

THE MESSENGER

The monthly newsletter for members of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Forest City, Iowa - March 2022



Lenten offerings to
help Afghan
refugees
through
Lutheran
Services in Iowa
(LSI)

As stated by the Coordinator for LSI Refugee and Immigrant Services "Little about the resettlement of Afghan refugees has been status quo, especially the pace of arrivals."

As Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:35-40, to help those in need is to help him. The over 700 refugees who have come in the past few months, there are the needs for housing and all the supplies to make it a home. From job hunting to food to school enrollment, LSI is coordinating the resettlement efforts for these families in Iowa. Even though the efforts are concentrated in the Des Moines and Sioux City areas, there is the need for support to welcome these refugees to Iowa.

This is on top of the services that LSI provides for people with disabilities, mental health, foster care and adoption. Let us be the Good Samaritan from Luke 10:29-37 and show mercy to those in need by giving to Lutheran Services in Iowa this Lenten season.



Immanuel's Lenten season theme, Full to the Brim – an expansive lent, will be a season that invites us deeper into intentional living. Expansive living can be defined as a life that reflects the fullness that comes from right relationships with God, yourself, and others. This could look different for everyone but might be marked with gratitude and a sense of self-worth rooted in God's love and purpose in one's life, loving relationships, and joy that comes from using your God-given gifts.

Join us interlinked beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and each Sunday thru Easter on April 17 as we fill our lives with intentional living. Wednesday Lenten services (6:30) will explore 5 stories from the Gospels where Jesus calls someone by name, in all sorts of experiences and opportunities.

Reflect on the following poem as we begin our Lenten journey together...

On My Way

Written by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

You said return to me so here I am
Skin and bones held together with
Memories and a little bit of duct tape.

I am bringing the worst of me,
Consider yourself warned—

The furrowed brow, the achy back,
The slew of judgments, a pocket full
Of assumptions, the track of negativity
That runs laps in my head.

I am bringing it all because you said
Return to me, edits not required, so
Return I will.

And not all of it will be bad. Some of it
Will be lovely. I will bring a wagon full
Of nostalgia, a melody that won't let me go,
A million stories that start with the words,
"Oh it was beautiful" I will bring a
Mended heart, a glass half-full, two lungs,
Out of breath from dancing too long,
And dreams that taste like honey.

I will bring my whole messy human self
Because I know, I just know, deep in my
Bones, that you are already running to
Meet me. There are not cuts on this team.
You said you'd take it all, so here I come.

Me and all my humanity.
We are on my way.



Greetings Immanuel family! A great way to give is by utilizing AmazonSmile. Who doesn't love to online shop? Because of the pandemic, I have been more hesitant to go shopping in person, so Amazon has been a great way to get my shopping goals accomplished!

As of December 2021, Immanuel has received \$116.48! For those of you who have used AmazonSmile, thank you! And for those of you who would like to join in on the fun, there is no time like the present, it is super easy!

To shop online, go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and create an account if you don't already have one. Have an Amazon account already? Just use your regular Amazon account information to log in. Once logged in, make sure to search for "Immanuel Lutheran Church Forest City". The correct church should then come up. When selecting Immanuel Lutheran Church, please be sure to select Immanuel Lutheran in Forest City, Iowa as there is a lot of Immanuel Lutherans to select from!

If you would like to use the app, you can download from the App Store for iOS or Google Play for Android. Once the app is downloaded on your smartphone, go to the settings tab, click on AmazonSmile, turn on AmazonSmile, and follow the onscreen instructions making sure to choose Immanuel Lutheran Church in Forest City, Iowa as there is a lot of Immanuel Lutherans listed!

With the AmazonSmile app, Amazon is requiring users to renew AmazonSmile twice a year. All this means is that when you are in the Amazon app on your phone, go to settings and select AmazonSmile to see if it's turned on. Once you renew, the app will let you know when the next renewal date will be.

