

THE MESSENGER

The monthly newsletter for members of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Forest City, Iowa — December 2017

Advent / Christmas Events

Christmas with Waldorf: "The Shining Night"

- † Waldorf University's Vocal Concerts @ First Baptist Church
Friday, Dec. 1, 7pm
Saturday, Dec. 2, 7pm
Sunday, Dec. 3, 2pm
(tickets \$6 available at the door)
- † Wind Symphony Concert @ Immanuel
Thursday, Dec. 7, 7pm (free concert)

Vital Agers Christmas Dinner & Program

- † Tuesday, Dec. 5, 11:30am, Fellowship Hall
(sign up and pay through church office, \$8)

'Hanging of the Greens' Christmas Decorating

- † Wednesday, Dec. 6, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
Come join in the fun of beautifying the church for the Christmas season

Promiseland Christmas Program & Meal

- † "The Christmas Carol SPECIAL REPORT"
Sunday, Dec. 10, 4pm, Sanctuary
(Practice for all Promiseland students, Saturday, Dec. 9, 9-10am)

- † Soup Meal served following the program, 5pm, Fellowship Hall
Fundraiser meal for STOP HUNGER, freewill; hosted by Promiseland

Christmas Caroling

- † Saturday, Dec. 16, meet at 5:45pm
Meet at the church and come have some fun and bring Christmas cheer thru song

Christmas Eve Worship

- † Sunday, 9:15am, Service of Lessons & Carols
- † 1pm, Service at Forest Plaza (anyone is welcome to attend)
- † 3pm, Candlelight Service
- † 5pm, Candlelight Service
(Pre-service music begins at 2:30 & 4:30pm)
- † Live radio broadcast over KLOW 107.3 FM at 5pm

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."

Luke 2:10

Do not be afraid to serve at Immanuel this Christmas Eve!

Please review the list of volunteers that will be needed for the two Christmas Eve services, and let the church office know where you would like to serve:

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ | 3:00, Dec. 24: | Pre-Service music, begins at 2:30 |
| _____ | 5:00, Dec. 24: | Pre-Service music, begins at 4:30 |
| _____ | 3:00 Sound Tech (ready by 2:30) | |
| _____ | 5:00 Sound Tech (ready by 4:30) | |
| _____ | 3:00 Usher | (six needed) |
| _____ | 5:00 Usher | (six needed) |
| _____ | 3:00 Communion Server | (6 needed) |
| _____ | 5:00 Communion Server | (8 needed) |

Name & Contact Info: _____

Election of Council Members Sunday, Dec. 10 & Wednesday, Dec. 13

Four Council positions will be filled with a special election on Dec. 10 & 13 following the worship services.

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An excerpt from Missionary Jeni Grangaard's recap of Reformation Sunday in Jerusalem...

On the way to church, tea with lemon and honey in hand, I learned that I couldn't actually sing. My voice was shut up in its box. My game plan was to save my voice for the part of Psalm 46 I was asked to read – and then try to sing A Mighty Fortress.

And I could not sing. My voice squeaked to a halt. What is a Lutheran pastor to do, unable to sing on this 500th anniversary?

With a graciousness I could not afford, I got to listen. I listened to a Finnish pastor sing the Swedish words. I listened to the congregation sing A Mighty Fortress in Arabic, German and English. I listened to a beautiful children's choir from Beit Sahour sing hallelujah. (This was my absolute favorite part.) I noticed the way that German words swish and float in the jowls of native speakers. Noticed Catholic and Orthodox guests sitting in attendance, welcomed to the front. Noticed the inscription on the altar from 1898.

I looked up to the walls and wondered what prayers they have held. What faithful they have gathered. What bodies they have seen fed. While my voice matters, I could see once more that we speak and sing and pray from a community.

When it came time for the Nicene Creed, we were all instructed to confess in our mother tongue, but not so loud that our neighbors couldn't also say the Creed in their native tongue. So while the whole congregation had to whisper, I shouted. WE BELIEVE! It was no louder than Colin, sitting next to me.

