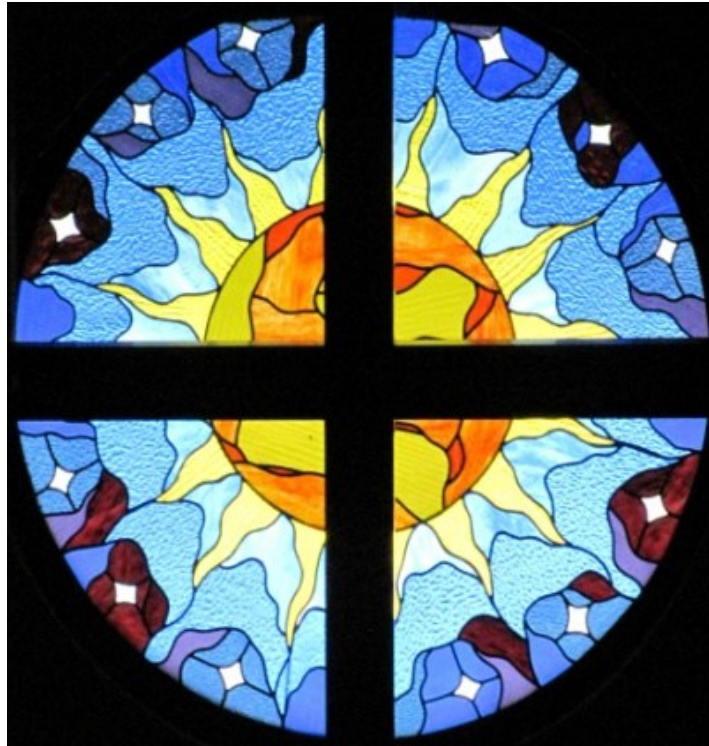


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

Share Christ's Love.

*March 2025 Newsletter*



*Worship and Communion*  
*Sunday services ~ 9:00 a.m.*  
\* In-Person \* Live Streaming

*Faith Formation*  
*Faith Formation ~ 10:00 a.m.*

*Office Hours*  
*Kelly in office*  
*Tuesdays and Thursdays*  
*9 am - 1 pm*

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

YouTube- [luthwash](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) \* 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

Attendance

Sunday, February 2  
9:00 am ~ 71 Offering ~ \$2103

Sunday, February 9  
9:00 am ~ 70 Offering ~ \$2297

Sunday, February 16  
9:00 am ~ 70 Offering ~ \$1360

Sunday, February 23  
9:00 am ~ 56 Offering ~ \$3585

**Birthdays  
for March**

- 1- Yaro Chmelar
- 2- Evelyn Brown
- 3- Marty Baker
- 6- Julie Hill
- 7- Sid Manfull
- 11- Deidra Baker
- 16- Gene Booth
- 17- Margie Runaas
- 20- Ryan Jones
- 23- Taylor Bartholomew
- 26- Cody Jones



**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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

**Education—Tuesday, March 4th at 4 pm**  
**Council- Sunday, March 9th at 11 am**

**Anniversaries  
for March**

- 18- Stan & Kristin Jones
- 24- Ryan & Christina Woline



**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



ENCORE EXPRESS

Encore at Immanuel Meals this month:

**Thursday, March 13**

**and**

**Thursday, March 27**

Serving at 11:30 a.m.

Check Facebook for the menus.



RSVPs are required. *See you there!!*

My confirmation servant project is going to be with the non-profit – Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Washington County. The goal of this organization is to make sure no kids in Washington County sleep on the floor. Sleep in Heavenly Peace makes and delivers beds to kids in our county. I will be helping make the beds as my servant project.

I am asking the congregation to help us with collecting bedding / mattress covers to put on beds that are going out to kids in our area. All items MUST be NEW and in the original packing.

**\*\* Twin size bedding: Fitted & Flat Sheets, Comforters, Pillowcases**

**Note: The bed in a bag or a complete set works great.**



Please let me know if you have any question about this servant project.

Thank you in advance for your donation.

