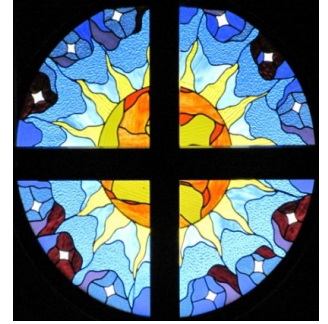


Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

August 2022 Newsletter



“Is Not My Word Like Fire, Says The LORD,
and Like a Hammer That Breaks the Rock In Pieces?”
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*

The Old Testament Lesson for Sunday, August 14, is from Jeremiah 23:23-29: “Am I a God nearby, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in the secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back— those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit in their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

Dr. Alphonetta Wines of Fort Worth Texas, wrote in Working Preacher, “To say that God is unhappy with Israel, especially its leaders, is an understatement. Preaching out of their own hearts the leaders set Israel up for another trip around the same proverbial mountain. This would be the last trip for a very long time. Although the trip would culminate in a return made possible by Persian King Cyrus, the return, in effect, a second Exodus, was a long way off. Unlike prior years when God’s mercy took the form of delay, (for example as in the life of Ahab, 1 Kings 21:29; as in the life of the nation, Isaiah 48:9; as in the life of Noah reflected in 1 Peter 3:20) for now, there would be none. Destruction is fast approaching. Even now, God would send warning. Even if people would not listen. Even now, God would send Jeremiah.

“This was not an easy message to deliver. Fire is the word that God uses to describe the message that Jeremiah is to convey. This is the same word, “a fire shut up in my bones,” that Jeremiah himself used in 20:9 to describe that message and the overwhelming tension within that it caused. God compares the word that Jeremiah is to bring to a hammer that breaks rock into pieces. This would have to be a hard word in order to be sufficient to the difficulties that lay ahead. This would be a word that people would not want to hear. God and Jeremiah knew the difficulty, hence the struggle in Jeremiah’s soul, and in God.”

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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 7-26-22

General Fund ~ \$22,666.90

Visions ~ \$2,576.11

Endowment ~ \$3,307.92

Community Assistance ~ \$3,770.44

Mortgage ~ \$52,136.32

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

Attendance

Sunday, July 3

9 am ~ 39 Views ~ 54

Sunday, July 10

9 am ~ 50 Views ~ 66

Sunday, July 17

9 am ~ 35 Views ~ 48

Sunday, July 24

9 am ~ 37 Views ~ 57

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 August

3- Rose Lloyd
3- Avenley Six
8- Kristin Jones
12- Judy Venzke
12- Claire Wubbena
14- Michelle Bartholomew
15- Mikaila Matheson
15- Mary Chmelar
15- Joyce Westen
19- Thomas Lueck
21- Bev Crandall
29- Maggie Baker
31- Mike Jewell



Anniversaries for August

5- Jim & Linda Six
7- Rod & Julie Hill
7- Scott & Michelle Bartholomew
9- Peter & Sandy Weller
9- Bill & Molly Zywiec
10- Grant & Diana Wubbena
12- Erin & Tracy Almelien
18- Brad & Tricia Kroll
30- Dennis & Sherry Ives

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Council- Sunday, July 31 at 10:30 am

Council- Sunday, August 7 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

THANKS

Thank you for celebrating my peers and I with a senior service. Thank you for all the support throughout my time at Immanuel. In addition, thank you for supporting me in my future with the church scholarship, I greatly appreciate it. Looking forward to seeing everyone while on breaks.

Sincerely,

Lucas

Fun and blessed at Immanuel Lutheran

Early Sunday AM, DeAnn calls to offer a ride to church. Met by Lucas cherry "Hi, Bev." Gary- "Do you need coffee?" Pam- "I baked you some lemon bars." Visit with Mary as I walk to the sanctuary- Stan, Sharol, and Deb greeters while Brad make sure I have a pencil for a little fun Susan does a flying leap to the altar. Had Corrine and Diana been there, they met me with a kiss. For fire drill Brad chose me as his partner. As I leave the sanctuary Tricia introduces her mother, Cindy. Sandy walks across the sanctuary to be sure I'm ok. As I arrive in the dining room Ron holds my walker and Char asks if I need a ride this week. Sharol is busy getting me a cup of coffee and lemon bars. Caitlin tells me about college visits. Kelsey brings radishes from the church garden. Stan makes sure I have a ride home. All this love in 90 minutes.

