

THE MESSENGER

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



Palm Sunday – Easter Holy Week Schedule at Immanuel

Palm Sunday, April 9

9:15am – Worship – procession of palm branches, Promiseland kids & Choir singing

Maundy Thursday, April 13

6:30pm – Worship – 5th grade communion & footwashing, Choir singing

Good Friday, April 14

Noon – Ecumenical Service, Waldorf University Atrium, hosted by Forest City Ministerial;

6:30pm – Worship, a remembrance of Christ’s suffering, death, and victory on the cross, Choir

Saturday, April 15

8:15pm – Easter Vigil, a service full of music, story, and rich symbolism celebrating Christ’s passage from death to life

Easter Sunday, April 16

7:00am – Easter Sunrise Worship

7:30-9:30am – Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall, freewill donation, hosted by 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering Trip Group

9:15am – Easter Worship, Choir singing

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EASTER VIGIL

On the night before Easter Day, Christians around the world will gather to celebrate Christ’s passage from death to life. The service includes strong signs: fire in darkness, light spreading from the light of Christ, the water and Word of baptism, the resurrection meal. And powerful words: the great saving stories of Hebrew scriptures and the first Easter gospel. If you have never experienced the richness of this service, please plan to attend Immanuel’s Easter Vigil this year on April 15, at 8:15pm. The service begins on the front steps outside the sanctuary.



5th Grade Communion Class

Classes: April 4 (3:30-5:00) & April 11 (3:30-5:30)

Service: Maundy Thursday, April 13 (6:30)

Hospice Spring Salad Luncheon
Immanuel’s Fellowship Hall
Friday, April 21, 11:00am – 1:00pm
to benefit Hospice of North Iowa & the patients and families they serve

Tickets available in the church office or at the door for \$7.00.

Would you consider contributing a salad or helping with the preparation or cleanup for this annual salad luncheon?

If so, please contact Jaci Thorson (585-3152) or Sue Reese (581-2045).





Waldorf Community Artist Series Ronn McFarlane & Ayreheart

April 11, 7pm, Odvin Hagen Recital Hall

Final performance for the season is Ronn McFarlane & Ayreheart performing Renaissance, Celtic and Bluegrass music – historical music from the British Isles with two lutes, voice, colascione, and percussion.

Tickets available at the door, \$10 adults, \$5 students.

Immanuel hosting final Waldorf University Concerts

- Sunday, April 23, 3:00pm ~ Waldorf Wind Ensemble Concert, directed by David Rutt;
- Tuesday, April 25, 7:00pm ~ Waldorf Choirs, directed by Joel Everest and Travis Beck.

All are welcome to come and enjoy these end-of-the-year free concerts.

‘2nd Sunday’ Potluck Brunch

Join us after Palm Sunday worship on April 9th in the fellowship hall for a Potluck Brunch at 10:15.

Bring breakfast and/or lunch items to share if you can. This month’s brunch is hosted by the Parish Life Board.

A great time to get together for some good food and fellowship. Even if you can’t bring, or forget, don’t stay away.

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Thank you to all who chose Immanuel as the recipient of their Thrivent Choice contributions. So far this year Immanuel has received \$3,848 thru this program. If you are a Thrivent member we encourage you to designate Immanuel as your charity of choice. Your designation does make a difference to Immanuel.

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Vital Agers *Mary Rodberg*

The Vital Agers will have a May Basket Party at Forest Plaza on May 2 at 2:00 pm. This is going to be an enjoyable event celebrating spring with fellowship with the members of Immanuel and the residents of Forest Plaza. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Volunteers needed for VBS

By: *Tori Eastvold*

Vacation Bible School plans are under way. Students, parents, grandparents and volunteers please mark your calendar now! VBS will be held June 5-9 from 9:00 am to noon each day. You can register online at www.immanuelfamily.com or pick up a registration form in the office. A suggested donation of \$5 per child is appreciated. The theme for the week is “Maker Fun Factory.” The Maker Fun Factory will focus on looking for God’s creativity in the world around them!

Volunteers we are looking for YOU! Please call the church office or email me at childrensed@immanuelfamily.com if you are able to volunteer. We are in need of people to be crew leaders. Crew leaders help lead 5 to 7 students around for the week. Also, we will need station leaders to help lead activities each day. There will be stations for both preschoolers and elementary children. Stations include, games, story, video and crafts.

Please contact me and we will find the perfect spot for you to help during the week of VBS!

