

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Website: www.luther95.net/ILC-WIA/

1226 East Washington Washington, IA 319-653-3950

September, 2009

Sunday Worship
PLEASE NOTE TIME
CHANGE
Sept 13
Worship 8:00AM
& 10:30 AM

Our mission: Gather
All Generations
Around the Word of
Christ

Fall Clothing Sale Sept
12 7:00-12:00

Rally Sunday

September 13

Sunday School classes
resume at 9:15 AM

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Faith vs. Works

by Peter Weller

The New Testament lessons for September are all from the book of James. While the Apostle Paul emphasizes salvation by grace through faith and not by works lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9), James reminds us that we cannot overlook the importance of doing good, that works reflect our faith, and by failing to do good works, we commit sin.

Some scholars believe that James' letter was written about the year A. D. 45, some fifteen years after the death of Jesus. Paul's letter to the Romans was written in the year A. D. 58 and his letter to the Ephesians in A. D. 61. It is probable that both James and Paul spoke of these ideas years before they committed them to writing. There is no conclusive evidence to show that either knew the views of the other. The New Testament letters were not placed in definitive chronological order, and that Paul's letters appear before James' does not demonstrate that Paul's ideas came first. According to the written record, therefore, it does appear that James' idea on the importance of works precedes Paul's idea of Salvation by grace through faith.

James' message, emphasizing works, stands in stark contrast to that of Paul. James argues that "Faith without works is dead." He writes, "What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But, some will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith." (James 2:14-19)

Interestingly, both James and Paul refer to Abraham and quote Genesis 15:6: "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." (James 2:23, Romans 4:3). James argues, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works. . . . You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone." (James 2:21-24)

Yet, Paul writes, "The promise to Abraham and his descendants, that they should inherit the world, did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void." (Romans 4:13-14)

So, who is right? It is not for us, based on our own perceived self interest, to make that choice. It would be easy to choose one over the other because it feels more comfortable to us or fits better with our biases and views of the world. If so, then sin lies waiting at our door. But rather, as we read these passages from Paul and James, we should pray and meditate and ask God for spiritual guidance so that we can better understand his will for us and that his will is reflected in the works that we do.

Rally Sunday, September 13 Worship 8:00AM

Sunday School 9:15AM Worship 10:30 AM

We are returning to worship at two services. Please join us.

Monthly Updates

August Attendance

August 2	<u>9:00 am</u>	<u>81</u>
August 9	<u>9:00 am</u>	<u>95</u>
August 16	<u>9:00 am</u>	<u>155</u>
August 23	<u>9:00 am</u>	<u>100</u>
August 30	<u>9:00 am</u>	<u>120</u>

General Fund Gifts - July

1/12th of annual budget = \$ 13,814.75

July 5	1,404.58
July 12	1,343.00
July 19	3,253.00
July 26	1,468.00
<i>Simply Giving</i>	<u>2,278.00</u>
July \$	9,746.58

June \$ 9,489.27

\$2,000.00 has been paid to the Synod for Mission Support in 2009 beyond the congregation for synodical and church wide ministries of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Due to slow summer income, we have started to draw from the operating note. Please remember our promises of increased donation for an experienced Pastor.

“Building Fund Gifts ” - July

Monthly mortgage payment - \$3,422.55

July 5	\$ 440.00
July 12	410.00
July 19	482.00
July 26	450.00
<i>Simply Giving</i>	<u>790.00</u>

July \$ 2,572.00

June \$ 2,928.00

At this time we have payments made through August. Next payment due 09/23/09.

Thrivent Leaders 2009

Chapter - Yvonne Buster, Mark Kendall, Ray Poe
Judy Venzke
Care in Congregations—Dale Venzke, Mike Jewell,
Oscar Hernandez

Continuing Funds that can be contributed to:

Luther League	
Parking Lot Fund	New Carpet Fund
Endowment Fund	Piano Fund
Membership Assistance	Bobbie Schmidt Fund

[Make notation on check]

Y Senior Dining to Resume

On the first Sunday of each month (except for Sept 12 and April 11), the Washington Community Y will be offering nutritious and delicious meals. Time served from 11:30-1:00 p.m. The price is \$3.00 for those over 60 and \$4.00 for those under 60. Please call 653-5300 with any questions. A list of the meals being served is posted at the Church.