God Bless – Clayton & Landon

# THANKS

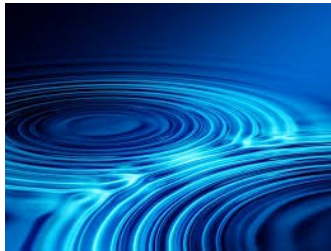
Thank you for all the cards and calls I received for my birthday. I really appreciate each one.  
Vi Kruse

Dear Immanuel,  
We want to express our thanks for all: use of the church, providing a minister, the choir, those getting communion set up, the person streaming the service, all the delicious cookies, bars, all the wonderful sweet treats, and those who helped clean up the kitchen and eating area.  
Most sincerely,  
The Lyons Family

Congregation,  
Thank you for the package in the mail full of letters of support and encouragement for the spring semester. I am very grateful for all of the support from each and every one of you.  
- Taylor Bartholomew

Thank you for all the cards we received with great messages and gifts/goodies. To see all the love we have from our church community is a blessing and I appreciate all the supper everyone has showed.  
Aden Six

Thank you to the ones who sent me a card and even some goodies in the care packages from the church. Each and everyone of the cards made my day! It is always a blessing to see so many people send their prayers and thoughts. I am so grateful to have an amazing family at Immanuel Lutheran.  
Ajay Six



## **Centering Prayer: Saturday, March 8th and Saturday, March 22nd 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**

The financial committee would like to share the finalized numbers for the month of January. These numbers are in summary of our income and expenses:

<b>Income:</b>	<b>January 2025</b>	<b>January 2024</b>
Envelope Offering	\$7,636.00	\$10,802.00
Other Income	<u>\$3,236.32</u>	<u>\$1,665.62</u>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$10,872.52</b>	<b>\$12,467.62</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Pastor Expense	\$4,451.88	\$0.00
Staff Expense	\$3,657.28	\$1,990.60
Building & Grounds	\$3,223.32	\$2,262.89
Fellowship / Supplies	\$254.06	\$0.00
Faith Formation	\$45.27	\$0.00
Worship Expense	\$522.47	\$186.71
Benevolence Expense	\$213.74	\$721.31
Administrative Expense	<u>\$1,606.22</u>	<u>\$1,562.06</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$13,974.24</b>	<b>\$6,723.57</b>
<b>Profit / Loss</b>	<b>-\$3,101.72</b>	<b>\$5,744.05</b>

As you can see above there is a loss in the amount of \$3,101.72 for January 2025 and a profit of \$5,744.05 in January 2024. In summary we've had \$8,845.77 turn of events not in our favor. The explanation for this \$8,825.77 swing would be a \$1,595.00 more income in 2024 and the expenses of pastor & staff expenses (salaries / taxes) of \$6,118.56 in additional expenses in 2025.

The economy may bring some cloudy and cold days, but the sun is shining bright on Immanuel Lutheran Church. The bright sunshine in searching for a permanent pastor brings excitement. In this bright light there is always the question of financials. Looking back to 2021 our pastor total compensation was \$114,000. Hypothetically, if we still had a full time pastor with a 3% cost of living increase each year their compensation would be around \$128,000 this year. With the future light of sharing a pastor this will help cover some of this expense. With the unknown of what % each church would be responsible for, we do know with the current financial numbers it would put a negative squeeze monthly. As the numbers show above adding Pastor Cindy to our financial numbers has made an impact. More information will be provided once those clouds have cleared.

We pray that the sun continues to shine bright in your household along with the future plans of Immanuel. We ask for your prayers for the financial future of our church.

God Bless

Finance Committee – Ray Poe, John Harris, & Michelle Bartholomew

## PASTORAL SEARCH

We want to update the congregation on our process of searching for a full-time shared pastor. Our council has decided to move forward with the possibility of sharing a pastor. We have begun a series of meetings with the United Church of Faith in Keota. They are a small congregation and have also been looking for a pastor for an extended amount of time. They are a combined congregation of Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Keota. Pastor Erin Kaye has been assigned by their version of our synod to oversee their pastoral search since they do not currently have a pastor.

Pastor Dan Kuckuck of our synod office will be leading us. Pastor Seth Normington is the Presbyterian equivalent for the Keota church. We have met with all 3 pastors as well as members of our council and the Keota church “session” (their version of our council).

We are following a schedule of meetings laid out by our synod. There is a smaller group called a Guiding Team. Guiding Team members for Immanuel are Gary Fischer, Bev Bailey, and Peg Harris. This smaller group had our first meeting together with the Keota Guiding Team, and the 3 pastors. There is a series of 6-7 meetings with an agenda provided by our synod to follow each time. This process will take several months. The plan is to have the smaller group meet together and then meet with our own councils and then let our congregation know where we are in the process and ask for congregational input along the way as well.

1. First meeting: Discerning Shared Leadership
2. Second meeting: Longings and Losses
3. Third meeting: History and Ministry Inventory
4. Fourth meeting: Policies and Procedures
5. Fifth meeting: Logistics and Finances
6. Sixth meeting: Developing the Shared Ministry Agreement
7. Seventh meeting: Final Covenant Preparations

At the 5th meeting details like worship times and finances are discussed. At this conversation, it is discerned if the congregations are ready to move forward with calling a pastor to share. At the 6th meeting the Guiding Teams work together to develop a Shared Ministry Agreement to share with each council. If the individual councils approve this agreement we would move on to the 7th meeting. If at this time each congregation approves the Shared Ministry Agreement then we would plan a timeline for congregation votes. Congregations are asked to vote on the same day. Once each congregation approves the Shared Ministry Covenant, new call committees can be formed and the call process moves forward.