As we continue to pray each week for Immanuel's ELCA Global Missionary family – Colin, Jeni, Josephine & Amos – we also remember their work this month as our mission emphasis. Thank you for your gifts to help fulfill our obligation this year.



Confirmation Class of 2017

Sunday morning October 29 at two separate services, Immanuel recognized the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and Affirmed the Baptism of this Confirmation Class of sixteen.

Pictured in front: Lyndee Jones, Elsa Yeager, Erin Caylor, Jasmine Sanasinh, Paige Swearingen, Anna Lehmann

Middle: Rebecca Leber, Lilie Callow, Isabel Buffington, Cade Gerdes, Andrew Heidemann, Zoey Steffensen

Back: Rev. Rod Hopp, Brettin Linder, Corah Hauser, Carter Jenkins, Colby Droessler, Rev. Zech Anderson

Joni Miller, photographer



Come Christmas Caroling!!!

Do you like singing Christmas Carol's as much as I do? Then, please join me in caroling at Forest Plaza, Good Samaritan and a few of our members' homes.

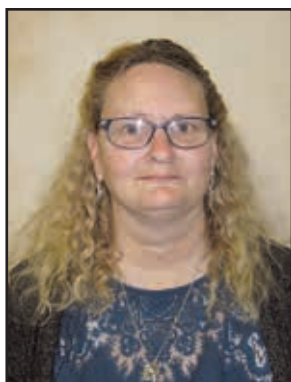
On Saturday Dec. 16, we will gather here at church in the choir room (Fireside Room) at 5:45pm and depart at 6pm.

Afterwards, warm up with some Hot Chocolate and cookies. Please bring a plate of Christmas cookies if you can. Caroling is a tradition I enjoy and hope to share with all of you!

Please let Jaci or me know if interested or just show up on the day.

See you on the 16th, Pastor Zech

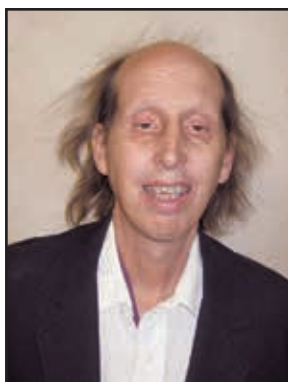
Welcome to Immanuel's newest members!



Tina Berg



Rolando Guarin



Karl Hartkemeyer



Seth, Amy Thorson
& Noah (3 mo.)



Keith & Emily Walker

God Comes to Be Our God

We've heard the story so many times that the irony is lost to us. The irony of which I speak is that Jesus, the Prince of Peace was born in the stable. The story should go something like this: "and Mary, his mother, was about to give birth to her first born son. This child had been proclaimed to be the Son of God most High and so Mary was escorted into the royal palace and into the birthing room attended by physicians and angels. And yet, not so. The irony is that the King of Creation is born in the stinky, dirty, earthy conditions of the stable.



Pastor Rod

Reverend Julian Walthall writes, "The miracle of Christmas is that God chose to come be with us in Jesus Christ. While we may over-romanticize the stable where Jesus was born, we can know that this birthing place speaks volumes about God's infinite courtesy towards all people. Jesus was born in an earthy, raw, smelly stable, not in a temple or royal palace. "Being born in such a place is God's way of showing that Christ comes to us in all sorts of human conditions — earthy, smelly, broken and accomplished. No matter what we've done or haven't done, God comes to be with us in Jesus Christ where we are in life, and out of his great love for all humanity."

The great miracle of Christmas is that God has come to be with us, and not just us but with humanity, in a real and personal way, and in a place that excludes no one. Had Jesus been born in a palace or in the royal courts many would feel unworthy to approach him in such a place. But here in the stable, the place where the animals slumber, all are welcome. In the book of Jeremiah we encounter God's people who had once been dispersed do to their unfaithfulness and God's anger. In Chapter 32, God reveals God's plan to meet his people in the earthy, smelly, broken places of their lives and bring them home. We read, "Now therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, 'It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence': Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God."