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

- March 12 Isaac Vincent Bell, son of Rebekah Blumenthal & Chad Bell
- March 19 Vivian Grace Knudtson, daughter of Aimee Dirks & Andrew Knudtson

PRAYERS

Family & friends of Marjorie Felland of Guttenberg, formerly Forest City

Family & friends of Betsy Vaagen of Forest City

Gina Keeper, family & friends in the loss of Terry Keeper of Scarville, formerly Forest City

Lois & Ralph Holst and family in the loss of Lois’ sister, Ardis Olson of Des Moines

FLOWERS & BROADCASTS

Altar flowers available these Sundays (\$44):

- Apr. 16 (Easter) – taking Easter lily orders thru April 7, \$7.50 each
- May 7, 21
- June 4, 11, 18, 25

Radio broadcasts available these Sundays (\$100)

- Apr. 9, 16
- May 7, 14, 21, 28
- June 4, 11, 18, 25

LETTER FROM PASTOR ROD

Always Being Made New.... Again

In light of Holy Week and Easter, I'd like to consider once again our tagline for 2017, Always Being Made New. My honored seminary professor, the later Dr. Walter Bouman, confessed many times that what scared him most as a pastor and preacher during Holy Week, wasn't the question, "what if it's not true" but rather, "what if it is true?" If it is true that Jesus has overcome death, "that news," Dr. Bouman said, "changes everything."



Pastor Rod

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 6, "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Dr. Bouman was right. If it's true, and we believe it to be absolutely true, that Jesus Christ died and rose again, everything changes. We too have died with him, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. If there was no resurrection, then nothing has changed and we can go back to life as we know it – back to the daily grind, thinking only of self, grabbing from life what we can get and hoping for the best. But if Jesus has been raised, then we too with him walk in newness of life.

With Christ's death and resurrection, so comes my death and resurrection. Everything changes. Every day everything changes. Every day I am called to return to my baptism, to die to self and to be raised up by God a new creation – a new person. God wants, not only to tweak my life, but God wants to reorient my whole life, from self to neighbor; from darkness to light; from stagnation to growth; from death to life. This way of life is an everyday way of life. As the Holy Spirit lives and reigns in our lives day-by-day we are always being made new.

After Jesus' death but before his resurrection, Peter said to the other disciples, "I'm going fishing" (John 21). The other disciples said to him, "We're going with you." Why did they go fishing? Were they hungry? Their best friend had just been murdered, so I have a hard time believing they had much of an appetite. Did they just want an escape from their problems? Perhaps. I believe that at this point in the story the disciples believe Jesus is dead and will stay dead. I believe they are going back to the way things were before. He's dead and nothing has changed. Peter was going home to get to work; to provide for his family; to once again take up his family profession.

Once the disciples see the risen Christ however their whole life is reoriented. They leave their fish nets behind for good and become fishers of people and the church is born. Dear friends, ask yourself how Jesus is calling you to a total reorientation. What is it that has been consuming your life; that has taken center stage; that has received your time and attention? Have you been thinking only of yourself, your family, your clan? Jesus is calling you to

something bigger, to a world longing for love, light and life. I pray that this Holy Week you are given eyes to see the living Lord Jesus and that seeing Him your life will be totally and daily reoriented to Jesus and God's will for yourself, your neighbor, and all that exists.

*Happy and Blessed Easter,
Pastor Rod*

IMMANUEL KIDS

APRIL

Our English word April comes from the Latin Aprilis, the second month of the ancient Roman calendar, a month dedicated to the Roman goddess Venus. Venus was worshipped by the Romans as the goddess of love, sex, beauty, and fertility. Even though we as Christians do not worship or even acknowledge Venus as a goddess, it makes a little bit of sense that our second month of spring is named for the goddess of fertility since April is the month when we begin to till and plant our fields.

The longer I live the more my awareness grows that much in our society was and remains built upon the same pillars that Roman society was built upon. I'm certainly not the first Christian to have this insight. For centuries Christians have been implementing Christian ideals and holidays to replace the Roman ideals and holidays. I'd like to do that with April. Below I have used April as an acronym connecting each letter with action that leads us in God's ways.

A: Awaken: In Matthew 24:42 Jesus says, "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." Jesus wants to find us doing His Father's work when he returns.

P: Pray: Lamentations 3: 22-23 "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness." Seek God's mercy through prayer.

R: Read: Psalm 119:105- "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Read God's Word; it brings life.

I: Interpret: In Luke 12:56, Jesus says "You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" Interpret God's word for your day.

L: Listen/Learn/Lead: Psalm 143:10 – "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! Jesus is our teacher who leads us and empowers us to lead others through our witness.

I invite you to take these five steps in response to the good news of Easter. As you do, you will quickly learn that our God is the God of seed time and harvest; of fertility and growth, and as you partake daily in these five activities your heart will bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

*Crossed in Christ,
Pastor Rod*



Holy Week: A Can't Miss

It is that time of year again. The time of year where we make the final push to Easter. But, there is one part of this season that I hope you will not miss. Please don't miss Holy week. And I am not only talking about you coming to worship during holy week, which I do hope you do, but I am talking about making sure you don't skip out on Holy Week. How easy is it to come on Palm Sunday and wait a week to come back on Easter? How easy is it to skip the middle of this week? It can be easy. But let me ask you this, what is the point of Easter if there is no Good Friday or Maundy Thursday? Really, think about that for a minute. What is the point. There can be no Easter without these events, and without these events, Easter can lose its punch.