Confirmation Classes to Begin

If you have a child in 6th, 7th or 8th grade and have not received a letter about fall confirmation classes, please see Pastor Steve or contact the office at 653-3950. Confirmation begins Sept 16 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Steve would like to encourage any adult to join these classes as well. He would like to pair students with a mentor.

Worship Service Time Change!!

We resume the previous schedule on September 13 of:

Worship 8:00AM

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Bishop Paul Werger will be our guest at the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 13..

BOOK CLUB

Don't forget that the Book Club will be reviewing *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid on September 9 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Dodici Coffee Shop. Everyone is welcome to attend!

CROP WALK

CROP Walk will be held October 11 with lunch at noon in Central Park and the walk to begin at 12:30. Please see Gary Brown if you are interested in walking or pledging.

Council Members for 2009: Sarah Hernandez (Ed/Youth) 653-3038 - Kathy Dea [Sec.] (Ed/Youth) 653-6097 Kate Glinnsmann (Ed/Youth) 653-7314 - Marty Westen [V.P.] (W/E)653-6021 - Ed Burdock (W/E) 653-2495 - Mary Chmelar (W/E) 653-2043- Tom Lyons (B/G/F) 653-6721 - David Sells (B/G/F) 461-5873 Nancy Baker (B/G/F) 653-7309 - Ken Erickson (Stew/Fin) 653-5258 - Ruth Jones [Pres.] (Stew/Fin) 461-4010 -Mark Kendall((Stew/Fin) -653-6561

Upcoming Weddings

Congratulations to the couples getting married this month. Carrie Humston and Dennis Ingles on September 19 and Anna Shirkey and Dustin McKenna on September 26. Pastor Steve will be presiding at both weddings.

Christian Banquet Date

OCTOBER 24, 2009

October 24th is quickly approaching. We will accept donations of any new merchandise, hand made craft items or any baked goods for the Banquet . Tickets are on sale now for \$25.00. You can purchase tickets at church or if you are willing to sell some, please contact Mike & Judy Sells at 653-5873. There will be a silent auction as well as a live auction. The menu is prime rib or chicken breast. Carry-out will be available.

Thank You

With heartfelt thanks to our family Christal, Jay, Mason, and Trevor and many friends and members of Immanuel for the marvelous day at the church for our 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration and all the many cards we received. We are truly blessed to have the pleasure of your great love.

Jack and Margaret Quigley

Fall Clothing Sale Sept 12

The community/church clothing and bake sale will be Sept. 12, Sat. 7 .m. -noon. All clothing will be 50¢. Baked goods will be various prices. The set-up night is Thursday Sept 10 6-?. Sign up sheets are on the hall table for work times and bakery items. There's a large box by the secretary's office for clothing. The proceeds will go to Child Voice and congregation members needing help with medical bills. We are considering a craft, rummage, baked goods, SERVE gift items bazaar sometime in November. The proceeds will go to Lutheran World Relief projects.

Congratulations

To Brittany & Joe Elmquist from Audubon, IA on the birth of their son:

Leyton Robert Elmquist
August 14, 2009

8# 7oz. And 20.5 " long

Born in Harlan, IA

Leyton has a big brother Lane who is 1 1/2 yrs old

Grandparents: Scott and Laurie Pemberton

Women's Fall Cluster Gathering

Trinity Lutheran of Tipton has invited all women of our cluster to the fall gathering. It's Saturday morning, October 17th with registration beginning at 8:30. A light breakfast will be available until 9. The speaker is artist Marcia Wegman. She will talk about Heifer International. Marcia has traveled to different countries to see how Heifer works and she will show slides of her travels and art work she has done during these travels.. Pastor Donita of Tipton will present a Bible lesson. During our short business meeting, the present officers will be reinstalled for 2010. LWR health kit preparation will be demonstrated. The love gift that you may bring would be an item or items to put in a health kit or completed health kits. You may drive on your own or carpool from our church. The cost to you is \$5. Four of those dollars go to the host church. Please think about attending. Judy Venzke, Cluster Chairperson

Congratulations

to Brian & Carrie Lueck on the birth of their son: Thomas Scott Lueck

August 19, 2009

7# 4 Oz and 19" long

Thomas has a big sister Emma who is 3. Grand-

parents: John & Peg Harris

Great- Grandparents:

Jack & Doris Moore

Junior Choir has resumed their fall schedule of meeting on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 pm. If you have a child in 1st-6th grade that is interested in singing, please contact Sara Bartlett at 653-4461.

