

THE MESSENGER

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



Vacation Bible School "Maker Fun Factory"

Vacation Bible School will be held at Immanuel June 5th – June 9th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. VBS is open to all children preschool age through 5th grade. You can register your child(ren) on-line at immanuelfamily.com or in the church office. The registration deadline has past so the cost of VBS is \$10 per child.

This year's theme is Maker Fun Factory where the kids will learn they were created by God and built for a purpose. At Maker Fun Factory, curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God! Kids will learn one important Bible point each day. The Bible Point is reinforced daily through Bible adventures, key Bible verses, songs, snacks and hands-on activities that help kids know more about their Maker-God.

We are asking students to bring offering each day to VBS. On Mondays, students should bring pennies, Tuesday nickels, Wednesday dimes, Thursday quarters and Friday a dollar. Our offering this year will help fund medical equipment and supplies to be shipped to those in need who are living in Tanzania.

At the end of VBS, the students will put on a program on Friday, June 9th at noon in the Sanctuary. The program is open to everyone to come watch the kids share the excitement of the week. The VBS kids will also be singing in Worship on Sunday, June 11th at 9:45 am. We can't wait to see what the kids will learn at the 'Maker Fun Factory' VBS!



Summer Sunday Schedule

June-July-August brings this summer worship change:

- 9:45am Worship in the sanctuary on all Sundays except 3rd Sunday of each month – then head out by the Waldorf Pond (weather permitting). Plenty of shade, just bring your lawn chair.
- 10:45am Coffee Fellowship following worship on Sundays we are inside sanctuary. No coffee on Sundays outside.

Take note of some of these special Sundays:

- June 11 ~ VBS kids singing, 7th graders blessing into Confirmation
- July 9 ~ Missionaries Revs. Colin & Jeni Graangard & children here, potluck brunch
- July 16 ~ Picnic following worship out by the Waldorf Pond

Immanuel Lutheran Church is excited to show off the new red doors that were recently installed.



Why Red Doors?

The significance of red doors on a church according to Dr. Richard Hoefler, dean of chapel at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. "Christians have entered into worship, into the presence of God, through the blood of Christ." It is also said that a red door in the Lutheran Church harkens back to the time of Martin Luther, who posted his 95 Theses on the red doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The red doors symbolize the blood of Christ, which is our entry into salvation.

Painting the doors red started in the Middle Ages, doors were painted red for the blood of Christ and the sign of the cross; Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. Red is used as a reminder of the Passover and a sign that the Holy Spirit is there. Today many churches proclaim with their red doors that their churches are a haven for emotional and spiritual healing, and are a place of refuge and safety, forgiveness and reconciliation. The red doors now show that the warmth, light, and presence of the Holy Spirit is there for everyone who enters.

Thank you to generous donors of memorial and Firm Foundation Building Funds.

Let us help you get rid of your excess “stuff”!



Do you need to have a garage sale, but don't want to go through all of the work? We are here to help you with that! Our newly formed "FUNdraising committee will host a yard sale on Friday, July 14 right in Immanuel's front yard. That's the Friday of Puckerbrush and the day of the salad luncheon. We are seeking donations of just about anything to sell. Your items would be a donation to Immanuel and the proceeds will support our general fund.

You will be able to drop off your items at the church several days prior to that Friday and also that morning. We will offer everything for sale; mostly for a free will donation, unless there's an item we should price because of its value. You have the option of picking up left-over items or we will take care of donating it elsewhere (unless it's a very large item).

Put this on your calendar! We'll remind you again. Start cleaning out and sorting through your stuff and you'll feel more organized and free from clutter and we'll make a bit of money to support our ministry. Thanks!!

Congratulations to Stross!

Stross Newcom received his Eagle Scout Award, scouting's highest recognition, at a Court of Honor held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 14. He completed most of the work toward this achievement as part of Troop 1019 out of Garner and completed his Board of Review in February as part of Forest City Troop 1418. Newcom's project was to build an accessible ramp for Cabin #1 at Crystal Lake Park in Hancock County. He began work toward his goal of Eagle in 2009 and kept steadily working on it under BSA provisions that allow persons with disabilities to remain in Scouting after their 18th birthday. Newcom is the son of Joy and Mark Newcom.



Western Iowa Synod Assembly ~ Let's celebrate the Reformation!