God's work of reconciliation continues as you and I are once again invited to meet God in the flesh; in the stable; as God comes to meet us in the earthy, smelly, and broken places of our lives. And we shall be God's people, and He will be our God.

A Blessed Christmas, Pastor Rod

IMMANUEL KIDS

Toys are Meant for Sharing

This is a story of how little Harry shared his new toy with Jesus.

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St Peter's Lutheran Church. Pastor John and his custodian were looking at the outdoor nativity scene before packing it away when they noticed the baby Jesus was missing.

Immediately, Pastor John turned towards the office in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw the neighbor boy, little Harry, with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the missing infant, Jesus.

Pastor John walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?'

Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Pastor John.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a nice ride around the block in it.'

This is a cute story that makes me wonder if the many toys and gifts we all receive at Christmas time might somehow be shared with Jesus?

In Matthew 25 Jesus says, "When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat; when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink; when I was homeless you welcomed me in..." "When did we do these things for you?" the people asked. Jesus replied. "When you did it for one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it for me." When we share with others, we share with Jesus.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Rod

There has been an awakening

Let me be honest for a minute. I enjoy pop culture a lot, specifically science fiction and comic books. So what is on my mind as we head into December? Star Wars the Last Jedi, the newest Star Wars movie to come to theatres. And as I think about what is coming up I find myself looking back at the movies that came before it in the series. And as I go back, I think of quotes that speak to me as we head into the Christmas season. The first is from the trailer for the new movie in which we hear Luke say, "It's time for the Jedi to end." And from the trailer for Star Wars the Force Awakens I hear this line, "There has been an awakening, have you felt it?"



Pastor Zech

These lines from Star Wars speak to me in a couple of ways, because Christmas is not only a wonderful time of year, but it begins to turn the understanding of life on its head. There has been an awakening, "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11) An awakening that the world had never encountered before, God coming into the world, and the Angels want to wake us up, crying out to us, wake up God has come into the world, Jesus is here, and the world will never be the same again. What we thought we knew was no longer true, we thought God would never come into our

lives, into this world, we thought there was no way for sin to be defeated, no way we could be saved because of who we are. But the world has now been awakened. And now that world has been awakened it is time for an end. It is time for sin to end, time to begin the countdown to Easter, time to end our unworthiness, thanks to the coming of Jesus into the world at Christmas.

Throughout Advent, we hear about preparing, getting ready, and staying awake as we await the arrival of Jesus coming into the world. But, at Christmas we have Christ coming into the world, and no longer are we waiting for him to come to save us. Jesus is here, there has been an awakening for all people at Christmas time, and the start of the movement to Easter and the promises Christ gives us at that time, but that's a story for later. Today, in December, we are awakened, and Christ is welcomed into the world by Angels and shepherds. Let us too, welcome Jesus at Christmas time and sing carols loudly, share the many gifts God has given us, and bring joy into a world that may need reminding that Christ is here in the world and has come to save us all.

***I pray you have a Blessed Christmas Season,
See you in worship!
Pastor Zech Anderson***

Help spread 'good cheer' to Good Samaritan residents!

If you would like to help spread some joy this Christmas, consider giving from the suggested list below. Unwrapped gifts may be brought to Good Sam by December 12. Small or medium Christmas gift bags also appreciated.

And if you would like to join in on the fun of sorting and wrapping the presents, call Tiffany Thomazin (585-2232). Thanks!

In Christ's Love, Good Samaritan Society, Forest City

- **Grooming needs:** \$ for beauty/barber shop; brushes/combs/hair picks/barrettes, jewelry, unscented body lotion & hand cream, electric razors, pre-electric shave lotion, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, splash on perfume/men's cologne, chap stick, NO aerosol sprays or hairspray.
- **Clothing:** Men's sizes L & XL, Women's sizes L, XL & XXL – T-shirts/sweatshirts, washable cardigan sweaters, men's

V-neck or crew neck undershirts, women's camisoles, jogging suit/sweat suit, pajamas, warm socks, slippers (Men's 10-13, Women's 9-11), bathrobe/housecoat, scarf/gloves.