On Maundy Thursday, we see Jesus wash the feet of others, give us the first communion, and go out to the garden to pray. And Good Friday sees Jesus suffer and die for us on the cross where in John we hear Jesus say, "It is Finished." (John 19:30) and in Matthew we hear a Roman proclaim, "Truly this was the Son of God." (Matthew 27:54). We need to hear the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, to know how much he did for us. To remember in that moment, he took all of our sins past, present and future upon himself, that he was willing to give his own life up for us.

And why do we need to hear these stories again, because to me it helps us to not take Easter for granted. I have always loved Holy week, and for some reason the Crucifixion story has always been one I have liked, as strange as it sounds for a death story to be my favorite. But I think it is because it does set-up Easter for me. It makes it more than another holiday, it makes me want to celebrate and shout Alleluia on Easter morning, to remind me that yes Jesus did all this, but he also came back for me and for you. Because of this, sin, death and the devil no longer control me. And I hope you take the time to come to worship during Holy Week, and if not that take the time to read the scriptures on Holy Week events, read a children's book on the events, watch a movie like the Passion of the Christ or another Jesus movie and stop reading and watching after he is laid in the tomb. Allow yourself some space to remember what Jesus has done for you come on Easter morning, you can shout with joy that we no longer remain stuck in Good Friday and a world full of death, but instead a new world, and Easter world full of new life.

*See you in worship.
Pastor Zech Anderson*

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*Quarterly Mission Emphasis (April-June) – ELCA Global Missionaries Revs. Jeni & Colin Grangaard
Walking together in the Holy Land
(from a recent newsletter from Jerusalem)*

Jerusalem Journal: Daily Bread

Plastic bags hang on the outside of dumpsters, tied shut and weighted down by bread. Here it is a sin to throw bread away while others are hungry. Leftovers are left for others. Yesterday's bread today becomes someone else's daily bread.

Now I pass by, often oblivious. One day while following a man and his daughter in the car ahead of us, we watched as he scraped the bag off the hook and set the meal on his dash.

This is what holiness looks like, I think. An extended table. A sharing of abundance. An anonymity for those who want it. A placing of food in a common location where everyone must pass by. A compassion to keep the bread outside the trash and off the ground.

"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap

to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 23:22).

Jesus was asked to name the most important commandment. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, strength (Deuteronomy 6:5) and you shall love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18). To love God is to love your neighbor. In Hebrew, a word for worship and the word for service are rooted together in the word *avad*.

On Maundy Thursday, so named for Jesus' Mandatum (Latin: Mandate), we are given a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34).

Worship and service need no definite borders. We cannot keep the sacred from the profane (and vice versa). Holiness is not a line in the sand but a circle, ever expanding and ever drawing together.

Christian Freedom and Worship

Travis Beck

In 1520, Luther wrote his famous treatise on Christian ethics: *The Freedom of the Christian*. Drawing on the letters of Paul and Luther's own lectures on Paul's letter to the Galatians, Luther outlines how he understands the Christian life, summed up in his well-known paradox: "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all subject to none; a Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

For Luther, Christian freedom is a spiritual freedom. The Christian is not magically set free from political obligations, bodily illness, poverty, and other earthly trials and tribulations. It is an inner freedom, a freedom of the soul. Neither sickness or health, wealth or poverty, fortune or crisis, or any other external force either profits or harms this spiritually free person that dwells within us. This inner person lives not "by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God," as Jesus says.

For this reason, part of worship is devoted to the reading and preaching of the Word—the Gospel, the "good news." Luther writes: "To preach Christ means to feed the soul, make it righteous, set it free, and save it, provided it believes the preaching. Faith alone is the saving and efficacious use of the Word of God... The Word of God cannot be received and cherished by any works whatever but only by faith. Therefore it is clear that, as the soul needs only the Word of God for its life and righteousness, so it is justified by faith alone and not any works; for if it could be justified by anything else, it would not need the Word, and consequently it would not need faith."

What then is the role of good works? They are not for personal gain but for building up the neighbor: "Insofar as a Christian is free, no works are necessary. Insofar as a Christian is a servant,

all kinds of works are done." They are also done for spiritual discipline: "these works serve the purpose of disciplining the body and purifying it of all evil desires." We can think of our worship practices as "works." Musical styles, the prayers, the readings—all of these things are unnecessary. By themselves, they neither help nor hinder our spiritual freedom. But disciplining ourselves to certain practices can help protect us from personal agendas, desires, and whims. They prevent any one person or group from inflicting their personal worship ideal on the rest of the congregation. Again, Luther: "[Ceremonies] are to be given the same place in the life of a Christian as models and plans have among builders and artisans. They are prepared, not as a permanent structure, but because without them nothing could be built or made. When the structure is complete the models and plans are laid aside." They are a guide; they give us direction and restrain our personal tastes for the sake of the body as a whole.