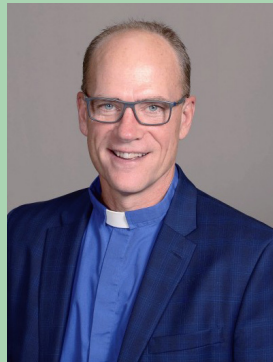
If you need any help getting AmazonSmile set up, please feel free to email me at kim@immanuelfamily.org or call the church office at 585-3152. Happy shopping!

- Kim Severson

Letter from Pastor Rod

Lent 2022

Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30 on 2 March. During these forty days we typically contemplate the task of emptying ourselves of the many things that distract us from God in our day-to-day routines in order to be renewed in the disciplines of fasting, prayer, and charitable giving.



It seems that for more than two years we have experienced as part of our daily routine emptiness, fear, separation, weariness, and struggle. In 2022 our Lenten season will focus on God's abundance with the Sunday theme, "Full to the Brim," and a Wednesday theme, "Awake O Sleeper: Christ is calling your name."

Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday will be connected with Sunday's theme while the five Wednesdays of Lent will focus on people who experienced God calling their names: Peter, Lazarus, Martha, Zacchaeus, and Talitha kum (not a name but beautiful term meaning, "little girl arise"). Some Wednesdays the preacher will be live at Immanuel and recorded at Bethany and sometimes the opposite of that, and for our online worshippers, you will always see us on the screen, and we are always glad to have you with us. My hope is that many will choose to attend both Sunday and Wednesday services either in person or online. Even if you the style of music may not be your favorite, there is and will be meaning in it if you listen for it.

The Sunday scriptures for this Lenten season (in the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C) are filled with parables, and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise – these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. Full to the Brim is an invitation into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

We recognize that traditional iterations of Lent often emphasize restraint, confession, and piety. The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and be prepared to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality and empty rituals in order to live a life more expansive and full of faith.

Full to the Brim doesn't ignore or deny sin and suffering. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead, it contextualizes

our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully – as we pursue justice, and hope, or express grief and gratitude. Full to the Brim trusts the promises of our baptisms – God has already claimed us as God's own and nothing we can do will ever change or erase that. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give us grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

See you in Worship,

Pastor Rod Hopp

Immanuel Kids

Return to Me with All Your Heart!

It is fun to receive an invitation. It's great to be invited to a friend's birthday party, or to Grandpa and Grandma's house for a few days, or just to go to the movies with friends. We all like to be invited because invitations make us feel included. Invitations normally come because the one doing the inviting wants to include us in what is happening in their life, and so invitations are a not only fun, but an honor to receive. It is an honor to be invited to share in what is going on in someone's life.

The same is true with God. Lent is a time when we remember that our God is an inviting God. We read in the Old Testament book of Joel 2, Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart.... This invitation came to the people of Israel because they had become distant from God. Life was too easy and so they kind of forgot about God and just did their own thing. God sent out God's invitation through the prophet Joel to invite them back. God wanted them to return to him and to be in relationship with God each day. God wanted to include the people in all that goes on with God.

What God says to Israel, God also says to the church and to you. God wants to be in relationship with you and me and to include us in all of God's abundant life. So, how then can we return to God with all our hearts? There are a few short answers: pray often and daily, sing praises everyday but especially on Sunday or Wednesday with God's people in worship; share what we have with others; and finally, let go of things that keep you from accepting God's invitation.

How about it, will you accept God's invitation to you to "return to me with all your heart...." God loves you so much that he sent Jesus to die on a cross so you and I would have life. Don't waste any time before you decide to return to God – God is waiting! Thank you, God for inviting each one of us into your blessings. Amen

Crossed in Christ,

Pastor Rod Hopp



So, what comes next?

