

# THE MESSENGER

The monthly newsletter for members of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Forest City, Iowa — February 2018



**STOP HUNGER** food packing day is Wednesday, February 28 at the Waldorf University Atrium. Immanuel and Waldorf 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. 28 from 2-6pm, 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 \$12,500 and 41,000 meals. It takes about 400 volunteers through the afternoon to fill these shifts. Consider signing up by contacting Jaci in the church office (585-3152 / jaci@immanuelfamily.com) or Pøtt Van Auken (642-251-4603 / pva@wctatel.net). Promiseland students 3rd grade and up, and Confirmation classes 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.

One meal only costs 30¢. Consider saving 30¢ for every meal you eat ~ 'eat one, give one!' Or 'buy' one box for \$64.50 which is 216 meals. Donations may be given in the church office or mailed in at any time. Special opportunities to give, **NOISY OFFERINGS** during worship Feb. 18 & 21, and coffee fellowship Feb. 18 hosted by the Stop Hunger Committee and 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.

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## Immanuel's Congregational Annual Meeting

**Sunday, February 4, 10:45am, Fellowship Hall**

### Sunday morning schedule:

- † **9:15am** – Worship
- † **10:15am** – Brunch fundraiser (freewill) for youth attending the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering, Houston, TX, in June
- † **10:45am** – **CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING**

Nursery child care will be available throughout the events of the morning.

Join us in celebrating God's work at Immanuel during 2017, and what 2018 holds for our congregation.



## The Road Where Faith is Found

The road serves as an analogy for that place where "life happens". On that road we encounter different obstacles and have various experiences as we face those obstacles. God also meets us on that road not necessarily to remove those obstacles but to teach us through them about the world, ourselves and God.

During Sunday morning worship we will visit some of these places and explore God's past faithfulness and learn to trust that God is with us today.

Wednesday services at 12:10 will be more contemplative as we invite God into our lives opening us up to God's transformative work.

Wednesday services at 6:30 will become somewhat conversational about the road, the obstacle, God and ourselves. We will watch a short video and then take a few minutes to converse with others about the connections we see in the video to our lives of faith.

Come join us following the theme, "The Road Where Faith is Found" each week during Lent on Sundays & Wednesdays:

- † Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14 ~ The Road
- † Week 1 of Lent ~ The Wilderness Road
- † Week 2 of Lent ~ The Road to Suffering
- † Week 3 of Lent ~ The Road of Emptiness
- † Week 4 of Lent ~ The Road to Love
- † Week 5 of Lent ~ The Road to Transformation
- † Palm Sunday ~ The Road to Jerusalem
- † Maundy Thursday ~ The Road to Service
- † Good Friday ~ The Road to the Cross
- † Easter, April 1 ~ The Road to Faith

We hope to see you as our Journey of Lent begins February 14 with Ash Wednesday and the Imposition of Ashes 12:10 & 6:30 p.m.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.





### Lutheran Day on the Hill - February 8th

Join LSI (Lutheran Services in Iowa) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on Thursday, February 8.

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.

Registration for the event closes on Feb. 2. For more information and to register ~ [www.lsiowa.org/ldh/](http://www.lsiowa.org/ldh/)



### FRENCH TOAST & BACON BREAKFAST

Forest City Kum-Along Club is sponsored a breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 10, 7:30-1pm. All are welcome at the Forest City Senior Center. Freewill donation. Proceeds for Congregate meal expenses.



### LITTLE HATS, BIG HEARTS

Join the Waldorf Knit Wits as we celebrate American Heart Month by crafting red hats for babies!

The project entails knitting or crocheting baby sized hats for donation to local hospitals for newborns. Stop in at the Waldorf University Luise V. Hanson Library to drop off your donations or for patterns, yarn, crochet hooks and lessons during the month of February.

Walk in or stop by during Knit Wits sessions every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 p.m.



### 2018 WIS GROUP TRAVEL TO THE SOUTHERN DIOCESE OF TANZANIA!

Are you open to exploring life and mission in the Southern Diocese, to serve and walk as fellow Christians? Are you interested in applying for participation in the 2018 Adult Group Travel to Tanzania? Anticipated dates: 3 weeks sometime between July 15-August 15. Anticipated costs: \$4,000/person (plus or minus \$500). Application, Pastoral Recommendation and Behavioral Covenant deadline is Feb. 15 to the Western Iowa Synod. Applications can be found at [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org) or by contacting the Western Iowa Synod office at 712-732-4968.



