

THE MESSENGER

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

Immanuel Travelers heading to the ELCA National Youth Gathering June 26-July 2 Pray for safe travels and life-changing experience for this group.



Group of youth travelers:

Elijah Alsop	Alyson Walker	Kaylee Miller	Thone Golwitzer
Jacob Welton	Elsa Yeager	Anna Lehmann	Brice Golwitzer
Zach Lehmann	Laura Harms	Paige Braun	Spencer Larson
Madison Braun	Isabel Buffington	Zoey Steffensen	Wyatt Steffensen
Matt Petersen	Olivia Gayther	Sabastiàn Muñoz	

Adult chaperones:

Denise Hagen	Kelli Harms	Kerry Steffensen	Jay Steffensen
Matt Polsdofer	Pastor Zech Anderson		



SUNDAY SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- † **June-July-August** will bring NO change in time. Worship will be at 9:15am, Coffee fellowship following the indoor services.
- † **OUTDOOR Worship by Waldorf Pond**, weather permitting, will be the 1st Sunday of these months – June 3, July 1, August 5. Plenty of shade, just bring your lawn chairs.

TAKE NOTE OF SOME OF THESE SPECIAL SUNDAYS:

- † **June 3** ~ special NOISY OFFERING taken for Immanuel's offering at the Synod Assembly
- † **June 10** ~ Pastor Steve Smith will be the guest pastor as Pastors Rod & Zach are attending the Synod Assembly
- † **June 24** ~ Special blessing sending off the group traveling to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX June 26-July 2; and Congregational Potluck Brunch hosted by Mission & Outreach. Special guest with us this day is Sebastian, from our companion congregation in Chile.

Wednesdays Outside

6:00pm Fellowship

6:30pm Worship

June 13 ~

Pammel Park (camping area)

July 11 ~

Pilot Knob Amphitheater

August 8 ~

Pastor Rod - Renae's acreage



Bring your own lawn chair and
a picnic sack lunch, or takeout
a meal from church.

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Wednesday Evening Meals Continue under New Leadership

It is a pleasure to introduce you to Dawn Craig. Dawn is the newest member of our church staff.

When our part-time housekeeping position opened up, the church council saw an opportunity to combine that position with the Wednesday evening cook position in order to gain some efficiency in the work; to realize some savings for the church budget; and to bring on an individual who would have the opportunity to spend more time at the church which enhances the team spirit and the level of cooperation between our staff.

The new position is titled "Hospitality Specialist" because hospitality is the overarching role of the person filling this position. Hospitality is about making people feel welcome. A space that is clean and well prepared to greet those who come is a welcoming place. Tables that are set and food that

is prepared, appetizing and tasty makes family and guests feel at home. That is what we want for all who come to Immanuel..... family or friend, "welcome home".

Hospitality is a primary Biblical value and it is a primary value for us at Immanuel. As we continue in our mission to "build community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ" we must continually grow in our willingness and ability to welcome, to be hospitable to all people.

Dawn will help us do that. She will begin her duties the first of June. Please welcome her to our staff and if you can stop by and eat with us any Wednesday evening, and/or volunteer to help serve and clean up as you are able. After all, this is our mission of hospitality!

Peace, Pastor Rod

Special Noisy Offering June 3 for Synod Assembly Offering

Each year congregations are invited to take a special offering or designate monies for which their voting members will bring to the Assembly June 8-10 in Sioux City. Immanuel voting members attending are: Pastor Rod & Renae, Pastor Zach, Cynthia Ryder, Kathy McEnelly, and Gary Gernetzke. Our special offering will be collected June 3 during worship or your gifts may be given in the church office any time before June 7.

This year's offering will be split three ways to these beneficiaries:

Campaign for the ELCA: Leadership: ELCA fund for Leaders and Youth and Young Adults. This endowment fund is there for the future of the ELCA church that depends on its future leaders. Good, strong leadership matters in a church that is called to live and serve in a world full of complexities and ambiguities. We need leaders who will ground us in God's love and forgiveness and send us out to do God's work in the world.



WIS TEEM Scholarships: To meet the changing ministry needs of seminarians who attend seminary differently than the past, one of the options is TEEM-Theological Education for Emerging Ministries. This is a specialized ministry certificate granted to students serving in specific congregational ministry sites. Raising up new leaders is a partnership between student, congregation, synod, seminary, ELCA, and the Holy Spirit.