We can do almost anything we want in worship, for the Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. But we discipline ourselves to certain orders and traditions, making exceptions where it is prudent and necessary for the sake of hospitality and the building up of the body of Christ, for the Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all. Traditions help temper the spirit of the age, the addiction to novelty, or change for its own sake, and so we use tradition as the bedrock, the starting point for our worship. But at the same time, we allow worship to be a living, breathing thing, always growing to accommodate our ever-changing needs, while challenging ourselves to grow in new directions.

Treasurer's Report | Immanuel Lutheran Church

FY February 2017

	FEBRUARY ACTUAL 2017	MONTHLY BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	PERCENT OF YTD BUDGET 16.67%	FEBRUARY ACTUAL 2016	YTD ACTUAL 2016
INCOME							
Regular Offerings & Envelopes	31,115.78	43,375.00	65,088.52	520,500.00	12.5%	32,864.87	66,313.90
Other Income	16,370.50	4,540.00	17,735.00	54,480.00	32.6%	6,723.99	8,056.57
Total Income	47,486.28	47,915.00	82,823.52	574,980.00	14.4%	39,588.86	74,370.47
EXPENSE							
Staff Support	23,597.53	30,602.92	53,730.64	367,235.00	14.6%	26,724.48	51,689.20
Administration	20,910.71	9,416.25	27,383.32	112,995.00	24.2%	12,377.32	18,178.18
Ministry Areas	7,008.83	7,894.75	12,521.92	94,737.00	13.2%	6,139.84	11,763.84
Loan re-payment/contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	51,517.07	47,913.92	93,635.88	574,967.00	16.3%	45,241.64	81,631.22
Income Less Expense	\$(4,030.79)	1.08	\$(10,812.36)	13.00		\$(5,652.78)	\$(7,260.75)

YOUTH MINISTRY

BY MATT POLSDOFER

Hello family:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!



It's not too late to sign up for the 2018 Houston National Youth Gathering! This is going to be an amazing trip & one that you will remember for years to come! Right now we have 20 youth and 5 adults signed up, but our group would be excited to have you come too! It is open for those that are currently in 8th grade through 11th grade. Please let Matt Polsdofer know if you have any questions and if you are interested in attending. Mpolsdofer001@immanuelfamily.com, 641-590-4049 or in person. Thanks!

TRANSFORMERS

A bunch of cars and trucks that turn into robots doesn't seem like it connects to our faith very well. At the beginning of both the middle school and high school youth ministries we watched a one minute clip of them transforming. Most transformed in a mere 7 to 10 seconds. Just like these cars and trucks we are called by God to be transformed. 2 Corinthians 3:18, The scripture says, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

How long does our transformation take? Are we up to the standard of these cars and trucks? We know that it takes us longer than 7 to 10 seconds to be transformed. We might never get to the point of being fully transformed until we get to Heaven. We are called though to daily transform ourselves. It could start with a small smile and hello to a stranger, then build up from there. One thing is certain, we can't transform unless we are connected to God through prayer, reading the word, church and community. How are you being transformed today into his image?

Our middle school youth took a trip to Sky Zone in Des Moines. We had 12 youth, myself and Brian Golwitzer go. It was a great trip! The first person to email me at mpolsdofer001@immanuelfamily.com that they read this article gets a candy bar of their choice.

Our high school youth met Agape who is a Christian rapper. It was a great experience! We ate supper with him, attended a workshop, and his concert. Thank you to Waldorf Campus Ministry for inviting us and Luther Seminary for helping sponsor this event.

In Christ, Matt Polsdofer

✝ Promiseland

By: Tori Eastvold

Promiseland activities during the month of April will focus on Easter. On April 5th from 5:30-6:40 pm the 3rd through 5th grade students will take part in the Lenten Fair. Please arrive before 5:30 pm to get checked in and ready for the fair to begin at 5:30 pm. The students will enjoy several activities all centered around Lent and Easter. During the fair the students will make crafts, try different foods, pet chicks and more! I encourage parents to attend with their children (you may learn something too)!

Our 5th grade Promiseland kids will be taking part in 5th grade communion classes beginning on April 4th from 3:30-5:00 pm. The second night of class is on Tuesday, April 11th from 3:30-5:30 pm. Parents please arrive at 5:00 pm on April 11th to learn about the special service on Maundy Thursday. The 5th grade communion class will take part in a foot washing ceremony on Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 pm.