### Thank you... Dear friends at Immanuel Lutheran Church,

The Neighborhood Food Bank recently received your donation of \$886 from the Thanksgiving dinner and \$366 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 2017 your Immanuel donations (including 4754 food items) have helped the NFB serve an average of 198 families (611 individuals) each month. On the average each month 110 of these families were from Forest City, 34 from Lake Mills, 13 from Thompson, 12 from Rake, and 8 from Buffalo Center. Other communities served included Fertile, Joice, Woden, Crystal Lake, Scarville, Miller and Hanlontown. We are blessed with outstanding support from all of these communities too.

Regular volunteers at the Food Bank 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 and the volunteers*



### Free Concert Feb. 18, 2pm – Rachel Kurtz, singer songwriter Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City

Rachel Kurtz, a Minneapolis-based songwriter, performer and recording artist will be in concert Sunday, February 18, 2018 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City Iowa.

Anyone attending the 2012 and 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering will remember Rachel's powerhouse voice and joyful presence as she was featured on the main stage of the national gathering. The concert is free and open to the community. Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 213 North Pennsylvania Ave.,



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## Letter From Pastor Rod

# Faith Talk for Growing Disciples (FTGD)

Faith talk. I remember as a young person times when conversations of faith would come up in groups that I was part of. Whether it was a conversation with my cousins, classmates at school, teammates or another those were rich conversations and I feel that those conversations were somewhat life shaping. I think part of the reason those topics arose was that we were you and we knew we didn't have all the answers. Yes, there were plenty of topics that as teenagers we thought we had all the answers to, but faith wasn't one of them.



Pastor Rod

Those spontaneous conversations seem to have stopped with people of my generation. My grandchildren ask questions of faith, but people of my own generation do not. It may be in part that I'm a pastor and people now fear that their questions and wonderings are foolish, or may reveal what they see as "spiritual inadequacy."

Faith Talk for Growing Disciples is meant to renew that kind of life-shaping conversation. What we do is to watch a video from "Work of the People" a website that contains numerous video recordings from some of today's leading scholars. We listen to what they have to say and then we discuss it. There is no expert in the room, we are simply in the conversation together speaking from our own faith understandings and from our own life experiences.

At times you may feel the video message is in perfect alignment with where you are as a disciple; at other times you may feel very challenged by the author. We don't gather to change one another's minds, but instead to open one another's minds and ears as we talk and listen. Through this process we might even grow.

Growth is really God's area of expertise, not our own. In Mark 4 we read, "And Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.<sup>27</sup> He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.<sup>28</sup> The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.<sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.'" God's word transforms the person just as growth takes place in the plant. The man sowed the seed but he didn't understand the growth. In the same way when we allow the seed of God's word to be sown in us, transformation and growth are the promise of God even though we may not know how.

There is an opportunity to participate on Sunday mornings at 10:40, or Wednesdays at 5:40, both in the upstairs lounge. Perhaps you've been longing for some of those youthful conversations. There is no guarantee, but there is a promise from God that God's word will not return empty, but will do the work for which it is sent out. Sooooo what do you say? Want to try it? Hope to see you soon.

**Pastor Rod**

## IMMANUEL KIDS .....

### Priceless Treasure

Kailey was a young violinist, but she played a very old violin. Because Kailey's violin was so old, she saw her violin as a piece of junk. Kailey didn't take very good care of her violin. She never polished it and rarely put it in its case after practice, she just left it lay around wherever.

Then one evening Kailey's family received some bad news. The hospital called to tell them that Kailey's grandpa had died suddenly from a heart attack. Upon hearing that news Kailey hugged her parents and her siblings and then went to her room. She picked up her violin and began to play. As she played she started to cry. Her tears fell upon the old violin. As her teardrops fell they began to wash off years of grit and grime from the violins surface. Kailey suddenly saw a marking in the wood of the violin she had never noticed before and so she began to polish the old violin. As she did she notices initials,

JS. With some help from her parents, research revealed that the initials were it became clear that Kailey's violin was made between 1655 and 1660. It was nearly 360 years old. All of this meant that it was priceless.

Kailey changed her attitude about that old violin and she began to care for it like it was a priceless treasure. She even played it at her grandfather's funeral to honor the man who had given it to her. The unseen markings on that violin held the secret of the true worth of the violin. You and I have a making on us too. It's a mark that isn't often visible, but at least once a year on Ash Wednesday, we receive the mark of the cross in ashes on our forehead. That mark reminds us of our priceless worth in God's eyes. In baptism we become children of God and receive our creator's mark upon us to remind ourselves that we belong to him and are priceless in his eyes. Hope to see you in worship on Ash Wednesday.

