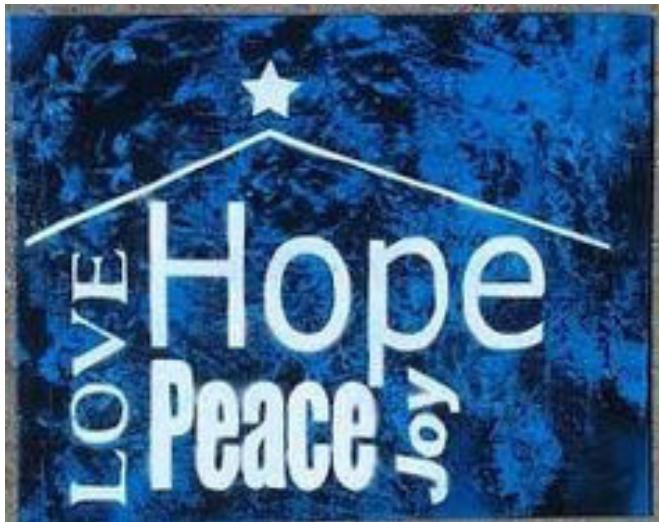
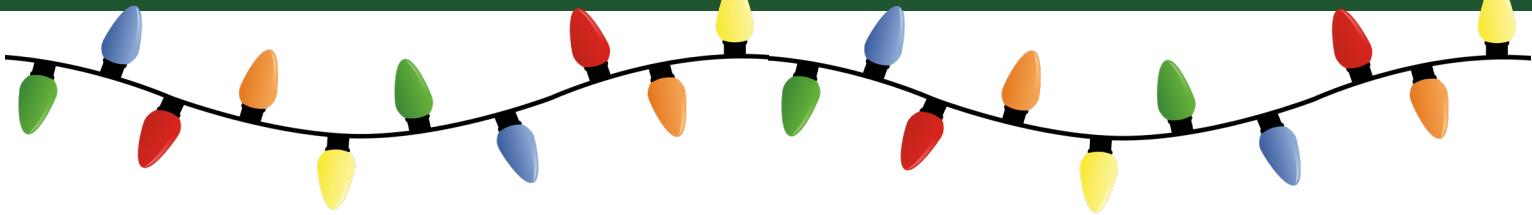


# THE MESSENGER

The monthly newsletter for members of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Forest City, Iowa - December 2018



## *Immanuel, Our Hope*

Come and experience Advent at Immanuel as we prepare in Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy for the coming of our Savior, Jesus.

### **Advent Sunday themes:**

Dec. 2	Immanuel, Our Hope
Dec. 9	Immanuel, Our Love
Dec. 16	Immanuel, Our Peace
Dec. 23	Immanuel, Our Joy
Dec. 24	Immanuel, God With Us

### **Christmas Eve Schedule:**

1pm, Service at Forest Plaza (anyone is welcome to attend)

3pm, Candlelight Service (2:30 pre-service music begins)

5pm, Candlelight Service (4:30 pre-service music begins)

Live radio broadcast over KIOW 107.3FM at 5:00pm

## *Shepherds Stars and a Savior Promiseland Christmas Program*



Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of our King!  
Sunday, December 16, 2:00 p.m.  
Please join us for pie, ice cream, and beverages in the Fellowship Hall directly following the program.

## **Christmas Open House**

Saturday, Dec. 8, 2-4:00 p.m.

At the home of Pastor Rod & Renae's

(20587 Hwy 9E, Forest City)

All are welcome to stop by to celebrate

The season of fellowship & festive treats.



We invite you to come experience Advent and the Christmas festivities with us!

Staff pictured in front: Jaci Thorson, Krista Hopp, Tasha Banta, Dawn Craig, Cindi Lehmann;

Back: Pastor Rod Hopp, Matt Polsdofer, Pastor Zech Anderson, Mike Oleson;

And Ben Allaway (Not Pictured)



## *Immanuel's 2018 Confirmation Class*

Confirmation worship was held on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 28 when the following affirmed their baptism:

**Front row:** Olivia Gayther, Alyson Walker, Morgan Nolton, Madysen Benson, Rachel Vogt, Laura Harms, Kaylee Miller

**Middle row:** Pastor Zech Anderson, Ellie Caylor, Jordan Anderson, Brock Moore, Wyatt Gelhaus, Pastor Rod Hopp

**Back row:** Brice Golwitzer, Brock Sobek, Noah Miller, Brandon Leber, Toby Brock, Elijah Alsop

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## *THankful For*

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. We worked hard, made new friends and had fun! Wonderful to see so many volunteers of all ages.

I am thankful for all of you!  
Blessed, Deb Guarin

Immanuel served around 220 meals on Thanksgiving Day. Freewill donations from the meal and Thanksgiving offerings will be shared with three mission causes: Forest City Neighborhood Food Bank, Wednesday Night Meals, and ELCA Missionaries Colin & Jeni Grangaard. After expenses, each of these three will receive \$452.