- **Just for fun:** \$ for "The Boutique", candy (diabetic/regular) mini candy bars, mints, licorice, lemon drops, butterscotch, plastic containers to store goodies in, subscription to Forest City Summit.
- **For the room:** Clock with large numbers, picture books or large print books, drawer organizers, seasonal room decorations, wall pictures/sun catchers, bulletin boards.
- **Communication aides:** Stamps, greeting cards/stationary/note pads, magnifying glass.
- **Miscellaneous:** Music CD's, DVD's-old movie or television show series, devotional books or large print Bible, money donations.



Greeting from Campus Ministry

Meet another Peer Minister from Lutheran Campus Ministry at Waldorf University

My name is Jacob Pinedo, mostly everybody knows me and calls me by my nickname Potato. I am from Beaumont, California. I am a senior majoring in Criminal Justice and minoring in Education. I wrestle and throw for track and field for my Waldorf. I also play football for the North Iowa Bucks in Mason City. I am 25 years old, I started college late because I served 3 years in the US Army. I have a lot of hobby's, I enjoy doing things outside, really enjoy going to the shooting range and taking friends and teaching them how to use guns. I play multiple sports, I volunteer at my local church. I work 4 jobs, I am a security guard for Waldorf, I work in the school library, I work for athletics at Waldorf, and I work as a dealer at Diamond Joe Casino.

For LCM I am the activity's coordinator, I plan events to try and get students to be with each other and have fun and express themselves. I do posters for area teams when they have home games so that are students get more involved into the school. I also do halftime game shows so that more people show up and want to participate and have fun. I plan things like game night where we have students go down into Gatsby's and play board games or video games on the systems that I bring. I take groups of people bowling or to the skating rink in Mason City. I try to get the students more involved at the school so that they can mingle with other students but also have a fun time and get away from the stress and exhaustion of school.

Campus ministry means a lot to me, I have a busy schedule with school, sports, work and other activities. But campus ministry really lets me express my love for God. I really enjoy being with others that love God. I also enjoy talking to people about God not so much trying to get them to believe in God just talking and letting them see why I believe, helping those that need it whether they are a student or not. LCM does a lot and I really enjoy it because I know we are all trying to make a difference. No matter how big or small. LCM has helped me grow stronger in my faith because I know others will look up to me and see what I do, also so that I can answer questions and really have those one on one moments with God and grow strong through him.



Wednesday December Menu

Dec. 6 ... Chicken noodle hot dish, carrots, bars

Dec. 13 Taco night, ice cream

Dec. 20 Baked potato bar, bars

Dec. 27 (NO meal)

Merry Christmas @ Happy New Year!

Cookin' for the Lord, Deb Fardal

Treasurer's Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church FY October 2017

	OCTOBER ACTUAL 2017	MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	PERCENT OF YTD BUDGET 83.33%	OCTOBER ACTUAL 2016	YTD ACTUAL 2016
INCOME							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	46,417.06	43,375.00	381,939.82	520,500.00	73.4%	42,965.89	369,862.43
Other Income	1,498.34	4,540.00	51,645.77	54,480.00	94.8%	6,424.21	60,425.65
Total Income	47,915.40	47,915.00	433,585.59	574,980.00	75.4%	49,390.10	430,288.08
EXPENSE							
Staff Support	33,304.88	30,602.92	298,448.68	367,235.00	81.3%	37,123.68	274,509.66
Administration	6,195.38	9,416.25	71,072.72	112,995.00	62.9%	5,441.70	101,269.08
Ministry Areas	8,149.30	7,894.75	74,929.33	94,737.00	79.1%	6,374.35	80,991.17
Loan re-payment/contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	-2,500.00	-12,500.00
Total Expenses	47,649.56	47,913.92	444,450.73	574,967.00	77.3%	46,439.73	444,269.91
Income Less Expense	\$265.84	1.08	(\$10,865.14)	13.00		\$2,950.37	(\$13,981.83)

YOUTH MINISTRY

BY MATT POLSDOFER

Stinky Feet!!