Bev Crandall

August 2022, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Back to School Month School is right around the corner! This time of year can be exciting and stressful for many of us, but adjusting back into a classroom routine can be especially difficult for kids and teens with emotional or behavioral disorders. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) provides mental and behavioral health services for children and families across the state. Our therapists provide virtual and in-person therapy sessions with children, while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS) team collaborates with families in their home to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at our Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly to empower Iowa children and teens. We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. Part of LSI's mission is to ensure hundreds of Iowa children and families have access to quality mental health care, parenting education, and crisis services. On our Bremwood Residential Treatment Center campus in Waverly, staff are able to provide 24/7 behavioral health care and encouragement for children and teens like N. During her time on campus, N. and her team of therapists and professionals worked on developing coping skills that could help her manage her anger on the difficult days and take space for herself when she felt overwhelmed. She was able to participate in Spiritual Life, a voluntary faith-based program offered on campus. N. says the program helped her learn important lessons about forgiveness and trust through reading passages of scripture. She says the biggest lesson she has learned is that "when you make a mistake, there are ways to fix it." N. is now looking ahead and has goals for her future. She is working on graduating high school, and she is excited to get her driver's license. She wants to become a special education teacher and empower the next generation, and she wants her story to inspire other kids who could benefit from the same care she received through LSI.

*LSI does not identify the people we serve, except in well-vetted circumstances. The names and some personal details we use in this story have been changed.

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What God says through the prophet, Jeremiah, should give pause to everyone who writes about scripture. It certainly does so for this author, who has only a lay person's knowledge of theology and scripture. One cannot, one dare not, write or say, "God says this," or "God means that," unless it can be backed by scripture itself or by respected theologians' learned opinions about what scripture says. Yet, what Jeremiah writes shows God to be very angry with prophets who prophesy lies about God. One must write or speak truth about God. One must not put words in God's mouth. This author is very cognizant of that responsibility, and he prays that he will never write something in this column that God would denounce to be lies and deceit or would lead people astray. God wants us to speak the truth. People respect truth. From truth develops trust. Trust cannot exist without truth. Ultimately, truth triumphs over lies. Truth prevails. What applies to prophets not writing lies about God should also apply to writers not writing lies about other people or subjects in our political discourse, in our advertising, in recounting history, and in any other subject where the ultimate goal is to inform the public. "Is it true?" and "Can it be verified?" should be the first questions asked by any writer about to put pen to paper.

Lately, we have seen and heard a lot of discussion about "The Big Lie," a concept first developed and used by Adolf Hitler in Nazi Germany in the 1930's. During World war II, the Office of Strategic Services, (the predecessor to today's Central Intelligence Agency), in its psychological profile of Hitler described his use of the big lie:

"His primary rules were: never allow the public to cool off; never admit a fault or wrong; never concede that there may be some good in your enemy; never leave room for alternatives; never accept blame; concentrate on one enemy at a time and blame him for everything that goes wrong; people will believe a big lie sooner than a little one; and if you repeat it frequently enough people will sooner or later believe it."

World War II ended more than 75 years ago with Nazi Germany's total defeat, and Hitler and his Nazi ideas were totally discredited. But, Germany's defeat cost 298,000 American lives. Yet, there is now a willingness in our time to embrace the concept of The Big Lie that those brave men gave their lives to defeat. Why?

The prophet Jeremiah records God saying, "Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully." Is that too much to ask?