It's with a heavy heart that I acknowledge the cancellation of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. I know the event planning team really struggled with this decision, but I am

immensely grateful for their priorities in health and safety of the countless communities who host and attend this large-scale event. The Gathering is typically held in a three-year rotation and impacts tens of thousands of ELCA youth and adult leaders. I myself have never experienced the Gathering, but I have heard stories upon stories that make it sound nothing shy of life changing. Because of the postponement in 2021 and now cancellation in 2022, the next Gathering will be held in 2024 in a yet-to-be-announced location. Unfortunately, this year's juniors and seniors will never have a chance to attend the Gathering as youth participants, and I hope you take a moment to lament this loss for them. If I have not said it enough, I am incredibly proud of the youth who grace our building. They are truly striving to learn and love through the lens of Christ's unconditional love, and it hurts my heart so many of them won't get this particular experience in their faith formation. Goodness knows they deserve it!

So, what comes next? The same question you're wondering is the question I'm currently wrestling with myself. One thing I know is we have ALL been experiencing immense amounts of grief, mourning the loss of loved ones, the way life used to be, and the anticipated experiences we never imagined would be stripped from us. Sometimes I feel like we are in such a rush to "get back to normal" we fail to recognize normal is not a past expression to attain again (because in reality, we will never get an old "normal" back, even when this pandemic ends) but simply the status-quo of the right now. And right now, I think we need to allow ourselves to grieve, find the joy in our normal, and be present for one another through it all. Those are really the goals I have in mind for a new summer activity for our students. Because of busy summer schedules, I am aiming to have a retreat during the planned dates of the Gathering. There are some nearby synods working on smaller Gathering ideas, but if we do not fit into one of those, we may opt to do a small retreat somewhere and organize for ourselves some speakers, games, bonding, and spiritually refreshing activities to process loss and grow toward a deep joy together. Of course, we will keep you updated on what comes next! Please pray for our young people in their loss and for the planning of whatever comes next.

Ann Hunhoff
Youth Missionary & Ministry Coordinator

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Still collecting items for
Lutheran World Relief
Personal Care Kits.

Kits will be assembled
in April. Thanks for your
donations for this project!



Promiseland

Promiseland Families,

Tasha Banta



We are well into the new year and things are going great with the Promiseland Sunday and Wednesday Programs.

This month, our spotlight is on Tori Eastvold. Tori has attended Immanuel as a member, she filled the position of Children's Education Director, and has been teaching Promiseland for a number of years. Tori's service to our church has brought many blessings to our children and families. Tori is energetic, compassionate, professional and the light of Jesus shines through her smile and serving heart with every interaction. I asked Tori why she continues to serve in teaching the children at Immanuel and here is what she has to say:

When I left my position as Director of Education at Immanuel, I knew I still wanted to stay involved with the kids at Immanuel. Over the last 5 years, I have enjoyed teaching both my children's (Rylee- 7th grade & Nevaeh- 4th grade) Promiseland classes. I love to see my children, along with their classmates, excited to learn God's word. The questions they ask are so impressive at their young ages. Their thirst for wanting to know about God is very fulfilling to see. I love when they can apply the Bible stories we read to their everyday lives. Hearing from their young mouths how they can live like a Christian always touches my heart. While these kids may be small, they are doing big, kind acts to follow God's word! The congregation of Immanuel should be so proud of these amazing kids!

Thank you, Tori for your various roles and participation at Immanuel! We are truly blessed to have you as a faithful member!

Upcoming in March:

Sunday 6 – No Promiseland (Spring Break)

Wednesday 9 – No Whirl Wednesday (Spring Break)

Sunday 20 – Sunday Kids sing in worship

Wednesday 23 – Wednesday Kids sing in worship

April:

Wednesday 6 – Lenten Fair (Wednesday and Sunday 3rd-5th grade)

Henri Nouwen Book Study Series #4

Can You Drink The Cup?

