

# THE MESSENGER

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

## Announcing Immanuel's Congregational Annual Meeting Sunday, February 4, 10:45am, Fellowship Hall

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

The Sunday morning schedule:

- 9:15am – Worship
- 10:15am – Brunch fundraiser for youth attending the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering Trip to Houston (freewill)
- 10:45am – CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING, join us in the fellowship hall to celebrate God's work at Immanuel during 2017.

(Nursery child care will be available through all the events of the morning.)

Copies of the 2018 proposed budget are available in the church office for anyone who would like to look it over before a vote is taken at the Annual Meeting.

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## Election of Council Members Sunday, Jan. 14 & Wednesday, Jan. 17

Four Council positions will be filled with a special election of Jan. 14 and 17 following the worship services. (These meetings were postponed in December and rescheduled for these dates.)

## '2nd Sunday' Potluck Brunch

Join us after 9:15 worship on Sunday, Jan. 14 in the fellowship hall for a Potluck Brunch. Please note we have a brief congregation meeting for council election first following worship.

You are welcome to bring breakfast and/or lunch items. This month's brunch is hosted by the Education Board. It's a great time to get together for some fellowship and food.



**"Happy New Year from the assisting ministers of Immanuel.  
God's blessings to all of you in the coming year."**

David Readinger, Carolyn Price, Kathy McEnelly, Cynthia Ryder, Jim Cherry

## What is an Assisting Minister?

The concept of Assisting Ministers was introduced during a time that we had one pastor and two Sunday services. It was a way to alleviate the pastor of all of the aspects of both services so that more focus could be devoted to delivering the sermon. When we became fully staffed again with two pastors, it was decided to keep the Assisting Ministers in place.

Generally, the Assisting Minister delivers the "prayers of the people". We do the Prayer of the Day, the Offering Prayer, the Intercessory Prayers, the Post Communion Prayer and the final sending. All but the Intercessory Prayers are provided for us. Each of us writes our own Intercessory Prayers, each with our own unique style of doing so.

Want to know more? Contact any Assisting Ministers or Pastor Rod or Pastor Zech. We'd be happy to tell you more about it.

# Building relationships in Chile

*Kathy Leuwerke*

A month goes by very quickly. As I embarked on the Western Iowa Synod trip to Chile, the purpose was to continue and build the companion relationships that we committed to in 2012. On November 18, eleven people including Bishop Rodger Prois and Cindy Wells from the Western Iowa Synod office and Paulina Dasse from the ELCA office in Chicago met at the airport in Santiago, Chile.



*Kathy Leuwerke, center*

After settling in on Saturday, we met with two other congregations from Minnesota that have companion relationships with EPES, an organization that was started in 1982 and supports community public health initiatives in many areas of South America, but especially in Santiago, Valparaiso, and Concepcion.

While staying in Santiago, we participated in church services at Congregacion El Buen Samaritano (Congregation of the Good Samaritan), the pastor was Izani Bruch. We also met

with Marcelo Huenulef Ortega, pastor for Congregacion La Trinidad (The Trinity). On Friday prior to leaving, we participated in the Chilean Women March against Violence.

We were then off to Concepcion where we stayed at an EPES retreat center and participated in the installation of a new pastor at Congregacion Martin Luther. Then on to Osorno where we stayed with families of the congregation and spent time with the new pastor at the Congregacion La Paz.

After a bus trip to Puerto Montt, we then boarded a plane and flew 1,350 miles to Punta Arenas, home of Immanuel's companion congregation. We were met by Pastor Oscar Sanhueza and Roberto Dasse, the president of the school board and a member of the church council. They introduced us to the principal of the Lutheran School that supports the church and we had the pleasure of attending a school concert unlike any I had ever attended. There was rock, vocal, string quartets, it was lively, entertaining and lasted a full two hours. The highlight of our visit in Punta Arenas was participating in their Advent Service on December 3.

The hospitality and friendliness of the members of the congregations was over the top. Traditional Chilean food was prepared and served with generosity. The kindness that was shown by all of the congregations along with the challenges that they face demonstrates the importance of continuing the companion relationships to promote our goals and missions.



## STOP HUNGER - Immanuel's 1st quarter mission emphasis

'STOP HUNGER' Food Packaging Event is a collaboration of Immanuel & Waldorf University with much effort from Forest City and surrounding communities. The 2018 packaging day is Wednesday, Feb. 28.