## **NO '2nd Sunday' potluck in December**

– taking a break for the holidays

2019 potlucks & scheduled hosts:  
January 13: Mission & Outreach Board  
February 10: Board of Education  
March 10: General Council



## *Birthday for Jesus*

**A Christmastime giving opportunity through The Gideons International**

BIRTHDAY FOR JESUS is a simple, joyful opportunity for you to honor the Savior's birth by donating God's Word. This is an opportunity for families and individuals of all ages to experience the joy of Christmas while being reminded of the real meaning for the season—sharing the God News of Jesus.

During the Advent season at Immanuel, visit the display set up in the narthex. Hanging ornament cards and envelopes are available for your donations. The ornament cards may be given or placed on the display.

What better way to honor the birth of the Savior than to donate Scriptures in His honor. The gifts provided will be used to distribute Scriptures, free of charge, by Gideons to people in some 200 countries.

## *Vital Agers' Christmas Celebration*

Mary Rodberg

Please join the Vital Agers for our annual Christmas celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We will kick off the Christmas season with a day of food, fellowship and fun with a catered dinner and an enjoyable program presented by our own Ben Allaway.

The dinner, catered by Bill's Deli, will be swiss chicken, twice baked potatoes, baby carrots, and tossed salad. Dessert will be assorted sherbets.

Sign up on the bulletin board outside the office. Cost of the meal is \$8.50 per person, payable in the office or at the day of the dinner. Please sign up as soon as possible and plan on joining us for a great celebration.



**Meaningful gifts for everyone on your list**

Stop by the Good Gifts Christmas Trees at Immanuel and give a gift that matters.

# Letter from Pastor Rod

## **Christmas Is About Embracing God's Gift & Promise**



Each month I write a message for you in this publication we've titled The Messenger. Our English word *messenger* comes from the Greek word *angelos* or angel.

Often in scripture an angel is a messenger of God bringing good news to the people.

So you might wonder, what message do the angels bring that is good news? At its root the message is always the same, "do not fear; God is with you." There are of course differing versions of this message but the heart of the message is always the same. In Luke 2, the angel says to the shepherds, "*Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*" The message is a message of liberation from fear and a message of promise that God is involved. The two sides to this message are something we as people of flesh need to hear again and again, do not fear; God is with you.

We are by nature creatures of fear wired for fight or flight. If it were up to us we would, at worst, live in isolation within self-made walls of despair, and, at best, we'd live in a community of utter sameness, an activity known as tribalism. But God created us for relationship, for love, and for community that goes beyond the tribe and extends to the neighbor.

If this is the message of the angels I wonder why we are so reticent to receive and believe and embrace this message? As I ponder this question in this Advent season of waiting and with an awareness of "the news" it becomes clear that the root cause of our failure to embrace is sin. Sin blocks us from receiving and believing God's liberating actions and God's word of promise.

Our human experience daily reminds us that fear is "humanly speaking" our best choice: wild fires rip through California destroying everything in their path; a shooter enter a hospital and opens fire; a caravan of migrants move toward the US southern border and we're told they are an invading force; an enemy army we should fear. Sin makes fear our default position and the first god we listen to when we are afraid is ourselves saying, "shut down, close the gates, shut the world out."

So how can we embrace the gift of God's liberation from fear and the promise of his presence in the midst of a world gripped by fear? Scripture seems to be the short answer. I believe the Apostle Paul was wrestling with this same question as his Hebrew world clashed with the Greek culture. In that struggle he wrote these words found in Romans 8:31-39, *What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* <sup>32</sup>*He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?* <sup>33</sup>*Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* <sup>34</sup>*Who*

*is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.* <sup>35</sup>*Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* <sup>36</sup>*As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'*

<sup>37</sup>*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* <sup>38</sup>*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,* <sup>39</sup>*nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Dear friends, Paul locates his courage in Jesus. Jesus is the answer. Only he who came from heaven can enable us to overcome our earthy fears. And following him in giving ourselves to the other is the only way to build the beloved community of his body. May the celebration of His birth motivate and move you to trust him, to overcome your fears, to embrace His promise, and to do his will.

A Blessed, Peace-full and Merry Christmas to each of you,  
Pastor Rod Hopp

## Immanuel Kids

Has anyone ever told you that you are an angel? I often think my grandchildren are angels, especially when they are asleep – they look so peaceful and angelic. The Greek word for angel is *angelos*, sometimes translated as messenger and sometimes as angel. In the Bible, angels are messengers of God who are sent to people with the good news that God is with them.

Guess what? That definition of an angel makes you an angel. That's right, you are an angel. You are sent by God to proclaim the good news of Jesus and to share him with those around you. Like the angels in the story of Jesus' birth in Luke's Gospel who were sent to the shepherds, so you are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This is the message that changes everything.