Worship Leaders

August 2009	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Communion Assistant	Communion Setup/ Cleanup	Acolyte
Sun 9:00 am Sept 6	Steve Green Family	Larry Bartlett Phyllis & Duane Hagensick	Cynthia Fischer	Deidra Baker Bill Ebert	Dick & Connie Humston	Fletcher Green
Sun Sept 13 8:00 am	Ted & Vi Kruse	Yaro & Mary Chmelar Gary Fischer	Ray Poe	Deb Shepherd	Dick & Connie Humston	Marty Baker
10:30 am	Dale & Judy Venzke	Brian Lueck John Harris Peg Harris	Peg Harris	Sherry Ives	Mike & Judy Sells	Elaney England
Sun Sept 20 8:00 am	Duane & Phyllis Hagensick	Tom Tanner Jim Gallagher Richard Schmidt	Cynthia Fischer	Kristin Jones		Kyle Fischer
10:30 am	Ken & Naomi Erickson	Dale Venzke Ken Erickson	Sherry Ives	Larry Bartlett		Vanessa Westen
Sun 8:00 am Sept 27	Ray & Alta Poe	Steve Vetter Baker Family	Lee Buchholz			Maggie Baker
10:30 am	Al Olson	Mark Kendall Dave Steele Jim Sievers	Peter Weller			Megan Hill
Sun Oct 4 8:00 am	Diane Morgan Corrine Martin	Larry Bartlett Phyllis & Duane Hagensick	Kyle Fischer	Gary Fischer	B J Wetherell	Kyle Fischer
10:30 am	Richard & Carolyn Schmidt	Ryan Hall Family	James Bennett	John Harris	Kruse/ Hagensick	Michael Hall

If you cannot serve the time you are assigned, please find someone to trade with or call Kathy Vetter 653-5515 before noon on Friday.

Fall Stewardship

On Sunday September 20 we will have a guest from the SEIA Synod, Pastor Gloria Davery. She will be talking about the importance of stewardship and what we can do to become better stewards of the church.

The following Saturday, September 26, we will conduct our "Day of Sharing and Caring". We will reach out to the community as a church and help anyone with tasks that need completed. Please sign up at church or let the office know of anyone that might need help 653-3950.

School Kits

"The Luther League has agreed to pack the school supplies in bags and box them to ship to the LWR truck in October. That seems like a long time from now, but there is A LOT of work to do before that can happen. Many people responded to the request to cut and sew bags (thank you very much), but there are still more to be cut and sewn. There is also organizing and preparation before the bags can be packed....items removed from cardboard, pencils banded in groups of six, construction paper collated, etc. On Tuesday mornings at 9:30 from now until Sept. 27, we will be working on this project, and are asking for your help. This is easy work that just takes the time of many volunteers. Please stop by for a couple hours on these Tuesdays and give us a hand. Poor children of the world are counting on us."



Rally Sunday

Sept 13, 2009

Welcome back to Sunday School! We are looking forward to a great fall with a different twist. The Preschool thru 1st/2nd will continue to have traditional Sunday School with music like in the past. Linda Brown, Mary Gail Lyons and some wonderful person who has not yet volunteered will be our teachers. Julie Hill will again do the music.

The kids 2nd/3rd grade up through High School will be working on an awesome Christmas Pageant “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”. This is a wonderful play with some great lessons in it, but is also quite a bit more involved than past Christmas programs and the kids will need every Sunday this fall to prepare for it. The kids will learn about God’s love and kindness through this play, along with giving the kids something fun and different to look forward to on Sundays.

We’ll start out on Rally Sunday with the kids (and parents) watching the video of this production. Greg Wiley has graciously accepted the role of Director and will do an awesome job! Other volunteers will help the kids learn their lines. Luther League kids will attend practices on those Sundays they aren’t cleaning Kinnick, and will work on memorizing lines outside of the Sunday School hour.

Hope to see you all on Rally Sunday.

