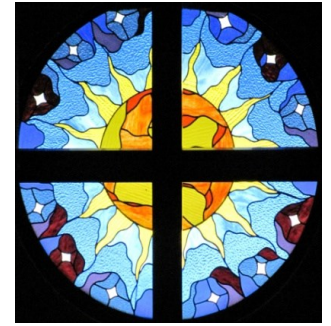


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

## April 2022 Newsletter



### Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday services  
9 am

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

### Faith Formation

Sundays  
10:15 am

### Office Hours

Pastor Susan in  
office on Tuesdays

Kelly in office on  
Tuesdays and  
Thursdays  
9 am - 1 pm

“Everyone Who Believes In Him Receives  
Forgiveness Of Sins Through His Name.”

By Peter J. Weller

The New Testament lesson for Easter Sunday is from Acts 10:34-43: “Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message that he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is the Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’ ” (Acts 10:34-43)

Peter said the above to Cornelius, a Roman centurion, an officer in the Roman army, and also to the members of his household. In Acts 10, Luke describes Cornelius as a devout man who feared God, along with his entire house. Luke also tells us that Cornelius prayed often and gave alms generously. Luke, however, does not tell us anything about how Cornelius acquired his faith, but he does tell us that in a vision, an angel told Cornelius to send for Peter in the city of Joppa and invite him for a visit.

At about the same time, Peter also has a vision in which a large sheet containing all sorts of animals, both clean and unclean, and a voice told him to kill and eat. Peter hesitated saying that he could not eat anything that was unclean or profane. But the voice said to him, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” (Acts 10:15)

Shortly thereafter, Cornelius' men arrived in Joppa looking for Peter, and having found him persuaded him to come with them to Caesarea to meet Cornelius. It was an awkward meeting in that no Jew was to be in the house of any Gentile. But after learning of Cornelius' beliefs and hearing of his vision, and considering his own vision of the large sheet, Peter consented to meet Cornelius and speak the above to his household.

Continued to page 5

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

YouTube- [luthwash](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) \* 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 3-24-22

General Fund ~ \$17,142.92

Building/Visions ~ \$2,817.79

Endowment ~ \$3,306.82

Community Assistance ~ \$3,770.44

Mortgage ~ \$59,463.03

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

Attendance

Sunday, February 27  
9 am ~ 48 Views ~ 85

Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 2  
9 am ~ 23 Views ~ 42

Sunday, March 6  
9 am ~ 49 Views ~ 73

Sunday, March 13  
9 am ~ 47 Views ~ 84

Sunday, March 20  
9 am ~ 49 Views ~ 49

**Holy Week Services**

Easter Faith Formation Activity~  
Centering Prayer~  
Palm Sunday Worship~  
Maundy Thursday Worship~  
Good Friday Worship~  
Easter Breakfast~  
Easter Worship~

Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:15 am  
Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am  
Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 am  
Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm  
Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm  
Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am  
Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 am

Sign up for Easter breakfast,  
Sunday, April 17th at 7:30 am.  
Sign up sheet on hall table.





### **Birthdays for April**

4- Kelly Smith  
7- Bentley Striegel  
8- Bonnie Taylor  
9- Emma Detweiler  
12- Debbie Jewell  
20- Fran Victor  
22- April Six  
25- Stan Kroll  
26- Grace Taylor  
29- Gary Fischer



### **Anniversaries for April**

4- Randy Poos & Nancy Baker  
8- Tom & Cris Gaughan  
11- Lynn & Carol Woodruff  
14- Kyle & Chrissy Middle  
22- Marty & Joyce Westen

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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

**Education- Tuesday, March 29 at 4 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

---

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



There are so many dates to pick from,  
sign up to be a reader, an usher/  
greeter, or an acolyte.  
See the hot pink sheet for April dates.

Beloved of Immanuel,

My name is Pastor Susan Debner, and I am delighted to be starting this time of interim ministry with you. Let me tell you a little about myself: I grew up in Butler County, Iowa, on my father's family farm. We were more "Little House on the Prairie," than "Millennial Farmer." I gardened and did chicken chores, drove the hay rake, and might have been pulled on a sled behind the tractor when my parents weren't home. It was a wonderful grounding in life, but the farm crisis of the 80s led my parents to encourage different careers for all four of us kids. We are now a tailor, accountant, pastor and philosopher.

The country church of my ancestors was foundational to my faith, followed closely by the time spent at Bible camp. During and following college, I worked in professional youth ministry and was mentored (some might say dragged while kicking) into ordained ministry by several outstanding pastors. I already knew and loved the Lutheran Church of the Midwest, so I headed east for graduate school and completed my M. Div. among the Congregationalists, Episcopalians, and scholars at Yale University. I learned to be a collaborative, ecumenical leader from that setting.