**Crossed in Christ, Pastor Rod**

# What is Love?

I'm reminded today of the movie Night at the Roxbury, and the song that plays over and over in that movie, "What is Love?" It's a song that, believe it or not, my friends and I would listen to over and over again in the car as we traveled in high school. And there are a couple of parts of that song that stick with me. First, is of course the question of what is love? And the second, is a verse later in the song that goes like this, "Oh, I don't know, what can I do? What else can I say, it's up to you. I know we're one, just me and you I can't go on." What can I do? I can't go on. It's up to you! Are those questions or statements you have made to God?



Pastor Zech

And I talk about love and these questions because it's February, which means it's Valentines day on the 14th. A day full of hearts, full of cards, full of love for many people. But, this year's Valentine's Day is different. This day of love is shared with Ash Wednesday, another day that I think is filled with love. It's the beginning of Lent, and we start to ask ourselves, what can I do? We ask that questions as we think about what we want to give up for Lent. But in terms of what can I do to earn my salvation, the answer is of course nothing. And knowing this we may start to think, well what's the point. We may think I can't go on. Just look at the world around me there is so much going on in my life, so many others being affected, people are attacking each other in different ways. And with all this we may say I can't go on. But all of these things, knowing its it's not what can I do, feeling like we can't go on that push is the Jesus and the response and release of saying, It's up to you Jesus.

And on Ash Wednesday we are reminded that it is up to Christ alone, that we are dust, we cannot do things alone, that it really is Jesus and us together, and the cross as it's put on our heads reminds us that we are one, together as Saint and Sinner, dust and everlasting. And what greater love is there than the love God has given us through Jesus, and making it up to Jesus to die, Gods only Son, so he can come back on Easter and we can be together as one, in eternal life. That's a pretty cool thing to hear and to celebrate on what consider a day of love, Valentines Day,

I invite you to come hear this good news on Ash Wednesday, and reflect on it again as we journey down the road to the Cross and the promise of Easter, a day truly full of God's love, grace and promises.

**See you in worship. Pastor Zech Anderson**



Take a look at that picture! I'm not sure who the person in the picture is, because it's a random one from Google. But I want you to use it for your imagination. Imagine for a minute what Pastor Zech would look like with a pie in his face. I think it would look pretty funny and well worth your time and money. And you can trust me on that. Because, it is I pastor Zech writing this. But if throwing a pie in my face is not what you want to do, we have plenty of other students and chaperones going to Houston in June for the ELCA National Youth Gathering who could use a pie in their face. So on February 4th, during the Annual Meeting, please consider signing up and donating a few dollars to help us get to Houston. And have fun making other people smile. I mean it's not every day your pastor asks for pie in his face.



## Wednesday February Menus

- Feb. 7 .....Chicken noodle hot dish, vegetables, bars
- Feb. 14 .....Soup Night – Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 21 .....Spaghetti, green beans, lettuce salad, ice cream
- Feb. 28 .....Ham, cheesy hash browns, corn, bars

*Fill your heart with love by bringing a friend to enjoy  
Wednesday meals with you!  
Cookin' for the Lord, Deb Fardal*



## Greeting from Campus Ministry!

We write to you this month with our Spring Break Mission Trip announcement and some changes that will begin this semester on campus.

In response to increased afternoon classes, our leadership team has decided to move our weekly worship time to Sunday Nights at 7:00 pm in Gatsby's. We were anxious about this transition as Monday night worship has been our tradition since 2011, however it was inspiring to how see how committed our peer ministers were in trusting God while navigating the unknown. As a team, we felt that this opportunity was a chance to remind ourselves that we are not limited to our circumstances (that at times seem most inconvenient) but that with a supportive community, change can invite us to reimagine our realities. As a result, our theme for the semester will be "Listening for Gods' Voice". The hope is that we will mature in our understanding of what it means to be in relationship with God, while also learning about what it means to be a part of a community of faith.

We have also moved our weekly small group discussion (Small Fires) to Monday Nights @ 7:00pm in Gatsby's. Last semester, we posted doors in the atrium to allow our campus to voice their grievances against the church and society as we celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Students and Staff members filled the doors with issues and concerns that they need the church to start addressing. In response to this program, our Peer Minister Asmita Kc, who leads our small group discussions, felt that it was necessary for our ministry to address these concerns. This semester our focus will be "Sensitive Topics", where each week we will be inviting community leaders to explore issues that are censored from Sunday sermons and popular Christian radio.

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## Ben Allaway Returns to Immanuel

Dear Immanuel Family,



Ben Allaway

It is so good to be with you again after so many years, and to have that sense that Immanuel is still a strong sense of being the Family of God in Christ. Music has many types of connections with everyone-- emotional, cultural, living in one's personal history of growing up and going through life's transitions. Everyone has a different "soundtrack" to their lives. If you think about the spiritual part of your life, what is that soundtrack for you? I'd love to visit with each of you and have you tell me about your spiritual soundtrack, what songs have meant the most to you in the big experiences of your life. They may not have been Christian songs. Many secular songs can connect with the Spirit in surprising ways. Let's meet for coffee and talk about the ways music enriches our spiritual journey. Give me a call at 515-720-1038, or email me at [worshipandmusic@immanuelfamily.com](mailto:worshipandmusic@immanuelfamily.com).