Our high school youth ministry youth recently partnered up with the freshman confirmation students for a joint night and activity together. We began by playing a game called "Stinky Feet." What you do is have the 25 youth split into 4 teams. We played in the fellowship hall, and you have them all take off their shoes (hence the name stinky feet) and put in a pile on one end of the fellowship hall. They are in their 4 groups on the opposite side. What they do is one person from each team goes at a time, and while blindfolded must go to the pile of shoes on the other side of the fellowship hall. Their goal is to find a team members shoe. If they come back without a teammates shoe they must return the shoe while blindfolded and try again. The youth quickly picked up that while in the shoe pile you hold up different shoes and wait to hear your team say that yes bring that shoe back.



Matt Polsdofer

It sounds like a fun game, but how does this teach the youth anything or relate to faith? We discussed how we know anything about Christ since He died 2,000 years ago. The answer is simply that someone shared the story and that story has been passed on. In Romans 10:12-15 it says, "For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?" As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" How often do you think of feet as beautiful? I don't know about you, but personally feet are dirty, smell and gross!

It gave us the opportunity to talk about sharing our faith of Christ with others. When we think of this a lot of us picture someone yelling "JESUS LOVES YOU!!" or "You are a terrible person who needs to be saved." We discussed how we can share our faith, it can range from a simple smile to holding the door for someone or helping someone with an errand or chore. We can share our faith through actions along with words and by building relationships with our neighbors.

In Christ, Matt Polsdofer

✝ Promiseland

Greetings, Immanuel Family! There has been a little change in the Promiseland area in the month of November. With Tori Eastvold moving to a new position, the church needed a new Children's Education Director. The two of us, Tasha Banta and Krista Hopp, took over that spot a few weeks ago, and we are jumping right into the job. We are excited to help serve Christ and the children of Immanuel in this way!



By Krista Hopp and Tasha Banta

The Promiseland Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. here at Immanuel. The kids will be performing "A Christmas Carol: Special Report". They have been working hard for many weeks already on the music for the program. They will be singing many familiar Christmas songs as well as some that might be new to you. Whether you have a child in the program or not, we would love to have you join us that afternoon to watch the program, get into the Christmas spirit, and praise the newborn king!

With the Christmas season around the corner, we often cherish our memories and traditions from Christmases past. We took a little time to speak with our Promiseland children about some of their thoughts on Christmas. When asked about her favorite Christmas song, Hayden said she likes "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Jingle Bell Rock". Ellie and Isabel said their favorite Christmas treats are, "Sugar cookies from Grandma." Decorating the tree was a Christmas tradition shared by a student, and Cooper said his Christmas tradition is, "Getting together as a family and having fun." Neveah gave her reason for celebrating Christmas by sharing, "We celebrate Christmas because Baby Jesus was born." We hope you are able to share some of your favorite Christmas songs, treats, and traditions this season.

Youth Happening Dates:

- ✝ **MS YM: December: Meeting 3rd & 17th**-No meeting on December 10th-National Youth Gathering Meeting (No meeting 24th & 31st-Christmas break)
- ✝ **HS YM: December 6th, 13th, & 20th-Youth Ministry** (No HS Youth ministry on 27th-Christmas break)
- ✝ **Houston National Youth Gathering Trip Meeting December 10th-Youth Only**

December Library News



Book Review

The Gift of Christmas Present

By Melody Carlson

A beautiful story of a family's redemption and renewal, *The Gift of Christmas Present* tells how a college student who just learned that she was adopted finds the nerve to visit her birth grandmother during her Christmas break. Check it out to see what happens.

The Christmas Child: A Story of Coming

By Max Lucado

A short story by one of our favorite authors, Max Lucado, about a lonely journalist who finds himself in a small Texas town on Christmas Eve. He ends up reevaluating his past after learning the stories of others. A feel good book that is perfect for a busy December as it can be read in one sitting.

