

# THE MESSENGER

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

## Congregational Annual Meeting – Sunday, Feb. 5

All are encouraged to come hear God's good Word and celebrate all the good ministry and programming happening at Immanuel Lutheran Church!

The Sunday schedule will be:

- 9:15am - Worship
- 10:15am - Fundraising Pancake Meal – 8th grade – high school students who will be attending the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gather in Houston, TX, will be preparing

and serving pancakes, eggs, ham, fruit. Freewill donations will go towards their trip.

- 11:00am - CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING – Join us in celebrating God's work at Immanuel during 2016, and what 2017 holds for our congregation.
- Nursery child care will be available through all the events of the morning.



STOP HUNGER food packing day is Wednesday, February 22 at the Waldorf Atrium. (Note the earlier than usual date.) Immanuel and Waldorf University are teaming up once again to help significantly reduce the number of hungry people throughout the world. Our food

will go to Tanzania this year.

On Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 1:30-6:30pm, we will be packaging rice-based meals in the Waldorf Atrium and need your help!

We are looking for your monetary donations, and willing workers for one-hour shifts to meet our goal of \$18,000 and 60,000 meals. It takes about 400 volunteers throughout the afternoon to fill these shifts. Consider signing up by contact Jaci in the church office (585-3152 / jaci@immanuelfamily.com) or Mary Reisetter (641-903-9901 / reisettem@waldorf.edu). Promiseland students 3rd grade and up, and Confir-

mation class will be going as groups.

Helping pack meals can be a fun and bonding activity for your family or group, and you will feel good about being part of something that will really make a difference in the lives of people who otherwise would not get enough food to eat.

Thinking of creative ways for your family or groups to raise money in these few weeks ahead could go a long ways towards these meals that only cost 30 cents. Have a coin jar where you add 30 cents for every meal you eat, have a book sale, have a bake sale – the sky's the limit! Each donation of \$64.50 provides 1 box or 216 meals. Donations may be given in the church office or mailed in at any time. Special opportunities to give, NOISY OFFERINGS during worship – Jan. 29 & Feb. 1. And coffee fellowship Feb. 12 hosted by Immanuel's Mission & Outreach Board.

Whatever you do will be appreciated, and we will have made an effort to keep many people from starving. Jesus told us to feed the hungry! Let's do our part.



**Immanuel's annual 'Fat Tuesday' Mardi Gras family game night is coming up on February 28 at 6:30pm. All are welcome to the fellowship hall for a fun evening of playing games together and sharing snacks—bring a snack to share and your favorite board games!**  
**Event is hosted by Parish Life Board.**

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## Time to get registered for Summer Bible Camp!

Think warm, think summer! Riverside and Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps have both begun summer camp registrations. Early-bird discounts are due February 15 at Riverside and March 1 for Okoboji.

Seventh grade families please mark your calendars as you will begin your confirmation journey by attending camp at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp, Story City, June 11-16. Letters and registrations should have come to your mailbox by now and due back to the office by February 10.

We thank the Endowment Committee for keeping camp affordable to confirmation youth by paying half of the cost for confirmation students, and giving \$100 scholarships for all other campers again this year.

Ingham Okoboji Camp Staff Sara Heutinck will be at Immanuel on Wednesday, Feb. 15 during our evening activities sharing about the camp ministry.

Summer theme at both camps is ROOTED Colossians 2:6-7 "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ROOTED and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

### Thank You!

The Forest City Neighborhood Food Bank recently received your donation of \$502 from the Thanksgiving dinner and \$446 from the Breadline. Our clients and the volunteers deeply appreciate Immanuel's wonderful support of the food bank program. This support is via the "grocery cart" food donations and the generous cash gifts too.

During 2016 your Immanuel donations (including 4,100 food items) have helped the NFB serve an average of 165 families (506 individuals) each month. On the average, each month 95 of these families were from Forest City, 19 from Lake Mills, 14 from Thompson, 8 from Rake, and 8 from Buffalo Center. Other communities served included Fertile, Joice, Woden, Crystal Lake, Scarville, Garner and Northwood. We are blessed with outstanding support from these communities too.

Regular volunteers at the NFB are members of Immanuel and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches, the United Methodist Church, and St. James Catholic Church. The Board of Directors include members from all communities in Winnebago County and Fertile.

Sincerely,

*Wayne Johns,  
for the Board of Directors & Volunteers*



## Anda Union in Concert

Arts Midwest & Waldorf Community Artist Series bringing Anda Union to Immanuel Feb. 23. Mongolian throat sings Anda Union's thoroughly addictive combination of Mongolian musical styles is a reflection of their roots. Hailing from differing ethnic nomadic cultures the nine strong band unite tribal and music traditions from all over Inner Mongolia. They bring a wide range of musical instruments and vocal styles together in a fusion that Genghis Khan himself would have been proud of. Keenly aware of the threat to the Grasslands and their age old Mongolian culture, Anda Union are driven by their fight for the survival of this endangered way of life, by keeping the essence of the music alive.