Choir meets from 7:30-8:30 pm Wednesdays. If you have ever thought about singing in choir, now is a great time to check it out. No one is ever turned away, no audition necessary!

Instrumentalists, attention!!! If you have an old instrument in the closet, why not dust it off and come help us enliven our worship. Talk to me about any ideas for music in our worship services. We are open to new ideas at both Wednesday and Sunday services!

*Grace and peace, Ben*

### Treasurer's Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church FY December 2017

	DECEMBER ACTUAL 2017	MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	PERCENT OF YTD BUDGET 100.00%	December Actual 2016	YTD ACTUAL 2016
Income							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	91,820.57	43,375.00	524,823.09	520,500.00	100.8%	70,398.14	478,645.23
Other Income	10,677.12	4,540.00	66,792.53	54,480.00	122.6%	1,308.19	62,991.86
Total Income	102,497.69	47,915.00	591,615.62	574,980.00	102.9%	71,706.33	541,637.09
Expense							
Staff Support	27,412.97	30,602.92	353,662.76	367,235.00	96.3%	30,082.96	334,949.81
Administration	22,078.51	9,416.25	103,360.35	112,995.00	91.5%	4,768.07	114,744.26
Ministry Areas	15,430.02	7,894.75	101,806.37	94,737.00	107.5%	16,597.00	105,999.12
Loan re-payment/contingency	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.0%	2,500.00	-10,000.00
Total Expenses	79,921.50	47,913.92	573,829.48	574,967.00	99.8%	53,948.03	545,693.19
Income Less Expense	\$22,576.19	1.08	\$17,786.14	13.00		\$17,758.30	(\$4,056.10)

# YOUTH MINISTRY

By Matt Polsdofer

## Money. Money. Money



Matt Polsdofer

Recently with our high school youth we discussed money. It is interesting that it is something that we think about a lot and put a lot of energy into getting but we are hesitant to speak about it. This seems to be true at church as well, where we would sometimes prefer to hear about a different topic. Yet if you look at the topics that Jesus spoke about and their frequency money is a top topic that Jesus talks about. We all have different ways that we've learned about money: with our family not having money to pay bills, not having money as a child for that special present or toy, or many other ways.

I think that one of the reasons that Jesus talks about money so much is that He understands that we are going to have to interact with it daily and it will always be around us. In our high school youth ministry we talked about all the things that money can ruin: friendships, family relationships, marriages, relationships between countries and lead to war, and also ourselves if we allow it to be our god and consume us. We also looked at the positive side of what money can do: pay for our house, used in disaster relief, help the homeless and so many other ways.

In Matthew 6:19-24 Jesus talks about where our treasure is that is where our heart is also. He also calls us to not store up our treasure on earth where moths eat it, but to store up our treasure in heaven. I would invite you as I did our high school youth to reflect on the tension that we have with money. We need it to provide for our family and to help others, yet we are called to make sure that it is not our main treasure and that we focus on our heavenly treasure—helping our brothers and sisters, showing them love and caring for the poor and oppressed. A quote that I love from The Minimalist podcast that I think is pertinent to this lesson is, "Love people, use things, because the opposite never works."

***In Christ, Matt Polsdofer***

Coordinator of Youth Ministry & Outreach

On Sunday, February 18th our middle school youth will be at the Archery Range south of town for Archery tag, pizza & fellowship! It will be from 6:30pm to 8pm. Costs are \$5 per youth and you can sign up in the office. Hope to see you there!

For other meeting dates and time please make sure to stay up to date by checking out the Immanuel website and under education then youth you can find information on middle school and high school.

On behalf of the 19 youth and 6 adults going on the

Youth Gathering trip to Houston we would like to say thank you to Immanuel! You guys have been awesome on supporting our fundraisers! The month of February is busy for us as we have a bake sale on February 3rd, the annual meeting brunch February 4th and we will also be getting pied in the face that morning as well! Thanks again!



## ✝ Promiseland

Promiseland resumed Wednesday, January 3. This month we are starting up library visits again for all Promiseland classes. The kids love playing Bible trivia games and visiting the library; it is a highlight for many of them. If you have a chance, check out our church library! There are so many options for all ages and many genres.