"Before we drink the cup, we must hold it!" opening words of his last book published before Nouwen's death in 1996. He explores the deep spiritual impact of the question Jesus asked his friends James and John, as he reflects upon the metaphor of the cup, using the images of holding, lifting, and drinking to articulate the basics of spiritual life. Joan Hansen will be leading this 3-part series on Sunday evenings, March 13, 27, and April 10, at 6:30pm, in the Lounge at church / on Zoom / and recorded. The Nouwen book is available to order online in print or kindle version. Anyone is welcome to join in on these discussions during the Lenten season.

Board notes

Mission & Outreach

Sharon Rieffer

The members of the board met via ZOOM on Feb. 9. Those present were: Becky Stumme, Ken Korth, Jaci Thorson, Chad Kozitza, Larry and Sharen Rieffer. For devotions Sharen read from "Christ in Our Home" based on Psalm 34:12 about "There is Always More".

Our first quarter mission emphasis for 2022 is Hunger issues. It has been decided that any mission monies would go towards these three causes—in equal amounts: Local food bank, Immanuel's Wednesday night meals and Lutheran World Hunger relief. We have raised a total of \$224.80 thus far. A March noisy offering was set for March 20 and 23. Mission & Outreach will also be hosting coffee fellowship on March 20.

The board discussed where the Lenten offering would go. There was a motion made by Becky and seconded by Ken that 100% of the Lenten offerings would go to LSI (Lutheran Services in Iowa). Among other services, they help to settle the Afghan refugees in various areas in Iowa. Chad will bring this recommendation to the Council. Look for more information in an article elsewhere in this Messenger about LSI.

The Waldorf International and other students who are in need received a coat, a vest and 6 large soup containers last month.

We received thank you notes from the Bible Camps and the Food Bank (Thanksgiving offering).

So far this year we have received \$225 for Karen Anderson, our missionary in Santiago, Chile. We also have a carryover of \$1,344.48 from last year, thus making a total of \$1,569.48 raised for our \$5,000 commitment.

Trustees' Notes

Bink Keller

The Board of Trustees met on February 14, 2022 at the church and by zoom. January income was \$44,947.89 and expenses were \$45,441.10 with a negative \$493.21 for the month. Income did not include some endowment transfers and will be included next month. January 2021 was a negative (\$7,651.97).

Endowment: 2 EPIC scholarships are planned. \$19,000 is left for unallocated 2022 distribution.

Property Committee: White Boards with dry erasers for the Sunday school rooms will be replaced with a Peel and stick roll.

Personnel Committee: Policy handbook item #1250 Sexual Harassment was sent back to committee for a change again.

New Business: Kim presented quotes for 2 Copiers for the office. Access was approved. Ruth Melby found an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant for \$20,000 for a 3-year period.

Old Business: a.) Bethany Lutheran Staff sharing and Quarterly vitality group update: The vitality group is updating members.

Parish Council

Linda Ferjak

Council met on February 14, 2022 with an In Person/Zoom Hybrid format. Pastor Rod and Pastor Zech were in attendance.

Pastor Rod reported on the Lenten theme "Fill to the Brim" for Sunday morning worship. This will focus on God's abundance and how we can be grateful. Wednesday evenings will be looking at characters in the Bible and contemplating how God is using you. He also reported that Ann will be attending a meeting focused on the youth gathering. The Synod will help with replacing the youth gathering that was cancelled.

Pastor Zech reported on his participation in continuing education with a focus on coaching in his ministry. He is also taking a course on digital ministry and ethics. His work continues with the Interlink Ministry and Hybrid team. His family has lived through two weeks of COVID.

Financial Report was given and is published in the Messenger.

Council is requesting a report from the Hospitality, Vitality Team to review how things are going with our Bethany partnership. The desire is to keep a form of healthy communication between congregations.

The Children's Education Position is looking for a replacement at the end of the Spring term. This would be a quarter time position.

There is still a need to fill one vacant board seat. A tentative date for a Council Retreat was set for March 20, following the service. Board reports were presented.