Anda Union will be spending the week in Forest City doing workshops in the schools and other area locations, with their main concert at Immanuel on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7:00pm. Adult ticket price is \$10 available at the door or through Waldorf University music department.



### February 21 at the Des Moines Capitol

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on Feb. 21.

This day is essential for giving voice to those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process. Contact Pastor Uungs at [jeff.ungs.rev@wisynod.org](mailto:jeff.ungs.rev@wisynod.org) with questions or [www.LSlowa.org/advocacy](http://www.LSlowa.org/advocacy) for the event details.

## Vital Agers Mary Rodberg

### Valentine Soup Luncheon

The Vital Agers invite you to a Soup Luncheon on Tuesday, February 14 at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Following lunch, Naturalist Lisa Ralls with the Winnebago County Conservation will present a program on wildflowers.

Please join us on February 14 for food, fellowship & fun!

# LETTER FROM PASTOR ROD

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:3*

I've recently read a book titled, *The Bible in Human Transformation: Toward a New Paradigm in Bible Study* by Walter Wink. (Fortress Press 2010) In this little book Wink is focused on a process through which our lives can be transformed by the word of God. He suggests there are three phases to the process of being transformed. In phase 1 there are several steps. The first step is to recognize that we already have fusion with a certain understanding of the Bible because of our heritage and world view. The second step is the negation or denial of our fusion through suspicion of the object.

This denial creates distance (phase 2) that gives us an ability to see things in new ways. One of my beloved seminary professors use to say that we as Christian disciples in the 21st Century have a better understanding of who Jesus is because of our distance in perspective. In other words the original twelve disciples were so close to Jesus that it was hard for them to see who he was. We have the advantage of time and space and therefore can see him more clearly than they.

Finally as the new perspective come into clear focus, phase 3 breaks in as we see something in a new way, and there is born a new reality or a fusion with a new idea, and this Wink names

communion. It is communion because in phase 2 distance was created that enabled us to ask new questions of God's word, and enabled us to wrestle with the word of God and to be moved by the word of God to a new realm of thought or belief.



Pastor Rod

I'll be talking more about Wink's theory at our annual meeting and beyond because I believe Wink's theory can be applied to any process of transformation. In this 500th year of the reformation, we as a church must be open to the transforming nature of God's word. Martin Luther's greatest desire was to put the word of God into the hands of the people so they, together in community of God's church, could read and interpret scripture for themselves. This theory of transformation empowers its user to wrestle with God's word in order that their conclusions and interpretations become their own. This is mature discipleship and it's the true freedom that we have in God through Jesus Christ.

God's Peace  
Pastor Rod

## IMMANUEL KIDS

# FOG

I do not like the fog we have had surrounding us for almost a week. Fog creates one of the most dangerous of driving conditions. It is also very dreary and gloomy and it brings me down. So I am ready for son sunshine.

It can be fun to take something negative and turn it into a positive. Below I have created an acronym from the word FOG and here is the positive message:

**Firmly**

**On**

**God**

In Psalm 94 we read, "But the Lord has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge." To build a life firmly on God is the best thing we can do. To build our

life firmly on God is to build a life on his command to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love one's neighbor as one's self. To build our life firmly on God is to trust the work of the cross of Jesus. To build our life firmly on God is the only sure thing. To build one's life firmly on God is to hold on to the promises of God in Baptism and to trust the promise of Psalm 94: "the Lord has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge"

Crossed in Christ,  
Pastor Rod



## Remember you are dust, yet always being made new.

Before I say anything else, I know what you're thinking, Lent is not until March so why is he talking about Ash Wednesday in February? Well that's simple, because we begin our Lenten journey on March 1st, so by the time you would read this, Ash Wednesday might be over. So please, I know it's not Lent but I want to invite you to think about Ash Wednesday for a little bit this month. You could think of this as preparing for Lent.

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Why ash? Why dust? Because in that brief moment, when you hear those words you are reminded of something you may not want to hear, you might even try to avoid it at all costs. I am only human. And because I am human I am going to die, I am sinful, and I make mistakes. Genesis tells us that we were formed out of the dust of the earth, and our physical bodies will return there someday.

But we are not merely marked with ash are we. No, it is so much more. In that same moment that we are reminded of our impending death and our short comings, we are reminded of something much greater, something that we can reflect on during the season of Lent, and throughout the year.

Death is not the end. How do we know this? We are marked with the sign of the cross on our heads. We are reminded of our baptism, of the promises made through Jesus, that we are called by name and we are his. No longer does sin, death and the devil control us. We are now always being made new. Everyday. Every moment. We are always being made new through Christ. Luther in his Small Catechism says we daily die, but we are also daily renewed and reborn. Sundays and Seasons puts the act of ashes in another similar way, "What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we're washed in God's mercy and forgiveness."