Movie Review

When Calls the Heart – Season 1

The full first season of the beloved series of a young teacher who is accustomed to her high society life back east. She now finds her first classroom post is a small Western Frontier town that is still recovering from a recent coal mining disaster that claimed the lives of most of the town's miners. This is a great DVD to keep you warm and entertained on a long winter night.

*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas as you
celebrate the Birth of Jesus!!*

The Library Committee

In December the library will be rewarding the Promiseland students who have read/watched three or more books/movies this fall (and returned them to the library). Whether it is a reading contest or a Bible Jeopardy game, we tell all the students that they are winners through Jesus. He has won the victory for them! This is true for all of us and we can embrace this victory as we celebrate Jesus' birth this holiday season.

1 Corinthians 15:57 Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



3 & 4 year olds - Jeopardy winners



Winners from a Wednesday night Promiseland/Library Jeopardy game with Librarians Kari Woolridge and Diane Lovik.



Another group of winners from a Wednesday Night Promiseland/Library Jeopardy game



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news and updates!**

Thank you for the financial gifts that come in from worship offerings, automatics, or through the mail.

Try this convenient way to give your offerings to Immanuel – could be a one-time gift, or a recurring electronic gift.

Just scan this QR code with your mobile device and follow the simple steps.



Board **notes**

Parish Council

Kathy McEnel

The ILC council met on Nov 13, 2017 with the following members present: Kathy McEnelly, Chad Benson, Joan Beebe, Alice Lewellen, Cynthia Ryder, Ken Hansen, Steve Olmstead, Brody Hopp, Kathy Leuwerke and Pastor Hopp and Pastor Anderson.

The Council authorized an offer to a Music & Worship candidate for a part-time position, 24-30 hours per week. Council discussed the arrangement with the Titonka 3-point parish and Pastor Anderson and agreed to continue that. Four members will be leaving Council after this year and discussion was held on potential candidates to contact. December 10 and 13 was set as the dates to vote on new council members. The 2018 Annual Meeting date was set for February 4.

Board of Education

Heather Johnson

The Board of Education met Tuesday, November 7. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer based on Titus 2:1-8 by Krista Hopp. We welcomed Krista Hopp as a new member to the Board of Education. We congratulated Tasha and Krista on their new interim role of the Children's Ed Director.

The Christmas program was discussed. We will be asking the older kids to come to Christmas practice on Wednesday, December 6th at 5 p.m. This will give them the opportunity to see their costume and rehearse their part as many do not make it to the Saturday practice which is scheduled for December 9th. The soups for the meal after the program will be chili, bean and ham soup and turkey/chicken noodle soup. There will also be bars, veggies, bread and crackers. Emily has applied for a Thrivent card to cover some of the cost of the soup supper. Deb will be asking the banks for paper supplies to use. Tammy will recruit at least 10 kids to help out on severing and cleanup of the meal. The teacher Christmas gifts will be decided by Tasha and Krista. If they need help or approval they will email the board.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 5th, at 5:00 p.m. with Alice leading our devotion.

Mission and Outreach

Sharen Rieffer

Mission & Outreach Board met on Wednesday, Nov. 8. Members present: Becky Stumme, Pøtt Van Auken, Larry Rieffer, Steve Olmstead, Brody Hopp and Sharen Rieffer. Devotions were given by Pøtt from Hebrews 13:20-21, asking that those who do good works will be given everything they need to do so through the power of Jesus Christ.

Agenda items:

1. **Hanson Family Life Center:** The art supplies that have been collected will be given to them at the end of November. Noisy offerings taken at worship Nov. 15 & 19.
2. **Missionaries:** Dec. Mission emphasis will be designated towards our ELCA Global Missionaries, Revs. Colin & Jeni Grangaard, so the yearly \$5,000 obligation can be fulfilled.
3. **Good Gifts Trees:** Larry & Sharen will decorate two pencil Christmas trees with 'Good Gift' ornaments after Thanksgiving. Check out the trees if you would like to purchase any of these 'good gifts'.