Parish Life

Karen Keller

The Board of Parish Life met Monday, February 7. Melanie has communion servers scheduled from now until June. Parish Life was asked to host coffee hour for the 3 Sundays in February. The funds from coffee hour will go to our board. Joyce said she could help serve and felt that she could find other people to help.

Linda reported that the Peer Ministers at Waldorf would like to have a Spring Block Party this spring on Thursday, April 21st. They would like to follow the same protocol as the Fall Block Party. They will take care of all activities and entertainment. We will take care of the food. We discussed the possibility of having it at the Atrium due to the weather in April. Kathy mentioned that we don't have money for it in the budget. It was suggested that we could put out a basket for a free will offering. Or we could ask for Thrivent Funds.

The meeting date for our board meetings was discussed again. It was decided that we would meet on the second Thursday of the month. The only concern with this was that it is after the Council meeting. However, it was decided to give it a try and see how it works.

Mary reported that she is still looking for ushers for Ash Wednesday.

Board of Education

Tasha Banta

Board of Education met on February 1 at 4:30pm. Some participants joined in person and some joined via Zoom. Meeting began with devotions and prayer from Krista.

Board members discussed 2022 Lenten Fair. We agreed upon changing the format this year from a fair type of event to a Passion Walk including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. Tasha will ask members of Immanuel to act out short monologues, Tammy will find a meaningful gift for kids to take home, Emily will talk with Mary about making some Seder food. Communion at Maundy Thursday was discussed and decided that we will not commune the children with bread and wine. Possibly use other representations or just have a Pastor talk about communion.

Parents will be asked to join their children for the Lenten Fair. 3rd, 4th and 5th grades will attend.

The band will be asked for use of the sanctuary that night for the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday portions.

Vacation Bible School was discussed and decided on an August date, similar to last year.

Children's Education Director Job Description was read over and discussed to provide a current reflection of the position for the process of hiring a replacement for Tasha.

Salad Luncheon was reviewed and a possible replacement for the VBS fundraiser is an option to free up Children's Education Director's summer break. This discussion will continue.

Board will meet again March 1st, 4:30 pm.

Ring, Ring, Christ is Calling Your Name, Not Only in Lent



I don't know if you've been having this problem or not, but do you get a lot of spam calls? Specifically on your cell phone? So many times in the last few months I have been getting calls from the Twin Cities area, some asking about my car warranty, some asking if I want to change Insurance companies, and these are just the ones that leave a message on my phone. After a while you just ignore those numbers that come up as spam or unknown. You used to be able to leave home and escape these calls, but now we have a phone with us all the time and they can find us anywhere anytime. It can be relentless, and we may want to escape, or turn off our phone.

But someone keeps calling you and me, even if we turn off our phones. Jesus continues to call you and me, calls us to turn back to him, calls us to new and sometimes scary opportunities, calls us into the familiar and promises you will not go it alone. This Lent, on Wednesday night we will explore 5 stories from the Gospels where Jesus calls someone by name, in all sorts of experiences and opportunities. Zacchaeus, Peter, Martha, Little Girl, and Lazarus. And here's the thing to remember not only during Lent but every day, Christ is calling your name. Take some time to read the lyrics

from the song "Awake O Sleeper".

"In the darkest times of life, when our lights refuse to shine, you are there. When our hearts become like stone, when we live without hope, you are there. Don't let your hearts be troubled. Awake o sleeper, arise from slumber, Christ is calling your name. In the midst of life's decay, when our lives become like graves, rescue us. Don't let your hearts be troubled. Awake o sleeper, arise from slumber, Christ is calling your name. Awake, Arise, and follow the light. Awake, Arise, Christ is calling your name. Awake o sleeper, arise from slumber, Christ is calling your name."

Do you hear it, ring, ring? Christ is calling out to you today and every day. Even if you block his calls, he'll keep finding ways to call out to you. No matter what is going on in your life Jesus sees you and calls out to you by name like he did to Peter in the storm, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Or like he said to Zacchaeus, "come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." Or even Lazarus, "Come out!" Christ is calling not only during Lent but every day. He calls you by name and you are his! What is Christ calling you to today? That's something to think about this Lenten season and beyond.