So yes, it's a great time to remember how fallen we are, but remember we are also always being new. One thing I do love about Ash Wednesday, is the tug that can take place in your heart as you spend time for a moment in both the old and the new.

Romans 6:4 says, "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Those are some of the things that run though my head and heart during Ash Wednesday.

And with that, I invite you to pray this prayer as we get closer to Ash Wednesday:

Dear God, as we prepare for another season of Lent, open our hearts to reflect on our humanness, to remember that we do sin and fall short. But don't allow us to dwell there too long. Remind us that through the promise of your son we are always being made new and sin, death and the devil no longer have the last word, you do. Amen.

See you in worship.  
*Pastor Zech Anderson*

## Inspire Immanuel

Inspire Immanuel is for women (of all ages) who want to gather to inspire and be inspired. We will do this through Bible Study, fellowship and community building. Inspire Immanuel began in last October. Twenty-two different women have gathered over the last few months. Each month the women begin with a devotional and prayer. Then they share their current highs and lows of their life, in order to learn more about each other. Inspire has been following the DVD based Bible Study, Stuck. The women watch the video, read scripture and discuss conversation cards.

Each month women comment on how uplifted and inspired they feel after meeting. We welcome all women to join us! Inspire Immanuel is meeting the second Thursday of every month from 9:30-11:00am in the Lounge. Our next Bible Study will be on February 9. Nursery care will be available for small children. If you have any questions about Inspire, please contact Tasha Banta, Emily Beenken, Quincey Benson or Tori Eastvold, [childrens@immunuelfamily.com](mailto:childrens@immunuelfamily.com).

**W E D N E S D A Y  
N I G H T S**

*IN THE LOUNGE (UPSTAIRS, BY THE KITCHENETTE)*

All parents/adults are welcome to come hang out each Wednesday evening. It's a time to unwind, and chat informally about real life. The nursery is available for small children, if needed.

*Drop in when you can, come and go as you need.*

**5:40-6:15  
{DURING PROMISELAND}**

Building a Community in the Name and Likeness of Jesus.

# Who is Christ?

Travis Beck

One of the oldest festivals in the church year, Epiphany (which means "revelation") is the celebration of God revealed to the world. In the early church, Epiphany—not Christmas—held high honor with Easter as a major festival, and was a time when new converts were baptized. Some traditions associate this festival with the story of the Magi, the wise men. Others associate it with Jesus' baptism in the Jordan by John. In western churches, it is the story of the Magi that has taken precedence, and in our current tradition is followed the following Sunday by the Baptism of Our Lord. Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas Cycle in the church year.

The gospel for Epiphany has wise men from the east bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The wise men, led by a star, confront Herod about the sign and inquire of him where the child is to be born. This story tells of the revelation of Christ to the world through these foreign astrologers. He is revealed politically to Herod, and he

is revealed to the whole universe by the star. The three gifts are a further revelation of Christ's identity: gold carried royal significance, frankincense was used ritually by priests, and myrrh was a burial ointment. Together they reveal Christ as king, priest, and sacrifice.

Like Advent and Christmas, Epiphany points us toward Jesus' death and resurrection, reminding us that all roads lead to the cross. We plunge us into a time where we are confronted by Christ's preaching, teaching, and deeds of power. The "green Sundays" after Epiphany confront us with the question "Who is Christ?" and are bookended by two festivals that answer that very question, as a voice from heaven announces "This is my Son!" Each week brings us a new encounter with Jesus in his preaching and teaching on our slow and steady journey toward Lent and Easter.

Who is Christ to you? As we approach the discipline of Lent, let Sunday worship guide you into a quest for the answer to this question.



*A big thanks to all who donated, helped, or prayed for our Wednesday Night Thrivent Action Team that we celebrate on Jan. 11. Next Wednesday Night Action Team culminates Feb. 8.*

*Thrivent provides funds for purchasing kitchen supplies and food. Immanuel members make up the team. Join in!*

## Treasurer's Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church

FY December 2016

	DECEMBER ACTUAL 2016	MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	PERCENT OF YTD BUDGET 100.00%	DECEMBER ACTUAL 2015	YTD ACTUAL 2015
<b>INCOME</b>							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	70,398.14	43,682.16	478,645.23	524,186.00	91.3%	73,910.95	470,791.44
Other Income	1,308.19	4,523.25	62,991.86	54,279.00	116.1%	2,742.90	54,791.57
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>71,706.33</b>	<b>48,205.41</b>	<b>541,637.09</b>	<b>578,465.00</b>	<b>93.6%</b>	<b>76,653.85</b>	<b>525,583.01</b>
<b>Expense</b>							
Staff Support	30,082.96	28,598.17	334,949.81	343,178.00	97.6%	25,292.71	296,905.03
Administration	4,768.07	10,816.66	114,744.26	129,800.00	88.4%	7,742.78	107,582.30
Ministry Areas	16,597.00	8,790.58	105,999.12	105,487.00	100.5%	16,429.03	121,450.92
Loan re-payment/contingency	2,500.00	0.00	-10,000.00	0.00	0.0%	10,000.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>53,948.03</b>	<b>48,205.41</b>	<b>545,693.19</b>	<b>578,465.00</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>59,464.52</b>	<b>525,938.25</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$17,758.30</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$(4,056.10)</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>\$17,189.33</b>	<b>\$(355.24)</b>