The Outreach Program, based in Union, IA, is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation that organizes food packaging events around the country. With more than 354 million meals packaged to date, the organization's mission is to provide safe water, food, medical care, and education to those in need, at

home and abroad. All this began back in 2003 when Floyd & Kathy Hammer made their first trip to Tanzania, Africa and were shocked with the desperation and hunger and knew they had to do something! So now with the packaging in Forest City and many other packaging events across the country, we make a difference!

For only 30 cents someone going hungry can have a meal given to them to provide nourishment and sustain their life. Begin your own mission now at home finding ways to start your own collection and fun ways of saving money leading up to the Feb. 28 event held at the Waldorf Atrium. Be prepared to sign up for an hour shift to join in the fun of packing these meals.

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## Dinner with the Bishop:

An exciting fundraiser that we have for The Youth Gathering trip to Houston is Dinner with the Bishop! Western Iowa Synod's Bishop Rodger Prois offered his culinary services to any group in the synod going to Houston for The Gathering this summer. He will be in Forest City on Saturday, January 20th at 5:30pm and making a 5 course meal which will feature Korean BBQ and many other delicious platters! We are thankful for the hospitality of Ray & Joan Beebe who will be hosting the event at their home. Tickets are \$125 per person, which \$100 will be tax-deductible. Seating is LIMITED so make sure to sign up in the office or with Matt ASAP! Thank you all for your support and generosity!

# LETTER FROM PASTOR ROD

## *What the New Year Holds*

Have you ever gotten into something and then said to yourself, "I wish I'd known then what I know now"? Every year people say to me as one year fades into the next, "I sure hope this year is a better year." When a new year begins there is no guarantee that things will go the way you plan or the way you hope.



*Pastor Rod*

In spite of that, there are a couple of things that I believe will be transpiring at Immanuel during the 2018 calendar year. With regard to staffing, Ben Allaway will begin working with us as our part-time music and worship director. Ben has a long history of coordinating, planning, and directing choirs and worshipping communities. He will be an extraordinary addition to our already extraordinary staff. He will begin his duties on January 9, so look for his article in the February Messenger and make sure to welcome him into our faith community when you have the chance.

A goal that I have is to get back to teaching some adult classes. I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as this just didn't get off the ground this past Fall as we had some major staffing changes come down the pike with the Music and Worship and Children's Education Coordinator positions opening up. So with Ben's arrival this will give me a chance to reinvest myself in planning and offering something for our adult life-long learners. Also during the 2018 calendar year I will be spending some time planning and writing grants for a twelve week sabbatical in 2019. I covet your prayers.

The Church Council will be bringing four new council members on board in February, so we too will be evaluating

our current goals and imagining some new ones as we are moved by God's Spirit to live into God's future. The council will also be reviewing the constitution for the purpose of making sure we are leading as directed to by that document and to make changes where theory and practice do not match, I invite your prayers for your church leaders and encourage you to encourage them and support them at every turn. It isn't easy to lead in these changing and uncertain times. So while it is a difficult time to lead, it remains that the church is the one eternal thing that we have the privilege of investing ourselves in so we need your grace and support to do our best. I would also remind each of you that we are a permission-giving church and so if there is something not getting done that you feel needs doing, by all means employ your gifts and do it.

Our high school youth will be participating in the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas late June. This is a first for our youth director, Matt Polsdofer so he is evaluating the entire process as it unfolds, praying the experience is worth all the fund raising and planning and paperwork and coordinating. Pray that those on the other end are doing their part to get ready for thirty thousand plus youth and that everyone has a life-changing experience.

So while there is a lot that I don't know and have no control over, we certainly have a lot of good things on our plate. If you would like to be involved in one aspect of the congregation or another, put legs to that this year and do it. You will never fail if you don't try, but the fact is you will never accomplish anything if you don't take the risk and take the first step.

***Have a great 2018, Pastor Rod***

## IMMANUEL KIDS .....

### *Epiphany | Light*

"I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light." John 8:12 (NIV)

Have you ever tried to walk around in the dark? I mean when it's so dark you can't see a thing and you keep bumping into things and maybe even trip over something? If you have, you know that it can be a pretty scary experience. It's hard to walk in the dark, so if you're going to walk around in the dark you should probably carry a flashlight.