I look forward to joining with you praising God as always interlinked in Christ.

See you in worship in one way or another!

Pastor Zech Anderson

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Annual Meeting

Linda Ferjak

The Annual Meeting of Immanuel Lutheran was held on Sunday, February 6, 2022, at 10:15, following the Sunday morning service in the Sanctuary. It was a hybrid meeting with members both present and on Zoom.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were approved.

President, Daryl Krieger spoke of the desire for Reengagement of the congregation following COVID. Work is being done to research methods of doing worship with an online/in person congregation. He asked the congregation for prayers for the work we need to do. He expressed thanks for those leaving the council for their service and dedication.

Council members were installed by Pastor Hopp. They include: Daryl Krieger- President, Dave Melby- Vice President, Jen Jenkins - Treasurer, Linda Ferjak- Secretary, Ben Arentson, Lisa Chisholm, Marcy Hanson, Joyce Kasper, Chad Kozitza, Danielle Niess and Laura Winter.

Pastor Rod gave his report focusing on reengagement of the entire congregation, both online and in person, emphasizing that we have to maintain a vital in-person gathering in order to

have an online presence. He encouraged the congregation to invite others to engage in discussion about worship following the service. Pastor Zech defined the wording "Interlinked" congregation as our term for joining those online and in person. He spoke about his sabbatical and shared a video about some of his highlights during that time. He expressed thanks to the congregation for allowing him the time to reflect and refresh.

Kathy Leuwerke presented the budget for 2022. She expressed thanks to the Endowment and Trust committee for supporting Immanuel's missions. Several boards serve the church, and she encouraged all to serve on one of the boards, saying that a fresh perspective helps to keep the church alive. She expressed thanks to Kim Severson and Jaci Thorson for their work. She presented the budget as a motion from the Board. Motion Approved.

Constitution updates were presented by Kathy McEnelly on behalf of the Committee. Several Chapters were discussed, questions answered, and approved.

Volunteers were sought for the Western Iowa Synod Nominations to attend the April meeting. Dave Melby, Ruth Melby, and Ann Hunhoff were nominated to attend. Congregation approved to send them as our representatives.

Meeting was Adjourned.

Treasury's Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church FY January 2022

	January Actual 2022	Monthly Budget	Year-to-date Actual	Annual Budget	Percent of YTD Budget 8.33%	January Actual 2021	YTD Actual 2021
Income							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	41,112.95	40,712.50	41,112.95	488,550.00	8.42%	32,799.41	32,799.41
Other Income	3,834.94	10,490.50	3,834.94	125,886.00	3.05%	4,374.94	4,374.94
Total Income	44,947.89	51,203.00	44,947.89	614,436.00	7.32%	37,174.35	37,174.35
Expense							
Staff Support	32,907.46	32,867.58	32,907.46	394,411.00	8.34%	30,939.74	30,939.74
Administration	7,035.54	11,152.67	7,035.54	133,832.00	5.26%	7,275.10	7,275.10
Ministry Areas	5,498.10	7,182.75	5,498.10	86,193.00	6.38%	6,611.48	6,611.48
Loan re-payment/contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	45,441.10	51,203.00	45,441.10	614,436.00	7.40%	44,826.32	44,826.32
Income Less Expense	(\$493.21)	\$0.00	(\$493.21)	0.00		(\$7,651.97)	(\$7,651.97)

Volunteer

March 2022

Assisting Ministers

March 6	Kathy McEnelly
March 13.....	Ken Korth
March 20.....	Cindi Lehmann
March 27.....	Olivia Banta

Scripture Readers

March 6.....	Kay Sorensen
March 13.....	Marla Betz
March 20.....	John Tibodeau
March 27.....	Deb Guarin

Altar Care

March 6.....	Jean Yeager
March 13.....	Jeanette Neuman
March 20.....	Joan Beebe
March 27.....	Julie Damm