# YOUTH MINISTRY

By MATT POLSDOFER

Hello family:

January is always an interesting time of year. It is time where a lot of people pause to reflect on the past year and make resolutions for the coming year. The theme for Immanuel and the ELCA is "Always being made new". When our high school youth oversaw confirmation this past month we looked at three questions. What does it mean to be a Christian? What does this look like in 2017 and who do you think of? What does the word "grace" mean? These questions may seem redundant and elementary. They are words we use often, but rarely think of the definition and what they mean. It was a great opportunity for all of us to re-look at each word and how we define it. How would you answer these questions?

February is an EXTREMELY busy time for Immanuel's youth. For this ministry to be a success and lively we need BOTH parents and youth to be active in these events.

\*\*\*For those CURRENTLY in 8th through 11th grade you are able to join us on the 2018 Houston National Youth Gathering trip. This will be a great trip for all who go! We are doing our first 2 fundraisers in Feb:

- February 4th-We are having a bake sale at Bill's. If you could donate bars/cookies or some other treat for this that would be appreciated. Please bring them packaged



to make it easier for those working at Bill's. It will be from 9am to 1pm. If you are going on the trip you are required to bring bars/cookies for the event. These can be dropped off at Bill's at 9am or at Immanuel on Friday in the kitchenette.

- February 5th-Is the annual meeting at Immanuel. We will be hosting a pancake brunch fundraiser. We have two shifts to volunteer at. The first is from 7am to 10:30am and the second is 9:30am to noon.

\*\*\*\*\*A few events for Immanuel's middle schoolers:

- February 3rd-Immanuel is hosting the 5th quarter after the boy's high school basketball game. This is a great opportunity for Immanuel to invest in this fun and safe place for middle schoolers. We are in need of both CHAPERONES and snacks for this event. Please let me know if you are interested in either.
- February 26th-We are going to Sky Zone in Des Moines. We will leave Immanuel at 11am and return around 5pm. Please bring a lunch with. We will jump for two hours. We are in need of volunteers to drive the youth down to Des Moines & back to Forest City. The cost is \$15 (includes Sky socks). DEADLINE for sign up is Wednesday, February 15th including payment, Immanuel waiver and Sky Zone waiver. If you are interested in driving please let me know.
- And Immanuel Youth Service Sunday, Feb. 19, 26.
- Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to volunteer @641-590-4049.

In Christ,  
Matt Polsdofer

## Promiseland

By: Tori Eastvold

### Love in February

*"(Love) It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* 1 Corinthians 13:7

February is a month full of love. During the month of February the Sunday Promiseland students will be learning about the gift of love (1 Corinthians 13). The Wednesday Promiseland students will begin the month learning about the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-11) and end the month learning about love for enemies (Matthew 5:43-48). We hope the students will learn about extending the love God shows us to others.

On Wednesday, February 22nd the 3rd grade – 7th grade Promiseland students will take part in the Stop Hunger food

packaging event at Waldorf University. The students raised over \$750 at the Christmas meal to be used towards the packaging of meals. The Promiseland students can meet in their classrooms and we will walk over to Waldorf together.

Another way that the Promiseland kids are showing their love in February is by again singing. The Wednesday 3 year old through kindergarten students will be singing in Worship on February 15th. The Sunday Promiseland kids will be singing on February 26th. I'm sure you will feel God's love again as our Promiseland children sing!

February proves to be an exciting month full of learning about love. The students will be showing God's love through packaging meals and singing in Worship. It will be a great month seeing the children sharing the love of God!

February  
2017



## Promiseland News

The Library Committee will continue to meet with the Promiseland students in 2017. The reading contest is also continuing until March 30, 2017. Remember, anyone can help these students earn points for this contest.

### How the Contest Works

1. A student in each age group (3 & 4 yr. olds, K & 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2 & 3 grade, and 4 & 5 grade) with the most points will win a prize at the end of the contest
2. Students earn points by checking out a book or movie from the Immanuel library using their first & last name & phone number. Read or watch and **RETURN** it to the library. **NO** points are earn until material is returned.
3. Parents, aunts, uncles, siblings, grandparents, or any friend can also check out books or movies from Immanuel's library to earn points for the students – for points they **MUST** put down the student's first & last name under their name when checking out material. **NO** points are earned until material is returned. Remember-you do not have to be a member of Immanuel to check out material.