SACCOS: Savings and Credit Co-Operative Societies: A SACCOS is a small, short-term loan that enables the Tanzanian small farmers and small businesses to invest in new opportunities and make their own decisions on how to use the funds for the benefits of better profits to enhance their family housing, nutrition, education, community development, church tithing, etc. The WIS Companion Synod Network seeks to start at least 8 new SACCOS groups. Each group requires an initial investment of \$8000 to register and supply the SACCOS, ongoing training for leaders, and to boost the base of capital for loans. These loans are repaid within three to six months, the pool of capital grows to make new loans on an ongoing basis—it is a WIN-WIN for everyone!

Join in for a SUNDAY POTLUCK BRUNCH June 24

Mission & Outreach Board is hosting a Potluck Brunch on Sunday, June 24, following 9:15am worship. All are welcome to bring a dish to share and join in the scrumptious meal and fellowship.

Special guest with us on June 24 will be Sebastián Munoz, from Chile, and a member of Immanuel's companion congregation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallenes.

Brunch—breakfast food items or lunch options—all are welcome!



Letter From Pastor Rod

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

I've been asked more often lately because of what is going on in the Middle East to share my perspective on what is happening and why. We've recently witnessed simultaneously the pageantry around the United States moving its Embassy to Jerusalem, and the slaughter of peaceful protesters in Gaza by Israeli Defense Forces. We've also, witnessed our nation being pulled out of the Iran Nuclear deal even when our friends and allies, with the exception of Israel, (this should be a clue) had pleaded with us to stay in that deal. We also continue to be witnesses to the Syrian catastrophe as that country's civil war continues to annihilate itself. It is a confusing time in global politics.

You might wonder what any of this has to do with the church. I write about this because "the church" is complicit in these tragedies because of the religious default positions that many Christians fall back on to justify the realities on the ground. I therefore feel a great responsibility to educate those who are willing to be educated so that eventually another path, a just path, may be found. And yes, as American voters, you and I have the power to help create a just path.

It is my belief that we are witnessing the intersection of Zionism and Christian Zionism in a way that we have never witnessed before. Individually they are ideas that have existed for decades. In recent decades they have been brought together in the world of high-stakes politics to support certain political positions and states. Today, together, they are the most influential voice in Washington.

First let me give a couple of definitions:

Zionism: a nationalistic movement started in 1897 under Theodor Herzl that called (and continues to call) for the return of the Jewish people to their homeland and the resumption of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of "historical/Biblical" Israel. Not all Jewish people are Zionists and not all Zionists are religious.

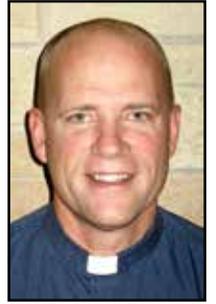
Christian Zionism: a belief among some Christians that the return of the Jewish people to the Holy Land and the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 were in accordance with Bible prophecy and are necessary events that must come to pass before Christ will return. These beliefs are typically held by those in the evangelical or fundamental churches AND also by Christians in the mainline churches for whom they are a default position simply because they have no other truth or understanding with which to replace them. We're witnessing today the tragic results of irresponsible Biblical interpretations that are leading to great suffering for many in the Middle East.

In a statement from Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theological Center we read: "Christian Zionism is defined this way: Christian Zionism is a modern theological and political movement that embraces the most extreme ideological positions of Zionism, thereby becoming detrimental to a just peace within Palestine and Israel. The Christian Zionist program provides a worldview where the Gospel is identified with the ideology of empire, colonialism and militarism. In its extreme form it places an emphasis on apocalyptic events leading to the end of history (the Jerusalem temple rebuilt and Israel's rise to world dominance) rather than bringing Christ's love, justice and liberation today."

Christian Zionism is a belief that goes against God's word. My first argument is based on a question: when in the Bible does God ever need human beings to "do something" before or in order for God to act? God called Abram before Abram did anything; even before Abram knew God. God raised up Moses because God's people had suffered under the burden of slavery for four hundred years. Throughout the Gospels the word "time" (Kairos) is used to describe holy times when God decided to act – this is never based on anything the people had or had not done – but is solely based on God's decision. Why do Christians today embrace the idea that certain man-made conditions must exist in Jerusalem before Jesus can return. This simply is not the case.

My second argument is based on my understanding of Liberation Theology. This understanding of the Bible says that God is the great liberator and that it is God's main function and desire – to take up the cause of those who are oppressed, occupied, and held captive (read Isaiah 61).

That was Israel when they were in Egypt. It was Israel when they were being tortured, killed, and exterminated under Hitler's tyranny in the late 1930s through the mid-1940s. It has also been African Americans held in slavery in the United States, and it continues to be those held in the bonds of poverty and discrimination today – it was Jesus when he took on flesh and became subject to sin and death.



