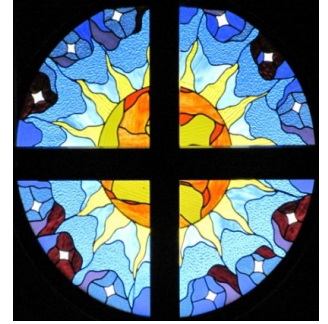


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

July 2022 Newsletter



“Through Him, God Was Pleased To
Reconcile Himself To All Things,”
by Peter J. Weller

Weekly Services and Communion

Sunday services

9 am

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

Faith Formation

*Will resume in the
fall*

Office Hours

*Pastor Susan in
office on Tuesdays
& by appointment*

*Kelly in office on
Tuesdays and
Thursdays*

9 am - 1 pm

“Through Him, God Was Pleased To Reconcile Himself To All Things,”
by Peter J. Weller

On four of the five Sundays in July, the Second Reading of scripture is from Paul's letter to the Colossians. And, the subject of this column comes from the latter half of the first chapter, which will be read on Sunday, July 17. In this passage, Paul writes of Jesus the Christ, the Savior Son, and his relationship to God the Father and what that means for us as believers and followers. The first five verses (contained in the following paragraph) are often referred to as “the Christ hymn.” And, actually, the final two verses of the Second Reading from the previous week are considered a part of this hymn: “He [God the Father] has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13-14) The Second Reading for July 17, starting with verse 15, then begins:

“He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers— all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him, God was pleased to reconcile himself to all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.” (Colossians 1:15-20)

Here, Paul sounds so similar to John in the opening verses of his gospel: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being.” (John 1:1-3) Both Paul and John believe that Jesus existed before his birth to Mary, and, speak of his origins at the beginning of time. But, Paul goes on to say that “In [Jesus], the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile himself to all things . . .” (Colossians 1:19-20) Thus, Paul links the Father to the Son. Of course, so did John, who quoted Jesus as saying, “I am in the Father and the Father is in me.” And, “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.”

Continued to page 5

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 6-28-22

General Fund ~ \$19,162.05

Visions ~ \$2071.11

Endowment ~ \$3,307.65

Community Assistance ~ \$3,770.44

Mortgage ~ \$57,734.65

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

Attendance

Sunday, May 29
9 am ~ 45 Views ~ 57

Sunday, June 5
9 am ~ 50 Views ~ 42

Sunday, June 12
9 am ~ 43 Views ~ 117

Sunday, June 19
9 am ~ 40 Views ~ 149

Fill the Backpacks

It might seem early, I know, but the stores will be filling with school supplies soon.

Last year we filled **125** Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief because of your generosity.

Each bag contains:



- 4 - 70 sheet notebooks
- 1-30 cm ruler
- Blunt scissors
- 5 blue or black pens
- 5 unsharpened pencils
- 1 eraser
- 1 box of 16 or 24 Crayola crayons



Please consider helping with supplies again this year.



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



Birthdays for July

1- Jason Taylor
2- Issac Giesmann
6- Dale Scheibe
11- Bev Bailey
12- Kathy Fischer
14- Sharol Kroll
15- Amaya Gutierrez
16- Christina Woline
18- Evan Woline
24- Rob Taylor
25- Caitlin Kroll
27- Kathy Vetter



Anniversaries for July

3- Ken & Susan Baker
4- Ben & Kelsey Striegel
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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Council- Sunday, July 10 at 10:30 am

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



Saturday Kitchen is Back!

Saturday, July 16th

If you would be willing to help plan and organize these meals, please let April Six know or see sheet on hall table.

We will continue to ask for baked goods on the day of the meal as well as assistance with serving and clean up. Please consider helping lead this community ministry!

Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly **PARTY**

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 20, 2023

YOU READ THAT RIGHT—NEXT YEAR THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY WORK SESSIONS WILL BE ONLINE ONLY FOR THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES (MAY BE IN DES MOINES ON SATURDAY, MAY 15 AND 16) AND THE PARTY IS IN PERSON **FOR EVERYONE IN THE SYNOD** ON SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023 IN DES MOINES.

SAVE THE DATE! WE ARE ALL INVITED!

July 2022, 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.

Restoring Hope

Over the last year, LSI and its many community partners across Iowa have come together in a time of need. When hundreds of Afghan evacuees needed a place to call home in Iowa, LSI rose to the challenge to provide crucial resettlement services.

Supporters from across the state rallied together to provide financial support; they put together almost 600 welcome boxes so every individual had what they needed when they arrived; and they volunteered their time to provide assistance with transportation and housing during a distressing time.

