

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

1226 East Washington Washington, IA 319-653-3950

November , 2009

Sunday Worship

**8:00AM
& 10:30 AM
Sunday School at
9:15 AM**

**Our mission:
Gather All Generations
Around the
Word of Christ**

Annual Meeting

November 15

12:30 PM

**Preceded by Pork
Loin Dinner**

Meat furnished

Sides to share

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The Alpha and the Omega by Peter Weller

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come.” (Revelation 1:8). Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolize the beginning and the end, what is past and what is to come. John writes in Revelation 21:1-4: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. . . . And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither will there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.’”

Here we see John’s vision of the passing of the old and the coming of the new. Referring to Jesus’ presence on earth in the Gospel of John 1:14, it is written, “The word became flesh and dwelled among us, full of grace and truth.” In Revelation 21:10-21, we see that God, himself, will dwell with us. John describes the Heavenly City, the New Jerusalem, in detail, and then says, “I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb, And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.” (Revelation 21:22-23)

In Hebrews, chapter 11, we read that “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. . . .” The writer then describes how each of the major Old Testament figures, by faith, had taken some major action or made a major decision or was blessed in a major way, believing that God was their source of strength and had the power to shape the desired outcome. Yet, all of these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

“These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. Therefore, God . . . has prepared for them a city.” (Hebrews 11:4-40). Is this a foreshadowing of the heavenly Jerusalem? In Hebrews 10:16-17, the writer quotes from Jeremiah 31:33-34: “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, . . . [and] I will remember their sins and their misdeeds no more.”

We read in John 1:1 that “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus was with God from the beginning (the Alpha), and Jesus and God, the Father, are One (John 10:30.) We see that Jeremiah’s vision looking forward to a new relationship with God is fulfilled in Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection. In Hebrews 9:28, it is written, “. . . Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” Which then brings us to the Omega, the end. John writes: “And he who sat upon the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new. . . . To the thirsty, I will give water without price from the fountain of the water of life. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.’” (Revelation 21:5-7). That is God’s promise to us. He is the constant. He is always there. He is with us during our lifetimes and through the end of time. He is, indeed, the Alpha and the Omega.

Monthly Updates

October Attendance

October 4	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>65</u>
	<u>10:30 am</u>	<u>65</u>
October 11	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>45</u>
	<u>10:30 am</u>	<u>60</u>
October 18	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>44</u>
	<u>10:30 am</u>	<u>110</u>
October 25	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>44</u>
	<u>10:30 am</u>	<u>65</u>

General Fund Gifts - September

1/12 th of annual budget = \$ 13,814.75	
September 5	1,594.50
September 13	1,873.85
September 20	2,727.00
September 27	2,252.50
<i>Simply Giving</i>	<u>2,278.00</u>
September \$ 10,725.85	
August \$ 11,716.30	

“Building Fund Gifts ” - September

Monthly mortgage payment - \$3,422.55	
September 5	\$ 585.00
September 13	225.00
September 20	635.00
September 27	310.00
<i>Simply Giving</i>	<u>790.00</u>
September \$ 2,545.00	
August \$ 2,195.00	

At this time we have payments made through October. Next payment due 11/23/09. Another payment will be made with the proceeds from the Christian Banquet.

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]

A Cookie Bake

The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a Cookie Bake on Thursday, December 3 at 9:00A.M. At this time , anyone interested in baking cookies for our college students is invited to the church for a day of baking. You may bring cookies dough already made to bake or bring a recipe and we will mix it up at the church. Flour, sugar and shortening will be provided. Lets show our college students that members of Immanuel Lutheran are thinking about them. It should be a fun day of baking and fellowship. If there are any questions, please contact Jane Kruse at 653-2614 or email ajkruse@iowatelecom.net .

Chrismons

I am planning on making the Chrismons ornaments for the gift bags given to the Sunday School Kids the night of the Christmas program, which is Dec. 6th this year. Anyone who wants to help, come to Pam Keyworth's - 1100 North 8th Ave., 653-3014 on Saturday, November 7th from 2:00 to 5:00. You can come for the whole time or just drop by for however much time you can spend. If you have a favorite pair of scissors you could bring that would be helpful, everything else will be provided.

November 25

Community wide Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at the United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. November 25. Bring a canned food item for HACAP.