By Krista Hopp and  
Tasha Banta

As we returned to Promiseland, we read the story of the wise men venturing from the east to visit the newborn baby Jesus. Even a week and a half after Christmas, we were able to continue celebrating and learning about the birth of our king. As someone who loves the Christmas season, I often become sad when it ends. No more tree, no more lights, no more beautiful Christmas carols. I usually look for ways to keep the Christmas spirit just a little while longer. That usually means I continue to play Christmas songs in the house, in the car, wherever, much to the dismay of those around me. The message of Christmas, though, doesn't need to be kept between Thanksgiving and December 25th. The message of Christmas, Jesus' birth, God with us, can be celebrated outwardly and carried in our hearts all year long! I love that we were able to extend this with the Promiseland kids and our congregation at Wednesday night worship. You may not choose to continue blasting the Christmas tunes throughout your house, but I hope we are all able to find ways to continue celebrating the birth of our King well past December 25th!

***Krista Hopp***

*Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?  
For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship  
him. Matthew 2:2*



Fiction, biographies, mysteries, parenting books, devotionals, biographies, mysteries, children’s books, hymnals, Bibles, large print books, audio, CDs, and a large DVD collection can all be found in your library at Immanuel. We will be hi-lighting some of these during the coming months with descriptions from Amazon. Library material at your fingertips and it is **FREE!!!**



## Mysteries

### Child of Mine by David & Beverly Lewis

Kelly’s baby was kidnapped, years of searching has led her to Jack, his eight year old adopted niece Natalie and their Amish nanny Laura. Forgiving, letting go, sacrificing, and moving in is the key in this story. God has a plan for our lives if only we trust Him. A mother never loses faith and never gives up hope.

### The Witness by Dee Henderson

Police Chief Luke Granger’s witness to a murder, Amy Griffin, has been on the run for years. Her family thinks she was murdered eight years ago, but Amy chose to accept a life in the shadows in order to protect her sisters’ lives. Now unveiled secrets about their father have thrust the sisters into the public spotlight. The man who wants Amy dead now sees her sisters as the way to locate her. Luke and his homicide detectives must face the future and find a faith deeper than any of them currently knows.

### Angel of Mercy by Tracie Peterson & James Scott Bell

The courtrooms of 1904 Los Angeles . . . When an old enemy of Kit Shannon is arrested on suspicion of murder, he insists Kit is the only one who can represent him. Refusing at first, but moved by his desperation, she agrees. His possible guilt tests Kit’s resolve to represent

only the innocent. Step-by-step, she discovers there is more to this case than meets the eye. Kit knows she must use every ounce of intellect and faith she has to find the truth and save those she cares about.

### Sister Eve, Private Eye by Lynne Hinton

This well-paced, entertaining whodunit explores the complexity of family and the mysteries of faith while highlighting the beauty of the New Mexico desert. This great Christian mystery will leave readers wanting more!

### Deadline by Randy Alcorn

When tragedy strikes those closest to him, Jake Woods must draw upon all his resources to uncover the truth about the suspicious accident. Soon he finds himself swept up in a murder investigation that is both complex and dangerous. Unaware of the threat to his own life, Jake is drawn in deeper and deeper as he desperately searches for the answers to the immediate mystery at hand and—ultimately—the deeper meaning of his own existence.

## MARCH TO 500



### YOU ARE MARCHING! WAY TO GO!!

87 books or DVDs have been checked out of the library since January 1<sup>st</sup> through January 17<sup>th</sup>. Whether it is from the adult section or the children’s section, each item checked out counts towards the 500.



## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

### The Library Committee

Diane Lovik, Vivian Heller, Suzi Yi-Falck, Joyce Kasper, Bethanie Farus,Carolynn Korth, Kari Wooldridge, Beth Howd, Linda Holland, Bev Retland, and Leah Boyd.



*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 McEnelly*

The ILC council met on January 15, 2018 with the following members present: Kathy McEnelly, Chad Benson, Joan Beebe, Alice Lewellen, Ken Hansen, Steve Olmstead, Brody Hopp, and Pastor Hopp and Pastor Anderson. Guests included incoming council members: Quincey Benson, Zoey Stefensen, Amy Thorson and Ellen Olson.

The Council designated housing allowances for the pastors. Approval was given for a housing allowance for 2018 for Pastor Rod Hopp of \$26,000 and a furnishings allowance for 2018 for Pastor Zechariah Anderson of \$3,000.

The Council reviewed evaluation feedback for Pastor Hopp.

2018 Council meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month at 6:45 pm. The 2018 Council/Staff retreat date was tentatively set for March 18.

## Board of Education

*Krista Hopp*

The Board of Ed met Tuesday, Jan. 9 opening with devotions from Tasha.