"For by grace you have been saved through faith."
Ephesians 2:8

The Western Iowa Synod (WIS) ELCA will meet in Assembly June 9-11 at the Sioux City, IA Convention Center observing the 500th anniversary of The Reformation. Immanuel's rostered leaders and delegates attending include: Pastor Rod & Renae Hopp, Pastor Zech Anderson, Travis & Samantha Beck, Cynthia Ryder, Ken & Joan Hansen.



The Assembly is the primary decision-making body of the WIS (which Immanuel is located in) and gathers every year. Voting members from its congregations, together with other leaders of the ELCA, and guided by the Holy Spirit, discuss the work of the church and make decisions reflecting the challenges we face serving our neighbors—locally and globally—in the name of Jesus Christ.

The WIS is OPENING DOORS to health care! An initiative in conjunction with Global Health Ministries and our brothers and sisters in Tanzania, Immanuel is having a drive to help collect some of these items and bring to Assembly. Can you help with any of the items:

- Bars of soap, bandaids, pillowcases,
- bed sheets (twin to full size),
- towels & washcloths,
- blankets (twin or full size),
- canes, crutches,
- walkers, gloves (household & examination),
- Hospice Kits & Newborn Kits (instruction sheets available in the office for these kits).

The Assembly offering will be split between two emerging ministries in our synod, the Sudanese Ministry in Council Bluffs and Latino Ministry in Denison.

Index

VBS / Summer Schedule / Red Door.....	1
Yard Sale / Eagle Scout / WIS Assembly.....	2
Pastor Rod.....	3
Pastor Zech / Missionaries.....	4
Travis / Financial.....	5
Youth Ministry, Promiseland	6
Library.....	7
Council / Boards	8
WELA / Circles.....	9
June Volunteers.....	10
June Calendar	11

LETTER FROM PASTOR ROD

PENTECOST AND THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT!

Jeremiah 23: 19 & 29

"Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly....Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"



Pastor Rod

Acts 2:1-4

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues, as of fire, appeared to them, and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

On the day of Pentecost (Sunday, June 4) our congregation will sing a song titled, God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind. The first verse asks: "God of tempest, God of whirlwind as on Pentecost descend! Drive us out from sheltered comfort; past these walls your people send! Sweep us into costly service, there with Christ to bear the cross; there with Christ to bear the cross!"

This and the second verse of the hymn reflect a side of the Spirit seen in Jeremiah 23 above. The Spirit of God is here revealed as a stormy spirit that bursts out against those who are opposing God. In the case of Jeremiah 23, God is speaking out against false prophets saying, "'Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their evil,' declares the Lord.... Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'" We see this same side of the spirit in other parts of scripture, (see Rev. 3:14-17).

On the day of Pentecost as told in Acts 2, we see another side of the Spirit. Once again the wind is blowing and it is a noisy rush of a mighty wind. It sounds a lot like the mighty whirling tempest in Jeremiah 23. This time however, the Holy Spirit, "fills the whole house where the followers of Jesus are sitting and a divided tongue as of fire rested on each one and they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

The Spirit not only convicts and contends with sinners in order to transform them, but it also gathers, gifts, and sends us from our gatherings into the broken world in order to use our giftedness to bring light and life and salvation to all people. This is the gift of God for the people of God that brings us life.

Verse four of God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind prays: "God of passion; God unsleeping, stir in us love's restlessness! Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart's distress. Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your kingdom's work, claim us for your kingdom's work."

*See you at Pentecost,
Pastor Rod*

IMMANUEL KIDS

Sow Generously

When I was a young man the first calling on my life was to be a farmer. I started farming with my dad and at that time we had an old John Deere planter. With that old planter we planted or sowed 24,000 seeds in every acre. That sounds like a lot doesn't it?

After a couple of years we came to realize that with that old planter and 24,000 seeds per acre we were not getting, nor were we going to get the yields we wanted. So the next season we bought a newer White planter. With the advances in planter technology we decided to increase our seed planting population to 30,000 seeds per acre. That year we had the best yields we had ever had. The more seeds we planted, the better yields we harvested.

In 2 Corinthians 9 the Apostle Paul is talking to Christians about giving to the needs of other Christians and he says this: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Paul was encouraging his people to give generously and abundantly to the needs of others. To encourage them he used a planting or sowing analogy. He said that if you only plant a few seeds, then you will harvest a small crop. If however you are willing to plant abundant seeds, then you will harvest a larger more satisfying crop.

continued on page 8

Mission Moments

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15)

There is a lot going on at Immanuel as we continue to share the Gospel with those around us in many different ways. Our missions push us in many different directions, and it can be hard to see all of the ways we are "Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ". That is why this year we are going to begin something called "Mission Moments". These moments will spotlight what it is we are up to as a congregation, what you are supporting and what you may have heard of but don't fully understand.