Communion Servers

March 6	Joy Newcom, Andy Buffington, Leah Boyd
March 27	Kathy McEnelly, Becky Stumme, Bink Keller

Sound/Video Techs

Sunday	Bruce Mielke/Dave Midtgaard
Wednesday	Daryl Krieger/Tammy Krieger

Offering Counters

Linda Holland, Mavis Hess, Darlene Carson, Marj Anderson, Ellen Olson

Laundry

Barb Braun

Ushers

March 6.....	Squier family
March 13.....	Paul & Kay Sorensen
March 20.....	Josh Banta, Darwin Lehmann
March 27.....	Denny Jerome, Darwin Lehmann

Sunday Coffee Fellowship

March 6, 13, 27	Do Day Group
March 20	Mission & Outreach Board

Another in a series of Impact Stories of Immanuel members sharing their church story interviewed and written by Waldorf University student, Suyaishar (Sue) Sebastian.



Shirley Rollefson who has been a member since 1981 shares her fondest memory of being a part of Immanuel Lutheran Church as the day she and her late husband Marley, walked down the aisle in 1984.

Rollefson who moved from Miller to Forest City in 1980, met her husband and married him three years later. She shared that her late mother-in-law who was her sponsor, introduced her to Circle and not long after she was elected as chairperson of her Circle. "I thought, oh my, well I made it," she said with a smile. Her involvement continued by being a Sunday School teacher for a year before she joined the funeral group for 16 years.

After an accident where she fractured her pelvis, Rollefson had to discontinue her service at the church which she says was the hardest thing for her. However, she expressed that she met a lot of wonderful people at that time. Fast forward to 2019, when she experienced another accident, she realized how good the church was. "I received gobs and gobs of cards, calls and food," she said. "Immanuel has been good to me from the beginning way back in 1981. I just can't put it into words, but the people of the church are my family".

She now carries on with her service as a greeter on Sunday mornings. "When I lost Marley, I couldn't work much anymore, but I am working now," she said. "I figured out I could greet, and so I told them I know what I can do. I can't do other things, but I said I can greet."

Rollefson says she would be lost without the church. "I feel that God is walking with me because I have had some hard times, but he has always come through," said Rollefson. "I have a strong faith. He has always been there, and I know I can trust that."



Are you or someone you know grieving over the loss of a loved one. It can be a wife or husband, child or parent whom you miss so much that it is affecting you deeply. We are here to help you cope, listen to you, and wipe your tears for you.

We are using the Grief Share material which is Christian based. We show a DVD from that program at each meeting and then discuss how that is or has affected our lives. The group gives support and caring to one another as they discuss the events that have brought them to this group of grieving people.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month during the summer months at 6:30pm in the Shalom Room on the lower level at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Forest City, and during the winter months we meet at 1pm on the 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons. We meet for about 1 hour but it is usually about an hour and a half. All are welcome even if you do not belong to Immanuel.

For more information call the church at 641-585-3152 or Anna Harringa at 641-585-3879. These meetings are coordinated by Phillis Disque and Anna Harringa.