The Promiseland kids will again be singing in April. The 3 year old – kindergarten kids will be singing on April 5th. The Sunday Promiseland kids will be singing on April 9th processing into Worship with palms for Palm Sunday. All Wednesday kids are invited to sing on Palm Sunday, also! There will be no Promiseland on Wednesday, April 12 and Sunday, April 16 for Easter.

April will be an eventful month focusing on Easter. Christ has risen, He has risen indeed!



Promiseland kids and teachers helping pack meals at the Stop Hunger event on February 22. \$15,900 was raised to help 436 volunteers pack 59,616 meals. Thanks to everyone who donated and/or helped with the event!

Immanuel Library April 2017



ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW

By what we read and watch

NEW ESPECIALLY FOR MEN:

1. Tenacious How does one man fight ALS, care for his son who has spina bifida, and coach a high school football team to an incredible record? That is Jeremy Williams' life in Georgia and featured on TV's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition". This is the rest of the story you don't want to miss.
2. A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears of Hunger by Steve Plifer with Gregg Lewis. The setting is a boarding school in Kenya for one year. The main characters are Steve and Nancy Plifer whose eight day old son died. Steve is leaving his job as a corporate executive who managed 9,000 computer software consultants to feed and teach starving African children. Read to find out if he is able to achieve his goals.
3. Homeless at Harvard by John Frame is both a biography and an autobiography, a heartwarming true story. Spending ten weeks among the homeless on the streets of Harvard Square one summer, Frame writes about the people he meets: Chubby John, who offered Frame a tent; George, the first homeless person he met; Dane, a former cocaine addict; and Neal, a deeply spiritual alcoholic who may be dying. These four men speak through Frame and you will not forget their words.
4. Frederick: A Story of Boundless Hope by Frederick Ndabaramiye and Amy Parker. This biography spans from 1994 to present day in Rwanda. What killers meant for harm to Frederick, God intended for good. Read this incredible story and you will become a believer of the impossible.

NEW ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN:

1. Fifteen Minutes by Karen Kingsbury is an eye-opening can't-put-it-down book about the behind the scenes of two reality shows: "America's Got Talent" and "American Idol". This is fiction but its burning question, 'How does one stay true to God?' is very real.

2. Atlas Girl by Emily T Wierenga is her memoir of battling teenage anorexia, leaving home at age 18, and traveling across three continents to find God. One reviewer says, "This isn't just a book, this is a journey of grief and wonder, loss and gain. Emily tells a world-spanning story that this world needs!"
3. Hope Crossing by Cindy Woodsmall is the Ada's House Trilogy in one volume. It includes three full length novels: The Hope of Refuge, The Bridge of Peace, and The Harvest of Grace. Ada's house stands at the Hope Crossing in Amish country as a haven for weary souls looking for faith, kindness, and second chances. If you enjoy Amish fiction, you'll love this trilogy.
4. The Artist's Daughter by Alexandra Kuykendall is her search for answers to these three questions: Am I Loveable? Am I Loved? Am I Loving? In this memoir she examines her childhood with her world-traveling mother and her absent artist father, as well as her marriage and motherhood. But it becomes personal for each of us as we search to understand our life's path as well.

AND DON'T FORGET THE DVDs



Thanks to partnering with Thrivent, the Immanuel Library has been able to order new material for both children and adults. We are excited about all the new offerings on the shelves. There is something for everyone. Bring your friends and let them check out too.



**'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

Mission and Outreach

Sharen Rieffer

Present: Ken Korth, Jaci Thorson, Steve Olmstead, Pott Van Auken (partial) and Sharen Rieffer

Steve Olmstead gave devotions on praying to God and thanking him for "me". We are all an original you like a designer label. We have \$600 in our Hunger Mission Funds.

We gave money to Stop Hunger campaign and their total stands at \$15,900 which includes \$1,345 to be used as seed money. The Lenten offering recommendation that we gave to the Council was approved with ½ the offering going to our missionaries and ½ toward the general fund.

Our budget to provide for the missionaries is \$5,000 a year. They will be doing a couple home visits, the one in July will be the Minnesota Synod area. Jaci will see if they can visit us in July during our picnic. (They said yes!)

A proposal to change the time of our meetings to 5:00 was made by Jaci and seconded by Ken. The board approved the time change which will enable Council Member representative Brody Hopp to attend our meetings.

June 9-11 is the WIS Assembly. We discussed our offering recipients (\$20,000 synod goal) and they will be for the Sudanese Ministry in Council Bluffs and the Latino Ministry in Denison. Also, they are "Opening Doors" to health care in Tanzania. There is a huge opportunity in making different kits, such as Hospice, Newborn or Health. The second Friday in May is when our church works on kits and quilt assembling.

Board members discussed the large projects vs. small projects for fund raising for missions. General consensus was that the smaller projects keep the mission emphasis in the fore front. Steve closed with a prayer which was the lyrics to the song "Father Help Me to Be.