The goal of these moments is to inform the congregation on what we are up to at Immanuel. Some moments will include spotlighting VBS, Promiseland, Confirmation Camp, Communion Servers, The Food Shelf, Wednesday Night Meals, a look at what the Western Iowa Synod is up to and what we support through them, a look at what our Mission Support goes to in the ELCA, the support of our Missionaries, and the list goes on. Maybe you have wondered what it takes to help serve communion, usher, or help out in other ways for worship. Maybe you wondered how we are sup-

porting the ELCA through mission. Maybe you wondered what pastors are up to when you don't see them. Whatever your question we hope these mission moments will help illuminate how Immanuel is "Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ".

Some of these moments will be emphasized monthly in the Messenger and bulletins. Others will be included before worship on the form of a short video, which will also be put on our website and Facebook page. Again, the goal of these moments is to help all of us in the congregation to understand what we are up to as the Immanuel Family and what we are supporting with our time and money.

If you have any suggestions on what you'd like to hear about in a mission moment, or if you'd like to help me out with the filming and editing of these moments, or if you have questions about this ongoing project please contact me. Let's work together to show each other how we are sharing the Gospel and "Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ".

See you in worship!
Pastor Zech Anderson

Walking Together in the Holy Land

May 2017 – Greetings from Jerusalem (excerpts from a recent newsletter)

We continue in our work as Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) Coordinators, walking with our YAGM and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and Holy Land (ELCJHL).

The weather has spiked toward its hot summer norms. At this time of year, Jerusalem is the coolest place in the country (because of its high elevation). Askadinya fruit are ripening on the tree and the ever so brief apricot season is upon us. The warm winds that mark Pentecost are making their presence heard and felt; a balm on a hot day and a reminder that the comfort of the Holy Spirit is ever upon us.

Our YAGMs continue their service, mostly teaching in the ELCJHL Schools. It is a gift to watch these young adults grow over the year, especially as they become more confident in their teaching abilities and more known by their companions.

We went on retreat in March with our YAGMs spending time in worship, reflection and community with our companions in Amman, Jordan and at the Baptismal Site at the Jordan River. They also had time to take in many of Jordan's treasures and red-rock landscapes. In our time together, we explored themes of baptism and vocation.

We four Grangaards boarded a plane early on Good Friday for the US for our April meetings and visits. We stopped by Colin's parents' home to celebrate Easter at Colin's home church: First Lutheran in Tiffin, Ohio. Josie liked being with Grandma & Grandpa, going to the Easter Egg Roll, and singing Alleluia! In Chicago we extended invitations to eight young adults to join us as YAGMs in 2017-18. They will begin their service with orientation in mid-August. Then we hit the road to visit churches in Lower Michigan, the first part of our home assignment visits; we'll pick it back up in July.

As always, we give thanks for your support in this work. What a blessing to walk together as Christ's body. May God bless, keep, and guide you.



ELCA Global Missionaries Colin & Jeni Grangaard, Josephine & Amos

In Christ, Jeni & Colin Grangaard

**July 8-9 the Grangaards will be visiting Immanuel!*

Pentecost Travis Beck

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.” (Acts 2:1-6)

What are we to make of this strange festival, with wind, fire, and foreign languages? First, “they were all together in one place.” Just like the law was given to the whole people of Israel, the spirit is poured out on the whole community of believers—it is not a private possession for each individual believer.

Second, there is a great sound of wind and foreign language and “at this sound the crowd gathered.” The arrival of the spirit is not private or hidden but is public, dramatic, even noisy. It does not frighten the bystanders but draws them in “from every nation.”

Third, “each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.” Divine revelation isn’t limited to one people, one language, one time, or one place. The Word is being made available to all people, in all times, in all places. In Peter’s sermon to the crowd on Pentecost, he affirms this when he says that “the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” The confusion of Babel is being reversed, transcended; the scattered people of God are being drawn together.