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	1 2:30pm- Intercessor Prayer Group 4:30pm- Board of Ed 5:30pm- Bell Choir, Fireside	2 2pm- Forest Plaza Ash Wed. Service 4-6pm- Meal, FH 5:30pm- MS Youth / Whirl Wed. 6:30pm- Ash Wed Worship, communion 7:30pm- HS Youth / Choir	3 9am—Women's Bible Study, Lounge	4	5
6 9:15am- Worship, Communion 10:15am- Coffee, FH (FC school Spring Break week)	7 2:30pm – Forest Plaza Communion w/pastor	8 2:30pm- Intercessor Prayer Group 5:30pm- Bell Choir	9 4-6pm- Meal, FH 4:45pm- M&O Board 6:30pm- Lenten Worship 7:30pm- Choir	10 9am—Women's Bible Study, Lounge 6:30pm- Parish Life LUTHERAN DAY ON THE HILL, DES MOINES	11	12 Set your clocks AHEAD before bedtime
13 9:15am- Worship 10:15am- Coffee, FH / Promiseland 1pm- Good Grief, Shalom 6:30pm- Nouwen Book Study, Lounge/Zoom	14 5pm- Trustees 6:30pm- Council	15 2:30pm- Intercessor Prayer Group 5:30pm- Bell Choir 6-8pm- Boy Scouts, FH	16 4-6pm- Meal, FH 5:30pm- MS Youth / Whirl Wed. 6:30pm- Lenten Worship, communion 7:30pm- HS Youth / Choir	17 9am -Women's Bible Study, Lounge 10am – Martha Circle, Shalom 10:30am- Good Sam Communion 1:30pm- Rachel//Sarah Circle, Lounge	18 APRIL MESSENGER DEADLINE	19
20 9:15am- Worship, Communion, kids singing, NOISY OFFERING FOR HUNGER 10:15am- Coffee, FH / Promiseland Staff Council Retreat	21 2-4pm- Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom	22 1pm- LWR Quilting Do Day, FH 5:30pm- Bell Choir	23 4-6pm- Meal, FH 5:30pm- MS Youth / Whirl Wed. 6:30pm- Lenten Worship, Kids singing, NOISY OFFERING FOR HUNGER 7:30pm- HS Youth / Choir	24 9am—Women's Bible Study, Lounge	25	26 TBD- MS Activity Night
27 9:15am- Worship 10:15am- Coffee, FH / Promiseland 1pm- Good Grief, Shalom 6:30pm- Nouwen Book Study, Lounge/Zoom	28	29 2:30pm- Intercessor Prayer Group 5:30pm- Bell Choir	30 4-6pm- Meal, FH 5:30pm- MS Youth / Whirl Wed. 6:30pm- Lenten Worship, communion 7:30pm- HS Youth / Choir	31 9am—Women's Bible Study, Lounge	1	2



Free community meal served each Wednesday from 4-6pm in the fellowship hall. Eat in with others or stop by for takeout. Delivery available for shut ins by calling the office (585-3152) or signing up online at immanuelfamily.com. Dawn Craig, Hospitality Specialist

March Menu:

- March 2** Beef macaroni & cheese hotdish, peas, apple crisp
- March 9** Baked ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, cake
- March 16** Goulash, lettuce salad, corn, brownies
- March 23** Chicken noodle hotdish, peas/carrots, applesauce
- March 30** Maidrites, baked beans, chips, ice cream

Worship on the Radio

Immanuel's worship is played over KIOU 107.3FM air waves and on the web each Sunday morning at 11:00am.

Thank you for our faithful listeners and broadcast sponsors! Some sponsorships are given year after year during special dates for remembering someone, some sponsorships are a one timer.

Cost is \$100.) If you are interested in getting signed up for a Sunday broadcast, check out these open dates:

March 13, 20

May 22, 29

June 12

Call or email the office to reserve a date (585-3152, jaci@immanuelfamily.com).

Easter Sunday is April 17

Easter lily order forms will be available soon when a price is secured from HyVee Floral.

Please check in the office or in the upcoming Sunday/Wednesday announcements pages to purchase a lily honoring/remembering family and friends, and beautifying the sanctuary on Easter morning.





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
In Person & Livestream

Office Hours

M-F 8am – 5pm

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

246 South Clark Street, Forest City, IA 50436

TELEPHONE

641-585-3152

Website:

www.immanuelfamily.com

Facebook pages:

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church Library

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Vice-President: **Dave Melby**

Treasurer: **Jen Jenkins**

Secretary: **Linda Ferjak**

Representatives: **Ben Arentson, Lisa Chisholm, Marcy Hanson, Joyce Kasper, Chad Kozitza, Danielle Niess, Laura Winter**