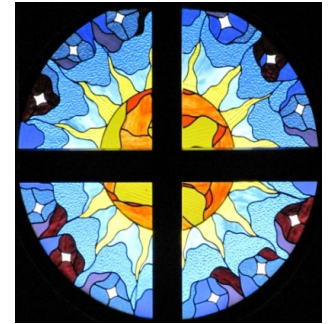


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

## March 2022 Newsletter



### Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday services  
9 am

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

### Faith Formation

Sundays  
10:15 am

### Office Hours

Kelly in office  
Tuesdays and  
Thursdays  
9 am - 1 pm

"If You Confess With Your Lips That Jesus Is Lord and Believe In Your Heart  
That God Raised Him From the Dead, You Will Be Saved."

By Peter J. Weller

The scripture text for this month's column comes from Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome: "But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is the word of faith which we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call upon him. For, 'Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'" (Romans 10:8-13)

In these five verses, Paul sets down what to me is the essence of Christianity. In fact, you can distill it down to one verse, 10:9, "... if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Quoting Deuteronomy 30:14, Paul writes that "the word is near you." For those who worship regularly, the word is near them each Sunday as part of the worship service. These verses will be read as the New Testament lesson on March 6. For those who read their Bible regularly, or even occasionally, the word is near them. The challenge is to bring the word near to those who are unchurched or who never read the Bible. Most importantly, we must ask the Holy Spirit to aid us in this endeavor.

But, not only is the word near us when we hear it, Paul says that it is also near us when we say it and believe it. "If you confess with your lips," he writes, "that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." This is a part of who we are as Christians. We confess to these beliefs in the Creeds. We believe in our hearts what we confess with our lips, that Jesus is Lord, is God's Son, who was sacrificed on the cross for our sins, who rose from the grave and ascended to heaven. He died and rose again so that we may have eternal life.



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Find us on Facebook at Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa and online at [luthwash.org](http://luthwash.org)

YouTube- [luthwash](http://luthwash) \* Email us at [luthwash@hotmail.com](mailto: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 2-24-22

General Fund ~\$13,424.93

Building/Visions ~\$2,711.96

Endowment ~\$3,306.57

Community Assistance ~\$3,770.44

Mortgage ~\$60,032.50

For detailed finance information,  
refer to the monthly Council minutes or  
contact any member of Finance.

Attendance

Sunday, February 6  
9 am ~ 41 Views ~132

Sunday, February 13  
9 am ~ 27 Views ~757

Sunday, February 20  
9 am ~ 42 Views ~72



Ash Wednesday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m.

**Holy Week worship services:**

Palm Sunday, April 10 and Easter, April 17 services will be at 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 14 and Good Friday April 15  
services are planned for 7:00 p.m.



## Birthdays for March

February 18- Danielle Six

- 1- Yaro Chmelar
- 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



Sign up to be a worship leader,  
there are several weeks leaders are needed.  
Please see the sign up sheet is on the hall table.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

To have your meetings listed,  
please let Kelly know when they are held.

**Worship and Music-** Thursday, March 3rd at 1 pm

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



### **Christian Sympathy**

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of

+June Petersen (Alta Poe's mother)

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

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# Thank You

Thank you to Faith Formation and Emma for the Valentine.

Thank you to Deb Tisor and everyone who has stepped up and kept our Sunday morning worship going.

Doris Moore

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!

### **Helping Kids Thrive**

Janey was transitioning from elementary school to junior high, and she was experiencing anxiety about the big jump. She was worried about meeting new kids and new teachers, and she would have panic attacks whenever her mom would wake her up for school. Last year, when kids across the state were already feeling added stress and pressure, she missed weeks of school at a time.

Her family knew she needed extra encouragement and a shoulder to lean on. They found it through LSI Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS), which provide in-home programming for Iowa children and teens with severe emotional or behavioral disorders. Through the programming, families can practice developing skills like healthy communication, anger management, and problem solving.

Through LSI's BHIS programming, Janey was able to build coping skills to help her calm down and avoid overthinking worst-case scenarios about her school day. With her LSI worker, she practiced relationship skill-building – how to build friendships and stay away from others who could make school time hard.

After working on these skills multiple times each week, Janey was able to succeed in her classes. She went from failing several classes due to missing school to recently receiving a certificate showing she was on the honor roll.

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Paul was both concerned and disappointed that only small numbers of Jews embraced this new idea of Jesus as God's Son and Savior. Yet, they are God's children, and Paul writes, quoting Isaiah 28:16, "The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call upon him." and, he concludes the paragraph by quoting Joel 2:32, "For, 'Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

Dr. Paul S. Berge, Professor Emeritus of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, wrote in *Working Preacher*, "The center of God's salvation message to Jews and Gentiles is the confession, 'Jesus is Lord.' This is the word of salvation that is to be heralded now just as Isaiah envisioned the proclamation to the returning exiles from Babylon. The confession, 'Jesus is Lord' is the word that calls those of faith to proclaim today. This is the word for our time.