What lessons are in this story that can help us understand our worship differently? First, worship is corporate. It is not the private possession of each individual believer, though we often treat it this way by asking if I was fed, if I enjoyed the sermon, and so on. But worship, at its best, is for the whole community of believers, and this raises different questions: Did the worship help the congregation grow together? Did it help them bridge their differences? Did it help unite them in heart and mind?

Second, worship is public, dramatic, even noisy. It is not spectacle for its own sake, to be sure; but it does not try to hide the messiness of what it is to be human. It makes room for crying children, for laughter and humor, for dancing and moving, and everything that comes with being alive.

Third, worship is richly expressive and diverse. The late 20th century saw an explosion of worship styles and formats designed to appeal to certain demographics and personal tastes. This kind of worship seems to me a recreating of Babel rather than a reversal of it. Worship, at its best, draws the scattered people of God together rather than empowers them even more strongly to divide and separate.

It is this kind of radical community that drew new converts to the faith in the book of Acts: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [...] All who believed were together and had all things in common [...]. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” May we be so bold as to model our lives on this Pentecost faith.

Treasurer’s Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church

FY April 2017

	APRIL ACTUAL 2017	MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	PERCENT OF YTD BUDGET 33.0%	APRIL ACTUAL 2016	YTD ACTUAL 2016
Income							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	49,779.51	43,375.00	156,879.30	520,500.00	30.1%	39,381.35	149,417.89
Other Income	1,985.87	4,540.00	25,477.19	54,480.00	46.8%	22,473.16	34,041.87
Total Income	51,765.38	47,915.00	182,356.49	574,980.00	31.7%	61,854.51	183,459.76
Expense							
Staff Support	30,693.93	30,602.92	122,079.24	367,235.00	33.2%	26,245.74	104,301.94
Administration	3,865.27	9,416.25	37,397.55	112,995.00	33.1%	26,741.33	50,446.64
Ministry Areas	9,241.21	7,894.75	27,627.75	94,737.00	29.2%	6,392.30	30,471.33
Loan re-payment/contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	43,800.41	47,913.92	187,104.54	574,967.00	32.5%	59,379.37	185,219.91
Income Less Expense	\$7,964.97	1.08	(\$4,748.05)	13.00		\$2,475.14	(\$1,760.15)

YOUTH MINISTRY

BY MATT POLSDOFER

Youth:

How do you see yourself?



Recently the middle school and high school youth did an activity and devotion that I think is a great exercise for us all to do. It started with us each grabbing a mirror or finding a mirror to look at ourselves. We then had several statements and questions to reflect on for 30 seconds and we then discussed them after. We started by looking at how we think about ourselves, how others see us, and if we are harder on ourselves than others are on us. All of us answered that yes we are harder on ourselves than others are on us.

We then read Psalm 139:13-15, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth." What if we viewed ourselves as God sees us instead of how we see ourselves and the culture tells us we should look and act? God uses some great language to describe us: beloved, bought with a price, a child of God, loved, and known. You may think that this is a great lesson for just the middle and high school students which is true. I think that this is something that applies to all of us as well. Everyone seems to struggle with something of themselves they don't like. Their weight, appearance, personality, or whatever you know. I hope and pray that you too may see yourself as God sees you: beloved, known, and a child of God. *In Christ, Matt Polsdofer*

Houston National Youth Gathering Trip-2018!

As I am writing this we are 403 days away from this trip. For some of you that may seem like a long way away but it is going to come so quick! I am excited about the group of students and adult leaders that we have going on the trip. It's not too late to sign up for this trip for those who just completed 8th through 11th grade. Please let me know if you are interested or if you have any questions. This is going to be a trip to remember for the rest of your life! -Matt Polsdofer

High School Happenings:

For those who just completed 8th grade through seniors you are welcome to come to summer high school ministry. This will begin on June 7th from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. The summer ones will take place at Matt's house and will be a great opportunity for fellowship, devotion and fun.

For those who are going to be 14 & older on June 17th you are invited to help serve in Mason City with our group. We will be splitting up, some of us will be going to the Humane Society of North Iowa while the other group will be volunteering at Habitat for Humanity in Mason City. We will meet at Immanuel at 9am and

return by 5pm that day, lunch will be provided for the group. We are also looking for adults and parents to help lead and serve with this group. If you are interested please email me at mpolsdofer001@im-manuelfamily.com, talk to me in person or let the office know! This is a great service opportunity for our group. *Thanks! Matt Polsdofer*

† Promiseland

By: *Tori Eastvold*



Pictured: Tammy Krieger, Melanie Slater, Tori Eastvold

Education Appreciation Award

By: *Tori Eastvold*

The Board of Education and I showed our appreciation to the 2016-2017 Promiseland teachers on Wednesday, May 3 and Sunday, May 7. With over 150 kids attending Promiseland it took 40 volunteers to make the Promiseland year successful. A huge thank you to all of the Promiseland volunteers for everything you did!