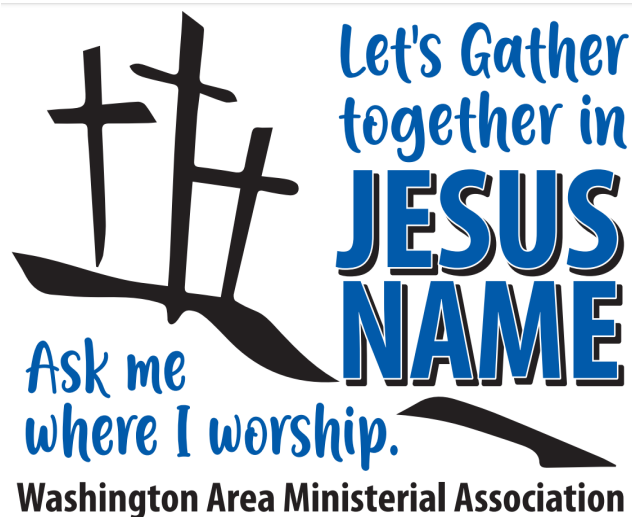
Sunday, August 14th has been designated by the Immanuel Church Council as
“The Sunday of Everything!”

On **Sunday, August 14th**, we will have a brief congregational meeting starting at 9AM and followed immediately by worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a call committee, as put forth by the church council and the congregation constitution. The constitution of the congregation permits no other business to be conducted at this specially called meeting.

This is Pastor Susan’s final Sunday with us. Please join us for worship and a congregational picnic following worship.

This is also Catch Up Sunday! The picnic after worship will include catch-up-worthy foods, like burgers and hotdogs, but the Council would like you to also consider this a friendly invitation to catch up on any financial giving that may have been missed across the summer months. Please bring a side dish or treat to share, and let us know if there are any dietary concerns we can accommodate. Immanuel is part of so many meaningful projects around our community and around the world. Together, we are feeding people who are hungry, providing for people who are homeless, caring for people who are lonely, and sharing God’s love with everyone! Please join us in faithfully carrying out these missions with your time, talent, and financial support. Thank you! Look for a sign up at church or call the office. Even if you miss the sign up, you are still invited!





Sign up sheet is OUT!!

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

ILC Council on July 10, 2022, approved two recommendations presented by ILC finance committee. \$5000.00 was transferred from the Hills Bank savings account and applied to our mortgage principle leaving a balance of \$52,136.31. Effective, August 1, 2022 our church secretary, custodian, and finance secretary will receive a \$1.00/hour wage increase. Accompanist will receive a wage increase of \$4.00 per worship service.

Effective August 1, 2022

Church Secretary	\$14.94/hour
Finance Secretary	\$16.00/hour
Custodian	\$12.56/hour
Accompanist	\$45.00/worship service

Gary Fischer, Finance Chairman

June 2022 Account Balances

Checking	18786.25
Visions	2196.11
Savings	3899.45
Community Assistance	3770.44
Luther League	18197.88
Hills Bank	
General	56118.26
Refresh Renew	400.73
Scholarship Fund	3307.65
Envelope Offering	5555.00
Simply Giving	2112.00
June 2022	
Total Income	9329.20
Total Expense	-11154.00
Net Income	-1824.80
YTD Income	155462.65
YTD Expense	-120861.84
Net Income	34600.81
Building Note Balance	57136.31



Centering Prayer: August 13th and 27th 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

August meals are August 11th and 25th

August 11th is our GRAND OPENING!!

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!!

Treats for Sunday!!

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



Service Date	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Acolyte	Communion Set up/Clean up
August 7	Michelle Bartholomew	Steve Vetter and Scott Bartholomew	Taylor Bartholomew	Clayton Bartholomew	Steve & Kathy Vetter
August 14	Clyde Pearce & Fran Victor	Gary Fischer and Brad Kroll	Fran Victor	Vivi Kroll	Tricia Kroll
August 21	Bonnie Taylor and Emma Taylor	Jason Taylor and Rob Taylor	Bev Bailey	Grace Taylor	Bev Bailey and Naomi Erickson
August 28	Molly Zywiec	Gary Fischer and Steve Vetter	Brayden Zywiec	Paige Woline	Stan & Sharol Kroll

Guest Pastors:

August 21st- Jacquie Berlien

August 28th- Bill Runaas

September 4th- Bill Runaas

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!