BOOK CLUB

Don't forget that this month the Book Club will be reviewing - *The Rope Walk* by Carrie Brown November 11 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Dodici Coffee Shop. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Council Members for 2009: Sarah Hernandez (Ed/Youth) 653-3038 - Kathy Dea [Sec.] (Ed/Youth) 653-6097 Kate Glinsmann (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

Worship Leaders

NOVEMBER 2009	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Communion Assistant	Communion Setup/Cleanup	Acolyte
Sun Nov 8 8:00 am	Ray & Alta Poe	Kristin Jones Family	Mary Gail Lyons			Maggie Baker
10:30 am	Richard & Carolyn Schmidt	Brian Lueck John Harris Peg Harris	Julie Hill			Elaney England
Sun Nov 15 8:00 am	Cynthia Fischer Family	Tom Tanner Jim Gallagher Gary Fischer	Kyle Fischer	Kristin Jones Lee Buchholz Deidra & Maggie Baker	John & Peg Harris	Marty Baker
10:30 am	Kristen Lucas Family	Mark Kendall Dave Steele Richard Schmidt	Lynette Sievers	Ann Bennett Larry & Sara Bartlett Linda Six	John & Peg Harris	Grant Hill
Sun Nov 22 8:00 am	Jim Gallagher	Deidra Baker Maggie Baker Marty Baker	Deidra Baker			Kyle Fischer
10:30 am	Diane Morgan Corrine Martin	Ken Erickson Dale Venzke Jim Sievers	Peg Harris			Fletcher Green
Sun Nov 29 8:00 am 1st Sunday of Advent	Maggie Roth	Bill & Kathy Ebert Pastor Al Kruse	Bill Ebert	Maggie Baker B&K Ebert Deb Shepherd	Kruse/ Hagensick	Jenny Seubert
10:30 am	Cyndi Kindred	Ryan Hall Family	Mary Chmelar	Jason Rausch Brian Lueck John & Peg Harris	Kruse/ Hagensick	Jacob Green
Sun Dec 6 8:00 am	Lee & Lois Buchholz	Deb Shepherd Phyllis & Duane Hagensick	Gary Fischer	T&MG Lyons B & K Ebert	Kruse/ Hagensick	Marty Baker
10:30 am	Tom Zoulek Family	Yaro & Mary Chmelar Larry Bartlett	Sara Bartlett	J&L Sievers Y&M Chmelar	Kruse/ Hagensick	Ashley Rausch

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.

Retreat for Women

“Pray for Those Who Can’t Sit Still” will explore various kinds of prayer. It will have a focus on preparing for Advent through prayer. The retreat will be Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in West Liberty. The leaders are 3 women ministers: Rev. Lisa Dietrich, Rev. Donnita Moeller and Rev. Lynn Thiede. They have led retreats before, so you know you will have a great experience. The cost is \$15 with reservations needing to be in by the Sunday before, the 15th. Come to this “Gal’s Morning Out” and be refreshed. We are very fortunate to have an excellent retreat so near. Judy Venzke is going and would take a carload.

College Student Addresses

The Evangelism committee needs the addresses of our college students. We are going to be sending them cookies and need addresses for this project. Please either leave them at the church office or email them to luthwash@hotmail.com. We would like the addresses by December 1 as we are planning to make, bake and send cookies to our college students. Thanks you for your help with this project.

LUTHER LEAGUE REPORT NOVEMBER 2009

Well, another month has come and gone and we have been real busy. We have had 3 Kinnick Cleanups since we last spoke and so far the weather has held up very nice. I just hope that it holds for two more times. It is always good when it is not windy, rainy, or snowing.

Just a few notes for the upcoming month. We will be selling wall calendars, pocket calendars, and note pads after church services on weekends that we do not have Kinnick. They are \$6.00 for the wall and pocket calendars, and \$3.00 for the note pads. This money will go towards our purchase of new t-shirts for our group.

Also, we are planning a trip to Des Moines on Jan 8-10 for the Junior High Youth Quake. I need a commitment from those that want to go. The cost will be \$124.00 per kid and I will need to turn their money in soon. So, if you want to go and I have not received your money, please let me know. It is a real blast. During the month of October, we had a hay rack ride and roast out at Yaro and Mary's and had a blast. The night was a little cold, but it was very clear and we could see God's glory in the moon and stars. It was a great time. Thanks a bunch Yaro and Mary. We also took the kids to the Frightmare Forest in Cedar Rapids. Not too scary but a lot of fun.

