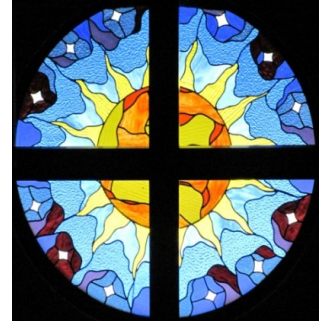


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

January 2022 Newsletter



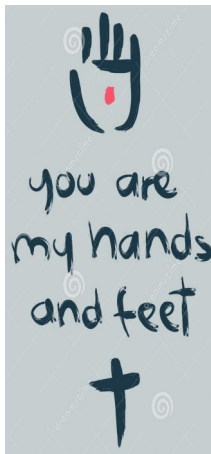
Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday services
9 am

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

Office Hours

Kelly in office
Tuesdays and
Thursdays
9 am - 1 pm



“Love Bears All Things, Believes All Things,
Hopes All Things, Endures All Things”
By Peter J. Weller

The New Testament lesson for the fourth Sunday of Epiphany comes from Paul's first letter to the Christians at Corinth, the 13th chapter: “If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong of a clanging cymbal And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

“Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

“Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” (I Corinthians 13:1-13)

The above verses of scripture are well suited for and are often used at weddings, where young couples, filled with love for each other, with a sense of awe as well as pride that they now stand before God and these witnesses at this moment, and with great hopes for the future, enter into a long-term relationship and a commitment to remain faithful to each other. They say their vows sincerely and with every good intention to keep them. Many, though not all, couples can and do and spend a lifetime together in a deep and loving and committed relationship. Many soon learn that the bloom comes off the rose, and the challenges of life will test any relationship again and again.

Writing in Working Preacher, Karoline Lewis, Professor and the Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota, titled her column, “Ah, the ‘Wedding Text.’ ”

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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

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

Account balances as of 12-28-21

General Fund ~ \$3,970.69

Building/Visions ~ \$2,361.13

Endowment ~ \$3,306.00

Community Assistance ~ \$3,770.44

Mortgage ~ \$61,179.61



Attendance

Wednesday, November 24
6 pm ~ No worship, Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 28
9 am ~ 34 Views ~ 156 views

Wednesday, December 1
6 pm ~ 7

Sunday, December 5
9 am ~ 42 Views ~ 148

Wednesday, December 8
6 pm ~ 6

Sunday, December 12
9 am ~ 48 Views ~ 186
Car Hop Communion ~ 2

Wednesday, December 15
6 pm ~ 2

Sunday, December 19
9 am ~ 59 Views ~ 212

Wednesday, December 22
6 pm ~ 2

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve
6:30 pm ~ 108 Views ~ 142

Sunday, December 26
9 am ~ 37 Views ~ 282



Sign up for Altar flowers,
there are several weeks that our altar is empty.
The sign up sheet is on the hall table.





Birthdays for January

6- Janola Rueckert
7- Naomi Erickson
7- Sherry Ives
8- Jim Six
11- Marty Westen
13- Peter Weller
14- Tricia Kroll
18- Ray Poe
24- Ainsley Six
28- Rodney Hill
28- Angela Taylor
31- Ron Andersen



Anniversaries for January

22- Ray & Alta Poe

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance: Thursday, January 5th at 6:30 pm

Council: Sunday, January 9th at 11:30 am

Worship and Music: Thursday, January 27th at 1 pm

Christian Sympathy

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of

+Judy Loewen (Bev Bailey's cousin)

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

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



LUTHER LEAGUE (Youth Group) 6th – 12th Graders

When: Sunday, January 23rd
Where: ILC
Who: Luther Leaguers and Parents need to attend. This is a planning meeting for the year.
Time: 11 am
Leadership: Steve Vetter and Linda Six

THANKS

Dear Immanuel,

Thank you for the 15 dollar gift card to Walmart. Thank you for thinking of me during my finals.

Thank you, Mariah Howard

Thank you Immanuel members for the Christmas cash gift. It was very much appreciated.

Blessings,
Ron Brown

Immanuel Lutheran Congregation,

Thank you for the monetary Christmas gift. I really appreciate it. It made my Christmas even more special. Thank you for thinking of me!

Kelly

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$50.00 to Lutheran World's Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund.

I am so grateful that you are loving these neighbors by ensuring they'll receive these critical items just when they need them most.

Thank you,
Ambassador Daniel Speckhard
President and CEO

P.S. God bless you and your generous spirit.

Thank you for leaving your lights on so all can see your beautiful windows. That has been such a blessing to see at all hours of the night- to be able to see the light. God's blessings.

(\$100 cash in Christmas card from anonymous donor)

Thank you to all the parents for making sure your children came to the practices and waiting patiently for us to finish. A big **THANK YOU** to the children for being so respectful to each other and to me, for being so attentive, for listening and cooperating so well. We had less time this year for practicing but you children were great!! It has been wonderful to work on the pageant with you all this year.