Pastor Rod

IMMANUEL KIDS

Exercise the Body and the Spirit

Summer in north Iowa is a time for outdoor activities that we love and that give us life. I have noticed already that the ball diamonds are crowded in the evenings as children play ball and parents watch and socialize. Soon the swimming pool will be crowded as well.

It's great to exercise the body, and because we only get one body in this life time, we are called by God to take care of our body. Therefore, we must exercise all our muscles, including our minds. The Apostle Paul writes in his first letter to the church in Corinth, "Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one."

Paul is encouraging us not only to exercise the body, but also our Spirit. By using our bodies to live lives that are faithful to God's commandments to love God and to love our neighbor we exercise our Spirit, and by exercising our Spirit we use our bodies in ways that glorify God and honor the imperishable gift we have in Jesus. So spend your summer exercising, but don't forget to exercise your whole self, body and Spirit together for the glory of God. Amen

Where does Pastor Zach GO some Sundays?

This is a question that does come up now and then, when I have been gone from Worship here at Immanuel but am not on vacation or participating in continuing education. When I am gone some Sunday's I am in fact leading worship at a couple other local congregations that have asked Immanuel to help out. Good Hope Lutheran Church in Titonka, and Parish Three, which includes Immanuel Lutheran in Titonka and St. Johns Lutheran in Woden; are the congregations that I go to on occasion to lead worship, preach, and share in the Lord's Supper.



Pastor Zech

For almost a year now, Immanuel has been in partnership with these congregations and Pastor Kim Peterson. It has averaged out to about once every month and a half that I have gone to these congregations. But our relationship goes beyond worship. For almost a year, I have been visiting a few home bound members who live in Britt and Garner, bringing them communion once a month. The congregations, and Pastor Kim have expressed gratitude for this relationship with Immanuel, and I too want to take the time to

again thank you for supporting this relationship by allowing me to miss worship at Immanuel some weeks to be with these wonderful congregations. It has been a rewarding relationship for all of those involved, and I have appreciated getting to know our brothers and sisters in Christ in Woden and Titonka.

We are Church together, all a part of the Body of Christ. And you have helped all of those involved see that in action in our partnering together. I know this article doesn't say much, other than what it is we do with Good Hope and Parish Three, but I thought I could answer some of those questions that have come up. If you'd like more information or have more questions about our relationship, please contact me. Again, in this season of Pentecost, as we hear the Spirit coming into our lives, like a roaring wind, as we hear it spread in our own lives, and hear again how the Church is so much bigger than one person or group. Thank You. Thank you from myself, from Good Hope, from St. Johns, from Immanuel, from Pastor Kim. And I look forward to another year working together.

See you in worship. Pastor Zech Anderson

Two new front doors!

The front side doors of our church building were recently replaced. The two doors were purchased and installed by Ed-dy's Glass in Forest City. The old doors were starting to rust out and were heavy.

The new Kawneer Flushline doors are designed with aluminum face sheets that resist rust and match the style of the red doors installed a year ago. Extremely tough FRP sheets resist scratching, denting, are colorfast and resist fading due to ultraviolet rays. The windows are Low-E glass that is tem-

pered and energy efficient. New hardware means no more trying to push down a stiff thumb trigger. Trim work still needs to be completed by Steffensen Construction.

The cost of the doors and finishing work (\$6,800) will be paid from balances of 2017 Endowment funds and Firm Foundation building funds.

Mike Oleson

Treasurer's Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church FY April 2018

	APRIL ACTUAL 2018	MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	PERCENT OF YTD BUDGET 33.33%	APRIL ACTUAL 2017	YTD ACTUAL 2017
INCOME							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	45,562.78	41,671.00	146,909.42	500,052.00	29.4%	49,779.51	156,879.30
Other Income	2,747.58	5,781.50	21,666.40	69,378.00	31.2%	1,985.87	25,447.19
TOTAL INCOME	48,310.36	47,452.50	168,575.82	569,430.00	29.6%	51,765.38	182,326.49
EXPENSE							
Staff Support	28,147.36	28,985.50	114,784.89	347,826.00	33.0%	30,693.93	122,079.24
Administration	7,164.44	9,708.25	37,373.58	116,499.00	32.1%	3,865.27	37,397.55
Ministry Areas	7,153.83	8,758.75	32,350.44	105,105.00	30.8%	9,241.21	27,627.75
Loan re-payment/contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	42,465.63	47,452.50	184,508.91	569,430.00	32.4%	43,800.41	187,104.54
INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$5,844.73	0.00	(\$15,933.09)	0.00		\$7,964.97	(\$4,778.05)