The Education board is in charge of the potluck this Sunday, January 14. We discussed the types of main dishes that would be made for the potluck and how well supplied the meal has seemed the past few months to gauge how much we should be prepared for. Plans for setup, serving and clean-up were discussed regarding the potluck. During the potluck, Pastor Zech will be facilitating an inter-generational conversation regarding the creation story which is the bible story we are focusing on during Sunday Promiseland this month.

Tasha and Krista mentioned that Spring curriculum will be ordered this month.

We discussed events coming up for Promiseland. We are excited to take a look at the Lenten Fair, Ash Wednesday, and the food packaging event in the next couple of months.

Lastly, VBS came up in the discussion. Based on the fact there have been no snow days so far at school, we are hopeful that VBS will be on schedule for June 4-8, but we will keep an eye on that as it comes closer.

## Board of Trustees

*Kathy McEnelly*

The Board of Trustees did not meet in January due to conflicts, however the December financials noted a positive bottom line for the month of \$22,675.19.

Year-to-date, after the full twelve months of 2017, we ended with a positive bottom line of \$17,786.14. We were

able to pay back the loan of \$10,000 as well as re-establish the contingency fund at \$15,000. Our Endowment amount for 2018 is \$35,000 and Council will approve expenditures for that at their February meeting.

## Mission and Outreach

*Sharen Rieffer*

Members present were: Becky Stumme, Pøtt Van Auken, Jaci Thorson, Steve Olmstead, Larry Rieffer and Sharen Rieffer.

First topic of discussion was the **STOP HUNGER** campaign. Meal Packing Day at Waldorf's Atrium is February 28. Their goal is to raise \$12,500 for this effort. Our board had placed an endowment request for \$500 which was approved. It was decided to place Stop Hunger containers throughout the church to encourage giving. Tentative dates for a "Noisy Offerings" are February 18 and 21. These also need to be approved by the council. We also discussed a possible breakfast as a fundraiser.

We discussed what our fourth quarter mission should be, and it was recommended that we denote that period as our "local missions and ministries". This could be the Waldorf Peer Ministry, Hanson Family Life Center or anything needed at that time.

The Board also discussed what our recommendation would be to the Council for our Lenten Offerings. It was decided that we recommend that one-half would go to Wednesday nights meals and local Food Bank and the other half to our global missionaries.

Jaci had received a request from FAVA asking if we would consider helping the local homeless. We decided to have a container by the office to collect items for them. Items collected by January 28.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

And finally! This year our Spring Break Mission trip will be to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Campus Ministry will be taking a group of 24 to the reservation to learn the story of the land, the lives of the people and to better understand the consequences of our shared history. We are modelling our trip after the ELCA Peace Not Walls strategy of accompaniment, awareness raising and advocacy in order to use our experience to inspire restoration and reconciliation. We will keep you informed as their will be post trip presentations and opportunities to learn about the journey. Look for our fundraising events in the bulletins.

We thank all of you for your continual support and prayers as we venture into a new semester!



**Peace, Antoine Cummins**  
**Campus Ministry Coordinator**  
**Like Fire LCM advisor**

**641-585-8729 / AntoineCummins@Waldorf.edu**





# HOLIDAYS...

*Marge Solberg*

From October through February 2017 we had holidays, holidays. Columbus Day, Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day arrived. Pearl Harbor Day was hardly noticed and soon Christmas week was rushed to Christmas Eve and then Christmas Day. But very soon we celebrated New Year's Eve while ushering in 2018. In little time Martin Luther King, Jr. Day had arrived. Abraham Lincoln and George Washington's birthdays will be observed (Washington's day becomes President's Day, eliminating 50+ more holidays). Very soon it's St Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday, April Fools' Day, and Easter. Whew, we'll celebrate 16 holidays in a little more than 5 months. Hallmark must be very happy. If all these days were national holidays, that would be 16 days off work in a short time. Even when holidays are work days, much of our time and interest that day is spent on celebrating the holiday. I like holidays, especially when I see children enjoy the fun of those days. And, everyone enjoys a day off work. But I am overwhelmed at how my involvement in each holiday increases every year. We must be running out of days or we're taking too many days off work, because two holidays will collide in February. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are on February 14. Easter is April 1, as is April Fools' Day.

Valentine's Day has become a big day. When I was in grade school we made valentines for each classmate and someone handed out those cards during the last few minutes of the school day. We thanked everyone and the girls tried to see if any of the boys' cards had a special meaning! Sometimes we got candy from the teacher and that was about the extent of Valentine's Day. Until recently, the entire school was interrupted by hundreds of flowers were delivered to school, sent by an admirer. Individual delivery has now discontinued but the excitement and time of ordering flowers is still part of the day. I wonder how much attention we will give that day to observing Ash Wednesday by praying, reading how Jesus was preparing to die for our sins. Will we be as excited about getting the black cross on our forehead as the red card in the envelope?