In Matthew 28:19-20 we read Jesus words saying: '*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* <sup>20</sup>*and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*

It is good news that God is with us. It is good news that we are sent by God to be messengers of his love. It is good news that Jesus is with us through the Holy Spirit to the end of time. May Christ's presence be announced to you this Christmas season, and may you go, sent as God's angel, to proclaim his love and presence with the world. A Merry Christmas to each one of you.

Crossed in Christ,  
Pastor Rod



It is December, and you don't have to look very far to know what that means. Yes, it's Advent, but everywhere you look, every station you turn on the listen to, every video and site you see on the website seems to be reminding us that it is in fact Christmas time. It's not so much about waiting as you walk into Walmart, since they have a countdown sign greeting you. And the same is true everywhere you look. Only 25 days until Christmas. 50% off all items. Find the perfect gift this Christmas season. A new car will do wonders for you during the winter sales event. The top toys or electronics are a must. Don't forget your new Christmas outfit. It seems like people only want your money.

But wait, these are not the only things shouting to you for an entire month. Radio stations play Christmas music in your car and everywhere you go. You are constantly reminded of all the other things besides gifts you need to do. Ring the Salvation Army bell. Bake cookies. Donate to a good cause. Don't forget the Christmas programs at school and in your congregation. And of course, the family planning of who is hosting, and what should we bring, and how long should we visit.

Maybe you can resonate with some of these things that I have listed, or you can think of other things that come up during this time of year. And as much as I truly love this time of year there are times I feel like the Grinch and all I can think of and hear is, "all the noise, noise, noise, noise!" There is so much competing for our attention, it can feel very noisy and overwhelming at times as we try to fit everything into the season.

That's why I'm suggesting we take some time during the Christmas season to slow down and find a way to have some silence. And there is one who is right there is the craziness of life offering a chance for peace and some silence. Jesus! I am reminded of the song Silent Night. And maybe it was silent, but there was a lot of noise around the birth of Jesus too. Due to the census, many people filled up Bethlehem to the point where Mary and Joseph are told there is no room in the inn. Angels sing and proclaim that Christ is born to the shepherds. But, among all of this noise this joy, we have the image of Jesus, all is calm, all is bright, sleeping in heavenly peace. Jesus is there a calmness in our lives, at the center of all of this.

## Silent Night

It truly is a wonderful time of year, and I pray you can find some silence in the business of the season. Hear this message break through all the noise around us, CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN! And Christ is with you always in the crazy moments of our lives and the moments of peace.

Blessing this Christmas season! See you in worship!  
Pastor Zech Anderson

## Bonus & Blessings

Recently a member reminded me that the tax policy on required minimum distributions (RMD) from qualified retirement accounts and IRA's has been made permanent for 2018 and beyond. You can have your RMD sent to Immanuel directly from your account/fund and bypass Federal taxes. You can also make gifts of stock directly into Immanuel's brokerage account and avoid all capital gains taxes. These are both great financial giving options as you seek to minimize taxes and maximize your donation.

Like you, I have personally received many recent requests for donations from such organizations: Lutheran Service of Iowa (LSI), Omaha Food Bank, Church of Damascus Road, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, World Hunger, Forest City Education Foundation, Forest City Firemen and several more I did not mention. Some of those requests even promise that my financial gift will be matched by another.

I want to remind you that God promises to more than match what you give. Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." The Message Bible even uses the words "given back with bonus and blessing".

This Christmas season please consider a financial gift to Immanuel. If you have questions or would like to set up automatic giving, feel free to give me a call at 585-3152.

Blessings,  
Cindi Lehmann  
Finance Administrator



## Treasury's Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church FY September 2018

	OCTOBER Actual 2018	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Annual Budget	Percent of YTD Budget	OCTOBER- Acutal 2017	YTD Actual 2017
<b>Income</b>							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	\$3,8097.66	\$ 41,671.00	\$380,855.31	\$500,052.00	76.2%	\$46,417.06	\$381,939.82
Other Income	\$3,240.74	\$5,781.50	\$67,777.93	\$69,378.00	97.7%	\$1,498.34	\$51,645.77
Total Income	\$41,338.40	\$47,452.50	\$448,633.24	\$569,430.00	78.8%	\$47,915.40	\$433,585.59
<b>Expense</b>							
Staff Support	\$29,204.67	\$28,985.50	\$288,184.10	\$347,826.00	82.9%	34,004.88	\$299,148.68
Administration	\$9,046.40	\$ 9,708.25	\$108,042.31	\$116,499.00	92.7%	\$6,195.38	\$71,072.72
Ministry Areas	\$8,907.01	\$9,079.58	\$86,526.12	\$108,955.00	79.4%	\$7,449.30	\$74,229.33
Loan re-payment/contingency	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$5,000.00	\$0.00	0.0%	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 47,158.08	\$47,773.33	\$477,752.53	\$573,280.00	83.3%	\$47,649.56	\$444,450.73
<b>Income Less Expenses</b>	(\$5,819.68)	-\$320.83	(\$29,119.29)	-\$3,850.00		\$265.84	(\$10,865.14)

# Board notes

## Children's Education

Krista Hopp

The meeting began at 4:32pm on November 13th with devotions.