Each year The Board of Education selects a recipient for the Education Appreciation Award. This year Melanie Slater was awarded the 2017 Education Appreciation Award. Melanie taught Promiseland at Immanuel and then served as the Children's Education Director at Immanuel for 3 years. She is still very active with Immanuel's children! She is a Promiseland substitute teacher, small group leader for confirmation and serves on the Board of Education. Melanie is also the Church Council Secretary. Thanks Melanie, your dedication to service at Immanuel is appreciated!

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

You are invited to an Open House 90th Birthday Party for Elaine Nerdig on Saturday, June 24. Join Elaine and her family at Immanuel in the fellowship hall from 2-4:00 p.m. for the celebration. (June 24 is the day of Elaine's birthday.)



Library June 2017



ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW

By what we read/watch

Immanuel’s library committee is very excited by how busy the library has been with the Promiseland students checking out 494 books and DVDs during our reading contest. Please remember to return all checked out books and movies so the shelves are full for Story Hour. The adult section also has many new additions that are waiting for you....we may be the best ‘Red Box’ in town, check us out!

Book Reviews

Echoes of Mercy

By Kim Vogel Sawyer

Echoes of Mercy is a mystery located at Dinsmore’s Chocolate Factory in Sinclair, Kansas, and includes the issue of child labor as Caroline Lang investigates a suspicious accident. Caroline’s strong faith, her own difficult childhood, and her compassionate heart leads her to help the children workers.



The Color of Rain

By Michael and Gina Spehn

This true story is a real-life Brady Bunch. What cancer robbed two families of, God returned in a new way. A beautiful book of hope.

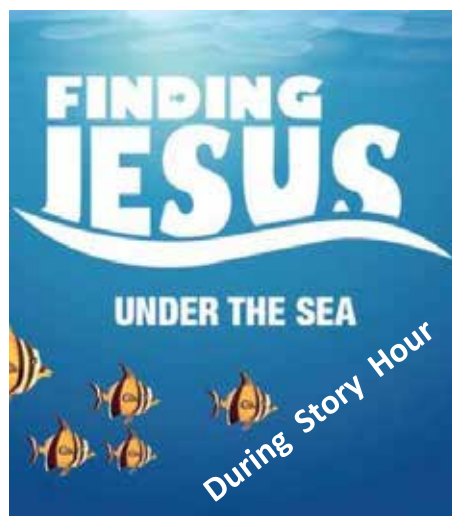
The Hiding Place

By Corrie Ten Boom

This is the 35th Anniversary Edition with new photos and timeline of Corrie ten Boom who survived Hitler’s concentration camps. Read again about one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century.

--Coming in July--

STORY HOUR



All children ages 3 through entering 6th grade this fall are invited to participate in Story Hour with activities of Singing, Stories, Snacks, lots of Books & DVDs to check out and prizes.

Where: Immanuel Church-South Door

When: Fridays – July 7, 14, 21, and 28th

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 am



‘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

COUNCIL UPDATE FOR THE MESSENGER

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

The Council was presented with a gift offer from June Anderson of over 100 of her paintings. The Council is accepting this gift and will sell the paintings as well as seek a way to showcase them.

The summer outdoor worship dates were set and will be June 18, July 16 and August 20. The congregational picnic will be after outdoor worship on July 16.

The Council was informed of a few upcoming fundraising events. Council discussed the summer Wednesday night meal schedule. Council acknowledged Cynthia Ryder's completion of Lay School of Ministry and will set a date to affirm this with Cynthia during a worship service.

Board of Education

Emily Beenken

The board of education met Wednesday, May 10th to set up and finalize the Immanuel Family Fun Night.

The board will also meet again to set up, decorate, and finalize Vacation Bible School which will be held June 5-9th.

Trustees

Kathy McEnelly

The Board of Trustees did not meet in May due to lack of a quorum.

The April financials noted a positive bottom line for the month of \$7,964.97. Year-to-date, after four months of 2017, we are at a loss of -\$4,748.05. We have not had to take out a loan yet. Kathy has addressed the congregation about our financial situation and asked for help.