Walking together in the Holy Land with ELCA Missionaries Pastors Colin & Jeni Grangaard and children Josie & Amos

An excerpt from Jeni's writings of their life in the Holy Land as posted back on the eve of Ramadan (May 14):

Our neighborhood in Jerusalem is quiet, per usual. Preparations are underway for Ramadan. Tonight's feast before tomorrow's fast is on the stove. Outdoor lights are being strung. Steps are being swept to usher in visitors. Ramadan is a joyful time. In hunger, God—Allah—sustains through prayer. Elsewhere things aren't so quiet. Upward of 60 human beings lost their lives yesterday in Gaza. More than 2,700 were injured. Bodies with holes the size of fists are being dressed for burial. Stores are shuttered, school was cancelled, and the buses didn't run today in line with the general strike called for after yesterday's massacre. Today also marks 70 years since the first catastrophe, the Nakba, which made refugees out of 700,000 people. What can be said? Of course, we are safe. Our privileges cushion us from the violence that is contained 1 mile and many miles from here. We worry for the safety of our companions and friends. What must be said? Lives are being lost. A culture is being erased. Rights are being stripped. And the Palestinian companions with whom we walk, work and live are gracious, loving, resilient and worthy of dignity. Palestine is beautiful. Palestinians have lost too much. Despite great loss, Palestinians carry on.

We are making plans for tomorrow, though we don't know yet what today will bring. My daughter will go to school to practice for the graduation in support of her



5-year-old friends. Her class will dance. I will write. My husband, Colin, will make visits. My son will wiggle, wriggle and climb—and jump into his Palestinian teta's (grandma's) arms when she gets to the top of the stairs. I'm grateful that the world is watching, that you are watching. Keep watch. Read. Try your best to hear the stories of the people of this place. Light a candle. Fast. Pray. Dance.

Read our colleague Deacon Adrainne Gray's reflection, also posted over at livinglutheran.org.

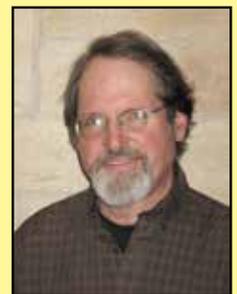
And back at Immanuel we will continue to lift up the Grangaards each week in prayer. They traveled recently to Chicago to interview and call their 2018-2019 YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) that will serve under them in Jerusalem and the West Bank



The Immanuel Choir has had a fun season of singing God's praises! Join us in the Fall, first rehearsal Wednesday, Sept. 5th, 7:30-8:45 pm.

Special Music for Sundays in June

We look forward to the following musicians sharing a special number during the Offertory during the month of June:



Ben Allaway

- June 3 Karen Post, keyboard solo
- June 10 Linda Ferjak, vocal solo
- June 17 Joy & Mark Newcom, vocal duet
- June 24 Zech Anderson, vocal solo

YOUTH MINISTRY

By Matt Polsdofer

Houston Youth Gathering!!!



Matt Polsdofer

We will be in Houston this month for The Gathering!!! Thank you all again for your financial support! I would also ask that you pray for our group as we are away on this awesome adventure. This is an opportunity for our youth and leaders to have their faith impacted for the REST of their lives! We will be doing a sending blessing on Sunday, June 24th before our trip and on Sunday, July 15th we will be involved with the church service and sharing our experience that morning. Sabastiàn Muñoz will be joining us on Monday, June 4th and we be with us until July 5th. Sabastiàn is from our companion church in Chile and there will be other youth from across the globe joining us for The Gathering. We were offered the opportunity to have Sabastiàn come with us and we said OF COURSE! The theme for The Gathering is "This Changes Everything". We are excited to see how God changes us during this week and sharing that with our Immanuel family. Thanks again for all your prayers!

Middle & High School Youth

This has been an amazing year for me with our middle school and high school youth. A few highlights/observations from each group for the year:

Middle School-Our big event for the year was going to do archery tag at the archery range in Forest City. It was an exciting experience! It was also great getting to know our youth more. The group was primarily made up of 6th grade youth and it was great to see us get to know each other more and see the youth mature during the year in their faith!

High School-Our trip to Houston will be our BIG event for the year. A few things that our group enjoyed was having candle time and have great conversations about our faith. During those conversations we ventured in to great and conversations and sometimes difficult questions that we have with our faith. It is awesome when you can have these genuine conversations and ability to search for answers together to questions we all have. Our group had a lot of seniors this last year and we are both thankful for their involvement and excited for the next part of their adventure in life! I'm also excited for our underclassmen to get into leadership roles and see their faith deepen.