The first item on the agenda was Mission Sunday. The Board discussed the big picture of our work and why we do what we do. We want to help foster a relationship between the children of Immanuel/our community and God. Tammy will represent the Board of Education on Sunday.

The next item discussed was Teacher Christmas gifts. A few ideas were brought up for discussion and we settled on a gift that will be suitable for all teachers and stay within our budget.

The Board then moved to this year's Christmas Program. We discussed pie/ice cream needs and how we will fill that need. We will ask confirmation groups to help serve the pie and ice cream and help fill their service project needs.

The program changes were discussed, and a plan put in place to notify every one of the schedule change.

Our next meeting will take place December 11 at 4:30.

## Parish Life

Melanie Westerberg

The Board of Parish Life met briefly this month on Sunday Nov. 11th after church.

Our purpose was to finalize our plans for the chili cook off. Steve Olmstead summarized those he had contacted for judges, community participants, and prizes. We also reviewed the set up and supplies that were needed with Ben and Jaci.

The cook off was held on Tuesday, Nov. 13th and had a great response and support from many who helped plan it!

## Mission and Outreach

Sharen Rieffer

Mission & Outreach met on Wednesday, Nov. 14. Present: Jaci Thorson, Amy Thorson, Pott Van Auken, Steve Olmstead, Larry & Sharen Rieffer.

This quarter's emphasis is our missionaries in Israel: Colin, Jeni, Josie and Amos Grangaard. There will be a noisy offering for them on November 14 and 18. A short video about their work will be shown during those services.

We discussed the many things our board does so that if can be presented at coffee on November 18. Amy volunteered to do this. The main mission of the group:

The Mission & Outreach Board has the responsibility of supporting the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church and the missions beyond our membership. We choose different mission emphasis to support throughout the year, depending on what needs arise. These needs can be either congregational, local or global.

We are always looking for new ways to serve others and are truly blessed to have a congregation which supports

our missions.

We discussed putting up Christmas trees with the ELCA Good Gifts ornaments. We agreed to help support the Gideons with their "Birthday for Jesus" efforts.

## Trustees

Kathy McEnelly

The Board of Trustees met on November 8, 2018. In October, we ended the month with a loss of (\$5,819.68). The year-to-date loss after ten months is (\$29,119.29). The Board was informed that we can expect about \$35,000 from the Endowment Fund for 2019, the same amount as 2018.

In property news, the parsonage water issue in the basement was reviewed. We now have an estimate on the basement repair from Midwest Basement. The estimate from American Waterworks is \$15,400 and the estimate from Midwest Basement is \$11,600 (this estimate does not include a battery back-up). We have \$7,600 from the insurance settlement and that will go towards replacement of the flooring that was damaged. The Board voted to accept the bid from Midwest Basement for \$11,600 and will draw from the Firm Foundation account funds.

The Board reviewed a safety assessment of our property completed by Mike Oleson, Andy Buffington, Jen Jenkins and Cindi Lehmann. They assessed security of the church building and where we might be vulnerable. A few small things will be taken care of right away and we will likely move towards a punch lock on the south door for access but keeping the south vestibule to that door unlocked for shelter.

The Board talked a bit about the sound system and possible funding for a new system. This would likely require a capital campaign.

## Parish Council

Kathy McEnelly

The ILC council met on November 12, 2018 with the following members present: Kathy McEnelly, Quincey Benson, Alice Lewellen, Amy Thorson, Kathy Leuwerke, Cynthia Ryder, Ellen Olson, Joan Beebe, Pastor Hopp and Pastor Anderson.

Council reviewed the slate for 2019 Council members. Council approved the recommendation from the Board of Trustees to hire Midwest Basement to complete work on the parsonage basement at a cost of \$11,600.

Mission Sunday will be November 18 with Bishop Prois preaching. Council continues to review changes to the Constitution which will go to the Congregation at the annual meeting in February.

# **+ Promiseland**

Krista Hopp

*For unto us a Child is born,  
unto us a Son is given; and the  
government will be upon His  
shoulder. And His name will be  
called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6-7*



I love the Christmas season. Everything about it brings me joy. The anticipation of Christmas day, baking goodies, the Christmas carols, the glow of Christmas lights twinkling in the night, time spent with family, even the short days with their long, cold nights seem to make me smile. It is a wonderful time of year; some would even say it is the MOST wonderful time of the year. There are plenty reasons to love Christmastime, even if it is in the dreaded Iowa winter. But the most important reason is that it is the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus!

Do you have holiday traditions that help keep you focused on the birth of Christ? Perhaps you have an Advent Calendar with activities that help you anticipate Christmas day. Maybe you read the Christmas story from the Bible with your family. I have heard of some families with young children who bake a birthday cake for Jesus or make Him a birthday card. Whatever your traditions may be, I hope we all find ways to remember and glorify our Savior, Jesus Christ!