During our Christmas Eve worship services we read these words from Isaiah 9: "The people who walked in dark-

ness have seen a great light. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given." In fact, in John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

That is what the Epiphany season is all about – celebrating and learning anew to walk in the light of Jesus. Just as a flashlight lights our way in the dark, Jesus lights our way through life and he lights the way to God, the Father. A flashlight helps to keep us from stumbling over things in the dark, and Jesus helps to keep us from stumbling over problems in life.

***Crossed in Christ, Pastor Rod***

# This Is Not Going To Go The Way You Think

Here we are, another new year. And it's usually at this time of year that we make all sorts of plans on how 2018 is going to change our lives compared to 2017. We plan on cutting out all sweets from our diet, January is a big month for gym memberships as many plan on working out and getting in shape, or maybe someone will try to make other types of changes. The point is, we try and try and try again to make our lives new. But in the words of Luke Skywalker from the new Star Wars the Last Jedi, "This is not going to go the way you think." And that goes both ways, we may think we can never change and we do, or we think we cannot fail this year and we do. Things do not always go the way we think or expect.

The same can be true about Jesus and our lives. How many times does Jesus come into our lives and say this is not going to go the way you think? At Christmas time, the world was waiting for a Messiah, someone to lead Israel, perhaps a military leader, against Rome and those that kept Israel down. Here comes Jesus, breaking the rules, healing on the Sabbath, eating with tax collectors, including Jews and Gentiles in the Grace God has given us, and he does not stop there. The leaders who thought Jesus needed to be one way



*Pastor Zech*

decide he must die, those that once welcomed him into Jerusalem now call out for him to die. Death and the Devil are licking their chops at the prospect of Jesus coming to Hell and dying. But that didn't go the way they or we thought. Jesus did not remain dead, he came back and over came sin, the devil, death and the grave. And through that we are always made new and Jesus is making all thing new.

And even with all this knowledge we think things need to go another way. There must be more to this than God's Grace, more to this than Jesus, I need to do something to be saved right, because that's how it needs to go. But it does not go the way we think, and it really is that simple through Christ alone we are saved and by his grace, by his death and resurrection on Easter he cannot be contained, and we are forever promised salvation. And I am glad that things did not go the way we think.

So in this New Year take time to remember that promise that all things are made new through Jesus. And even if this year does not go the way you think, Christ will still be walking with you through all moments that arise in your lives.

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

## Thrivent Choice

Thrivent Choice is providing an excellent opportunity that lets you choose where your share of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars. You can elect where Choice Dollars go. Members are designated Choice Dollars based on their: Insurance premiums, Contract values, and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Most of your Choice Dollars are available in December so for your organizations sake it is good to do it in December. However, you have until March of the following year to designate. You lose whatever your Choice Dollars are if you don't designate by March.

How Do I Direct My Designated Choice Dollars? There are two ways to do this.

1. If you have an online account with Thrivent and know your user ID and Password, log into your account and scroll down past your account information. You will find a place to connect to Choice Dollars. Click on that and follow the instructions. It doesn't take very long and well worth it for Immanuel or any other organization you choose.



**Don't forget to direct  
Choice Dollars®**

2. If you don't have an online account and/or prefer to use the phone, dial 1-800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice." You will need your 9 digit member ID number which is on all your mailings and starts with a 5.

Please see Thrivent's website for additional information at <https://www.thrivent.com>.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a very supportive partner of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Thrivent funds contribute several thousand dollars to Immanuel's annual budget. Please prayerfully consider designating Immanuel Lutheran Church to receive your Thrivent Choice dollars. Barb Braun is willing to assist you with the process or answer questions you might have. Please contact her at 585-2747. (If you have never participated in a Thrivent Action Plan, she would gladly help you with that also. Thrivent members are allowed 2 Action Plans each year, each worth \$250. Let's take advantage of this generous offer!)



Thanks to your financial gifts and art supply donations, members of the Mission & Outreach Board delivered 3 boxes and a check for \$667 to the Hanson Family Life Center.



### Wednesday January Menu

- Jan. 3..... Chicken enchiladas, corn, ice cream
- Jan. 10..... Pancake night
- Jan. 17.....Pork roast, cheesy hash browns, vegetable, bars
- Jan. 24..... Soup night, bars
- Jan. 31.....Pasta Bar night, ice cream

Hope you had a wonderful Christmas!  
Bring a friend to our Wednesday meals in 2018!Cookin' for the Lord, Deb Fardal

## SEEK FIRST @ BIBLE CAMP

Matthew 6:33 tells us “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” What does this mean? This verse will be explored in depth at both Riverside and Ingham/Okoboji summer Bible camps. If you or your child is interested in attending any session of either of these ELCA Bible camps go to [riversidelbc.org](http://riversidelbc.org) or [www.okoboji.org](http://www.okoboji.org) for more information. Both camps offer member congregation discounts and

early bird registration discounts (before February 15th) along with youth and family camps.