Board of Trustees

Kathy McEnelly

The Board of Trustees met on Nov 13. The October financials noted a positive bottom line for the month of \$265.84. Year-to-date, after ten months of 2017, we are at a loss of (\$10,865.14) however \$10,000 was borrowed so the year-to-date loss is actually -\$20,865.14. We were able to catch up and pay benefits for staff in October for two months. Cindi reported on upcoming cost savings with a new copier lease. The Board of Trustees was informed that Endowment Funding for 2018 will be \$35,000.



Thank you!

Many blessings and thanks to Dorothy Etzen and Janet Moldenhauer as they recently concluded their many, many years of faithful 'Friday morning bulletin' service at Immanuel!

Vital Agers

Mary Rodberg

Christmas Dinner Dec. 5

Be sure to sign up for our Christmas dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 11:30am in the fellowship hall. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board outside the office. Bill's Deli will be serving Iowa chops, mashed potatoes, corn, and tossed salad for \$8.00.

After a dessert of sherbet, Joan Hansen will present a program and Alice Jones will accompany us in singing Christmas songs.

Join in this festive event!





IMMANUEL FAMILY - A YEAR-END REPORT

Marge Solberg

It is December, a time for a year-end report. How does the church family look? What are this church family's plans for next year? Our church is facing the busiest time of the year. Circles have end-of-year business and shut-ins to visit; Vital-Agers had a Christmas party to plan. Choir is rehearsing awesome Christmas hymns and praises; Promiseland is working on exciting Christmas music and message; office staff is swamped, a Messenger and extra bulletins to get out; pastors are working on sermons; trees, lights, garland, manger scene are put together. Mike is answering calls for help from everyone, fixing all that breaks, leaks, and breaks, falls apart in our church. But cleaning, scrubbing, polishing still must be done every day. The next few weeks are packed with hurrying, rushing, and confusion.

Will you join me in looking back over what this year has been for Immanuel family: you and me? The year started with Christmas clean-up and emotional let-down. But the glow of Christmas was still with us because families gathered for fun, food, relaxation, worship. We spent fun times with old friends and met new people. We sang along to strains of Christmas carols that were played for a month. In spring we welcomed birds back from the South (both feathered and human) to see trees and grass turning green. Some of us had milestone birthdays. We were forced to realize we walk slower, don't see or hear as well as we used to, and we have less energy. Did a grandchild marry, graduate, or go into military service and is constantly in danger in a hostile country? For you who moved, downsized, and gave up long-time treasures, this was a year of adjusting. Did you start college and are away from home for the first time, or start a new job? Did

you marry or welcome a precious child into your own family?

This also was a sad and hurtful year for Immanuel family. Did your marriage or relationship end? Did you lose your job? Did a dreaded health diagnosis change the year for you? Are you very ill and are struggling? Did your very dear loved one die and you feel alone?

What will the New Year bring for Immanuel family? How will we be the same; how will we change? I have noticed how this church family, in some ways, has not changed much. During happy times, the church family prays, parties, celebrates, and have fun. When you marry, have babies, and graduate, have birthdays and anniversaries, the church family prays, celebrate, and bring gifts. Young members are sent to new adventures with prayers and love. When someone is hurting the rest of the church family responds with caring, then sharing what they have. They pray, visit, encourage, and comfort. They give food, rides, and whatever is needed to make their life better. They remind each other that God loves them in good and hard times.

The church family must change. We must notice each other's successes and needs and respond quicker. We must share more of our goods, our time, our help, our love, and our fun without regret. We must welcome church family who have left, who feel different and unaccepted. We must include everyone in our activities and not ignore their talents and help. We must listen to each other and respect their ideas and ways. We must stand with each other against injustice, prejudice, and hate. We must pray more often for each other, and share God's love to the entire Immanuel family. Let's all of us reply: "I will and I ask God to help me!"

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, Dec. 18, 2-4pm..Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom

December Laundry.....Mary Schaefer

December Sunday Coffee..... Coffee Hour Service Group

NO Circles scheduled in December

Inclement Weather Policy

Winter is just around the corner, and with it comes the chance of cancellations of church activities due to severe weather. Because of the importance we place on gathering together each week for worship, fellowship, and education, we will make every effort to conduct Sunday and Wednesday activities.