Parish Life

Melanie Westerberg

We reviewed the Mardi Gras party. There were about 25 people there this year, probably over twice what we had last year. We discussed possibility of moving it to Sunday or Monday evening in future years depending on what school activities might be going on that night.

Kids activity bags need to be restocked. We'll need to inventory them and see what supplies might need to be purchased to refill them. We would like to include lists of needed items in the bulletin/announcement sheets to encourage people to donate supplies. Look for that list in the near future.

We discussed the need for following up with visitors. How will we keep track of who visits on Sundays/Wednesdays? How will we follow up with them—letter, email, phone call, etc.? We'll need to create a process for doing this and recruit volunteers to help make it happen.

Pastor Zech talked to us about partnering with Board of Ed to plan inter-generational activities a few times a year, similar to what the iLive group did several years back.

Parish Council

Kathy Olson

The ILC council met on March 9, 2017 with the following members present: Kathy Olson, Chad Benson, Melanie Slater, Ken Hansen, Steve Olmstead, Brody Hopp, Joan Beebe, Heather Johnson, Alice Lewellen, Pastor Anderson and Pastor Hopp.

The Council discussed some of what we'll accomplish at the March 19 staff/council retreat. Jim Cherry addressed the congregation with consideration for Immanuel becoming a "sanctuary church" in some respect. The summer worship schedule was briefly discussed and will be set at the April meeting. Council heard a financial report from the Board of Trustees indicating that after only 2 months of the new year, we will likely need to take out a loan or secure a line of credit. The Council did vote to approve either a loan or line of credit from MBT if it becomes needed. Conversations will need to happen with the congregation about our financial situation.

Board of Education

Emily Beenken

The board of education met Tuesday, March 13. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer. The Promiseland teacher in-service will be held March 15 and March 22. The board reviewed the agenda for the teacher in-service. The Lenten Fair will be held April 5 from 5:30-6:40. The station topics and activities for this year were organized and aligned with volunteers. There will be seven stations including Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day, New Life, and Symbols & Facts of Lent and Easter. Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held June 5-9. The board discussed the substantial increase in the VBS curriculum cost for this year. There will be a suggested donation of \$5 per child and a late registration fee of \$10 per child to cover the rushed shipping costs of late registration.

Trustees

Kathy Olson

The Board of Trustees met on March 9, 2017 with the following members present: Kathy Olson, Chad Benson, Jennifer Jenkins, Mike Oleson and Pastor Hopp.

The February financials noted a loss for the month of -\$4,030.79. Year-to-date, after two months of 2017, we are at a loss of -\$10,812.36. We were unable to pay for benefits this month on time and that was over \$7,000. We likely need to consider a loan or a line of credit, which will be discussed with the Council.

The Board heard about a few repairs at the parsonage. Some work will be done to the nursery (upstairs) soon. The Board also discussed Wednesday night meals, the 13th month stewardship initiative and continued discussion on updates to flooring at HFLC.

Bink Keller will be joining our Committee next month. We have an ask out to one other individual to join us.

If you can tie a knot ... we need you!!

Immanuel Packing Day: May 19, 2017 in fellowship hall 8:00a.m.

Marge Solberg

Immanuel's women have been a part of an agency that assists victims of poverty, disease, hunger war, disasters and persecution. Evangelical churches in the world formed Lutheran World Relief (LWR) where over 100,000 women volunteers in churches around the world gather clothing, school and personal items and soap. These items are packed in boxes to be sent to people in disaster situations. In year 2015 more than 7 million were served by LWR. Needs of people living in poverty and disaster were assessed and it was found that quilts were most needed. Quilts were used as storage bags as people moved, wandering from war to safety could be easily moved as masses of people wandered from war to safety. They also were bright and beautifully made to bring love and hope to lives of chaos. Other items of survival and civility were added to LWR projects. Immanuel makes quilts, gathers blankets, school items, personal care kits and SOAP. Twice a year we pack these items, deliver them to a relay point (First Lutheran Church, Albert Lea) then, trucked to Minneapolis to Baltimore and around the world.

We think you are missing the joy, fun, and purpose in working on these items. We invite all of Immanuel to help

supply, work, and pack Mission items and tie quilts. We have a goal of sending 100 quilts twice a year so we need people to help tie quilts. Large table areas are set up in the fellowship room on DO-DAY and quilts are tied!


WELCA ladies are asking the congregation to help supply the following items:

- Blankets – flannel, fringed-tied blankets are accepted
- Towels – light, medium-wt. towels (between 20"x40" and 54"x27")
- Combs - large-tined hair combs
- Sheets - queen or king-size sheets to use for quilt backing.
- SOAP - each bar wrapped or in an individual box

We tie quilts on the 4TH Tuesday of each month in the fellowship room. Bring a quilting thimble if you need one, and, if possible scissors.