We will meet again with the Keota church and 3 pastors March 11th.

If you were not in church on the days we asked for input, here are the 4 questions on Longings and Losses. You can email these to any council member, or write on paper and put in the box we will leave below the mailboxes.

1. What's one wish you have for your congregation?
2. What's something that used to happen (or used to be true) in the congregation that you wish would return?
3. What's one thing you fear might be lost as your congregation moves into the future?
4. What's something that has changed that you feel is a loss in the life of the congregation?

Please contact any council member at Immanuel with questions and comments.

*LSI serves lowans of all ages; families with newborns navigating parenthood, refugee and immigrant elders, and children of all ages. One of the most crucial populations LSI serves is children in middle and high school. April Howe of LSI shares the impact of LSI programming that she sees in schools across Iowa.*

**“I love it when a whole classroom of middle schoolers run down the auditorium hallway for an LSI class shouting ‘April!’ with excitement, ready to learn about healthy relationship skills and self-esteem,”** said April Howe, a Program Supervisor for LSI’s Clinical Services team.

Our LSI Clinical Services team provides various local community programs in schools across Iowa. Whether it’s mental health therapy or programs providing teen pregnancy education, they all share the goal of wrapping care around adolescents at a local level.

Specifically, April and her team conduct two community programs in nine northwest Iowa counties: Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) and Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP).

CAPP supports and educates Iowa youth by providing sexual health and pregnancy prevention classes for healthy and successful relationships. PREP helps youth build social, emotional, and life skills to develop a positive sense of self and to connect with peers in their community. PREP utilizes the Teen Outreach Program and Wise Guys evidence-based curriculum.

**“Thank you for teaching our class and taking time out of your day to come to our school. I learned a lot about healthy relationships and how to handle my anger and other emotions. You opened my eyes to my family’s habits and what I want to take with me when I have a family of my own.”**

– High school student to LSI staff member

“The letters that high school students write to our staff about what they learned in class and how they will use the knowledge in their everyday life shows the programs’ tremendous impact,” said April. “We meet the youth where they are at, but also encourage healthy decision-making along the way, which plays a huge role in making prevention education successful.”

Furthermore, April’s team encourages conversation and participation by providing incentives in the classroom, such as packaged snacks and other LSI materials. “When it comes to engagement in the classroom, I always say, ‘When their stomachs are full, their brains are full,’” shared April with a smile. “Some students would skip school all day, but they show up to the last class of the day, taught by LSI. That, right there, is a win for my team.”

April’s team has seen significant success in response to their CAPP and PREP community programs. Based on a post-program evaluation, 96% of students in the CAPP program reported that they learned “some” or “a lot” that they didn’t already know about sexual health topics, and 53% agreed that they are now more likely to start conversations about these topics with others.

“Pregnancy rates have dropped over the last four years in many of our counties served, proving our services are making a difference in our communities,” said April. “Reaching the youth on their level and prioritizing prevention makes our program successful.”

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*



Service Date	Acolyte	Greeter	Reader	Tech	Usher	Communion
March 2	Bentley Striegel	John & Peg Harris	Peg Harris	Steve Vetter	Landon Coker, Bob Coker, and John Harris	Peg Harris
March 9	Grace Taylor	Angela Taylor and Emma Taylor	Gary Fischer	Christina Woline	Jason Taylor, Rob Taylor, and Steve Vetter	Tricia Kroll
March 16	Evan Woline	Bev Crandall and Gene Booth	Christina Woline		Ryan Woline, Brad Kroll, and Gary Fischer	Christina Woline
March 23	Paige Woline	Bill & Molly Zywiec	Beverly Bailey	Brayden Zywiec	Aaron Six, April Six, and Steve Vetter	Naomi Erickson
March 30	Clayton Bartholomew	Michelle Bartholomew	Peg Harris	Brayden Zywiec	Scott Bartholomew, Ryan Woline, and Brad Kroll	Steve & Kathy Vetter

### January 2025 Finance

Checking	26169.76
Visions	13066.79
Savings	1493.43
Community Assistance	2305.70
Luther League	20699.02
Hills Bank	
Checking	3249.98
Refresh Renew	2524.3
Scholarship Fund	4684.47
H.O.P.E.	1005.35