Working for God,
Deb Shepherd

Luther League Schedule 2009

August 30	All Meet Fun and games at marr park meet at church 5:00pm
September 6	Kinnick Cleanup meet at church 6:30 am
September 20	Kinnick cleanup meet at church 6:30 am
September 20	High school meet-ropes course meet at church noon [9-12 grades]
September 27	Junior High meet pizza party at church 6:00 pm [6-8 grades]
October 4	Kinnick cleanup meet at church 6:30 am
October 11	Kinnick cleanup meet at church 6:30 am
October 18	All meet hayrack ride at Chmelar’s meet at church 6;30 pm
October 25	All meet haunted house or forest time TBD
November 1	Kinnick cleanup meet at church 6:30 am
November 8	High school meet -noodle hockey and pizza party meet at church 6:30 pm
November 22	Junior high meet-thanksgiving scavenger hunt meet at church 6;30 pm
December 6	Luther League bake sale Sunday morning-8:30 am
	High school meet-road rally meet at church 6;30 pm
December 13	Junior high meet-Christmas road rally meet at church 6:30 pm
December 20	All meet-Luther league Christmas party meet at church 6:30 pm

August 24, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

Throughout the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, participants of the assembly, as well as those viewing the assembly remotely, were asked to answer the question, "What will be our witness?" That question still hangs in the air as individuals and congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America wrestle with their response to actions taken by the assembly.

To be sure, this assembly was about much more than the decisions related to human sexuality. Daily we gathered around the means of grace in worship. We studied the Bible and we persistently prayed for this church and for one another. With overwhelming support we adopted the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, funding for an HIV/AIDS Strategy, full communion with The United Methodist Church, and further committed this church to fighting hunger and responding to disasters in Christ's name. Still, for understandable reasons, the attention of people in the Minneapolis Convention Center and of those watching from afar was often focused on whether or not the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America would open the door to a change in our ministry policies.

The assembly adopted the social statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," by the required two-thirds majority, and subsequently adopted several policy recommendations that create a possibility for our church to develop policies allowing qualified gay and lesbian pastors in publicly accountable same-gender relationships to serve in congregations that may choose to call them. These decisions will lead some people to rejoice and others to lament. In light of varying faith-informed responses, I hope that together we will take time to reflect anew on "What will be our witness?"

Please keep in mind:

1. These decisions did not create new policies. Rather, they authorized the development of policies that will reflect both the change many were hoping for, and a means to respect the position of those who are conscience bound to oppose such change.
2. New policies cannot be implemented until they are developed in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the ELCA Church Council. The earliest any new policy might be in place will be November 2009.
3. While we find ourselves in a period of wondering, "What does this mean?" we remain the church of Jesus Christ, called into mission for the sake of a world God so loves.

So "What will be our witness?"

I hope we will be more urgently compelled to share the Good News of Jesus even as we patiently, and together, seek to make sense of what it means to be the church in Southeastern Iowa when on some matters of Biblical interpretation, we disagree. I hope that we will all be drawn more deeply into God's saving story through Bible study, worship, and prayer. I hope that we will bear one another's burdens, even as we pray for the well being of the whole Body of Christ. And I promise to be in conversation with you* and with others throughout this synod, to hear both your joys and your concerns, to assist in making sense of what this will mean for us, and to remind us that Jesus Christ, our Lord is calling us to be His witnesses.

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body." Colossians 3:14-15

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Michael L. Burk
Bishop

Birthday & Anniversaries for August

BIRTHDAYS

1 Matt Steffen
2 Paige Steele
3 Ed Weeks
3 John Sands
4 Kathy Ebert
5 Sandy Fults
6 Katy Allar
6 Nicholas Todd
7 Nathan Parriott
7 Candace Talbot Scheibe
8 Audrey Wubbena
11 Sierra Wagner
12 Margaret Quigley
15 Makenna Burdock
16 Duane Hagensick
16 Dale Venzke

30 Diane Morgan ANNIVERSARIES

1 Gerald & Marian Brown
2 Yaro & Mary Chmelar
3 Dave & Holly Mueller
4 Tom & Mary Gail Lyons
5 Ron & Charlotte Andersen
6 Jeff & Sharlene Soper
7 Ed & Debbie Weeks
8 Scott & Laurie Pemberton
16 Greg & Lori Seubert
21 Tom & Lynne Zoulek
28 Daniel & Kelly Wittmayer
28 Chad & Angi Ellis

17 Peg Harris
18 Kaylee Shirkey
18 Liam Venzke
19 Jodi Ebert
20 David Venzke
22 Carrie Lueck
22 David Sells
22 Jody Tanner
23 Ed Newhouse
23 Jim Sievers
24 Brad Kroll
24 Linda Boettcher
25 Randy Poos
25 Lindsay Sponheim
26 Charlotte Andersen
26 Dorothy Grim
26 Kylee Statler
26 Nita Lovick
26 Janice Sines
27 Dalani Fischer
28 Amber Buster
28 Jan Newhouse
28 Robert Warren
29 Jackson Young
30 Sara Bartlett