There will be boxes placed around the church for these items.

IF YOU CAN TIE A KNOT ... WE NEED YOU!!



April Wednesday Menu

Served each week 4:45-6:45

April 5..... *Chicken noodle hot dish, carrots, bars*

April 12..... *cook's choice*

April 19..... *Taco Night*

April 26..... *Pancake Night*

Cookin' for the Lord, Deb Fardal

March Circles

Circle	Date/Time	Hostess Lesson Leader
Dorcas	Wed., 19th/9:30am	Shalom
Martha	Thurs., 20th/1:30pm	Ruby Rauk, Shalom, Anna Harringa
Sarah	Thurs., 20th/1:30pm	Joan Hanson, Lounge, Barb Johnson
Rachel	Thurs., 20th/7pm	JoAnn Bartelson, Shalom, Mary Rodberg

Dates to remember

- Wednesday, April 5, 10am Circle Bible Study leaders w/Barb Johnson, Lounge
- Monday, April 17, 2-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom
- Tuesday, April 25, 1pm LWR Quilting Do Day, FH
- April Coffee Hours Library Committee
- April Laundry Tammy Krieger

Ruth Cluster 2017 Spring Meeting

Of the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization April 22 - St John's Lutheran Church, 5289 320th St. Cylinder (Depew), Iowa 8:30 Gathering Time, 9 am Program and Meeting to follow.

Esterville Lutheran Church in charge of the program. Speaker from Lutheran Services in Iowa RSVP to Ilomae Meling 712-298-1435.

Matching funds for college students

Is your son or daughter attending an ELCA college in the 2017-18 school year? They could receive matching funds through Immanuel.

Immanuel will pay \$100 per year, possible through our Endowment Fund, the ELCA college and then the college will match that gift. All you need to do is let Jaci or Cindi in the church office (585-3152) know where your student is attending each year.

Please contact the office soon so the name can be forwarded onto the college of this upcoming gift.

Volunteers

April 2017

Altar Guild

April 2	Connie Thompson
April 9	Cathy Stensland
April 16	Julie Damm
April 23	Joanne Bartleson
April 30	Sonja Johnson

Assisting Ministers

April 2	Carolyn Price
April 9	Cynthia Ryder
April 13	Carolyn Price
April 14	Cynthia Ryder
April 16	7:00 - Kathy Olson
.....	9:15 - Jim Cherry
April 23	Kathy Olson
April 30	Carolyn Price

Readers

April 2	Ethan Alsop
April 9	Joan Beebe
April 16	Mary Kingland
April 23	Connie Johnson
April 30	Pam Keller

Communion Servers

April 2	Harlan Rodberg, Liz Wilson
April 9	Melanie Westerberg, Judy Levad
April 16	7am - Kathy Olson,
.....	9:15am - Liz Wilson

April 23	Kim Mollenhauer, Keila Buffington
April 30	Marlene Faircloth, Carolyn Price

Communion Set Up

April 2	Dona Paulson
April 9	Kathy Leuwerke
April 13	Marge Solberg; Joyce Kasper
April 15	Marge Solberg
April 16	Marge Solberg
April 23	Alice Jones
April 30	Ellen Olson

Song Leaders

April 2	Cindi Lehmann, Jaci Thorson
April 9	Jaci Thorson, Amanda Take
April 16	Sam Beck, Liz May
April 23	Audrey Olmstead, Cindi Lehmann
April 30	Mark & Joy Newcom

Ushers

Gary McCarthy, Matt Bronson, Bill Stensland, Loren Ehrich

Sound Techs

Bruce Mielke, David Midtgaard

Offering Counters

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

WHO PAYS (OR DOESN'T PAY) FOR THEIR WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS?

As Council president there have been times when I and others on council have heard comments about "people that don't pay for their meal(s) on Wednesday nights". It's human nature to be judgmental about what others do or don't do – I know I can be quite "judgy" myself sometimes!

Here's what the council and I want you to know: The only way you will ever know who pays for a meal is if you see them put money in the meal offering box. Some do and some do not. Many who do not put money in the worship offering, do make a special donation at the office during the week. You will never know who they are. Whether or not people "pay" for their meal, or make any contribution at all, is not your worry. Whew! Isn't that great news?

Immanuel's Council determined a few years ago that this ministry would be a "free community meal" and it is. There are no strings attached. You do not have to be a member of Immanuel; you do not have to attend worship afterwards and you do not have to pay for the meal. Whether you need a free meal or don't – don't let anyone make you feel guilty for not putting money in that red box.

We put the donation box out, not for people to "pay" for their meal, but for people who want to help "support the ministry". Please do so if you feel called and are able.