We hope you will come and join our Promiseland children as they perform this year's Christmas program, "Shepherds, Stars, and a Savior!" The kids will be singing some songs that may be new to you along with some classic Christmas carols. We will also follow the story of some lost shepherds and cute little sheep as they sing about the birth of Jesus. The program will take place on Sunday, December 16, at 2:00 p.m. The Board of Education is hosting pie, ice cream, and beverages in the Fellowship Hall directly following the program. Please come to help us celebrate of the birth of our King!

## Youth Ministry

By Matt Polsdofer

### **Jesus was FULLY God and FULLY HUMAN**

During one of our recent confirmation classes we were talking about how Jesus is fully divine and fully human. It can be hard for people to think of Jesus' human side when you think of all the amazing miraculous things He did. I want to look at a specific time when Jesus is fully human and He understands the human condition. In Matthew 7:5 Jesus says, "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." One of the things that we can do as a church and individually is rationalize our sins. "I'm not as bad as \_\_\_\_\_ because I don't do \_\_\_\_\_".

How often do we do this? Jesus clearly understands what it means to be human because it is a struggle for all of us. How many fights, arguments, wars or friendships have ended over judging others? It can be easy for us to spot that speck in our brother's eye, but I would invite you to work on not judging other people. Judgment is one of the reasons that people do not feel comfortable or want to attend church. They may be worried about being judged for their actions from the past couple of days, maybe being judged for not going to church for a long time or a whole host of other things. Let us be like Jesus and show compassion and love to those we encounter rather than judgment.

#### **6th and 7th grade confirmation**

We had an awesome opportunity this month to visit Forest Plaza! It was a great opportunity for our youth to talk and hear stories with those they may not have interacted with before. We will also have an opportunity to visit Good Sam this month that we are looking forward to!

Also, Friday December 14th Immanuel will be hosting the 5th quarter. It is our 7th grade parents turn to host and we appreciate them partnering with us in this vital ministry!

#### **HS Youth:**

We are continuing to build on our Peer Ministry training and have the opportunity to get further training. We are also exploring our faith and some instances are: who is Jesus?, What happens after you die? And a whole host of other topics! I love working with our high schoolers on these topics because it not only builds their faith but helps mine as well and I'm always learning too!

# December 2018 Library News



Prepare ye  
the way  
Prepare ye  
the way  
Prepare ye  
the way of  
the Lord

Prepare your heart to receive the best Christmas gift ever given – Jesus!

Stop by your Immanuel Library and check out Christmas music, Christmas movies, and/or Christmas books to help you prepare your heart for Jesus. Some are displayed and others are on the shelves. Stop by and check them out to give you and your family an early Christmas gift. You will be blessed and it is all FREE! ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️



## Promiseland

The Promiseland partnership with the Immanuel Library and the annual reading contest are progressing well! All of the classes have come to the library once. Three of the team winners in the Bible Jeopardy game are pictured here (Last month the other team pictures were pictured).



December 19<sup>th</sup> all children who have checked out and returned three or more books and/or movies will be recognized and receive a gift. Congratulations to them all!



Continue to bring your children to the library as the reading contest continues into 2019 with more prizes waiting to be earned.

Merry Christmas from the Immanuel Library Committee

# O LITTLE TOWN OF...

Marge Solberg

More than 2000 years ago, in a desert country, a remote, quiet little town became the place God began His plan of redemption. A family of a man and his wife, and the miracle birth of a child brought God to earth to be the salvation of mankind. O little town, did you know what was happening in your town that night? You were not prepared to welcome the special guests; all the sleeping rooms were taken. The woman was about to give birth, so the innkeeper offered them the barn as their room. It would be soft and dry and comfortable for the babe soon to be born. So, a cattle manger full of hay became a bed for God's child. The animals were peaceful and calm. Did you suddenly hear angels singing as a heavenly choir and see stars lighting the whole sky, welcoming the birth? When shepherds saw the stars, they rushed to the town to see what was going on. The man was overwhelmed but his wife seemed to understand the magnificence of it all. Your town would be a special place on world maps. Visitors from far places would come to see the Holy Child who was born that night in your town. You would forever be part of the story of the birth of God's only Son!

O LITTLE TOWN OF... I was born in a little town and I have lived my life in small towns. When I was in third grade mom, my sisters, and I went to San Francisco, California to be with dad for a month when his ship returned from a year at sea. It was the first time I had been in a large city. We toured every part of San Francisco that month. It was a month of firsts for me. I saw persons of other races, heard languages I could not understand, ate food of other cultures, and saw how people lived. We spent time on dad's ship, so I learned about our country at war, even against home countries of people I saw in that city. Each day was full of learning something new about people. Each day was exciting, and I decided then that I would live in a big city when I grew up. I never did live in a big city. I've lived in this small town for many years and I know most people here. My church surrounds me with care and love on good days but even more so on tough days. I know that the people I see as I go about this small town pray for me and care about my family. I am aware of how much I am part of this small town.