In Christ, Matt Polsdofer

Remind dates-parent & kid meeting, June 17th blessing, June 24th July 15th, Houston service



Krista Hopp

Can you feel the ocean breeze on your face? Can you smell the salt water? Do you see the beach? Vacation Bible School 2018 is quickly approaching, and this year's theme is Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus. This year's VBS setting will be a deserted island. For five days in the beginning of June, Immanuel Lutheran Church will fill up with kids who will be singing, dancing, playing games, learning Bible stories, making friends, getting closer to Jesus, and so much more! Kids aged three through 11 will learn to be anchored in the truth that Jesus carries us through life's storms. They will learn the Bible points that: when you worry, when you do wrong, when you struggle, when you're powerless, Jesus rescues!

Maybe you are sending your children to VBS this year. Maybe it wasn't that long ago that you have been to VBS. Maybe you are looking forward to this year as a volunteer. No matter what your history is with Vacation Bible School, we can all agree that it can make an impact on kids for years to come. Kids are able to escape from their school routines, sing songs to the Lord, learn Bible stories and apply them to their lives, make lasting friendships, and build their relationship with God. There are many things that need to go well and smoothly during the week of VBS. There are so many details to figure out and supplies to gather. But above all of those things, our hope and prayer is that all those who attend grow in their faith and feel the love of God while they are here. We hope you will join us in that prayer as we approach the week of VBS and beyond.

Continued from page 3

God liberated Jesus from the power of sin and death, not because of what Jesus did, but because of who he was, and in order to liberate all people from its grip. In Jesus, God made us family with one another. We are all descendants of Abraham and children of God. The question we should ask ourselves today based on a healthy understanding of God's liberating work is simply, who is in need of liberation today? The answer: The Palestinian people - they are face ethnic cleansing; those who embrace radical Zionism - they are in bondage to their own ideologies; Americans, from our Biblical misunderstandings and misinterpretations that keep us supporting an Israeli government that continually breaks international laws and stirs up unrest among its Arab neighbors, and keeps them shouldering undue burdens of sufferings; and finally, the Christian Church - from these same false ideologies that make us complicit in support of human rights violations that keep people enslaved and suffering.

Please join me in prayer for all who need liberation and may we as a church be involved in bringing about liberation and just solutions for all.

Pastor Rod



Krista Hopp and Tasha Banta

**Immanuel
Library
June
2018**



This month we are honoring fathers. God has given men the incredible privilege of imitating Him as father of their own families. With that privilege He has placed upon the shoulders of fathers an incredible responsibility. There are books in the library that can help and inspire men to be the father God wants you to be. (Descriptions below are taken from Amazon)

Father Parenting Books

God Can Handle It...Fathers

By Jim Gallery

If you're lucky enough to be a father, (or if you're about to become one), pay careful attention to the ideas in this book. Read God's Word and claim His promises. Learn from the voices of experience that appear on these pages. Vow that with God's help, you will become the very best dad you can be. And be comforted by the fact that nothing is going to happen today that you and your Father can't handle.

Hooked for Life

By Jimmy Houston

Forty million licensed fishermen in the U.S. cannot be wrong: fishing is a national pastime! Fishing for fish and fishing for men have many parallels which are explored in this gift book aimed at anglers where Jimmy Houston uses analogies between fishing and being hooked on Jesus.



There are many more parenting books for fathers on the shelves of your church library. Check them out....literally check them out.

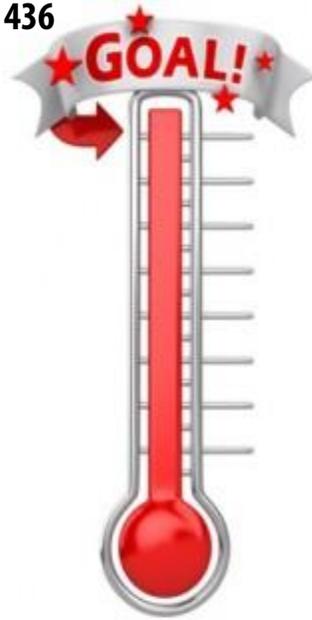
Promiseland Winners



Congratulations to our 2017-2018 Promiseland Reading Winners: Geuliauna Anderson, Finley Anderson, Keaton Hanson, Hayden Brown, and Brennen Grunzke! All of the Promiseland students did an amazing job of reading this year. We had record numbers of students using the library. "Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of her(his) deep and continuing needs, is good for her (him)." Maya Angelou. This is one of the library's goals.