The new sanctuary doors are here and they are beautiful. The door were paid for thru memorial and Firm Foundation Building Funds.

Mission and Outreach

Sharen Rieffer

The M & O Board met on May 17 with the following present: Jaci Thorson, Brody Hopp and Sharen Rieffer.

The Board has been collecting items for a number of Hospice Kits and will assemble. These will be taken to the

WIS Assembly in June for the 'health care' initiative.

Details of serving coffee hour on May 21 was discussed. Immanuel's missionaries, Revs. Colin & Jeni Grangaard, are the current mission emphasis. June 25 will be our noisy offering at worship to go towards the \$5,000 yearly commitment. We are excited for their upcoming visit to Forest City on July 8-9. On Sunday, July 9 they will be with us at worship with a potluck brunch following.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 14 at 5pm.

Parish Life

Melanie Westerberg

The BPL met for a short meeting on Mon. May 1st. Our main agenda item was to discuss the upcoming church picnic on Wed. May 10th.

We were responsible for planning the food, Randy Broesder grilled 300 hamburgers and hotdogs and we also served baked beans and drinks, and families provided chips and bars.

Aside from the fact that it had to be held indoors- everyone seemed to enjoy it and it was very well attended!

Continued from page 3

Of course Paul isn't talking about planting real seeds, but instead he is talking about sowing things of the spirit, things like: love, offerings of money to help the poor and needy, or good works to help the neighbor. Paul suggests that doing these spiritual acts of goodness are like sowing seeds and the MORE you sow, the GREATER the harvest.

What can you do to increase growth in your giving? Is there a kid in the neighborhood who needs a friend? Is there an elderly person who needs a hands? Is there a single parent whose kids you might babysit so they can go to the store to buy groceries? Are there things you can do around the house to ease mom and dad's stress? Is there a neighborhood park that needs cleaned up?

There are lots of ways to server and when you serve in love you increase the seed population that you are sowing for Jesus. Please look for the opportunities that God will show you where He wants the seeds of his love sown and when you see them, act, and know that your good works bring glory to your Father in heaven.

*Crossed in Christ,
Pastor Rod*

PEOPLE WHO HAVE – GATHER AT IMMANUEL – TO GIVE TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE – WHAT THEY REALLY NEED!

Marge Solberg

Packing Day at Immanuel was a success. Over 20 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall on May 19 at 8:00 a.m. to clear out the LWR closets.

In about ½ hour, items got sorted, filled, weighed, labeled, marked, recorded, taped, recorded, loaded in vehicles to take to Albert Lea the next day where they are loaded on a semi, and sent to Minneapolis, MN, to be distributed around the world.

When the last totals were recorded all the helpers ate donuts and coffee.

Results:

Quilts: 125 (New Record), Blankets: 23, Personal Kits: 34, School Bags: 57 (Ken Hansen put ropes to close in each denim backpack!), Bars of Soap: 187

Lots of men came to help with boxes, tape, weigh, pack in vehicles. We do rely on you guys to help us with packing!

Thanks to Promisland kids and others for helping collect soap. We've called this packing day a 120% success!

**THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR HELPING US.
WE'D NEVER GET THIS COMPLETED WITHOUT
MANY HANDS!**

Betty Soderling gathered and sent:

- 37 eye glasses* sent to Lion's International for recycle (New Record)
- 1 large pkg. of stamps to be sent to Norway
- 1 pkg. box tops for education - sent to our local school

* I didn't realize how many of us Lutherans needed new glasses. Does this help us to see things better – at home and at Church!

Another Packing Day is behind us and another shipment has gone to families, waiting eagerly to see what the Americans have sent. God is calling for us to realize we can't stop now. Will you join us for the next Packing Day in October?



Vital Agers

Mary Rodberg

The Vital Agers May Basket Party at Forest Plaza on May 2 was a rousing success. Audrey Olmstead brought vintage aprons for everyone to wear. Then she gave an interesting presentation on the way women used to use their aprons and how differently each one looked. This presentation was followed by lunch and May baskets for everyone. This event was attended by 51 residents of Forest Plaza and members of Immanuel's Vital Agers. I hope everyone enjoyed the afternoon as much as the Vital Agers Task Team did!