Blessings to everyone,

Linda Brown, director

Thank you to: Mary- **Grace Taylor Joseph- Axel Six** Mary's Donkey- **Anker Six** Innkeeper- **Thomas Lueck** Main Angel- **Vivi Kroll** Angels- **Ainsley Six, Allyson Black, Taylor Black, Paige Woline, and Aleeyha Hobbs** Baby Jesus- **Marcus Gutierrez** Lead Shepherd- **Clayton Bartholomew** Shepherds- **Thomas Lueck, Issac Giesmann, and Nathan Giesmann** Bethlehem Star- **Armor Six** Mama Sheep- **Emma Taylor** Lambs- **Makayla Middle, Makenzie Middle, Nora Gutierrez, and Amaya Gutierrez Calves- Evan Woline, Bentley Striegel, Elliot Lang, and Anders Almelen** Narrator- **Brayden Zywiec** Accompanist- **Claire Wubbena** Director- **Linda Brown**

Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Individuals struggling without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants striving to build new lives in the U.S. These are all issues faced by Iowans. Help us ensure their voices are heard at the Iowa State Capitol. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) will be advocating for our community members who are so often overlooked in our society. You can join us in this important work. Visit LSIowa.org/advocacy and sign up for our Advocacy Alerts. Learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices. Save the date for March 10, 2022, and join us for Lutheran Day on the Hill, a day of advocacy and education at the Iowa State Capitol. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Entrepreneurship, Food, and Welcoming

In 2006, Ali and her family traveled from Kenya and resettled in the U.S. They found themselves in an unfamiliar place: Iowa. But today, they still call Iowa home, thanks to the community they built and the support they received while resettling in the U.S. LSI Refugee and Immigrant Services helped the family become comfortable and confident living in their new community.

"They taught us to shop, register for school – all the basic needs. Even winter shopping for the Iowa weather," Ali says. "They taught us how to get by. It was nice to help us get settled in."

After some time in Iowa, Ali and her husband, Salah, decided they wanted to open a restaurant as successful as the one they had in Kenya. They soon realized how challenging this would be – the biggest obstacle being the financial burden of opening a restaurant in the Des Moines area. After 15 years of never giving up on their goals, they were able to open Gursha Ethiopian Grill.

Opening during a pandemic, when other restaurants in the industry struggled to remain open, has come with its share of obstacles. But thanks to community support, the restaurant is a popular destination in the area.

Ali dreams of one day franchising to other locations. With their continuously growing clientele and delicious food, this goal is not far away

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She then went on to say, “. . . this text has little to do with the love that is associated with marriage. . .

.Against all popular opinion, this is not a passage about romantic love, but about a radical communal love that enables individuals to imagine life in a community where unity and difference can co-exist.”

What Paul writes here, therefore, goes far beyond love just within a marriage relationship. There is more to love than that. Paul describes what love is and how our views of love change and grow and deepen over time. He points us toward seeing what the love of God looks like. In verses 4-7, Paul writes, “Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” Now, that is a mouthful! Can we say that we love in this manner, not just our spouses, but our families, our neighbors, those people who are not like us, who live on the wrong side of the tracks, who support that other political party?

Love needs to be taught to children. They have to be told that they are loved. It needs to be shown to them, and frankly, to all people. Human beings who have not known love, who have not felt or experienced love, who have not received love, who have not experienced God's love, will become very scary creatures and will be a danger to all in their presence.

We like to think that God's love is unconditional, that if we confess our sins to God, they will be forgiven, that believing in Jesus as God's only Son will lead us to salvation. Unquestionably, God's capacity to love and to forgive far exceeds our own. Paul assures us that “Love never ends.” (v. 8). John writes in his first letter, “Beloved, since God loved us, we also ought to love one another. . . . God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. . . . We love, because he first loved us.” (I John 4:13-20)

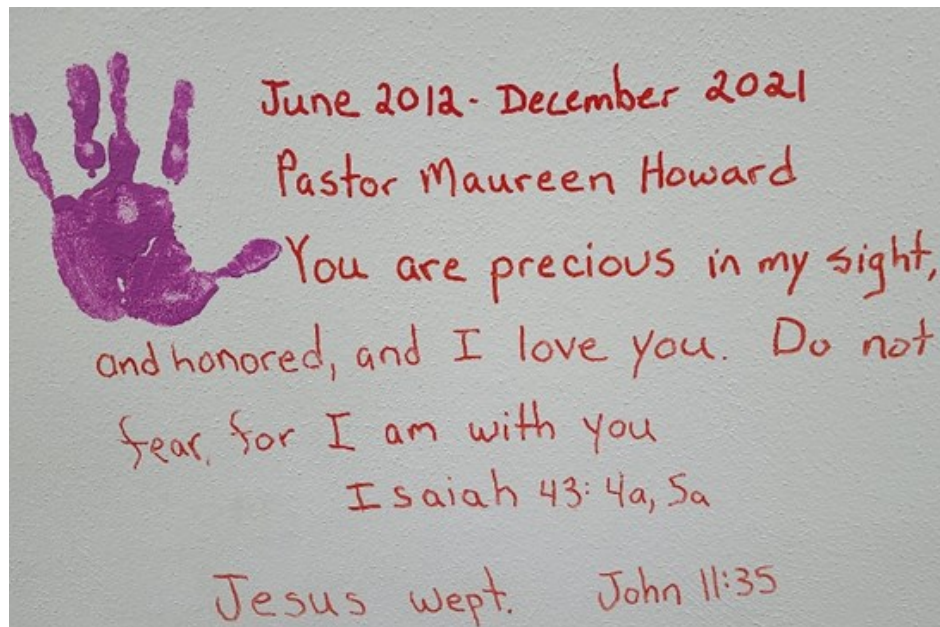
Therefore, let us each strive to make the world a better place, to embrace the words of Paul (and also John), and to show our love to our families, to our communities, to our fellow citizens, and to the people of the world. Much needs to be done.