### New Books to Read

- *Breed Apart Trilogy* by Ronie Kendig
- *Fifteen Minutes* by Karen Kingsbury
- *Homeless at Harvard* by John Christopher Frame
- *War Room* by Chris Fabry, Alex Kendrick, & Stephen Kendrick
- *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom

## Vital Agers Christmas Party

The library Committee wants to thank the Vital Agers for letting us play Bible Jeopardy with them at their Christmas Party. Below is a picture showing how much fun everyone had.



## New DVD's to Watch

- Footprints**
- Brother's Keeper**
- 94 Feet**
- A Place in the Heart**
- 1500 Steps**
- Paper Angels**
- What Katy Did**
- A Greater Yes**

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, SO THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

JOHN 3:16



'Like' Immanuel Lutheran Church on facebook for all the latest 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.



# Boardnotes

## Parish Council

*Kathy Olson*

The ILC council met on January 12, 2017 with the following members present: Kathy Olson, Carolyn Price, Chad Benson, Jen Conrad, Melanie Slater, Ken Hansen, Cynthia Ryder, Melanie Westerberg, Stacy Miller, Ken Korth, Pastor Hopp and Pastor Anderson.

The Council reviewed officer positions for 2017 as well as their meeting schedule for the coming year. The agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 5 was set. A Council / Staff retreat date of March 19 was chosen.

Focus for the Council for 2017 will be mission and evangelism.

## Board of Education

*Tori Eastvold*

The Board of Education met on Thursday, January 12th. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer. \$774.01 was made at the December Christmas meal and all those funds will be given to Stop Hunger. The board had no expenses as Promiseland families donated food items and they used a Thrivent action card to pay for remaining items needed. The Lenten Fair will be held on April 5th and details on that will be discussed at the February Board Meeting. Vacation Bible School will be held June 5-9. The board reviewed different curriculums and choose to stay with Group VBS. The theme will be Maker Fun Factory. The board also reviewed ideas for next fall's Rally Day. The Board of Education will meet again on February 7th at 5:00 pm.

## Trustees

*Kathy Olson*

The Board of Trustees met on January 12, 2017 with the following members present: Kathy Olson, Chad Anderson, Chad Benson, Carolyn Price, Cynthia Ryder, Cindi Lehmann, Mike Oleson and Pastor Hopp.

The December financials noted a positive bottom line for the month of \$17,758.30. The year-end bottom line shows a loss of -\$4,056.10. We have borrowed \$10,000.00 from the Contingency Fund. Our checking account will reflect the year-end loss as we begin 2017.

The Endowment Committee reported a net gain in 2016 of 19%. The Board discussed the Contingency Fund and whether or not to reschedule repayment. It was decided to wait a few months to make that determination. A 13th month initiative was discussed to promote an extra month's worth of giving.

The new sanctuary doors have now been delayed until March.

## Mission and Outreach

*Sharen Rieffer*

The Board met on January 11, 2017. Present: Becky Stumme, Ken Korth, Pott Van Auken, Mary Reisetter, Jaci Thorson, Larry Rieffer and Sharen Rieffer.

Devotions: Sharen read an article on prayer: on how we don't always see God's big picture.

We started our meeting by going over to the Hanson Family

Life Center to present a gift of \$1,747 to Director Courtney and Assistant Director Marissa.

Ken Korth is now off the Council and has decided to stay on our Board.

We discussed fund raising ideas for our Hunger Drive. It was decided to do a Stop Hunger noisy offering January 29 and February 1 and host a fundraising coffee hour February 12.

### Some year-end facts that were shared are:

- The food bank received 4,300 pounds of food from our congregation this last year. Excellent!
- The Good Gifts Ornaments brought in \$1,552, which is considerably more than last year.
- Fair Trade cart was discussed. Look for some Valentine chocolates in February.

## Parish Life

*Melanie Westerberg*

The BPL met on Monday Jan. 9th.

We discussed the upcoming Mardi Gra party on Tuesday Feb. 28th. This is a family night of games and snacks starting at 6:30. We welcome all ages and ask that you bring a snack to share and a game to play.

Our second Sunday potluck for BPL to host is set for April 9th.

We discussed updating our Immanuel visitor bags with a new brochure highlighting our activities and schedules. We will also order some new gifts to go in them and will be making a sign to remind ushers to hand them out to visitors as well !

We also discussed the possibility of changing our meeting night from the first Monday to the second Monday of each month. No final decision was made.



