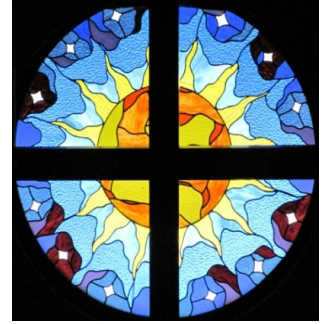


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

September 2021 Newsletter



Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday services
9 am

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

Car Hop Communion

No September
Car Hop

Office Hours

Kelly in office
Tuesdays and
Thursdays
9 am - 1 pm

“Have You Not Made Distinctions Among Yourselves,
and Become Judges With Evil Thoughts?”
by Peter J. Weller

All New Testament readings for the month of September are from the letter of James. This column will look specifically at verses from the second chapter. “My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our gracious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Have a seat here, please,’ while to the one who is poor, you say, ‘Stand there,’ or, ‘Sit at my feet,’ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But, you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

“You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But, if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.” (James 2:1-10) In his letter, James confronts the Christian congregations of his day asking the hard questions about who is “worthy” to attend worship or be a member of a congregation. He condemns emphasis on appearance and desirability and perceived wealth as factors in admittance or in determining who may sit where in the congregation. He barrages his readers with a series of questions: “Do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our gracious Lord Jesus Christ?” “Have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?” “Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?” “Is it not the rich who oppress you?”

Good questions all. How do we expect that his readers would answer these questions? How would today's Christians answer them? As a nation, the United States' population is made-up of both citizens and non-citizens whose backgrounds represent many different racial and ethnic and nationality groups and cultures from all over the world. No other nation can say this. Our ancestors often lived in or near areas of conflict, threat, and danger from neighboring nations or societies or cultures.

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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/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) * 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 8-24-21

General Fund ~ \$4,433.86

Building/Visions ~ \$4,176.98

Endowment ~ \$3,304.90

Community Assistance ~ \$3,845.94

Mortgage ~ \$63,420.06

Attendance

Sunday, July 25~
9 am ~ 18 Views ~ 132

Sunday, August 1~
9 am ~ 24 Views ~ 166

Sunday, August 8 ~ 37
9 am ~ Views ~ 82 views

Sunday, August 15 ~ 33
9 am ~ Views ~ 186 views

Sunday, August 22 ~ 29
9 am ~ Views ~ 150 views

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the families of

+Mark Kendall

+Del Matheson (Barb Matheson's Uncle)

+Mary Lynn Helscher (Mary Chmelar's sister-in-law)

+Larry Cox (Carol Woodruff's brother-in-law)

+David Carpenter (Clyde Pearce's son-in-law)

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





Birthdays for September

6- Makayla Middle
 7- Candace Talbot Scheibe
 8- Audrey Wubbena
 9- Tegan Bartholomew
 10- Jon Runaas
 10- Maci Quigley
 12- Margaret Quigley
 16- Dale Venzke
 17- Peg Harris
 18- Makenzie Middle
 19- Ken Baker
 22- Carrie Lueck
 23- Bob Coker
 24- Brad Kroll
 25- Randy Poos
 26- Charlotte Andersen
 28- Robert Warren
 28- Tracy Almelien
 30- Sara Bartlett
 30- Mariah Howard



Anniversaries for September

2- Yaro & Mary Chmelar
 5- Ron & Charlotte Andersen

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:

Council: Sunday, September 11 at 10 am

Worship/Music: Thursday, September 23 4:30 pm



Luther League GAME DAY FUN



When: Sunday, September 19th
Where: Immanuel's fellowship hall and kitchen
Why: Baking cookies and creating thank you notes for: Washington Hospital, Police, Fire, First Responders, and Washington Co. Sheriff Departments
Who: 6th – 12th Graders (friends are WELCOME!)
Time: 11 – 12:30 p.m.
Bring: Cookie dough (homemade or store bought) enough for a dozen cookies ~ more would also be welcomed
Lunch: Pizza
Leadership: Steve Vetter and Pastor Howard

THANK YOU to **Ron Andersen** and **John Harris** for ushering at +Mark Kendall's funeral. **THANK YOU** to **Steve Vetter** for livestreaming the funeral. **THANK YOU** to **Kathy & Steve Vetter, Naomi Erickson, Pam Johnston** for helping in the kitchen. **THANK YOU** to **Fran Victor, Bev Bailey, Debbie Jewell** and **Mary Gail Lyons** who made cookies and bars.