THANK YOU

To our brothers and sisters in Christ, Mike and I are filled with gratitude as you showered us with words of appreciation and love, with gifts and cards, and your warm wishes for a new adventure Mike and I are beginning. Our farewell party moved us deeply. The handwritten cards by the Faith Formation youth, the youth singing the “Hippo” song, your kind words, the delicious cake, and adding my handprint to the Confirmation wall was a fabulous culmination of a 9 ½ year relationship. You are deeply loved and will be missed. Our new address is: **1803 N. Oak St., Iowa Falls, IA 50126**. Don’t hesitate to drop me a line or if you’re in the Iowa Falls area stopping in (we have a guest room!).

In Christ’s Peace,

Mike and Pastor Maureen Howard



First Communion Retreat

Aleeyha Hobbs, Axel Six, Paige Woline, along with their Moms, completed First Communion training on Sunday, December 5th. These youth are outstanding, patient, and eager to deepen their faith as they learn about Christ's love give to us in Holy Communion. After we completed the retreat they celebrated their



FIRST COMMUNION!! Congratulations and Welcome to Christ's Table Aleeyha, Axel, and Paige! To see more retreat photos, go to the church's Facebook page: Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa.

Time to renew and search

As we face the future it is time for us to begin our search for a new pastor. This is a time to really think about what we are looking for in a pastor. What do we need a pastor to do to lead us? This is not a quick process. We will need to have all of our input to determine our needs. Do we want a seasoned pastor, a newly graduated pastor, a pastor with some experience?

You will be asked to complete some questions to assist the call committee when they are nominated and approved by you. Pastor Kuckuck from the synod will be guiding us through this process. He will be here January 9 to preside over our worship service and meet with the council to share information with them regarding their role in the search.

Pastor Mark Pries will lead our worship 4 Sundays in January. An interim pastor may be available, if not the council president, Deb Tisor, will be finding a supply pastor.

The search will most likely be a lengthy process. Please be patient.

Bev Bailey

THANK YOU to EVERYONE who contributed to the Luther League’s “Fill the Boot” virtual appeal to purchase winter clothes for children in need. On Sunday, December 19th the Luther League youth went shopping for children’s snow boots, coats, snow pants, and warm clothes. Kathy Vetter secured a \$250 Thrivent Action Card for this appeal. The congregation’s generous donations of \$843.17!!!! (surpassing 2020’s donations of \$708.60), the \$250 Thrivent Visa Card, and Luther League added money from their Luther League account to be able to spend **\$1639.88!!!! WOW!!!!** **HOWEVER**, the Thrivent card would not go through at Wal-Mart, SO we have \$250 to shop for more winter clothes at Target. For a **GRAND TOTAL of \$1,889.88**. The Luther League shoppers were: **Taylor Bartholomew, Issac Giesmann, Lucas Kroll, Caitlin Kroll, Emma Lueck, Thomas Lueck, Mikaila Matheson, Ajay Six, Avery Six, Aden Six, Emma Taylor, Quinn Wubbena, Claire Wubbena, Brayden Zywiec, Steve Vetter, and Pastor Howard**. The clothes were brought to HACAP on Monday morning. We clothe Christ when we clothe those in need; Sharing Christ’s Love! To see more shopping photos, go to the church’s Facebook page: Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa.





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.



ENCORE EXPRESS

Heritage
Area Agency on Aging

HyVee
EMPLOYEE OWNED

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, and 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



Beverly Bailey- In memory of Roy & Irene Backstrom

Clyde Pearce & Fran Victor- In memory of our mothers

Ron & Linda Brown- In memory of granddaughter, Paula, our parents, and our son-in-law, Gary

Pam Johnston- In memory of Wade & Mary Johnston

Corrine Martin- In memory of Marion Martin and grandson, Josh

Donna Siegrist- For Don & Yvonne Buster

Naomi Erickson- In memory of Ken Erickson

Mike & Debbie Jewell- In memory of Bob, Betty, and Craig Voss and Clarence & Ethel Jewell

Lee Buchholz- In memory of Lois, Ruby & Dewey Bremer and Alto & Anna Buchholz

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