MARCH TO 500

436



You did it!!!!

As of May 20th, **514** books and movies have been checked out of the library since Jan 1. You have found the blessings and entertainment that can be found at your church library so continue to march to the library. It is there for **YOU**.



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 May 14, 2018 with the following members present: Kathy McEnelly, Quincey Benson, Ellen Olson, Alice Lewellen Amy Thorson, Ken Hansen, Heather Johnson, Joan Beebe and Pastor Hopp and Pastor Anderson.

Council discussed the two position openings that we have: Children's Ed and Housekeeper/Cook. Interviews have been taking place.

The Board continues to review the Constitution.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 9. A committee is being formed to work on planning festivities for Immanuel.

Those representing Immanuel at Synod Assembly in June in Sioux City will be Pastor Hopp, Renae Hopp, Cynthia Ryder, Kathy McEnelly, Pastor Anderson and Gary Gernetzke.

Board of Trustees

Kathy McEnelly

The Board of Trustees met on May 10, 2018. In April, we ended the month with a positive bottom line of \$5,844.73. The year-to-date loss after four months is -\$4,778.04. In property news, we have found a used snow blower to purchase for the parsonage; the parsonage will be power-washed and then likely painted this summer; the new side doors are in; and the front concrete will be fixed soon.

Applications are still being received for the cook/housekeeper position as well as the children's ed position. Interviewing has started for the cook/housekeeper position. We have purchased some cables for the sound system due to the new FCC regulations; we will eventually have to purchase some new microphones.

The Board reviewed the section of the Constitution that talks about the Board of Trustees and no significant changes were recommended other than adding verbiage about a Property Committee.

Mission and Outreach

Sharen Rieffer

Mission & Outreach Board met on Wednesday, May 9. Members present: Ken Korth, Amy Thorson, Pøtt Van Auken, Jaci Thorson, Larry Rieffer, and Sharen Rieffer.

Devotions were given by Larry based on Isaiah 65:17 on obtaining God's help: to be honest, have hope and to listen to God.

Our ELCA Global Missionaries are this quarter's fundraising emphasis (April-June). We enjoyed receiving a video from Jeni and Colin on their work with the YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) and all their various duties while in the Holy Land. Immanuel has a \$5,000 yearly commitment supporting the Grangaard's. To date to this year we have \$2,657 towards their mission.

Amy showed the M&O Board's proposed revised responsibilities as stated in the Constitution and discussed any more revisions to present to the Council.

Board members continued the conversation of purchasing elementary books for the Houston Independent Schools which will be taken by our youth traveling to the ELCA National Youth Gathering. (The Rieffer's have since purchased and donated a variety of books that will be taken to TX. Anyone is welcome to shop from the list of titles—available in the office.)

Immanuel's companion congregation, Evangelical Church of the Magallenes has a member who will be visiting our area this summer, Sebastian, age 17, will be coming June 4-July 5. He will be staying with the Lehmann's when he is in Forest City. Sebastian's plans so far include: VBS, Western Iowa Synod Assembly in Sioux City, Bible Camp at Okoboji & Ingham, an International Companion Orientation in Chicago, and traveling with our group to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston.

Sebastian's only Sunday that he will be with us for worship in June 24. So he can experience a potluck, Mission & Outreach invites you to a POTLUCK BRUNCH that day following worship. Bring a dish to share if you can. He will have some free time June 20-25 if anyone would like to invite him over and share in an activity.

Board of Education

Krista Hopp

The Board of Education met on Tuesday, May 8 at 4:30 p.m.

Our first item on the agenda was to finalize plans for the Promiseland End of the Year party. We decided on the games and activities that would be available for the kids to do, and we also assigned adults to be present at the different activities. We will have: ladder ball, kickball, bags, a duck pond, face painting, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, potato sack race, and more.

Further plans for VBS were discussed. We have gotten many volunteers signed up to help. The Meal Train link is now set up, so anyone can help by donating snack food items that are needed. The link can be found on the church website: www.immanuelfamily.com. VBS training times were discussed as we have crew leader training at 5:30 on May 23 with adult training to follow at 6:15.

The Board of Education will be helping to host Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 20, so plans were discussed for that event.

Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, June 12, at 4:30 p.m.

Parish Life

Melanie Westerberg

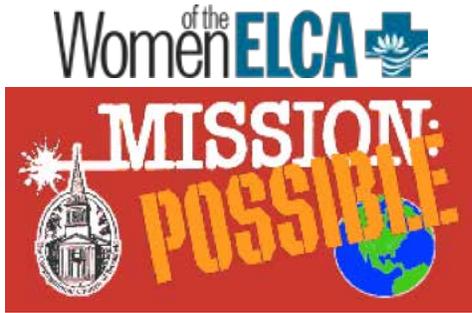
Board of Parish Life met on Tuesday, May 1.