Thanks to your generous gifts during the last quarterly mission emphasis of 2016 – Hanson Family Life Center – Mission and Outreach Board members were able to present a gift of \$1,747 and a basket full of school and art supplies. Pictured in front: Marissa Koeneke, HFLC assistant director, Courtney Schauermann, HFLC director, and board members Sharen Rieffer; in back: Jaci Thorson, Mary Reisetter, Ken Korth, Pott Van Auken, Becky Stumme



# God has no Grandchildren

Marge Solberg

February 1, 1984 was one of the special days in my life. Our first grandchild, Kristin Marie, was born. We have four sons so this first girl in our family was precious. That day we drove 100 miles to see this little bundle in the nursery. We were grandparents; what an honor! I now could wander among pink little dresses in stores; I thought Kristin needed every doll and little dress I saw! Now we have 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren, girls and boys. Each of these is very special but that first one ushered us to the privilege of grandparent! We are called grandpa and grandma – some friends are oma and opa; some are nana and pa. Kids have memaw and pawpaw, meme and papa. Whatever name they call, we know who they mean!

I have warm memories of my grandparents. They all lived 75 miles away so we didn't see them often. My dad's parents lived in town. They were quiet and reserved. In their living room was a huge dictionary, always open; placed on its' own stand. We found, and learned to spell, new words. We traced pictures on onion-skin paper and cut out and played with paper dolls and their clothes. We saw bright glass patterns in a tube called kalideidoscope and pictures in a stereoscope viewer. My mother's parents lived on a farm. There was always commotion and laughter. We "helped" with chores, played with kittens, roller skated, rode horses, made holly-hock dolls. Both my grandparents shared stories of my ancestors who came to the U.S. 300 years ago.

What memories do you have of your grandparents? Did you stay overnight or go on vacations with them? Did they tell you about the generations of your family? Some of your families all lived in the same township. Monsens, Flugums, Hansons, Olsons, Andersons, Rauks, Gustafsons, Johnsons were probably related. Country church members were mostly related. Did those grandmas teach you to make lefse? Did you try grandma's strong egg coffee boiling in a pot on the stove? When your grandma took out pans of fresh bread from the oven, did you eat the first slice with butter running down your chin? I thought my grandmas were wonderful cooks! They planned lots of fun times, but, I usually heard them say, "First, we'll ask your mother and dad."

Now, we are grandparents and we are not first in charge. Pastor Hieronymus, former Immanuel visitation pastor, began a sermon saying, boldly, "God has no grandchildren!" I doubted that. But he said, "I haven't misspoken, God has no grandchildren. He has only children. As much as you would like, your children and grandchildren cannot be redeemed through your faith." What do we think is our role as grandparents? We can't insist our grandchildren attend our church, sing our choice of hymns, choose which words they use in prayer, or even what day they should worship. So, what role do we have as grandparents? In these fast-paced, tech-in-

fluenced lives, we can have a special place in our grandchildren's lives. Before it's too late, I want to tell them about my parents and grandparents; about my young life; about how grandpa and I fell in love and promised to love and honor each other forever. I want to tell them that their parents, our sons, were the best gifts we've had and how much we love them. Like our grandparents did for us, let's talk to our grandkids about how God has led us, rescued us from our mistakes, and blessed us. Let's pray with them. They need to see, in us, kindness, honesty and fairness towards neighbors and strangers. Ask them to join with us as we share what we have. We still have time to encourage them to read their Bibles, worship regularly, and build their lives on prayer. Write a note to each grandchild (no text or emails), which they might save and re-read; include your phone and address; tell them about your day; ask about theirs. Let's tell them how much we love them; tell them God loves them! "God has no Grandchildren," but if we do, we have much to share – let's start now, before we no longer can!

## February Circles

Circle	Date/Time	Hostess
Dorcas	Wed., 15th/9:30am	Lesson Leader Mavis Rasmussen, Shalom
Martha	Thurs., 16th/9:30am	Ardelle Osnes Donna Kvale, Shalom
Sarah	Thurs., 16th/1:30pm	TBD Karolyn Overlie, Lounge
Rachel	Thurs., 16th/7pm	Kay Sorensen Carolynn Korth, Lounge Mary Schaefer

## Dates to remember

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10am ..... Circle Bible study leaders  
w/Barb Johnson  
(note new day & time)

Monday, Feb. 20, 2-4pm..... Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1pm..... LWR Quilting Do Day, FH

February coffee hour..... Immanuel Youth

February laundry ..... Deb Fardal

**VOLUNTEERS****February 2017****Altar Guild**

Feb. 5 .....	Dorothy Olson
Feb. 12 .....	Joan Beebe
Feb. 19 .....	Sonja Johnson
Feb. 26 .....	Kathy Leuwerke

**Assisting Ministers**

Feb. 5 .....	Kathy Olson
Feb. 12 .....	Carolyn Price
Feb. 19 .....	Jim Cherry
Feb. 26 .....	Cynthia Ryder

**Readers**

Feb. 5 .....	Deb Ferch
Feb. 12 .....	Ken Korth
Feb. 19 .....	Mark Johnson
Feb. 26 .....	Carolynn Korth

**Communion Servers**

Feb. 5 .....	Kathy Olson, Jackie Fruhwirth
Feb. 12 .....	Joy Newcom, Melanie Westerberg
Feb. 19 .....	Jim & Barb Braun
Feb. 26 .....	Liz Wilson, Judy Utech

**Communion Set Up**

Feb. 5 .....	Barb Lovick
Feb. 12 .....	Barb Lovick

**WIS trip to Chile!**

**What:** Western Iowa Synod Companion Synod accompaniment trip to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile!!