I am in my 25th year of ordained ministry, with another 10+ spent in youth work, an area of ministry that still ignites my passion. I have a 12 year old daughter, Paige, who has thought herself a cat person forever, but recently discovered she is a lover of cat-sized puppies. We have two dog-sized cats (Henrietta and Meta) and one cat-sized new puppy (Miss Pipp), and we live on the east side of Iowa City. Together, we love being outside, and our yard is littered with things to swing on, climb up, and crawl around. We have also become recent addicts of "The Flash." Additionally, I enjoy traveling, long conversations, reading cozy mysteries and irreverent theology, and drinking dark roast coffee.

I have been contracted to work 18-20 hours/week with Immanuel, and 3/4 Sundays. Currently, I am at the church for Sunday mornings and Tuesdays, and working from home on Thursdays. As we move through spring and summer, I will keep you updated on my office hours. However, please feel free to contact me at any time, and to invite me to conversations, coffee breaks or any meeting that you'd like me to support. Please also let me know if you'd like prayers, hospital visit or home visits. I can be reached at the same email used by Pastor Howard: [revluthwash@gmail.com](mailto:revluthwash@gmail.com) or you can call or text me: 612-239-8968.

For the Sundays of Lent, we've had a sermon series on "Interim: What Does This Mean?" In the weeks following Easter, we will dig into the next steps of the call process and the work of shaping a call committee.

I look forward to meeting you and learning what exciting work God invites us to join in your neighborhood.

Peace,

Pastor Susan Debner





## Lent Sermon Series “Interim: What Does This Mean?”

The best preaching should never be left to just one of us. Across the Sundays of Lent, I’ve been inviting you to “Sermon Together” with me by writing on the purple papers available at church, or even responding to questions out loud, during worship! Here’s what we have been working on with our Lent Sermon Series:

### *March 13: Interim as Covenant Time (Genesis 15)*

Did you know the contract between the congregation and the interim pastor is called a covenant? A covenant is a kind of promise, and the Bible has lots of covenant stories. In Genesis 15, God and Abram create a covenant using an ancient rite and a few farm animals. **Covenant Time** is marked by these characteristics:

- \***Authentic, honest conversation** with God, each other and the community around us
- \*Leaning into and building up vibrant, **healthy relationships** with God, each other and the community around us
- \*N.B. Fear is a poor motivator. Acknowledging what scares us is important, but it can’t be the foundation of healthy relationships. (N.B. is a fancy way of saying, “bonus thought!”)

### *March 20: Interim as Shadow Time (Psalm 63)*

The psalmist declares, “You have been my helper and under the shadow of your wings, I will rejoice.” To be invited into the shadows is rarely a good thing, but for the psalm writer, it is a place of rejoicing. What kinds of good things can happen in **Shadow Time**?

- \*The time between called pastors is **Liminal Space**, like standing in the threshold of a door. There’s no point in going back—what’s behind us is done, and not where we need to be now. But what’s before us is not yet fully clear. So in Shadow Time, we linger. We watch. We pray. We listen.
- \*We also **experiment!** Big and small experiments—now is the time to try out and try on as much as we can. Like changing out your wardrobe from one season to the next, this is when we see what no longer fits, what is worn out or out of fashion, and what might surprise us by looking really good or feeling far more comfortable than we expected!
- \*N.B. Don’t let anxiety drive the bus. It is nerve-wracking to feel like there’s not a clear plan, but faith invites us to rejoice in experimental time, and trust God is with us and working for us.

Continued next page



## Lent Sermon Series “Interim: What Does This Mean?” (continued)

### *March 27: Interim as Inventory Time (Joshua 5)*

What happens when the manna stops? That’s the question faced by the Israelites in Joshua 5. After 40 years of God providing bread from heaven, they finally have what they need from their own fields and crops and gardens. **Inventory Time** is what happens when we look for everything God has already provided, instead of focusing first on what is no longer there for us.

\*In the time between pastors, it’s easy to think the guiding questions are, “What do we need that we don’t already have? What do we want?” But from Joshua, we learn the more important perspective of asking, “**What do we have already and how does that meet our needs?** What does God want us to do with it?” What happens when we “shake our assets” all together? (You’ll have to hear the sermon to know the story behind that phrase :) )

### *April 3: Time for God’s New Thing (Isaiah 43)*

One of the most freeing revelations of faith is remembering that God doesn’t expect us to do it all.

\*Instead of asking ourselves, “What new thing does our church need to create or design from the ground up?” our question is, “**What new thing is God already doing that we can join?**” God is always ahead of us when it comes to creating the next new thing, and we don’t have to exhaust ourselves trying come up with something bigger, better, faster or flashier than the church down the street in order to attract new members.