We discussed the end-of-the-year Promiseland picnic on May 9th. We provided the meat to grill and help in the kitchen and lined up using Randy's grill.

We would like to have the greeters be continued in the narthex, and will ask for volunteers for that and have a sign up at coffee hour after church so please consider giving one Sunday of your time in making all feel welcome at Immanuel.

Looking ahead Ben would like BPL to line up special short term committees to help with Holy Week and Christmas "extras" to take a little pressure off the staff during these very busy times at church.

We also would like to see our committee grow and are looking for a chairperson. Thanks for considering!



Joan Hansen

Long before there was CSI, and Law and Order, there was Mission Impossible. Remember that television series? At the beginning of each show, Mr. Phelps was given a challenging task to accomplish with his "M.I." team and no matter what the assignment was, it always seemed impossible...

With WELCA Mission IS Possible. The Spring mission packing event was held on Friday, May 18, and volunteers packed 47 boxes weighing 729 pounds for Lutheran World Relief. In those 47 boxes were 121 quilts, 15 blankets, 42 school kits, 17 personal care kits and 156 bars of soap.

The quilts are made by the Do Day Volunteers and this year, some of the residents of Forest Plaza have been helping tie a few quilts. The quilt tops are assembled at the church and then taken out to Forest Plaza. The other kits are assem-

bled by the WELCA mission groups.

These 47 boxes were packed in 2 vans and a pickup and delivered on May 19th to First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea where they were loaded by volunteers into a large semi to be transported to Minneapolis where they will be repacked and sent to missions overseas.

Other projects of WELCA are collecting used stamps, grocery receipts, eye glasses and barcodes from Best Choice.

With WELCA, Mission IS Possible! All these mission projects are a blessing to others around the world. Thanks to all who donated blankets, items for the kits, for all who help sew and assemble the quilts, and for those who helped pack and deliver the boxes. "...for God loves a cheerful giver." Corinthians 9:7

Thank you ladies for those who donated supplies, packed kits, and making the WELCA mission possible.



Dates to Remember

- Thursday, June 14, 10am** Circle Bible Study Leaders w/Barb Johnson, Lounge
- Monday, June 18, 2-4pm**... Prayer Shawl Ministry, Forest Plaza
- Tuesday, June 26, 1pm** LWR Quilting Do Day, FH
- June Laundry** Laurel Erickson
- June Coffee Fellowship**..... Coffee Hour Service Group
- JUNE 3**..... OUTDOOR WORSHIP-NO COFFEE



June Circle Schedule

	Date/ Time	Location/Hostess Lesson Leader
Martha	Thursday, June 21, 9:30am	Shalom/Ruby Rauk Mavis Langerud
Dorcas	Thursday, June 21, 1:30pm	Shalom/ Shirley Rollefson Alice Jones
Sarah	Thursday, June 21, 1:30pm	Lounge/Joan Hansen Joyce Kasper
Rachel	Thursday, June 21, 1:30pm	FH/Tina Berg Barb Braun



Packing Day work crew



Mission quilts and kits making their way from Immanuel to Albert Lea



Forest Plaza residents helping out by tying quilts

Volunteer

June 2018

Altar Guild

June 3 Joanne Bartleson **OUTDOOR**
 June 10 Joan Beebe
 June 17 Joanne Bartleson
 June 24 Joan Beebe

Assisting Ministers

June 3 Kathy McEnelly **OUTDOOR**
 June 10 Carolyn Price
 June 17 David Readinger
 June 24 Cynthia Ryder

Readers

June 3 Shelby Korth **OUTDOOR**
 June 10 Joan Beebe
 June 17 Joy Newcom
 June 24 Mary Harland

Communion Servers

June 3 Kathy McEnelly, Scott Fruhwirth **OUTDOOR**
 June 10 Carolyn Price, Marlene Faircloth
 June 17 Cynthia Ryder, Laurel Erickson
 June 24 Joan Hansen, Kay Sorensen

Communion Set Up

June 3 Joyce Kasper **OUTDOOR**
 June 10 Shirley Rollefson
 June 17 Alice Jones
 June 24 Diane Lovick

Song Leaders

June 3 Dave Melby
 June 10 Audrey Olmstead, Jaci Thorson
 June 17 Mark & Joy Newcom
 June 24 Kathy Jerome, Elizabeth May

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

Ushers Team 2 – Gary McCarthy, Loren Ehrich,
 Matt & Dominic Bronson

WELCOME SABASTIAN

We welcome Sabastiàn Muñoz to Forest City from June 4-July 5. Sabastiàn is a 17-year-old who lives in Punta Arenas and is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes (see "Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en Magallanes" on Facebook). This is Immanuel's companion congregation.