In our offices in Des Moines and Sioux City, LSI was able to hire additional staff who speak 14 different languages. In December 2021, for the first time in 10 years, LSI began welcoming new arrivals to Iowa, and we have since welcomed more than 165 individuals – including many families – to their new home in Iowa.

Thanks to the support of our partners, Iowa continues to be a space of welcome, a place where individuals can find safety, security, and a community where they can rebuild their lives.

Continued from page 1

Paul then continues at verse 21: "And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— provided that you continue securely established in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

"I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's affliction for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and reaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me." (Colossians 1:21-29)

Paul reminds his readers that God has reconciled those, who were once estranged, to himself through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus the Christ. Paul became the servant of the church according to God's commission "to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints." This, Paul proclaims, is his mission that he pursues "with with all the energy that [God] powerfully inspires" within him.

One cannot help but marvel and admire Paul's indefatigable energy and enthusiasm for his mission. He did toil and struggle mightily to make the word of God fully known. He established congregations throughout Greece and Asia Minor and wrote letters to them, thirteen of which now form a significant portion of the New Testament. It has been said that had he not been arrested and imprisoned, that he had intended to go on to Spain and other parts of the far western portions of the Roman Empire and establish even more churches and congregations.

Dr. Karl Jacobson, Senior Pastor at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, wrote in *Working Preacher*, "In Jesus we meet God face-to-face; nothing less than our very Creator's presence is what drives the [understanding of Christ by] the Colossians and this hymn. Second, is that. . . God's Son reflects the image of God back to the creation. As humankind was shaped in the image of God, so the first-born of creation—the redemption of all creation—returns as the image of God sent to humankind."

Discern-what? Sermon Series on Discernment

Across the month of June and into July, we are sermoning together on the topic of discernment at Immanuel. Discernment is prayerfully seeking to join God's ongoing activity in the world. For this series, we dwelt in the word of God from Jeremiah 6:16, "Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."

Here's a recap of where God's Word has taken us so far:

In a one-act play called "The Big Decision," we looked at how discernment is something more than simple decision-making. In praying and seeking to join God, we could find ourselves doing things deemed unnecessary or unwise by the world around us.

On Holy Trinity Sunday, we talked about discernment as collaborative and communal. Just as God is three-voices -in-one-God, we bring all our voices and perspectives together with God's to discern what will be next for Immanuel.

Standing at the crossroads, we humbly bring every possible skill, gift, insight, energy, resource and idea with us. Discernment is thoughtful, informed and considered—using all that the community already has to join what God is already doing around us.

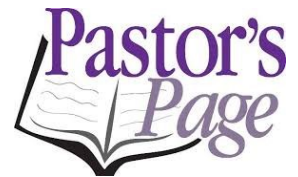
Finally, we talked about the ancient paths of scripture, and how marinating ourselves in God's story is part of discovering the good way to walk, and rest for our souls, even in anxious, liminal times.

For each of the last two sermons, we will make big sticky-note lists. First, listing everything we already have or know or can offer to each other and to our community across this time of discernment. Focusing on what God is already providing and doing is a hopeful way of listening for where God is inviting us to join in. We will also list all the stories and verses we can think of from the Bible next week, and practice using these ancient ways to discover a new word from God for us today.

Please continue to pray for your congregation, its leaders, Bishop Current and her staff, and those who are considering ministry in your midst. Discernment doesn't happen on a schedule or with a measured recipe, but it does happen in the midst of God's hopeful, prayerful people.

In the peace of Christ,

Pastor Susan



Come to Ewalu Bible Camp with Pastor Susan

Pastor Susan will be at Ewalu August 7-12 with two of Immanuel's confirmation kids. Did you know there are openings for campers from 5th to 12th grade that week? Go to ewalu.org and click on "register now" to learn more about all the amazing things you could be doing in August! Or, if you prefer the personal approach, reach out to Pastor Susan. She knows camp is a powerful influence on the lives and faith of kids, and she is committed to helping any kid who wants to attend camp find a way to be there—so don't let the cost hold you back. Talk with Pastor today! **Everyone who will be attending Ewalu in August is encouraged to meet briefly with Pastor Susan following worship on Sunday, July 24.**

Seeking Call Committee Nominations

A "Call Committee" is a group of 6 members from Immanuel who will meet to review paperwork, interview candidates and identify the next pastor for our congregation. It is an exciting and challenging role, and in the current market, it may also be one requiring patience. The work of the Call Committee is often done in intense bursts, with windows of less activity in-between. Immanuel is ready to have nominations of people to serve on this important committee. You can nominate yourself, or another person with their permission. Nominations will be used by the Council to determine a team of six who are representative of the congregation and ready to work together prayerfully toward identifying the next pastor.