June Circles

Circle	Date/Time	Hostess Lesson Leader
Dorcas	Wed., June 21/1:30pm	Shalom-Deb Fardal/ TBD
Martha	Thurs., June 15/9:30am	Shalom-Betty Olson, Ruth Westerberg/ TBD
Sarah	Thurs., June 15/1:30pm	Lounge-Eleanor Lovik/ Karolyn Overlie
Rachel	Thurs., June 22/7pm	Shalom/ Mary Rodberg

Dates to Remember

- Thursday, June 8, 10am..... Circle Bible Study leaders w/Barb Johnson, Prayer Room
- Monday, June 19, 2-4pmPrayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom
- Tuesday, June 27, 1pmLWR Quilting Do Day, Fellowship Hall
- June Coffee Hours Coffee Hour Service Group
- Laundry Mary Rodberg



Summer Wednesday Meals Served each week 4:45-6:45pm

Still have Wednesday openings for Volunteer Cooks!

A time for a group of friends, a family or two, to take over the church kitchen and provide a meal for around 50-60. If planning the meal makes you sky away from this opportunity, no worries. We do have someone that will plan the meals and make sure you have all of the food and ingredients you need.

Dates open:

- June 21,
- July 5,12,19,
- August 2,9,16,23,30
-

Please contact the church office (585-3152) with your interest and date.

Volunteers

June 2017

Altar Guild

June 4 Joan Beebe
 June 11 Jeanette Neuman
 June 18 Kathy Leuwerke
 June 25 Jean Yeager

Assisting Ministers

June 4 Carolyn Price
 June 11 Kathy McEnelly
 June 18 Kathy McEnelly
 June 25 Jim Cherry

Readers

June 4 Ray Beebe
 June 11 John Tibodeau
 June 18 Jim Cherry
 June 25 Cathy Stensland

Communion Servers

June 4 Joan Hansen, Bill Krahlung
 June 11 Kay Sorensen, Joy Newcom
 June 18 Kathy McEnelly, Judy Utech
 June 25 Judy Cherry, Liz Wilson

Communion Set-Up

June 4 Ellen Olson
 June 11 Dona Paulson
 June 18 Barb Lovick (OUTDOOR)
 June 25 Shirley Rollefson Song Leaders

Wings of HOsPicE Memorial & Butterfly Release June 17

Hospice of North Iowa invites you to remember your loved one(s) or honor those living to a memorial service, butterfly release, refreshments, music and fellowship with other families, staff and volunteers on Saturday, June 17, 1:00 p.m. The event is held in the Hospice of North Iowa Serenity Garden located behind the Muse Norris Inpatient Unit (232 2nd St SE, Mason City).

Names of those you wish to remember and honor will be read at this event and listed in the program. To submit your name please contact Hospice of North Iowa (800-297-4719, 641-428-6208, 232 2nd St SE, Mason City, IA 50401). Donations are not required to participate. If you would like to give, your gift is tax-deductible; checks payable to Hospice of North Iowa.

June 4 Mark & Joy Newcom
 June 11 Kathy Jerome, Jaci Thorson
 June 18 Cindi Lehmann, Audrey Olmstead
 June 25 Liz May, Sam Beck

Ushers Gary McCarthy, Matt Bronson,
 Bill Stensland, Loren Ehrich

Sound Techs Bruce Mielke, David Midtgaard

Offering Counters Donna Johnson, Anna Harringa,
 Elaine Nerdig, Betty Nelson, Marjorie Anderson

PASTORAL ACTS

PRAYERS:

Jenni & Matt Polsdofer and family in the loss of Jenni's grandmother Eleanor Bowen of Cedar Rapids

Rickie Brock, Jason Brock, Shane Brock, Seth & Toby Brock, Michael & Samantha Froendt, Jennifer Brock, Duane Book, family and friends in the loss of wife/mother/grandmother/sister Karen Brock of Forest City

Samantha & Travis Beck and family in the loss of Samantha's grandmother Martha Kohner of Winona, MN

Norma & Erik Hertzner and family in the loss of Norma's grandmother Lottie Stinger of Charlevoix, MI (formerly Durand, MI)

Becky & Mark Stumme and family in the loss of Becky's mother Nancy Brandt of Forest City (formerly Titonka)

Rogene Westerberg, Jay & Melanie Westerberg, Jordan & Colton Westerberg, Lori Gilbertson, Robby & Reid Gilbertson, family and friends, in the loss of husband/father/grandfather, Rodney Westerberg of Forest City

