millennia.

Jesus spoke the truth. Often in the gospels, he began a sentence with, “Truly, I say to you. . . .” In John 14:6, he said, “I am the way and the truth and the life.” And, at the conclusion of his gospel, John wrote, “[I am] the disciple who is testifying to these things and [have] written them, and we know that [my] testimony is true.” (John 21:24) In more than one place in his letters, Paul writes, “I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying. . . .” (Romans 9:1)

So, back to Mark’s account of Jesus’ return to Nazareth: Jesus was understandably angry that he was not taken seriously by the people that he knew. Very few references in the gospels show Jesus spending much time in Nazareth during his ministry. It would be surprising if he spent any significant time there after this experience.

Yet, the impact of one’s life and career is not measured by a single incident or event, and that certainly is the case with Jesus. The entire New Testament stands as a testimony to Jesus as the Messiah, his ministry, his work, his authority, his influence, his compassion, his capacity to comfort and heal, to his love for others, his death and resurrection, his power to overcome sin, death, and the power of the devil, and his promise of eternal life to those who believe in him. So while Nazareth was not perhaps one of his stellar moments, it was not much more than a pebble on the path of his ministry.

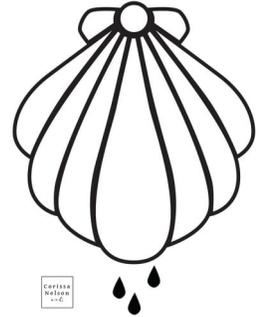


Funeral Service for +Lois Buchholz

+Lois' funeral will be on Saturday, July 17th, 11 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Visitation, with the family, will be held prior to the funeral service, 10 – 10:50 a.m. A luncheon will be served immediately following the service. The service will also be streamed live on Immanuel's Facebook page: Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa. +Lois' favorite color was red and her family requests that you attend her funeral service wearing something red in tribute to her memory.

WELCOME to Christ's Family!

Congratulations to **Elliot Allan Lang** and **Julian Antonio Dennis-Murguia** who were baptized in the name of our Triune God during our Pentecost worship on Sunday, June 13th. "We welcome you into Christ's family known as Immanuel Lutheran and into the mission we share: giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world."



Car Hop Communion: Sunday, July 11th

Pastor Howard will be serving Holy Communion on Sunday, July 11th, 10:30 a.m. – 11a.m. under the portico in the church's parking lot. 13 people were nourished with the presence of Christ at Car Hop Communion on Sunday, June 13th. Pastor Howard will consecrate the elements (wafers, wine, and grape juice) during worship; 9 a.m. Pastor Howard will be wearing 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).

A quick glance at Car Hop Communion Dates:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| July 11th | Serving 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. |
| August 29th | Serving 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. (NOTE DATE CHANGE) |

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



²⁰⁻²¹ God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Ephesians 3:20-21 The Message

It is school kit time again, school sales are coming up, please keep this in mind.

This is a list of items you are asked to donate:

- Spiral notebooks, 70 count
- 12” rulers (one side metric)
 - Pencil sharpeners
- Children’s scissors (blunt)*
 - Boxes of 24 crayons
 - Ball point pens
- Non-sharpened pencils
 - 2” erasers



Faith Formation students will be filling school kit bags on Sunday, September 12th, please have your donated supplies in by **Sunday, September 12th**. The confirmation students will prepare them for shipment in October.

Thank you, Immanuel for your continued support of this project!

We’re Headed to Confirmation Camp!!

The confirmation students: **Claire Wubbena, Emma Taylor, and Brayden Zywiec** along with **Pastor Howard** will be attending confirmation camp at Camp EWALU on Sunday, July 11th and returning Friday, July 16th. Camp Ewalu’s website says Confirmation Camp “Youth and adult leaders will love these new adventures together including epic games, meaningful campfires and worships, our High Ropes Challenge Course, a camping-canoeing trip on the Turkey River, and active Bible studies led by highly devoted, fun-loving counselors. Grow in faith while adventuring with new friends in the great outdoors. You’ll experience the grace you’ve been learning about in new ways, together in this action-packed week of Christian community.” We will meet at the church at Noon on the 11th to begin our awesome weeklong journey at camp. Thank you again to everyone who has supported these young adults either financially and/or through prayer; your support is deeply appreciated. It costs \$479 to send each confirmand to a week at camp ~ a faith deepening experience they will never forget!



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Places in the Bible Word Search



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

BABEL

BETHLEHEM

CYPRUS

EDEN

GETHSEMANE

GOMORRAH

HEAVEN

ISRAEL

JERICHO

JERUSALEM

JORDAN

SODOM