Sabastiàn will be busy during his visit to the U.S. attending the Western Iowa Synod Assembly, Ingham/Okoboji Bible Camp, ELCA headquarters in Chicago and the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston all while calling Forest City home during the month of June. In addition, he will help with VBS and become familiar with the Immanuel family. If you happen to see Sabastiàn please stop to introduce yourself to him.

His only 'free' Sunday that he will have with us at worship will be June 24. A morning that the group traveling to Houston will be blessed and then Mission & Outreach will be hosting a Potluck Brunch. A great way for Sabastiàn to experience a Lutheran potluck!

Blessings & Prayers

BAPTISM

May 13 **Hanna Lynn Walker**, daughter of Keith & Emily Walker

PRAYERS

Bonna Peterson and family in the loss of husband, Herbert Peterson of Forest City
Family and friends in the loss of Julius Severson of Forest City
Phil and Darlene Carson and family on the loss of Phil's sister, Elizabeth Olson of Cannon Falls, MN

FLOWERS & BROADCASTS

Flowers available (\$44)

June 3, 10, 17, 24
 July 1, 8, 15, 22
 August 12, 19, 26

Radio broadcasts available (\$100)...

June 10, 24
 July 1, 8, 15
 August 12, 19



Marlene Faircloth, Jan Buffington, and Donna Kvale are finishing up the 'Prayer Square Project' for the Houston travelers to take to the National Youth Gathering to share with others. Hundreds have been crocheted/knitted and are complete with a tag on how this prayer square might bring you comfort and peace and let recipients know they are never alone—God is always with us.

June 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 LAST DAY OF FC SCHOOL	2 10am-4:30pm - International Festival, Waldorf Atrium
3 9:15am - OUTDOOR Worship, NOISY OFFERING FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY, Waldorf Pond	4 9-noon - VBS	5 7am-9pm - Primary Election (Immanuel is a voting location) 9-noon - VBS 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 5pm - Parish Life Board, Kitchenette	6 9-noon - VBS 4:45-6:45 - Supper, FH	7 9-noon - VBS 5:45pm - Trustees, Kitchenette	8 9-noon - VBS Noon - VBS Program, Sanctuary thru Sunday - Western Iowa Synod Assembly, Sioux City	9
10 9:15am - Worship, Steve Smith preaching 10:15am - Coffee, FH 2pm - leave for Confirmation Camp to Okoboji	11 6:45pm - Council, Reformation Room	12 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 4:30pm - Education Board, Kitchenette	13 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5pm - Mission & Outreach, Lounge 6pm - Wednesday Outside Fellowship, Pammel Park (camping area) 6:30pm - Wednesday Outside Worship at Pammel Park	14 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 10am - Circle Bible Study Leaders, Lounge 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge	15	16
17 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! 9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Coffee, FH 6:30pm - Houston parents and youth meeting	18 2-4pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Forest Plaza Assisted Living	19 9:30am - Vital Agers Committee, Shalom 2pm - Intercessor Prayer Group, Prayer Room 2:30pm - Forest Plaza Communion Service	20 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH JULY-AUGUST MESSENGER DEADLINE	21 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 9:30am - Martha Circle, Shalom 10:30am - Good Samaritan Communion Service 1:30pm - Dorcas Circle, Shalom 1:30pm - Sarah Circle, Lounge	22	23 noon-10pm - Winnebago County Relay for Life, Courthouse Square
24 9:15am - Worship, Houston Group Send-off Blessing 10:15am - Potluck Brunch, FH	25	26 1pm - LWR Quilting Do Day, FH NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING HOUSTON GROUP LEAVES (THRU JULY 2)	27 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH	28 8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge	29	30



The Vital Agers had their annual May Basket Party with residents of Forest Plaza Assisted Living. After a program of music by Cindi Lehmann and remembrances by Mary Rodberg, the residents and guests enjoyed May baskets made by Joann Bartleson. Lunch was furnished by the task team. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Vital Agers Task team next meeting is Tuesday, June 19, 9:30am in the Shalom Room.



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

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

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Home: 641-581-2150

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Ben Allaway - Worship & Music

worshipandmusic@immanuelfamily.com

Dawn Craig - Hospitality Specialist

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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news and updates!