We know that we need to welcome every person who comes to our church and get to know them, to include them in our worship, in our lives and especially, in our prayers. We are Immanuel Family that is what families do. I think God led us to this small town because He has much for us to do. Let's not tighten our church groups, restrict our acceptance of new opinions and ideas, or become more cautious of those we wish to befriend. We could even become only one generation from extinction. Then no one will remember, or care, that we were here and soon we'd have no special purpose. We need to worship together, to laugh, cry, sing, and serve the people in this church and in this little town. Like over 2000 years ago, we'll gather at the celebration of Christ's birth in the beauty of lights and choirs and we will again pray for each other and thank God for putting us right in the middle of our LITTLE TOWN! Will we accept this challenge? Please say, "YES, With God's Help!"

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM or O LITTLE TOWN OF FOREST CITY – Both with a Special Mission!

## Hospice of North Iowa invites you to Tree of Life program

Tree lighting program in Forest City will be held Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m., at the TSB Bank Community Room. (The complete list of other tree lightings in area towns may be found at church or on the Hospice of North Iowa website.) With a donation of any amount, a light is placed on a Tree of Life in remembrance of a loved one or in honor of someone living. In addition, a holiday ornament is provided to each donor who attends the program. Your contribution will help extend hospice care to others. Deadlines for donations are two days before the program. These may be sent to Hospice of North Iowa, 232 2nd St SE, Mason City, IA 50401. Specify who you are giving 'in memory of' or 'in honor of', and the location of the event.

Someone remembered... someone honored... someone loved.



## Good Samaritan Resident Tree

Thank you for the gifts in the past that have helped make Christmas special to our residents at Good Samaritan Society!

This year we are doing things a little different. We will be having a "Resident Tree" located in the front lobby where churches, community members, friends or staff are welcome to come in and take as many tags as you wish and personally shop for a resident. Also, if this is something you would like to do but don't like to shop or have time, we will be accepting cash donations and will then use that to shop for one of the residents.

The tags will have a number representing a resident, it will list male or female, sizes if needed, and a few personal items that resident would like for Christmas. This started on Nov. 26 and run all the way up to Dec. 17. We ask that you bring the gift back bagged or wrapped with the tag placed on the outside of the package. Please remember, due to the safety of our residents, only purchase items listed on the tags.

Contact Tiffany Thomazin at 585-2232 if you have any questions. Thank you for taking the time to brighten the holidays for our residents.  
Good Samaritan Society  
606 S 7th St, Forest City





## Meet a Peer Minister

Hello Immanuel, my name is Anuja KC. I am a sophomore, studying communication at Waldorf University. I am an international student from Nepal. Being a Hindu, I never thought I would be involved in campus ministry and join in hands with worship every Sunday but I am very happy that I am getting to learn and experience about a different religion here on-campus. I am involved in many groups and organizations on campus including serving as a peer minister for Lutheran campus ministry. I handle marketing within the group where I help make posters for different events and also handle social media sites. I love Campus Ministry because the community is very welcoming to all the students on campus and is always moving forward to make a difference in the community and around campus. I am happy to be a part of the Lutheran Campus Ministry family.

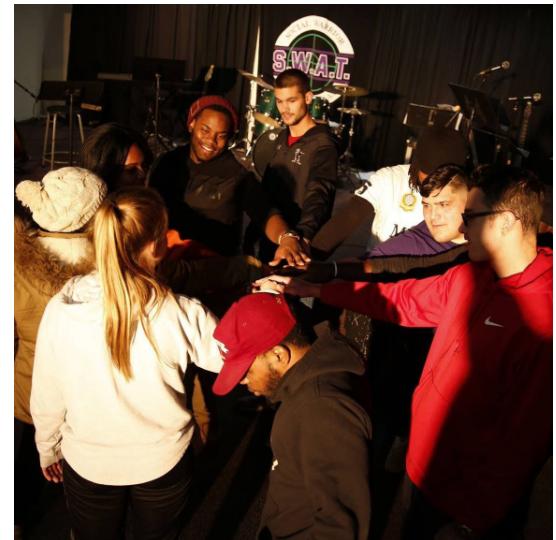
## Greetings from Campus Ministry

It would seem that not too long ago we were gearing up for the back-to-school block party and yet here we are winding down for winter break. As we prepare to wrap up the semester we begin our planning for the Service-Learning Trip to San Diego this spring! This year we will be partnering with the ELCA Campus Ministry at San Diego State University to explore Immigration and Poverty. Our group of 20 participants will spend a week engaging in service and learning opportunities provided through local organizations.

Our first fundraising event will be a bake sale at Bill's Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 1pm so be sure to stop by to buy some goodies and meet some of the students who are working hard to make the trip happen. Total cost per person for the trip will be \$900, but our goal is to make this experience available to as many students as possible by reducing the cost to \$350 and fundraising the difference so any donation will make a difference.