One more thing we want you to know: The council and I celebrate our neighbor from Town Square Apartments who comes and gets meals to take back to people in the apartments who for one reason or another choose not to walk over. We celebrate him as he has developed a little ministry around our ministry. "Thank you" Karl for your ministry to our neighbors. What a great thing you do!

Remember all are welcome so please check the judgment at the door and come enjoy the fellowship that the meal provides as we sit together on Wednesday nights.

Kathy Olson, Council President

SIGN-UP TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY TO CHILE STILL OPEN

Join others from the Western Iowa Synod for this 'once in a lifetime' trip to Chile! One destination of the trip will be Immanuel's companion congregation, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallenes, located at the Strait of Magellan. Approximate dates are Nov. 17-Dec. 4, 2017 with approximate cost of \$3500. Suggested ages is 16 years – adulthood in good general health, and able to walk several blocks unaided.

More information and application can be found on the WIS website at www.wisynod.org/trips.html or by contacting Cindy Wells at 712.732.4968, or by visiting with Pastor Rod at 585.3152.

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p>2</p> <p>9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Coffee fellowship, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 10:40am - Luther Adult Forum, Shalom 6:30pm - MS Youth Ministry</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5pm - Parish Life Board, Lounge 8pm - Like Fire @ Gatsby's</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2pm - Intercessory Prayer Group, Prayer Room 3:30-5pm - 5th grade Communion Class, Shalom 5pm - Education Board, Kitchenette</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10am - Circle Bible Study Leaders, Lounge 12:10pm - Lenten Service, Fireside 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - Lenten Fair / Handbells 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Lenten Worship, PreK sings 7:30pm - Confirmation / HS Youth Ministry / Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge / Cadence 6, 6:30pm - Cadence</p>	<p>7</p> <p>EASTER LILY ORDERS DUE IN CHURCH OFFICE</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5-9pm - Benefit for Amy Kofron, TSB Community Room</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:15am - Palm Sunday Worship, Promiseland sings, choir 10:15am - '2nd Sunday' Potluck Brunch, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 10:40am - Luther Adult Forum, Shalom 6:30pm - MS Youth Ministry</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8pm - Like Fire @ Gatsby's</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am - Vital Agers Committee, Shalom 2pm - Intercessory Prayer Group, Prayer Room 3:30-5:30pm - 5th grade Communion Class, Shalom (parents come @ 5) 7pm - Waldorf Artist Series-Ronn McFarlane & Ayreheart, Odvin Hagen</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5pm - Mission & Outreach Board, Lounge 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:45pm - Trustees, Kitchenette 6:45pm - Council, Reformation 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30pm - Women's Bible Study, Lounge / Cadence 9:30am - Inspire Immanuel, Lounge 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Noon - Good Friday Ecumenical Service, Waldorf Atrium 6:30pm - Good Friday Worship</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>8:15pm - Easter Vigil</p>
<p>16</p> <p>7:00am - Easter Sunrise Worship 7:30-9:30am - Easter Breakfast, FH 9:15am - Easter Worship</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>2-4pm - Prayer Shawl Ministry, Shalom 8pm - Like Fire @ Gatsby's</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2pm - Intercessory Prayer Group, Prayer Room 2:30pm - Forest Plaza Communion Service w/ pastor 6:30pm - Cub Scout Pack Meeting, FH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:30pm - Dorcas Circle, Shalom 4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - Handbells 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Confirmation / HS Youth Ministry / Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge / Cadence 9:30am - Martha Circle, Shalom 10:30am - Good Samaritan Communion Service w/ pastor 1:30pm - Sarah Circle, Lounge 6, 6:30pm - Cadence 7pm - Rachel Circle, Shalom</p> <p>MAY MESSENGER DEADLINE</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11-1pm - Hospice Salad Luncheon, FH</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Coffee, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 10:40am - Adult Forum, Shalom 3pm - Waldorf Wind Ensemble Concert, Sanctuary 6:30pm - MS Youth Ministry</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8pm - Like Fire @ Gatsby's</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1pm - LWR Quilting Do Day, FH 7pm - Waldorf Choirs Concert, Sanctuary</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4:45-6:45pm - Supper, FH 5:30pm - Handbells 5:40pm - Promiseland 6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Confirmation / HS Youth Ministry / Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 6:30pm - Good Grief Group, Lounge</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:15am - Worship 10:15am - Coffee, FH 10:30am - Promiseland 10:40am - Adult Forum, Shalom 6:30pm - MS Youth Ministry</p>						



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 @ 9:15 a.m.
Wednesdays @ 12:10 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 8 a.m.-5:00 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,
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Matt Polsdofer - Youth Ministry
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Marie Oleson - Housekeeping

Deb Fardal - Wednesday meal coordinator
dfardal@yahoo.com

Church Council

President: **Kathy Olson**

Vice-President: **Chad Benson**

Treasurer: **Cynthia Ryder**

Secretary: **Melanie Slater**

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