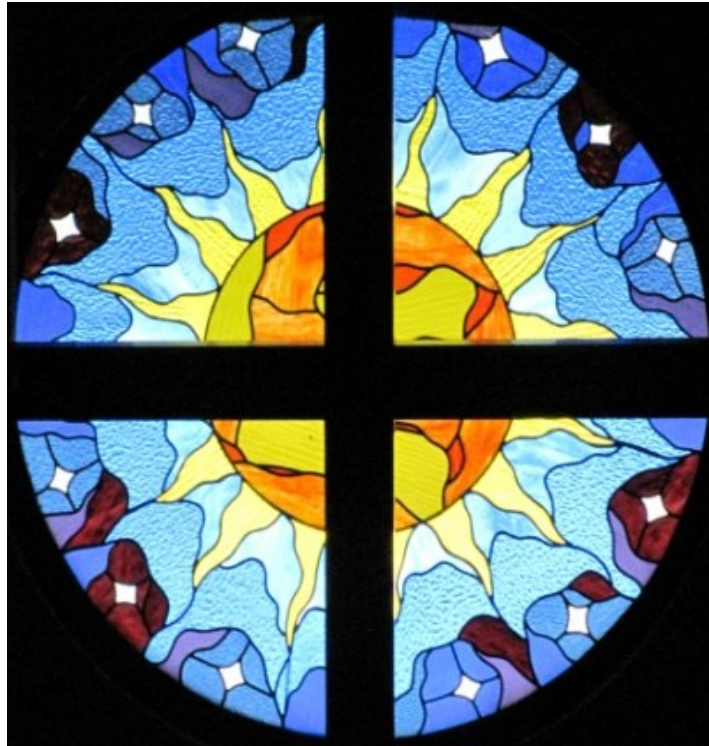


Immanuel Lutheran Church

Share Christ's Love.

April 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

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

Attendance

Sunday, March 2
9:00 am ~ 64 Offering ~ \$1957

Wednesday, March 5
6:30 pm ~ 24

Sunday, March 9
9:00 am ~ 72 Offering ~ \$2825

Wednesday, March 12
6:30 am ~ 18

Sunday, March 16
9:00 am ~ 49 Offering ~ \$2540

Wednesday, March 19
6:30 pm ~ 24

Sunday, March 23
9:00 a.m. 67 Offering ~ \$2551

**Birthdays
for April**

- 2- Marcus Gutierrez
- 7- Bentley Striegel
- 8- Bonnie Taylor
- 12- Debbie Jewell
- 12- Lillian Runaas
- 21- Larry Bartlett
- 22- April Six
- 25- Stan Kroll
- 26- Grace Taylor
- 29- Gary Fischer



UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Council- Sunday, April 6th at 11 am

**Anniversaries
for April**



- 4- Randy Poos & Nancy Baker
- 11- Lynn & Carol Woodruff
- 22- Marty & Joyce Westen

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, April 10

and

Thursday, April 24

Serving at 11:30 a.m.

Check Facebook for the menus.



RSVPs are required. *See you there!!*



Easter Morning Breakfast is Back!

Luther League and their families will be serving Easter breakfast from 8-9 am on Sunday, April 20th. Breakfast will consist of egg casseroles, rolls, and fruit. Please sign up if you plan to attend.

Thank you for all the encouraging messages, gifts, and money. It was really nice to see all the support from my church family! Thank you for thinking about me.

Avery Six



Naomi Erickson was a big WINNER at our Encore St. Patrick's Day meal. It was a great day to be at Encore at Immanuel. Have you been? Come join us for food, fellowship, and fun!!



**Centering Prayer:
Saturday, April 12th
Saturday, April 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**

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

As you can see there is a loss in the amount of \$2,410.62 for February 2025 and a profit of \$6,015.19 in February 2024. In summary we've had \$8,425.81 turn of events not in our favor again this month. The expenses that stood out to me this month would be pastor expense along with repairs to the kitchen sink and bathrooms. These 2 expenses add up to \$6,399.95.

When I think of February the color of "red" comes to my mind. This color is associated with strong emotions including passion, love, anger and danger, as well as power, energy, and vitality. When I looked up the color of red on the internet it came up with "What does the color red symbolize in The Giver?" It states Jonas's heightened sensory perception and the richness of human experience, contrasting with the dullness of his community's controlled world where color is absent. When looking at financial reports wouldn't it be a wonderful thing to be absent to color. Unfortunately, that is hard to do when the color is "red". When Jonas awakened he had the ability to "see beyond" and perceive color, particularly red. This gave him separation from the community and his entry into a world of deeper understanding and emotion. We would like to use your power and energy to help Immanuel "see beyond" the color of red.