Summer Bible camp can be a very memorable and impressionable time in one’s life. This summer may be the perfect time to learn more about what God has in-store for you and how you can “Seek First”.

### Treasurer’s Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church FY November 2017

	NOVEMBER ACTUAL 2017	MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	PERCENT OF YTD BUDGET 91.67%	NOVEMBER ACTUAL 2016	YTD ACTUAL 2016
<b>INCOME</b>							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	51,062.70	43,375.00	433,002.52	520,500.00	83.2%	38,384.66	408,247.09
Other Income	4,469.62	4,540.00	56,115.39	54,480.00	103.0%	1,258.02	61,683.67
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>55,532.32</b>	<b>47,915.00</b>	<b>489,117.91</b>	<b>574,980.00</b>	<b>85.1%</b>	<b>39,642.68</b>	<b>469,930.76</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							
Staff Support	27,101.11	30,602.92	326,249.79	367,235.00	88.8%	30,357.19	304,866.85
Administration	10,209.12	9,416.25	81,281.84	112,995.00	71.9%	8,707.11	109,976.19
Ministry Areas	12,147.02	7,894.75	86,376.35	94,737.00	91.2%	8,410.95	89,402.12
Loan re-payment/contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	-12,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>49,457.25</b>	<b>47,913.92</b>	<b>493,907.98</b>	<b>574,967.00</b>	<b>85.9%</b>	<b>47,475.25</b>	<b>491,745.16</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$6,075.07</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>(\$4,790.07)</b>	<b>13.00</b>		<b>(\$7,832.57)</b>	<b>(\$21,814.40)</b>

# YOUTH MINISTRY

By Matt Polsdofer

## Winners never quit and quitters never...

WIN! We've all heard this many times before maybe from a parent, coach or teacher. But what would our world look like if no one quit anything? There are plenty of things that I have quit: playing t-ball, biting my nails, transferred colleges, and many more things! Think about what my life and your life would look like if we didn't quit anything? How busy would we be if we didn't quit a single thing that we picked up? How would we have time for the important things in life?



*Matt Polsdofer*

In high school youth ministry recently we discussed the benefits of quitting, which for myself I rarely hear about. Sometimes it is a good and necessary to quit for us to succeed in the rest of our lives. Here are some examples of things that we may quit: maybe we quit something that we are not passionate about to make room for something we are, perhaps we change our major in college or even the college itself or maybe we quit that toxic relationship.

You may be wondering how this relates to our faith. There are some pretty great examples of quitting in the Bible. In Matthew chapter 4 when Jesus is calling Simon Peter and his brother Andrew they were fishermen. Think about what the Bible and their lives would look like if they hadn't quit fishing? What if they said, "Sorry Jesus, we are too busy right now fishing and we've made our decision." Just a few verses later James and John do the same thing, immediately leaving their boat and father to follow Jesus. It would have been a lot easier for them all to play it "safe" and not quit, but they would have missed out on an incredible life following Jesus.

I'm not saying to quit on everything whenever it gets hard, but sometimes there are great things that can happen when you quit and start something new. How do you know when it is the right or wrong time to quit? I don't have a specific answer or formula, but through prayer and counsel with those you trust can help lead you to make an informed decision.

***In Christ, Matt Polsdofer***

*(Please check the youth tab on Immanuel's website under the Education tab for an up to date calendar of events)*

# ✝ Promiseland

Phew-we made it to 2018! The month of December was one that filled our Promiseland calendar - and most of our personal schedules, too! We spent several weeks practicing for our Christmas program, "A Christmas Carol Special Report" and it paid off. All of our Promiseland students did a wonderful job telling the story of a few of our beloved Christmas carols. We hope you enjoyed the program and if



*By Krista Hopp and Tasha Banta*



*Promiseland Preschoolers and Kindergarteners expressed a variety of emotions as they sing of a Special Report of the King.*



*Promiseland 1st-5th graders sing of a peaceful night at their Christmas Program held Dec. 10th.*

you weren't able to make it you can check out some photos on Immanuel's Facebook page or the video at <https://youtube.be/rYg6vGJwdOI>!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's program a success! To the kids for making the practices a priority and working hard at home. To Audrey Olmstead for directing the music and bringing the