Thank you for the bars and cookies with drinks after Mark's service. I was happy to have some coffee and bars. Thanks so much, Mathilda Kendall, (Mark's mother)

So very
THANKFUL



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.

September 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Direct Support Professionals Week Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives. One way LSI empowers Iowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up Iowans with disabilities as they find the confidence and independence they need to thrive in their communities. Through our innovative Host Homes program, caregivers can also become mentors to individuals with disabilities, welcoming them into their private family home where they can receive more one-on-one care and encouragement. It has been a challenging year for parents of children with disabilities, and there are lots of Iowa families who deserve support right now. You can help by joining the LSI team as a short-term respite care provider for Iowa kids. Visit LSIowa.org/respite to learn more, and if you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Where are They Now: Amanda and Mavis Amanda has lived with her Host Homes mentor, Mavis, for three years and continues to gain more independence through the program. When Amanda first entered Host Homes, she required multiple psychiatric hospital visits throughout the year. She had been living in a busy home with roommates, and she needed a new environment to thrive. When she moved in with Mavis, the two worked together to build important life skills for Amanda and find ways for her to cultivate her creative mind. Amanda loves listening to Elvis music, sewing, and ceramics, so Mavis helped Amanda enroll in art classes. When she was no longer able to attend during the pandemic, Mavis ensured she had space at home to continue creating art. Amanda recently finished a major ceramics project: a replica of Elvis she has been working on for three years. Amanda continues to work on her goals, including personal hygiene, exercise, medication management, and cooking. Throughout the pandemic, Mavis and Amanda spent lots of time in the kitchen, and Amanda is now able to cook independently. She loves trying new dishes, and her favorite foods are pasta recipes. And instead of several emergency calls and hospital visits each year, Amanda has not needed mental health hospitalization in more than a year and a half. "I think I'm doing really well, I've been doing lots of things," Amanda says. "I want to do even more amazing things too. I really like it here."

Continued from page 1

Simply by immigrating to the United States, however, did not change or remove the attitudes that these immigrant groups inherited and brought with them from the "Old Country." Then, add to this mix the social, regional, racial, economic, cultural, and political conflicts and tensions that developed within our nation, all of which produce some very significant challenges for our Christian congregations. James' arguments above centered just on appearance, desirability, and perceived wealth. In the United States today, one can add all these additional factors just referenced.

If Christians "really believe in our gracious Lord Jesus Christ," as James puts it, they should not and must not make distinctions among themselves as to who might be more or less "worthy" to join and participate within the congregation. It is the Holy Spirit that draws us to the Lord and to his Son, Jesus Christ. A congregation's duty, then, is to encourage and support each member's growing relationship with the Lord and not put up distractions regarding one's political, social, or economic status.

At Immanuel Lutheran's Service of Dedication on June 10, 1962, Pastor Dennis Stutrud said, "This building today is consecrated as a House of God. Here the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ shall be proclaimed, It is here that we shall be shown the need for the Savior and the Savior we all need. It is here that we shall hear the word of forgiveness, the word of comfort and strength, the word of admonition and exhortation. It is here that we shall unburden ourselves in the presence of God, and hearing His gracious Word, go out as witnesses and servants in His name. It is here that we shall find instruction and guidance for our children, the sustaining power of Christian fellowship, as we rejoice and labor together in one spirit." Pastor Stutrud laid out a vision that drew the people to God and to God's Savior Son and to God's Word that would strengthen and deepen their faith. Nothing in his remarks could nor should be construed as referencing appearance and desirability and perceived wealth of Immanuel's members.

Any church congregation needs to be aware of James' questions and admonitions in Chapter 2 of his letter, and when it asks itself the question, "How are we doing?", they should not ignore what James has to say, above. There are plenty of church critics out there who view Christians and their churches as hypocrites, and they ignore the calls of Jesus through the Holy Spirit because that would bring them into closer contact with this flawed institution. Therefore, Christians must be very careful that in their words and actions, they welcome all and do not dishonor the poor nor any other group, thereby "[making] distinctions among [themselves], and [becoming] judges with evil thoughts."