The council and core team are working hard in the process of a permanent pastor. When they get to the discussion of financials and we have a more defined idea of what sharing a pastor will look like for us I will put some scenarios together to show what are future could hold.

We pray that we soon can see past the color of red, as in danger or negative # and can see red, as in the passion, love, power and energy that we have for Immanuel.

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

Income:	February 2025	February 2024
Envelope Offering	\$8,015.00	\$10,097.00
Other Income	\$2,104.93	\$2,986.05
Total Income:	\$10,119.93	\$13,083.05
Expenses:		
Pastor Expense	\$4,451.88	\$0.00
Staff Expense	\$2,886.99	\$3,568.20
Building & Grounds	\$3,780.08	\$1,726.99
Fellowship / Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Faith Formation	\$136.25	\$0.00
Worship Expense	\$212.28	\$571.42
Benevolence Expense	\$600.00	\$703.50
Administrative Expense	\$463.07	\$497.75
Total Expense	\$12,530.55	\$7,067.86
Profit / Loss	-\$2,410.62	\$6,015.19



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.

APRIL 2025 Church Update

LSI serves Iowans of all ages; from families with newborns navigating parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, and children of all ages.

One of the most vital populations LSI supports is young parents, especially those navigating the challenges of early motherhood. Cheyenne F., a Family Support Specialist for LSI's Healthy Families America (HOPES) program, shares the impactful work she's doing with young mothers in need of support. She shares that she had the privilege of working closely with NF, a young mom who has shown incredible growth and resilience.

The Healthy Families America (HOPES) program is an evidence-based child abuse prevention program that provides support to prenatal families and families with children ages 0-5. LSI's Family Support Specialists work with families like NF's to provide the guidance and resources needed to break cycles of abuse and neglect and build strong, healthy foundations for children and parents alike.

NF's journey began in June 2023 when she reached out for help. At 19 years old and pregnant, NF was living in Muscatine County and knew she needed extra parenting support. Through the HOPES program, Cheyenne began building rapport with NF right away and learned about NF's challenging upbringing, which included bouncing from foster home to foster home starting at age 6.

"NF had faced so much inconsistency and pain in her early years," shared Cheyenne. "It was clear that she had a lot of unresolved trauma, but it was equally clear that she wanted to make a positive change in her life, especially for her baby."

Throughout the course of their work together, Cheyenne and NF focused on building trust and creating a safe space for NF to share her experiences and challenges. NF revealed that after High School, she fell into a pattern of poor choices, including run-ins with the law. NF got pregnant, and although she knew the father, he didn't want to be involved in her pregnancy or her life. Despite this, she had two strong support networks: her foster parents and her current roommate.

Cheyenne shares that NF struggled with controlling her behavior, and she feared she might end up back in jail, which unfortunately happened. When she was incarcerated, Cheyenne made sure to stay in contact with her foster parents and provided them with regular updates and support.

When NF was released from jail, she confided in Cheyenne that she was considering running away with her baby, which prompted Cheyenne to share valuable resources with her to support her mental health, housing, and employment.

"I knew that if NF ran, it could jeopardize the progress we had made. But with the right guidance and resources, NF began to see a different path forward," Cheyenne shared.

Cheyenne expressed her excitement about NF's progress stating, "NF has made such huge strides. She started attending therapy twice a week and has also found a job at a local consignment store. She's enrolled in anger management classes and is committed to creating a better future for herself and her baby."

Today, NF's baby is thriving, meeting all developmental milestones. NF continues to meet regularly with Cheyenne and enjoys engaging in evidence-based activities that are tailored to her needs as a young mother. "I'm so thankful for the HOPES program. I don't know where I'd be without the support of Cheyenne," NF shared.

It's stories like NF's that remind us why the work we do is so important. With the right support, anything is possible.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 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 and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.



Service Date	Acolyte	Greeter	Reader	Tech	Usher	Communion
April 6	Paige Woline	The Bartholomew Family	Peg Harris	Steve Vetter	Robert Coker, Landon Coker, and John Harris	Christina Woline
April 13	Grace Taylor	The Taylor Family	Angela Taylor	Brian Lueck	Stephen Bay, Jason Taylor, and Rob Taylor	Tricia Kroll
April 20	Clayton Bartholomew	The Kroll Family	Tricia Kroll	Steve Vetter	Scott Bartholomew, Brad Kroll, and Lucas Kroll	Naomi Erickson
April 27	Evan Woline	John & Peg Harris	Christina Woline		Ryan Woline and Aaron & April Six	Peg Harris



Some of the H.O.P.E. ladies displaying their quilts.
 They change the quilt in the hall almost weekly. Check them out!!