We thank you in advance for your support and on behalf of the International students and the students who attend the weekly meals on Wednesday's, we send a special thanks to all of you who are apart of making the Waldorf experience that much more meaningful.

Peace,  
Antoine Cummins  
Campus Ministry Coordinator  
Like Fire LCM advisor  
641-585-8729  
AntoineCummins@Waldorf.edu



## Smokin' Blues Chili Cook-Off Results

Thanks to those that entered the Chili Cook-Off event held at church Nov. 13. Twenty-two crock pots were entered for the coveted awards.

Winners in the 'Judges' category: 1st place – Steve Olmstead; 2nd place – Jaci Thorson; 3rd place – Audrey Olmstead.

Winners in the 'People's Pick' category: 1st place – Pritchards Service; 2nd place – Heather Johnson; 3rd place – Pastor Rod Hopp.

'Golden Pot' Best-in-Show winner: Steve Olmstead with his Hawaiian Chili.

Ben Allaway, Bob Alsop, and Rob Lombard, guest musician, entertained the chili-tasting crowd with some Blues tunes and more.

Special thanks to the celebrity judges from KIOW: Tony Coloff, A.J. Taylor, and Mark Skaar; with auditor Jim Hemberger



Heather Johnson, Melanie Westerberg, and Mark Newcom serving up their crock-pot chili entry



Ellen Olson sampling Steve & Audrey Olmstead's award-winning chilis

# Volunteer December 2018

## **Altar Guild**

Dec. 2.....	Jeanette Neuman
Dec. 9.....	Judy Utech
Dec. 16.....	Jean Yeager
Dec. 23.....	Kathy Leuwerke
Dec. 30.....	Julie Damm

## **Assisting Ministers**

Dec. 2.....	Cynthia Ryder
Dec. 9.....	Carolyn Price
Dec. 16.....	David Melby
Dec. 23.....	Joan Hansen
Dec. 30.....	David Melby
Dec. 24.....	(3) TBD (5) Joan Hansen

## **Scripture Readers**

Dec. 2.....	,,,Deb Guarin
Dec. 9.....	Mark Johnson
Dec. 16.....	Pam Keller
Dec. 23.....	John Chisholm
Dec. 24.....	(3) Bruce Mielke, (5) Connie Johnson
Dec. 30.....	Ray Beebe

## **Communion Set Up**

Dec. 2.....	Alice Jones
Dec. 9.....	Kathy Bendickson
Dec. 16.....	Shirley Rollefson
Dec. 23.....	Ruth Melby
Dec. 24.....	Ruth Melby
Dec. 30.....	Joyce Kasper
Wednesdays.....	Bernie & Karen Kofron



Flowers  
ε  
Broadcasts

**Flowers available for these Sundays: (cost is \$44)**

Dec. 9, 16  
Jan. 13, 20  
Feb. 10, 17, 24

**Radio broadcasts available for these Sundays: (cost is \$100)**

**Dec. 30**  
**Jan. 13**  
**Feb. 10, 17**

**Sunday broadcasts are played each Sunday at 11am over KIOW, 107.3 FM.**

## **Communion Servers**

Dec. 2.....	Leah Boyd, Julie Damm
Dec. 9.....	Jim Cherry, Laurel Erickson
Dec. 16.....	Carolynn Korth, Kay Sorensen
Dec. 23.....	Jim & Barb Braun
Dec. 24.....	(3) Joan Beebe, Mary Kingland (need 4 more) (5) Joan Hansen, Judy Utech (need 6 more)
Dec. 30.....	Joan Beebe, Jan Buffington

## **Song Leaders**

Dec. 2.....	Jaci Thorson, Audrey Olmstead
Dec. 9.....	Mark & Joy Newcom
Dec. 16.....	Cindi Lehmann, Kathy Jerome
Dec. 23.....	Linda Ferjak, Mary Kingland
Dec. 30.....	Brena Rust, Elizabeth May

## **Offering Counters**

Joyce Goranson, Dorothy Olson, Mary Schaefer, Betty Nelson, Marj Anderson

## **Ushers**

Gary McCarthy, Matt & Dominic Bronson, Loren Ehrich

## **Sound Techs**

Bruce Mielke, Dave Midgaard

## **Coffee Fellowship**

Coffee Hour Group

## **Laundry**

Mary Schaefer

## **Blessings & Prayers**

### **Baptisms**

Nov. 25 Asher Michael Determann, son of Nicholas & Nicole Determann

### **Prayers**

Travis & Samantha Beck (now of Rochester, MN) in the loss of infant twin son, Elliott Beck

Anne Monson, Kathleen Monson, and family in the loss of father, David Monson of Forest City.