*Special thanks to Audrey Olmstead for directing the Promiseland program and working with all the children*

*Continued on page 10*



## A MARCH TO 500

In commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation (Martin Luther) we are holding a march at the church Library: A March to 500 and you are invited! It is FREE. All you have to do is MARCH to the library and check out books, movies, and/or CD's, enjoy them, and return them. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, each item checked out will count towards our goal of 500 items checked out of the library. It's up to you how many you check out at a time, but 3 weeks from the checkout date is the suggested due date. There are no fines, however at the church library.

So start MARCHING and invite your friends too. The library is for everyone. After reading or watching something really good, tell others. In January, each Sunday morning and Wednesday night a library committee member will be in the library to help anyone if needed. Each month our progress toward the 500 items being checked out will be reported in the bulletin and *Messenger*. Is it possible? Only if you do your part. How long will it take us? What do you think? Why should you participate? You may feel better-uplifted and even become a better person from "good stuff" you are reading and watching from the church library. One thing is for sure: YOU WILL BE BLESSED!

So.....what are you waiting for? Join the MARCH to 500 today!

## Did You Know?

Besides Fiction and Children's Books, did you know that your church library has other items for you? We have Large Print Books, Geography Books of the Holy Land and of the Bible, music CDs and Audio Books. Did you know that the library also has parenting books, devotionals, biographies, mysteries, hymnals, Bibles and a large DVD collection for you to keep you warm on a cold winter night? So stop and check out what your church library has to offer for you.....then you will know.

## Promiseland Reading Contest

The library's reading contest for our Promiseland students continues through April 2018 but all students from 3 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade who have met the milestone of checking out and returning three or more books/DVDs since Sept 15<sup>th</sup> earned a grab bag gift on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Below are pictures of the winners.



3 year olds – 1<sup>st</sup> grade



2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 5<sup>th</sup> grade



Sunday winners

### Merry Christmas from 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.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> Quarter at the Y

Immanuel is hosting the 5th quarter at the YMCA on Friday, January 19th. 7th grade parents are in charge of hosting this event and are asked to bring 2 dozen cookies/bars and assist with the event that night. Please be at the YMCA with 5 minutes left in the 4th quarter. Congregation members are invited to help with the event as well or drop off baked goods at the church prior to the event. Thanks you for partnering with us in this ministry!

# Board notes

## Parish Council

*Kathy McEnelly*

The ILC council met on December 11, 2017 with the following members present: Kathy McEnelly, Chad Benson, Joan Beebe, Alice Lewellen, Heather Johnson, Ken Hansen, Stacy Miller, Steve Olmstead, Brody Hopp, and Pastor Hopp and Pastor Anderson.

The Council received the recommended 2018 budget from the Board of Trustees. The budget was reviewed, discussed and approved to take to the congregational annual meeting on February 4.

The Council spent considerable time discussing expectations of council members and took feedback from all present for consideration for planning for the future. Four new members will be welcomed to Council in January. The ballot vote is being postponed until early to mid-January so that we have a full ballot.

## Board of Education

*Emily Beenken*

The Board of Education met Tuesday, December 5. The meeting was opened with devotions. The board finalized the Christmas program and meal details. The Promiseland Christmas program will be held Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 with a meal to follow. A free will donation will be collected with all proceeds going to our Stop Hunger food packing event. The possibility of Promiseland attendance awards were discussed, At this time no decision was made and more discussions can be held in the future. Finally, the board discussed the Sunday Promiseland schedule and how to add further focus on the Bible story.

## Mission and Outreach

*Jaci Thorson*

Mission & Outreach Board met on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Members present: Becky Stumme, Pøtt Van Auken, Steve Olmstead, Brody Hopp and Jaci Thorson.

### Agenda items:

**Hanson Family Life Center/YMCA:** The board delivered to HFLC three boxes of art supplies and a check for \$667.68. Thanks to everyone who gave donations towards this Oct.-Nov. mission emphasis!

**Missionaries:** Thanks for ongoing gifts throughout the year, our yearly \$5,000 obligation was fulfilled towards our ELCA Global Missionaries Revs. Colin, Jeni, Josie & Amos Grangaard.