**Immanuel at HACAP ~
“God’s Work. Our Hands.”
September 12th; 1:30 p.m.**

HACAP food boxes need to be put together more than ever. Immanuel needs 6-8 volunteers to meet at HACAP (2175 Lexington Blvd, Orchard Hill Complex Building 1) in September. You must be feeling healthy and wear a mask. Standing is a requirement for this volunteering service project. We will be completed in less than an hour. THANK YOU for your willingness to help in this time of social distancing. Boxing food at HACAP will be one of the servant projects we complete on Sunday, September 12th, “God’s Work. Our Hand.” day of service. We’ll begin boxing food at 1:30 p.m. at HACAP.



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday September 12th

Immanuel is participating again celebrating whom we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. On Sunday, Sept. 12th nearly 10,000 congregations of this church gather to serve communities in one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

Confirmation Classes Resume September 8th

Confirmation is the journey into adult faith formation **for all students in the 7th and 8th**

grades. Confirmation classes are held on

Wednesday evenings, beginning **Wednesday,**

September 8th at 7 pm. Another exciting year is planned for: learning about the Lutheran faith, servant projects, fellowship opportunities, Sunday Faith Formation classes, and confirmation camp in 2022. The requirements to be confirmed are to faithfully attend: Wednesday classes with Pastor Howard, Sunday Faith Formation classes, Sunday worship, and complete a servant project with a mentor (8th grade).

Contact Pastor Howard if you have any questions. **A parent meeting** will follow the first confirmation class on **September 8th at 8:15pm.**



Kinnick Clean-up

Iowa Football is back with fans in Kinnick Stadium! The confirmation and older youth, parents, and anyone willing to assist with this fundraising project will be doing Kinnick clean-up on the

Sunday mornings of home games: 9/5, 9/19, 9/26, 10/10, 10/17, 11/14, and 11/21.

The money earned from cleaning up Kinnick Stadium goes towards the Luther League activities and attendance to Confirmation Camp at Camp EWALU.



Car Hop Communion

For the present time, Car Hop Communion has been suspended. If and when COVID cases increase, the offering to receive Holy Communion through Car Hop Communion will be reinstated. THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this unique Table experience. Pastor Howard is happy to come to your home and serve you Communion, if you still feel unsafe returning to worship.



ENCORE EXPRESS



Meals for seniors 60+!

Encore Express is “**your second call to enhance your health**”

This **NEW** and **INNOVATIVE** program features

- Bi-monthly meals catered by Hy-Vee (coming soon!)
- Vouchers for meals at Hy-Vee
- Suggested voluntary contribution of \$5.00 per meal
- Evidence-Based Programs (Chronic Disease Self-Management, Tai Chi, Stepping On and more)
- Nutrition Education & Counseling
- Opportunities to socialize

To pick up meal vouchers and for additional information call Immanuel Lutheran

Church at (319) 653-3950. Or stop in on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am-1 pm

Spread the word!!

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

Don't Forget Immanuel Lutheran

Back to school schedules are in full swing.

Don't forget to support the work of Christ while you get back into your routine.

God continues to bless us daily; our response to God's abundant blessings should be part of our routine. 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.

Wednesday Worship 6 p.m. RETURNS SEPT 8th

We will be resuming our Wednesday evening worship on Wednesday, September 8th. If you prefer to worship in a less formal, less crowded environment then Wednesday worship is for you. Join us beginning September 8th at 6 p.m. This will be a service of the Word (non-singing) and Holy Communion will be served in the normal fashion.



The Divine Shines through YOU!!!

Beginning in September we will be taking individual photos of EVERYONE in front of the “Holy Halo”. All God’s Saints at Immanuel Lutheran are Holy and we radiate God’s presence wherever we go. A mural of our shining photos will be created on the cork board in the hallway to the fellowship hall. Don’t miss out in having your photo taken and posted with all the other beloved, holy Saints at Immanuel Lutheran. The mural will be a photo reminder that the Divine DOES Shine through YOU!!!

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16*