Phouthone & Toune Sichanthongthip, Sone & Thanomchith Sichanthongthip, Singthong & Bounekong Sichanthongthip, Kong & Sengpheth Sanasinh, Bouaphan Sichanthongthip, family and friends, in the loss of father, Kham Sichanthongthip of Forest City

Family and friends in the loss of Bonnie Steiff of Forest City

# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 7pm - Christmas w/Waldorf, Boman Fine Arts Center
<b>2</b> 9:15am- Worship-1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 10:15am- Coffee, FH 10:30am- Promiseland	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:30am – Vital Agers Christmas Dinner & Program 2pm- Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 5pm- Parish Life Board, lounge	<b>5</b> 4:45-6:45pm- Supper, FH 5:30pm- Bells/6-7 Confirmation/Promiseland 6:30pm- Worship 7:30pm- Choir/ 8-9 Confirmation/HS Youth	<b>6</b> 8:30am -Women's Bible Study, Lounge 5:45pm - Trustees, Kitchenette	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 2-4pm - Christmas Open House @ Pastor Rod & Renae's home (20587 Hwy 9E)
<b>9</b> 9:15am - Worship 10:15am- Coffee, Thrivent Representative speaking, FH 10:30am- Promiseland 2-5pm – Peer Ministry Follow-up	<b>10</b> 6:45pm- Council, Reformation Room	<b>11</b> 2pm- Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 4:30pm- Education Board, Kitchenette	<b>12</b> 4:45-6:45pm- Supper, FH 4:45pm- Mission & Outreach, Lounge 5:30pm- 6-7 Confirmation / Promiseland / Bells 6:30pm- Worship 7:30pm- Choir/ 8-9 Confirmation/HS Youth	<b>13</b> 8:30am -Women's Bible Study, Lounge 10:30am- Good Samaritan Communion Service	<b>14</b> After BB- Host 5 <sup>th</sup> Quarter @ Y (7 <sup>th</sup> gr parents to help)	<b>15</b> 9-10am- Promiseland Christmas Program Practice, Sanctuary
<b>9</b> 9:15am- Worship 10:15am- Coffee, FH 10:30am- Promiseland 2pm- Promiseland Christmas Program w/pie & ice cream served following	<b>17</b> 2-4pm- Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom	<b>18</b> 2pm- Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 4:30pm- Cub Scout Pack Meeting, FH	<b>19</b> JANUARY MESSENGER DEADLINE 4:45-6:45pm- Supper, FH 5:30pm- Bells/6-7 Confirmation/Promiseland 6:30pm- Worship 7:30pm- Choir/ 8-9 Confirmation/HS Youth	<b>20</b> 8:30am -Women's Bible Study, Lounge	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 4pm- Staff Christmas Party @ Super Bowl
<b>23</b> 9:15am- Worship 10:15am- Coffee, FH	<b>24</b> 1pm- Christmas Eve Worship, Forest Plaza 3pm- Christmas Eve Worship (2:30 pre-service music) 5pm-Christmas Eve Worship (4:30 pre-service)	<b>25</b> <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b> Church closed	<b>26</b> Church closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:15am- Worship 10:15am- Coffee, FH	<b>31</b> <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE!</b>					

## ACCESSING THRIVENT FUNDS FOR MINISTRY

Did you know that many of us, as members of Immanuel, have access to funds to do ministry in our community? Thrivent literally has millions of dollars that they want to share for ministry!

On December 9 during coffee hour, we will have an opportunity to hear from representatives from

Thrivent about how to access these funds for Immanuel and/or other charitable causes you may be interested in. This is a way for you to make a difference and is really quite painless. Please plan to join us on December 9 to learn how to fund your passion for ministry!



May we all thank Jesus for our many blessings this past year. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Blessings to you all,  
Dawn Craig,  
Hospitality Specialist

Free meal served 4:45-6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome each Wednesday for a tasty, homecooked meal as well as fellowship time!

Dec. 5	Taco Bar, orange Jello w/bananas
Dec. 12	Scalloped potatoes w/ham, green beans, applesauce, brownies
Dec. 19	Upside-down pizza, lettuce salad, cherry cheesecake
Dec. 26	No Meal



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 8am – 5pm

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
246 South Clark Street, Forest City, IA 50436

#### **TELEPHONE**

641-585-3152

#### **Website:**

[www.immanuelfamily.com](http://www.immanuelfamily.com)

Facebook pages:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church Library

#### **Staff:**

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**Rev. Zech Anderson**-Associate Pastor  
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**Jaci Thorson**-Administrative Assistant  
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**Matt Polsdofer**-Youth Ministry

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**Krista Hopp & Tasha Banta**-Children's Ed

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**Ben Allaway**-Worship & Music

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**Dawn Craig**-Hospitality Specialist

[dawncraig1211@gmail.com](mailto:dawncraig1211@gmail.com)

President: **Kathy McEnelly**

Vice-President: **Quincey Benson**

Treasurer: Kathy Leuwerke

Secretary: **Alice Lewellen**

Representatives: **Joan Beebe, Ken Hansen, Heather Johnson, Cynthia Ryder, Steve Olmstead, Ellen Olson, Zoey Steffensen, Amy Thorson**