**Thanksgiving Offerings/Donations:** After expenses removed from the donations, distribution of \$885.77 was given to each of these 3 designated missions: Forest City Neighborhood Food Bank, Immanuel's Wednesday Meal Program, and our Global Missionaries.

**Good Gifts Trees:** Two trees in the church were decorated with good gift ornaments and folks have been purchasing honey bees, school backpack supplies, chicks, etc. These gifts will be sent on to the ELCA.

**Stop Hunger:** 1st quarter 2018 mission emphasis. Stop Hunger Packaging Event held at the Waldorf University Atrium is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 28.

## Board of Trustees

*Kathy McEnelly*

The Board of Trustees met on Dec 11. The November financials noted a positive bottom line for the month of \$6,075.07. Year-to-date, after eleven months of 2017, we are at a loss of (\$4,790.07) however \$10,000 was borrowed so the year-to-date loss is actually (\$14,790.07). It is noted that about \$4,700 in expenses related to the Thanksgiving meal and the youth cup sales were not paid in November but the income was realized. The Board approved the planned roof repairs for 2018 at a cost of \$18,300 which is planned for and we will get on the contractor's schedule. The Board reviewed the employment agreement for Ben Allaway as Worship and Music Director and his employment begins January 9, 2018. The 2018 budget was presented to the Board by Kathy McEnelly and Pastor Rod. The Trustees approved the budget and will recommend the budget to the full Council.



## *Understanding Grief & Loss Sponsored by Hospice of North Iowa*

Six week program for adults grieving a death – Six consecutive Sundays, 1:30-3:30, January 21-February 25, at Hospice of North Iowa, 232 2nd St SE, Mason City.

Space is limited for this free class offering bereavement support so registration is required. Call 1-800-297-4719 to pre-register.



*Bishop Pastor Oscar Sanhueza and Western Iowa Synod Bishop Rodger Prois worshipping together Dec. 3 at Immanuel's companion church in Punta Arenas, Chile*



# “Peace on Earth and Mercy Mild”

Marge Solberg

I remember December 7, 1941. My family was listening to emergency radio broadcast. President Roosevelt told us the naval base in Hawaii had been bombed and America was at war. He said our lives would not be easy; changes would come. We did experience lots of changes in the next few years. The dynamics of my family, my neighborhood, and my school, changed forever. I know Jesus, Son of God, was born into the world, bringing peace and mercy to all people. In December, 2017, as we celebrated the birth of Jesus, there was uneasiness in most countries of the world. Nations on the brink of war; threats coming from all sides; armies on alert for the first strike caused us to be anxious and uncertain. We prayed for peace and mercy.

Left to ourselves we have found ways to take care of our uneasiness. I have surrounded myself and my loved ones with everything we need for any situation. Cool air blows through my house in hot summer and warm air makes me cozy in winter. A Dr. is within five minutes if I get sick. I can get healthy food close by. When I can't get to safe, cool water piped to my kitchen, I have bottled water with me for my thirst. There are two cars in the garage for two people in the house. I am safe; I don't fear someone coming to take me away against my will.

If we really look, around us, and around the world, we would see families without homes, some who scavenge for food. We would see children, very ill, being carried for hours to see a Dr. We'd see people getting a drink of water in a river where cows are standing. Young kids are afraid of being taken from their parents to serve or fight for warring rivals and know they will never see their families again. Thousands of girls are snatched from home to be sold and become slaves until they die. Some are so deep in despair that the only solution they see is taking their life.

I have heard the plight of these people for years and I do recognize the unfairness of their lives. I had planned to help where I can. I have prayed that I would respond to their cries for help. But 2017 was like every other year. I heard the words, “Peace on earth and mercy mild” and thought that was only for me. So, I continue to spend my time and gifts on my interests. I don't make New Years' resolutions, obviously. But I do believe in God's promises to us. If we join together to learn more about people we don't know who need our attention and help, we will realize our privileged living does hurt others and keeps us from answering God's call to help all His people. Remind me of this if I look away when I see or hear the call to meet another's needs. I'll do the same for you. Instead of what we have, our next purchase, where we want to go, our conversation could be about clean water, medical care, contact with the hopeless. I pray this will happen in the Immanuel Family. Instead of being anxious, uneasy and fearful, we will truly feel God's Peace and Mercy.