In the event of severe weather and we need to cancel worship, programs and activities, we will strive to make this decision by 7am for Sunday morning and by 2pm for Wednesday evening. Although circumstances may not always allow for this.

As a rule of thumb, weekday and evening programming activities will be cancelled if the public schools close or release early. Worship will be held unless otherwise noted. Funerals, weddings, and other special events will be conducted as scheduled if possible.

Cancellations will be communicated via KLOW 107.3FM radio (and on their webpage, kiow.com), KIMT television Channel 3 (and on their webpage, kimt.com), and on the Immanuelfamily facebook page.

If severe weather strikes on other weekdays, the church office will remain open whenever possible.

December CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7pm - Vocal Christmas w/ Waldorf, First Baptist	2 7pm - Vocal Christmas w/ Waldorf, First Baptist
3 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Coffee, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 2pm - Vocal Christmas w/Waldorf, First Baptist 6:30pm - MS Youth Ministry	4 5pm - Parish Life Board, Lounge 5-9pm - PEO, Shalom	5 11:30am - Vital Agers' Christmas Dinner, FH 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 5pm - Education Board, Kitchenette	6 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5pm - Christmas Program Practice for 6th graders 5:30pm - 7-8 Confir- mation 5:30pm - 'Hanging of the Greens', Sanctuary 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry	7 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 7pm - Wind Symphony Christmas w/Waldorf, Sanctuary	8	9 9-10am - Promiseland Christmas Program Practice, Sanctuary 1-4:30pm - Breadline Fundraiser, 107 N Clark St
10 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Congrega- tional Meeting-Council Election 10:15am - Coffee, FH 4pm - Promiseland Christmas Program 5pm - Soup Supper (freewill fundraiser for Stop Hunger), hosted by Promiseland 6:30pm - Houston Trip Meeting for Youth	11 5:45pm - Trustees, Kitchenette 6:45pm - Council, Reformation	12 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room	13 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5pm - Mission & Out- reach Board, Lounge 5:30pm - 7-8 Confir- mation 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Congregational Meeting-Council Election 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry	14 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge	15	16 5:45pm - Christmas Caroling, Meet in Fireside Room
17 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Coffee, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 6:30pm - MS Youth Group	18 2-4pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom JANUARY MESSENGER DEADLINE	19 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 6-8pm - Cub Scouts Pack Meeting, FH	20 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry	21 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 9:30- 11am - Inspire, Immanuel, Lounge 10:30am - Good Samari- tan Communion Service	22	23
24 9:15am - Worship 1pm - Christmas Eve Worship @ Forest Plaza 3pm - Christmas Eve Worship 5pm - Christmas Eve Worship	25 CHURCH CLOSED	26 CHURCH CLOSED	27	28 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge	29	30
31 9:15am - Worship 10:15am -Coffee, FH						



246 South Clark Street, Forest City, IA 50436
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST



MISSION STATEMENT

Building community in the
name and likeness of
Jesus Christ.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays - 9:15am
Wednesdays - 6:30pm

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
641-585-3152

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

246 S. Clark Street • Forest City, IA 50436

Main phone number:

641-585-3152

Website:

www.immanuelfamily.com

Facebook pages:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Immanuel Lutheran Church Library

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Home: 641-581-2150

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Matt Polsdofer - Youth Ministry

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Krista Hopp & Tasha Banta - Children's Education

ChildrensEd@immanuelfamily.com

Marie Oleson - Housekeeping

Deb Fardal – Wednesday meal coordinator
dfardal@yahoo.com

Church Council

President: **Kathy McEnelly**

Vice-President: **Chad Benson**

Treasurer: **Cynthia Ryder**

Secretary: **Melanie Slater**

Representatives: **Joan Beebe, Kathy Leuwerke,**

Ken Hansen, Brody Hopp, Heather Johnson,
Alice Lewellen, Stacy Miller, Steve Olmstead