\*Being open to God’s New Thing often requires us to let go of other things. Letting go can feel like giving up, but what if it’s really **giving away**? Sometimes, we need to get out of the way so God can share our “old” stuff with people who experience it anew, and who need the opportunity to pick up what we have laid down.



## National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the most recent Iowa Department of Human Services data, 10,539 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care. Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2021, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 11,000 of these in-home visits to families.

LSI Family Centered Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center serves many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

## Creating Bright Futures

When Makenzey found out she was pregnant, she felt nervous and overwhelmed at the thought of being a first-time mom. She didn't know what to expect, but she wanted to create the best life for her child. While she was pregnant, Makenzey enrolled in a local service that provides free housing to expecting moms. Through the organization, she learned about LSI Early Childhood Services. With support and guidance from her LSI Parent Educator, Hannah, Makenzey prepared for a healthy birth and transition into motherhood. "Being a new mom was really scary for me. I had no idea what I was doing," Makenzey says. "I needed to learn the basics." Since Makenzey welcomed her daughter, Maleigha, she has since found a job she loves and saved enough money to find a home for her new family. Through it all, Hannah provided check-ins with Makenzey, introducing her to important resources, educational materials, and age-appropriate toys and activities to ensure Maleigha hit all her developmental milestones. "Especially when you're a first-time mom, you'll have a lot of questions. I don't have a ton of support right now, but Hannah helped me and answered every question I had about being a mom," Makenzey says. "LSI has been a really helpful service."

---

Continued from page 1

In these ten verses of Acts, Peter sets down the basic essence of the Good News of the Gospels and of Christianity and its beliefs. Elisabeth Johnson, Professor at the Lutheran Institute of Theology in Meiganga, Cameroon, wrote in *Working Preacher*, "Unfortunately, our text stops here, with Peter wrapping up his short sermon. But what happens next amazes everyone and is crucial to understanding this story: 'While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.' ([Acts] 10:44-45).

"The most astonishing 'conversion' in this story is that of Peter and his companions regarding their understanding of how God is at work. These Jewish believers understood Jesus to be the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. It is not that they didn't think Gentiles could become part of the family of faith — Jews welcomed Gentile converts. What astounds them is that the Holy Spirit and the gift of faith came to these Gentiles without them first becoming Jews, without them being circumcised and adopting the law of Moses. The Holy Spirit has been poured out on them just as they are — as Gentiles. 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' Peter asks (10:47). The assumed answer, of course, is a resounding 'No!' Cornelius and his household are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (10:48). This is a major turning point in the book of Acts and in the history of the church."

So, we see here that God, through the Holy Spirit, can pour out God's grace to whomever God wills. As Peter put it, "[In] every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." (v. 35) And further, "[Jesus] commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (vv. 42-43)

And, that should give us pause. We do not decide on whom God should bestow God's grace. We do not determine who is worthy to receive God's love and blessings. We do not judge who has met the standards or the criteria to stand before God or to seek God's favor or who goes to heaven and who does not. And, we have no authority to deny membership to those whom God has already accepted, and who have already accepted Jesus as their savior. We should therefore ask, as did Peter, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"



### **CONFIRMATION-**

I will meet with the confirmation students, their parents and mentors, during Faith Formation time on April 10 to plan worship for April 24.

### **HOLY WEEK-**

Palm Sunday worship (**9 AM April 10**) will include an all-congregation procession with palm branches and a reading of the Passion according to Luke.

Maundy Thursday worship (**7 PM on April 14**) will include individual absolution and holy communion.

Good Friday worship (**12 PM on April 15**) will be interactive and family-friendly.



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.

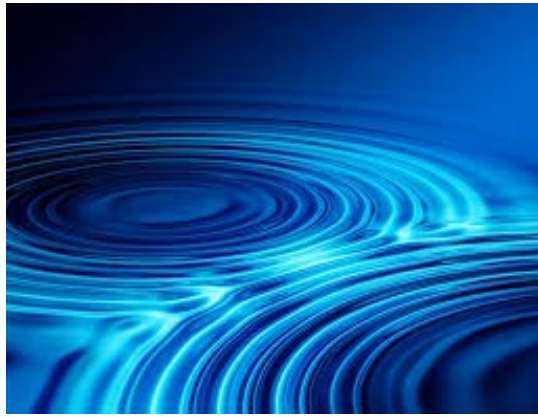
If you have any questions talk to any of the committee members.

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**





### **Centering Prayer: April 9th and 23rd, 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

---

Thank you!

Thank you to Clayton Bartholomew for volunteering as acolyte on Sunday, March 20th.
---



## **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***