## Dates to Remember

- Thursday, Jan. 11, 10:00am .....Circle Bible Study Leaders w/ Barb Johnson, Lounge
- Monday, Jan. 15, 2-4:00pm ....Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom
- Thursday, Jan. 18 .....Circle Day
- Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1:00pm .....LWR Quilting Do Day, Fellowship Hall
- January Laundry ..... Marj Anderson
- January Sunday Coffee.....Kitchen Service Group



## January Circle Schedule

	Date/Time	Location/Hostess Lesson Leader
Martha	Jan. 18/9:30am	Shalom/ Marj Anderson Liz Wilson
Dorcas	Jan. 18/1:30pm <b>**NOTE CHANGE**</b>	Shalom/Deb Fardal Alice Jones
Sarah	Jan. 18/1:30pm	Lounge/
Rachel	Jan. 18/1:30pm <b>**NOTE CHANGE**</b>	Fellowship Hall/ Mary Schaefer Barb Braun



## Thankful for Community!

Thank you to everyone for their assistance in making the Thanksgiving Community meal a success once again in 2017. A plentiful Thanksgiving dinner was enjoyed by 285 guests (includes those dining together at church and those who had takeout and deliveries.) We are very grateful for your monetary donations, food, and your time spent preparing for the meal and the cleanup.



The free-will donations, after expenses, were divided between Immanuel's Wednesday Meal program, the Forest City Neighborhood Food Bank, and our ELCA Global Missionaries. Each received a gift of \$885.

**Blessings to you in 2018!**  
**Deb Fardal & Deanna Ennen**

# Volunteer January 2018

**Altar Guild**

Jan. 7 .....Kathy Leuwerke  
 Jan. 14.....Julie Damm  
 Jan. 21 ..... Joanne Bartleson  
 Jan. 28.....Kathy Lewerke

**Assisting Ministers**

Jan. 7 ..... Kathy McEnelly  
 Jan. 14.....Carolyn Price  
 Jan. 21 ..... Cynthia Ryder  
 Jan. 28.....Jim Cherry

**Readers**

Jan. 7 ..... Mary Farus  
 Jan. 14.....Ray Beebe  
 Jan. 21 .....Marla Betz  
 Jan. 28.....Wyatt Steffensen

**Communion Servers**

Jan. 7 .....Kathy McEnelly, Liz Wilson  
 Jan. 14.....Jim & Barb Braun  
 Jan. 21 ..... Cynthia Ryder, Kay Sorensen  
 Jan. 28..... Jim Cherry, Judy Utech

**Communion Set Up**

Jan. 7 ..... Ellen Olson  
 Jan. 14..... Marge Solberg  
 Jan. 21 .....Alice Jones

Jan. 28.....Kathy Leuwerke  
 Wednesdays .....Bernie and Karen Kofron

**Song Leaders**

Jan. 7 .....Cindi Lehmann, Kathy Jerome  
 Jan. 14.....Brenda Rust, Audrey Olmstead  
 Jan. 21 ..... Mark & Joy Newcom  
 Jan. 28..... Elizabeth May, Jaci Thorson

**Ushers**

Team 1: ..... Wayne Johns, Jim Lund, Jim Bowman, Paul Jensen

**Sound Tech** .....Eric Rust

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



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Sunday and Wednesday kids together so seamlessly! To Marla Betz for her accompaniment on Sundays and Nancy Farndale for accompanying during the program. Joe Katinas and Ashlea Jenkins are two Waldorf Students who are sharing their time and talents with our 6th graders this year. We appreciate their hard work and commitment to Immanuel’s youth. Thank you to the Chris Howd and Mindy Anderson for helping capture the night with their photography and videography and to Eric Rust for running the technical side. Thank you, Mike Oleson, for the stage preparations and teardown. To our Promiseland teachers – you are all so important to our weekly programming. Krista and I, along with the Board of Education value your dedication and are blessed to you have as part of the team! Staff and Board of Education – your support and guidance are most appreciated. We couldn’t have done this without you!

The Board of Education hosted a delicious soup supper after the program. They were able to secure a Thrivent grant to cover the cost of the food and Deb Fardal gave her time to prepare the meal. We were able to raise over \$500 to benefit the Stop Hunger foundation! Thank you to Deb, Tina, and Tammy, the Board of Education and the middle-school students for your help in providing this meal!

We are looking forward to a great year with Promiseland resuming on Wednesday, January 3rd and Sunday, January 7th. We will continue sharing God’s EXTRA amazing love with the Immanuel children through stories of the Bible, crafts, dramas, games, music and more!

**Upcoming:** 1st-5th graders will sing on church on Wednesday, January 24th and the Sunday Children will share music on Sunday, January 28th.