Please use this link (below) to complete a nomination form, or stop by the office to pick up a paper copy, if needed. You may nominate more than one person—but again, please get permission first. You may also nominate yourself. Nominations are due by July 5 at noon, please.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Hs2-uzqrGjFUaVzsQ7L12NKY3x2BGD_NUGGmbuQo0o0/edit

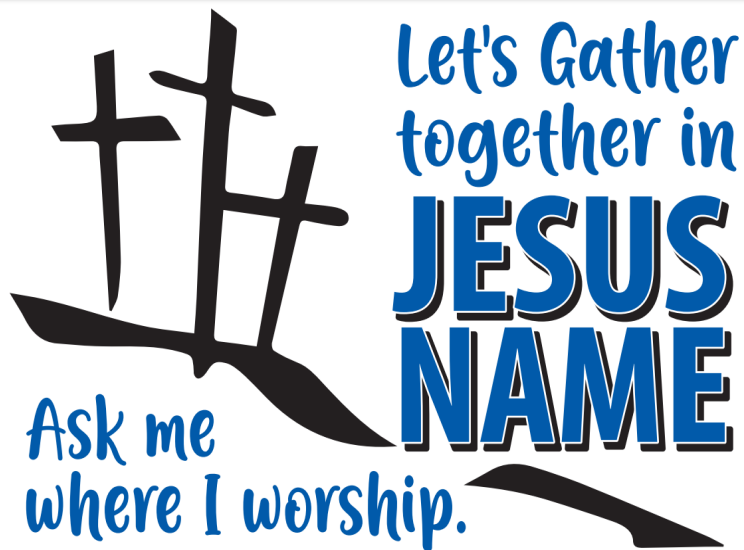
Interim Pastoral Care

Pastor Susan is eager to support any member of the congregation who needs or wants pastoral care. As she is part-time with us and lives in Iowa City, it may take a little longer to get to every need, but please don't hesitate to ask. Phone calls, texts, and emails are always possible, and personal visits can be arranged with a little patience. Please reach out if you are in need of a visit, prayers or support across this time.

By phone- 612.239.8968 By email- revluthwash@hotmail.com



Everyone who will be attending Ewalu in August is encouraged to meet briefly with Pastor Susan following worship on Sunday, July 24.



Washington Area Ministerial Association

Sign up sheet is OUT!!

Sign up today for your very own yard sign. \$10 donation due at the time of delivery.

The Healing Tree VBS

Wow, what a time we had! So many people to thank for their time and talents. Kelsey Striegel for finding the raised beds, the group who put them together. (I'd try to name all of you but would miss someone) Ben Striegel for filling them with soil, the children and adults who planted the gardens, those who donated supplies. In the kitchen, the cooks: Deann Hakert and Pam Johnston, who made delicious meals. The young ladies who helped every night with all of the activities. Rich & Deidra Baker, who led our music, boy we can sing! Thank you to Gary Fischer, who tried to keep Sage on topic and Linda Brown and Angela Taylor, who led the lessons. Thank you to Pastor Susan and Clyde Pearce for leading activities.

I'm sure I've forgotten someone and I apologize. So many people were involved. We had a crowd and it sure was fun! What did you think of our tie dye shirts? Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who helped!!

Love, SAGE





Centering Prayer: July 9th and 23rd at 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

Encore Express Senior Dining

Our next meal is July 14th at 11am.

Meals will be held here on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.

Encore Express is a program from Heritage Area Agency on Aging, it is a senior dining program that combines the fun and socialization of group dining with the convenience of a voucher program to help older adults meet their nutritional needs.

Meals are catered by our local Hy-Vee.

Encore Express is open to adults ages 60+ and their spouses. Suggested (not required) contribution of \$5 per meal/voucher for those 60+ and \$9 for those under 60.

CALL 319.653.3950 to make your reservation!!



Service Date	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Acolyte	Communion
July 3	Bev Bailey	Gary Fischer	Bev Bailey	Vivi Kroll	Bev Bailey and Naomi Erickson
July 10	Stan & Sharol Kroll	Scott Bartholomew and Gary Fischer	Taylor Bartholomew	Clayton Bartholomew	Bev Bailey and Naomi Erickson
July 17	Deb Tisor	Ryan Woline and Stan Kroll	Christina Woline	Paige Woline	Stan & Sharol Kroll
July 24	Tricia Kroll	Brad Kroll and Caitlin Kroll	Tricia Kroll	Vivi Kroll	Tricia Kroll
July 31	Angela Taylor	Jason Taylor and Rob Taylor	Lee Buchholz	Grace Taylor	Steve & Kathy Vetter

Treats for Sunday!!

Check out the list in the kitchen and
sign up to provide treats for fellowship after worship.