**Approximate Dates:** Nov. 17-Dec 4, 2017

**Approximate Cost:** \$3500 (plus or minus \$500)

**Suggested Ages:** 16 years—adulthood

**Health Status:** in good general health, able to walk several blocks unaided

Application, pastoral recommendation, and behavioral covenant deadline to the WIS is March 15. Applications can be found at [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org) or stop by the church office for more information.

A great opportunity to travel and experience the richness of our companion synod relationship, especially for Immanuel's congregation, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallenes, located at the Strait of Magellan!

Feb. 19 ..... Dona Paulson

Feb. 26 ..... Kathy Leuwerke

**Song Leaders**

Feb. 5 ..... Mark & Joy Newcom

Feb. 12 ..... Elizabeth May, Kathy Jerome

Feb. 19 ..... Audrey Olmstead, Jaci Thorson

Feb. 26 ..... Elizabeth May, Samantha Beck

**Ushers** ..... Team 2: Gary McCarthy, Matt Bronson, Bill Stensland, Loren Ehrich

**Sound Tech** ..... Bruce Mielke

**Offering Counters** ..... Mavis Rasmussen, Ellen Olson, Mavis Hess, Betty Nelson, Marj Anderson

## February Wednesday Menu

Served each week 4:45-6:45

Feb. 1 .....	Macaroni & cheese, chicken strips, baked beans, bars
Feb. 8 .....	Lasagna, green beans, lettuce salad, ice cream
Feb. 15 .....	Baked potato bar
Feb. 22 .....	Spaghetti, corn, garlic bread, bars

Come join us!

Cookin' for the Lord, Deb Fardal

**PASTORAL ACTS**

Shirley Caudle and family in the loss of husband, Vince Caudle of Rapid City, SD (formerly Forest City)

Nancy & Darle Hoshaw and family in the loss of Nancy's mother, Patricia Schroeder of Boone

**FLOWERS & BROADCASTS****Altar flowers available these Sundays (\$44)**

- Feb. 19
- Mar. 5, 12, 26
- Apr. Easter lilies-16, 30
- May 7, 21

**Radio broadcasts available these Sundays (\$100)**

- Mar. 26
- Apr. 9, 16, 30
- May 7, 14, 21, 28

**Sunday worship service is broadcast each week and played over KIOW 107.3FM or over the web at [www.kiow.com](http://www.kiow.com), 11am on Sundays**