How ironic that Easter is the same day as April Fools' Day! Think of all the people who heard that Jesus' grave was empty after 3 days, would have said, "April Fool." Think of how many people since then and even today do not believe that Jesus is God's only Son who died for our sins and was resurrected into heaven. We have an excellent chance on Sunday, April 1, to tell everyone that Easter is not an April Fools' prank, that Jesus is REAL.

## Dates to Remember

- Thursday, Feb. 8, 10am.....Circle Bible Study Leaders  
w/Barb Johnson, Lounge
- Thursday, Feb. 15 ..... Circle Day
- Monday, Feb. 19, 2-4pm.....Prayer Shawl Ministry,  
Shalom
- Tuesday, Feb. 27, 1pm .....LWR Quilting Do Day,  
Fellowship Hall
- February Laundry..... Deb Fardal



## February Circle Schedule

	Date/Time	Location/Hostess Lesson Leader
<b>Martha</b>	Feb. 15, 9:30am	Shalom/Ellen Olson Marj Anderson
<b>Dorcas</b>	Feb. 15, 1:30pm	Shalom/Elaine Nerdig Joan Schloe
<b>Sarah</b>	Feb. 15, 1:30pm	Lounge/TBD Joan Hansen
<b>Rachel</b>	Feb. 15, 1:30pm	Fellowship Hall/ Sonja Johnson Marge Solberg



## Vital Agers

*Mary Rodberg*

The Vital Agers invite you to their Soup Luncheon on Tuesday, March 6 at 11:30am. Put this date on your calendar and plan to come to enjoy food, fellowship, and a program presented by Deb Jensen. No sign up necessary, just come and enjoy the time with us.

# Volunteer February 2018

**Altar Guild**

Feb. 4.....Dorothy Olson  
 Feb. 11 ..... Joan Beebe  
 Feb. 18 .....Sonja Johnson  
 Feb. 25 .....Kathy Leuwerke

**Assisting Ministers**

Feb. 4.....David Readinger  
 Feb. 11 ..... Cynthia Ryder  
 Feb. 18 .....Carolyn Price  
 Feb. 25 .....David Readinger

**Readers**

Feb. 4.....Julie Damm  
 Feb. 11 ..... Brad Jones  
 Feb. 18 .....Bill Krahling  
 Feb. 25 .....Bruce Mielke

**Communion Servers**

Feb. 4.....Kathy McEnelly, Kim Mollenhauer  
 Feb. 11 .....Cynthia Ryder, Joy Newcom  
 Feb. 18 ..... Joan Hansen, Joan Langerud  
 Feb. 25 ..... Scott Fruhwirth, Judy Utech

**Communion Set Up**

Feb. 4.....Alice Jones  
 Feb. 11 .....Marge Solberg, Sue Moglestad  
 Feb. 18 .....Kathy Leuwerke  
 Feb. 25 .....Barb Lovick  
 Wednesdays .....Bernie & Karen Kofron

**Song Leaders**

Feb. 4..... Cindi Lehmann, Audrey Olmstead  
 Feb. 11 ..... Mark & Joy Newcom  
 Feb. 18 .....Kathy Jerome, Dave Melby  
 Feb. 25 .....Brenda Rust, Elizabeth May

**Ushers**

Team 2: .....Gary McCarthy, Matt & Dominic Bronson, Loren Ehrich

**Sound Techs**.....Bruce Mielke, David Midtgaard

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



## “Seek First” at Bible Camp!

It is only February, but that is the best month to get registered for summer Bible camp to take advantage of early-bird pricing at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp and Ingham Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camps. Immanuel is a member of these camps that allows for a discount pricing. The church Endowment committee also pays half of the cost for confirmation students and gives \$100 scholarships for all other campers.

Camp representatives will be joining us for worship, sharing about the camp ministry, and participating in some of our activities in February:

- Feb. 7 – Lute Olson from Riverside (Betty Olson’s grandson!)
- Feb. 21 – Camp person from Ingham Okobojo

But wait, Bible camp isn’t just for the kids. The Camps offer a variety of weekend retreats, one day activities for all ages: Daddy Daughter Dance, Marriage Retreats, Men’s Retreats, Spring Work Day, BBQ’s, Quilt Auctions, 5K’s, Family Camps, Women’s Retreats, Golf Tournaments, Youth Recharge Weekends, etc.

And for the college students and/or high school seniors, consider applying to join the Summer Staff. An opportunity to share the good news about Jesus with kids and families and have a blast at your summer employment.