Blessings to all of our Promiseland families and our wonderful congregational family in this New Year!

**Pastoral Acts**

**Baptisms**

Dec. 31..... Savannah Marie & Magnolia Estera,  
 daughters of Tad Hinkley & Kristi Mutter  
 of Fort Collins, CO

**Prayers**

**Daryl & Tammy Krieger and family** in the loss of brother-in-law, Tim Nelson of Forest City

**Dean & June Anderson and family** in the loss of sister-in-law, Ellen Anderson of Joice

**Joanie Claxton, Scott Fruhwirth, and families in the loss of mother/grandmother**, Beverly Krein of Round Rock, TX (formerly Forest City)

**Miriam Rogness and family** in the loss of brother-in-law, Edgar Dorow of Osage

**Andrew Jacobs, Emily Anderson, Erin Cross and family** in the loss of grandmother, Joann Jacobs of Thompson

**Flowers and Broadcasts**

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

† Jan. 14, 21 / Feb. 11, 18, 25 / Mar. 25 / Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29

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

† Jan. 14 / Feb. 11, 18 / Mar. 11, 25 / Apr. 8, 22, 29

# January 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018! CHURCH CLOSED	<b>2</b> 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room	<b>3</b> 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - 7-8 Confirmation 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry	<b>4</b> 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> EPIPHANY
<b>7</b> 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Coffee, Fellowship Hall 10:30am - Promiseland 6:30pm - MS Youth Ministry	<b>8</b> 5pm - Parish Life Board, Lounge	<b>9</b> 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 5pm - Education Board, Kitchen	<b>10</b> 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5pm - Mission & Outreach Board, Lounge 5:30pm - 7-8 Confirmation 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry	<b>11</b> 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 10am - Circle Bible Study Leaders Lounge 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge	<b>12</b> ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO JACI	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Council Election 10:15am - '2nd Sunday' Potluck Brunch, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 6:30pm - MS Youth Ministry	<b>15</b> 2-4pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom 5:45pm - Trustees 6:45pm - Council	<b>16</b> 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 2:30pm - Forest Plaza Communion Service 6-8pm - Cub Scouts' Pack Meeting, FH	<b>17</b> 4:00-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - 7-8 Confirmation 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Council Election 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry	<b>18</b> 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 9:30-11am - Inspire Immanuel, Lounge 9:30am - Martha Circle, Shalom 10:30am - Good Samaritan Communion 1:30pm - Sarah Circle, Lounge 1:30pm - Dorcas Circle, Shalom 1:30pm - Rachel Circle, FH	<b>19</b> FEBRUARY MESSENGER DEADLINE after BB - host 5th Quarter @Y	<b>20</b> 5:30pm - Dinner w/ Bishop Prois Houston Trip Fundraiser, Ray & Joan Beebe home
<b>21</b> 9:15am - Worship, Waldorf Choir 10:15am - Coffee, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 6:30pm - MS Youth Ministry	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 1pm - LWR Quilting Do Day, FH	<b>24</b> 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - 7-8 Confirmation 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship, 1st-5th sings 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry	<b>25</b> 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:15am - Worship, Promiseland sings 10:15am - Coffee, FH 10:30am - Promiseland	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room	<b>31</b> 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - 7-8 Confirmation 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Choir / HS Youth Ministry			

## Ways to serve...

Consider serving as a Sunday Scripture Reader reading the lessons during worship.

Just contact Jaci in the church office to be added onto the yearly schedule that she makes up in January. (Your commitment would only be 1-2 times each year.)

Or if you would like to serve by volunteering in any other areas, like serving or setting up communion, ushering, being a sound tech. (training provided) please let the church office know where you would like to use your gifts!



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



#### MISSION STATEMENT

Building community in the  
name and likeness of  
Jesus Christ.

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

246 S. Clark Street • Forest City, IA 50436

#### Main phone number:

641-585-3152

#### Website:

[www.immanuelfamily.com](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)

**Jaci Thorson** - Administrative Assistant

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

**Matt Polsdofer** - Youth Ministry

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

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

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

**Marie Oleson** - Housekeeping

**Deb Fardal** - Wednesday meal coordinator

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

#### Church Council

President: **Kathy McEnelly**

Vice-President: **Chad Benson**

Treasurer: **Cynthia Ryder**

Secretary: **Melanie Slater**

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

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

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



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news and updates!