FLOWERS & BROADCASTS

Altar flowers available these Sundays (\$44):

June 4, 11, 18
 July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 August 13, 20, 27

Radio broadcasts available these Sundays (\$100):

June 4, 11
 July 2, 9, 16, 30
 August 13

June Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge (last day of FC schools)</p>	<p>2 6pm - Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p>	<p>3 3pm - Wedding of Michaela Kessler & Brady Askeland, Clear Lake </p>
<p>4 9:45am - Worship 10:45am - Coffee, Fellowship Hall  PENTECOST</p>	<p>5 9-noon - VBS 5pm - Parish Life Board, Kitchenette</p>	<p>6 9-noon - VBS 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room</p>	<p>7 9-noon - VBS 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 7:30-8:30pm - HS Youth @ Matt's</p>	<p>8 9-noon - VBS 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge 10am - Circle Bible Study Leaders, Pray Room</p>	<p>9 9-noon - VBS 12 noon - VBS Program 9th - 11th - WIS Assembly, Sioux City</p>	<p>10 9am - 5pm - High School to Mason City Humane Society & Habitat</p>
<p>11 9:45am - Worship, VBS kids singing 10:45am - Coffee, FH 2pm - 7th grades leaving for Confirmation Camp @ Riverside Bible Camp</p>	<p>12 5:45pm - Trustees 6:45pm - Council</p>	<p>13 9:30am - Vital Agers Committee, Shalom 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room</p>	<p>14 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5pm - Mission & Outreach Board</p>	<p>15 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 9:30am - Martha Circle, Shalom 10:30am - Good Samaritan Communion Service 1:30pm - Sarah Circle, Lounge</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:45am - OUTDOOR Worship by Waldorf Pond (bring a lawn-chair) (NO coffee fellowship) FATHER'S DAY!</p>	<p>19 2-4pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom</p>	<p>20 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 2:30pm - Forest Plaza Communion Service JULY-AUGUST MESSENGER DEADLINE</p>	<p>21 1:30pm - Dorcas Circle, Shalom 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH</p>	<p>22 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge 7pm - Rachel Circle, Shalom</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 10am-10pm - Winnebago County Relay for Life, Courthouse Sq 2-4pm - Open House 90th Birthday Party for Elaine Nerdig, FH</p>
<p>25 9:45am - Worship 10:45am - Coffee, FH</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 1pm - LWR Quilting Day, FH</p>	<p>28 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH</p>	<p>29 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, FH</p>	<p>30</p>	

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking about 5 individuals to join the group of communion servers. If you've been served communion before, you can do it! It is really that easy. You get to pick the number of Sundays you serve (most do 1 or 2 Sundays in a 3-month period). You get to pick the date(s) you are available too! Please consider if you might be fulfilled by serving in this way. "The body and blood of Christ shed for you!" Contact Jaci in the church office or Kathy McEnelly at cattykathy@wctatel.net.



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 @ 9:45 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
641-585-3152

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

246 S. Clark Street • Forest City, IA 50436

Main phone number:

641-585-3152

Website:

www.immanuelfamily.com

Facebook pages:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Immanuel Lutheran Church Library

Staff:

Rev. Rod Hopp - Senior Pastor
pastorrod@immanuelfamily.com
Home: 641-581-2150

Rev. Zech Anderson – Associate Pastor,
zanderson001@immanuelfamily.com
Parsonage home: 641-585-3501

Mike Oleson - Property Manager
mike@immanuelfamily.com

Cindi Lehmann - Finance
cindi@immanuelfamily.com

Travis Beck - Music & Worship Director
travis@immanuelfamily.com

Jaci Thorson - Administrative Assistant
jaci@immanuelfamily.com

Tori Eastvold - Children's Education
ChildrensEd@immanuelfamily.com

Matt Polsdofer - Youth Ministry
mpolsdofer001@immanuelfamily.com

Marie Oleson - Housekeeping

Deb Fardal – Wednesday meal coordinator
dfardal@yahoo.com

Church Council

President: **Kathy McEnelly**

Vice-President: **Chad Benson**

Treasurer: **Cynthia Ryder**

Secretary: **Melanie Slater**

Representatives: **Joan Beebe, Jennifer Conrad,
Ken Hansen, Brody Hopp, Heather Johnson,
Alice Wellen, Stacy Miller, Steve Olmstead**