"God's righteousness is present in the crucified servant of the Lord. This is the word of salvation that God has ordained from before time. Jesus Christ is the word in whom all are called to rejoice, Jew and Gentile. This is the word that calls for heralds of God's promise today. This is the word God entrusts to those of faith. This is God's good news in the word, Jesus Christ: 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (10:8)."

Confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord. Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. And, you will be saved.

Immanuel Lutheran Church has a College Scholarship for any active members of Immanuel Lutheran. The members of the committee are Bev Bailey, Mary Chmelar, and Steve Vetter.

The scholarship is for students who wish to be considered for an Immanuel Lutheran Church of Washington Scholarship to attend an ELCA college, or any other accredited university, private, community, state, or trade school.

Contact the Church office or a committee member for an application form.

If you have any questions talk to any of the committee members.

If you would like to make a donation to the Scholarship fund you can do so by sending your donation to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Please designate the donation to the Scholarship fund. Thank you for your consideration.

If you are applying, please have application in to a member of the committee or the church office by Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

**Scholarship deadline is June 1, 2022**



### **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.

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.



### **Centering Prayer: March 12th and 26th , 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 Centering 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.

“God’s first word is silence.” – Thomas Keating

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<sup>20-21</sup> 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



**Make plans to attend the Annual World Day of Prayer, this year it will be held at**  
**St. James Parish on Friday, March 4th at 2 pm.**  
***I know the plans I have for you. Jeremiah 29:1-14***

A little history about the World Day of Prayer:

Since the 19th century, Christian women in the United States and Canada have initiated cooperative activities in many areas of concern for women and children, recognizing the critical role of prayer in mission work and their call to promote world peace through worldwide mission work. The first organized “day of prayer for the world” was held in Canada on January 9, 1920, the United States soon followed on February 20, 1920.

Now, hundreds of thousands of women (and men, youth, and children) from around the world and in every region gather to collectively worship on the first Friday in March. Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service and other materials. Women of that country’s national WDP committee interpret scripture within their culture context and prepare a worship service; women around the world lead the services.

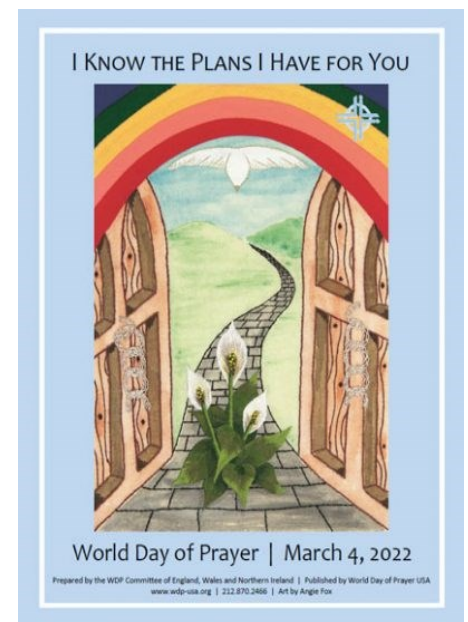
World Day of Prayer is supported by sacrificial and benevolent mission offerings given by individuals through these annual services. Each of the 170 countries celebrating WDP has an ecumenical committee of women representing many cultures, races, and faith traditions. Each country’s committee is responsible for determining the use of the offering as it relates to the theme for each year. Offering grants are made to women and children’s groups in each country.

World Day of Prayer USA promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service, and celebration.

This year, the women of the WDP committee in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland (EWNI) call us to worship with the words: “I know the plans I have for you,” inspired by Jeremiah 29:1-14. We are invited to learn about EWNI’s history and culture. The women share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God’s profound love.

The WDP 2022 program is based on the letter of the prophet Jeremiah wrote to the exiles in Babylonia. The exiles were in a context of suffering, uncertainty, and opposing views on how to respond to the moment. Today, we come together to hear the stories of women who feel excluded, listen to the hear of a child refugee and learn to see the context of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-faith society in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

WDP’s guiding principles affirm that “prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another.” Through the worship service, we listen to the people of EWNI. They take us to their communities and through their concerns. Their everyday life woven into their prayers. They invite us to follow prayer with action. WDP’s motto “Informed prayer leads to prayerful action” affirms that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence. Let us walk in faith and prayerful action!





**March 4th!**  
**The only day of the**  
**year that is a**  
**command.**

**March Forth!**



**"Hear that? People in heaven have  
ever-laughing life."**



## **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***