# Feburary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>10am</b> - Circle Bible Study Leaders, Lounge <b>4:45-6:45pm</b> - Supper <b>5:30pm</b> - Handbells / 2017 Budget Forum, <b>5:40pm</b> - Promiseland <b>6:30pm</b> - Worship, STOP HUNGER NOISY OFFERING <b>7:30pm</b> - Confirmation / HS Youth Group / Choir	<b>2</b> <b>8:30am</b> - Women's Bible Study, Lounge <b>8:30am</b> - Cadence <b>6, 6:30pm</b> - Cadence	<b>3</b> <b>After BB games - Immanuel hosts 5th Quarter @ Y</b>	<b>4</b> <b>9-1pm</b> - Bake Sale Fundraiser at Bill's hosted by Houston Trip Group
<b>5</b> <b>9:15am</b> - Worship, Boy Scout Sunday <b>10:15am</b> - Pancake fundraising-meal, FH <b>10:30am</b> - Promiseland <b>11am-ANNUAL MEETING</b> <b>6:30pm</b> - No MS Youth Group	<b>6</b> <b>5pm</b> - Parish Life Board Lounge	<b>7</b> <b>2pm</b> - Intercessory Prayer Group, Prayer Room <b>5pm</b> - Education Board, Kitchenette	<b>8</b> <b>4:30pm</b> - Mission & Outreach Board, Lounge <b>4:45-6:45pm</b> - Supper <b>5:30pm</b> - Handbells <b>5:40pm</b> - Promiseland <b>6:30pm</b> - Worship <b>7:30pm</b> - Confirmation / HS Youth Group / Choir	<b>9</b> <b>8:30am</b> - Women's Bible Study <b>8:30am</b> - Cadence <b>9:30am</b> - Inspire Immanuel, Lounge <b>6pm</b> - Trustees, Cadence <b>6:30pm</b> - Good Grief Group, Lounge / Cadence <b>6:45pm</b> - Council	<b>10</b> <b>8-2pm</b> - Future Problem Solvers @ ILC	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>9:15am</b> - Worship <b>10:15am</b> - Coffee Fellowship-Stop Hunger fundraiser, FH <b>10:30am</b> - Promiseland <b>10:40am</b> - Adult Forum, Shalom <b>6:30pm</b> - MS Youth Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>11:30am</b> - Vital Agers Soup Luncheon & Program, FH <b>2pm</b> - Intercessory Prayer Group	<b>15</b> <b>1:30pm</b> - Dorcas Circle, Shalom <b>4:45-6:45pm</b> - Supper <b>5:30pm</b> - Handbells <b>5:40pm</b> - Promiseland <b>6:30pm</b> - Worship, PreK singing <b>7:30pm</b> - Confirmation / HS Youth Group / Choir	<b>16</b> <b>8:30am</b> - Women's Bible Study <b>9:30am</b> - Martha Circle, Shalom <b>10:30am</b> - Good Samaritan Communion Service w/ pastor <b>1:30pm</b> - Sarah Circle, Lounge <b>7pm</b> - Rachel Circle, Lounge	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9:15am</b> - Worship <b>10:15am</b> - Coffee Fellowship, FH <b>10:30am</b> - Promiseland <b>10:40am</b> - Adult Forum, Shalom <b>6:30pm</b> - MS Youth Group	<b>20</b> <b>2-4pm</b> - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom <b>MARCH MESSENGER DEADLINE</b>	<b>21</b> <b>2pm</b> - Intercessory Prayer Group <b>2:30pm</b> - Forest Plaza Communion Service w/ pastor <b>6:30pm</b> - Cub Scout Pack Meeting, FH	<b>22</b> <b>1:30-6:30pm</b> - STOP HUNGER PACKING EVENT <b>4:45-6:45pm</b> - Supper <b>5:30pm</b> - Handbells <b>5:40pm</b> - Promiseland <b>6:30pm</b> - Worship <b>7:30pm</b> - Confirmation / HS Youth Group / Choir	<b>23</b> <b>8:30am</b> - Women's Bible Study <b>6:30pm</b> - Good Grief Group, Lounge <b>7pm</b> - Anda Union, Community Artist Series, ILC	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9:15am</b> - Worship, Promiseland sings <b>10:15am</b> - Coffee Fellowship, FH <b>10:30am</b> - Promiseland <b>10:40am</b> - Adult Forum, Shalom <b>11-5pm</b> - MS Youth to Sky Zone, Des Moines	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>1pm</b> - LWR Quilting Do Day, FH <b>2pm</b> - (NO Intercessory Prayer Group on Do Day) <b>6:30pm</b> - Mardi Gras Party, 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 @ 9:15 a.m.**

**Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.**

#### OFFICE HOURS

**M-F 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**641-585-3152**

**Fax: 641-585-3087**

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

**Facebook pages:**

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church Library

**Staff:**

**Rev. Rod Hopp** - Senior Pastor

[pastorrod@immanuelfamily.com](mailto:pastorrod@immanuelfamily.com)

Home: 641-581-2150

**Rev. Zech Anderson** – Associate Pastor,

[zanderson001@immanuelfamily.com](mailto:zanderson001@immanuelfamily.com)

Parsonage home: 641-585-3501

**Mike Oleson** - Property Manager

[mike@immanuelfamily.com](mailto:mike@immanuelfamily.com)

**Cindi Lehmann** - Finance

[cindi@immanuelfamily.com](mailto:cindi@immanuelfamily.com)

**Travis Beck** - Music & Worship Director

[travis@immanuelfamily.com](mailto:travis@immanuelfamily.com)

**Jaci Thorson** - Administrative Assistant

[jaci@immanuelfamily.com](mailto:jaci@immanuelfamily.com)

**Tori Eastvold** - Children's Education

[ChildrensEd@immanuelfamily.com](mailto:ChildrensEd@immanuelfamily.com)

**Matt Polsdofer** - Youth Ministry

[mpolsdofer001@immanuelfamily.com](mailto:mpolsdofer001@immanuelfamily.com)

**Marie Oleson** - Housekeeping

**Deb Fardal** – Wednesday meal coordinator

[dfardal@yahoo.com](mailto:dfardal@yahoo.com)

**Church Council**

President: **Kathy Olson**

Vice-President: **Chad Benson**

Treasurer: **Cynthia Ryder**

Secretary: **Melanie Slater**

Representatives: **Joan Beebe, Jennifer Conrad,**

**Ken Hansen, Brody Hopp, Heather Johnson,**

**Alice Lewellen, Stacy Miller, Steve Olmstead**