Check out everything from virtual tours, schedules, and registrations on their websites:

[www.okobojo.org](http://www.okobojo.org)  
[www.riversidelbc.org](http://www.riversidelbc.org)

Summer theme: “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

### Pastoral Acts

**Baptisms**

Jan. 21..... Noah Timothy Thorson, son of  
 Seth & Amy Thorson

**Prayers**

**Karen & Wayne Johns, Curt & LaDonna Flugum, Neal & Joyce Flugum, and families** in the loss of brother-in-law, Maynard Tweeten of Joice

**Jan & Randy Groves and family** in the loss of Jan’s brother, Terry Suby of Minneapolis, MN

**Jody Wooge, Courtney & Shannon Wooge and family, Chaldon Wooge, and friends** in the loss of husband/father/grandfather, Gaylord Wooge of Forest City.

**Lisa & John Chisholm and family in the loss of Lisa’s mother**, Helen Balfe of Faribault, MN

### Flowers and Broadcasts

**Altar flowers available these Sundays (\$44):**

† Feb. 11, 18, 25 / Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29 / May 6, 27

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

† Feb. 11, 18 / Apr. 8, 22 / May 6, 13, 20, 27

# February 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9am-1pm - Bake Sale @ Bill's (fundraiser for Houston trip group)
<b>4</b> 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Brunch Fundraiser for Houston trip group, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 10:45am - ANNUAL MEETING 6:30pm - Houston Trip Meeting, Shalom 7pm - Like Fire @ Gatsby's	<b>5</b> 5pm - Parish Life Board, Lounge	<b>6</b> 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 5pm - Education Board, Kitchenette	<b>7</b> 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - 7-8 Confirmation 5:40pm - Promiseland / FTGD w/Pastor Rod, Lounge 6:30pm - Worship-PreS-K sings 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry	<b>8</b> 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge 10am - Bible Study Leader, Lounge	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Coffee, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 10:40am - Faith Talk for Growing Disciples (FTGD) w/Pastor Rod 6:30pm - MS Youth Group 7pm - Like Fire @ Gatsby's	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30am - Vital Agers Committee, Shalom 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room	<b>14</b> 12:10 p.m. - Mid-week Ash Wednesday, Fireside 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5pm - Mission & Outreach Board, Kitchenette 5:30pm - 7-8 Confirmation 5:40pm - Promiseland / FTGD, Lounge 6:30pm - Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry / 9 Confirmation	<b>15</b> 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 9:30am - Martha Circle 9:30-11am - Inspire Immanuel, Lounge 10:30am - Good Samaritan Communion 1:30am - Dorcas/Sarah/Rachel Circles	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:15am - Worship, Promiseland sings, noisy offering for <b>STOP HUNGER</b> 10:15am - Coffee for Stop Hunger, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 10:40am - FTGD, Lounge 6:30-8pm - MS Youth Ministry to Archery Range 7pm - Like Fire @ Gatsby's	<b>19</b> 2-4pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom 5:45pm - Trustees, Kitchenette 6:45pm - Council, Reformation	<b>20</b> <b>MARCH MESSENGER DEADLINE</b> 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 2:30pm - Forest Plaza Communion Service 6-8pm - Cub Scout Pack Meeting, FH	<b>21</b> 12:10pm - Mid-week Lenten Worship, Fireside 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - 7-8 Confirmation 5:40pm - Promiseland / FTGD, Lounge 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry	<b>22</b> 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Coffee, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 10:40am - FTGD, Lounge 6:30pm - MS Youth Ministry 7pm - Like Fire @ Gatsby's	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1pm - LWR Quilting Do Day, FH	<b>28</b> 12:10pm - Mid-Week Lenten Worship 2-6pm - <b>STOP HUNGER PACKAGING EVENT, WALDORF ATRIUM</b> 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - 7-8 Confirmation 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry			



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  
Wednesday 12:10  
(begins Feb 14)  
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](http://www.immanuelfamily.com)

#### Facebook pages:

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Immanuel Lutheran Church Library

#### Staff:

**Rev. Rod Hopp** - Senior Pastor  
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#### Ben Allaway

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#### Marie Oleson

Housekeeping

#### Deb Fardal

Wednesday meal coordinator  
[dfardal@yahoo.com](mailto:dfardal@yahoo.com)

#### Church Council

President: **Kathy McEnelly**

Vice-President: **Quincey Benson**

Treasurer: **Cynthia Ryder**

Secretary: **Alice Lewellen**

Representatives: **Joan Beebe, Ken Hansen,**

**Heather Johnson, Kathy Leuwerke,**

**Steve Olmstead, Ellen Olson, Zoey Steffensen,**

**Amy Thorson**



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