Our upcoming events for November include a High School meet on November 8 which will include a pizza party and noodle hockey. On November 22, we will have a Junior High meet where we will be going on a scavenger hunt. Don't forget to bring your cameras.

We will be meeting three times in December and as always will have lots of fun.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our meeting and keep up the good work.

You guys rock!!!!

Thanks to Tom Lyons for all he does and thanks to Rich, Deidra, Steve, Pam, and Shirley for all you help as well. We all could not do this without you.

I want to thank our special driver Ryan Hall who at the last minute jumps in and helps us. We really appreciate it.

That's what is going on with your youth. They are truly God's gift.

Until next time.

God Bless.

Jason and Monique Rausch

Updated Luther League Schedule

November 8	Kinnick Cleanup Meet at Church 7:00am High School Meet at 6:30 pm Pizza Party and Noodle Hockey
November 22	Kinnick Cleanup Meet at Church 7:00 am Junior High Meet 6:30 pm Scavenger Hunt
December 6	Luther League Bake Sale High School Meet 6:00 pm Road Rally Bring Cameras
December 13	Junior High Meet 6:00 pm Road Rally Bring Cameras
December 20	All Meet Christmas Party Bring Silly Gift \$5.00 or less Meet at 6:00 pm for Pizza

Be sure to check out the LWR Fair Trade Craft Bazaar that is taking place at Immanuel on Sunday mornings. Items purchased make it possible for crafters to support their families. There are catalogues from which to order items as well.

Items sent off for Luther World Relief in Cedar Rapids on October 17 were as follows: 122 Quilts, 169 Health Kits, 340 School Kits 10 Sewing Kits and 62 Layette's Good Job H.O.P.E. Group!

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ.

I have just returned from the Fall meeting of the Conference of Bishops. After several days of conversations with leaders from throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, there are a few things I want to share with you.

Responses to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly decisions relating to ministry policies are both mixed and passionate. But whether people are disappointed or surprised, hopeful or angry, there are signs of this church's resilience even in the face of significant challenges.

The assembly actions to provide for rostering gay and lesbian individuals in same-gender relationships call for policies that reflect an awareness that we have entered into a time where there is no consensus on this issue. As bishops, we spent much of our time together talking through the complexities of the work ahead and working toward greater clarity. Among us there are strong and faithful voices reflecting the varied positions within the ELCA. All of our discussions reflected a shared commitment to the well being of this church and to one another. We took seriously the commitment "to bear one another's burdens." It was a model of how I hope we can speak together throughout the Southeastern Iowa Synod about any matters that may involve disagreement.

While the ELCA Church Council is responsible for approving ministry policy changes, it is clear that synodical bishops must provide critically important input for shaping those policies. Bishops representing each of the nine regions of the ELCA serve as liaisons to the Church Council, and will work both within the Conference of Bishops and with the Church Council on these matters. I serve as chair of that group of liaison bishops and I participate in regular conference calls in the weeks between meetings. It should be noted that because of the determination to develop policies that are both clear and faithful to the actions of the assembly, it is likely that the work will not be completed by the conclusion of the November meeting of the Church Council. (I will be returning from that Church Council meeting the evening before the Bishop's Day of Renewal. I will use some time at that event to update participants.)

We are learning from our ecumenical partners that the 2009 Churchwide Assembly actions will lead to deeper conversations between us, rather than to further separation. We are grateful that relationships with all of our full communion partners remain strong. And communications received while we were meeting indicate that in spite of their deep disappointment, neither the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod or the Roman Catholic Church have concluded that this will cause them to leave our ongoing church to church conversations. At a worship service celebrating the tenth anniversary of the "Joint Declaration on Justification," Archbishop Gregory, representing the US Conference of Catholic Bishops quoted Martin Luther in his homily when reminding us that it is not our actions, agreements, or disagreements that justify us, rather it is the very grace of God.

We remain hopeful that congregations who take issue with the decisions related to human sexuality will not use this opportunity to withhold mission support. Even when acting out of a Biblically shaped conviction about the propriety of this new openness, expressing dissatisfaction financially only hampers this church's ability to carry out the mission we have received from God. My hope and desire is that if a congregation begins exploring this sort of response or if discussions begin concerning the possibility of separating from the ELCA that I will be invited into those conversations. Under those kinds of circumstances, my responsibility is to help people of faith accomplish what they seek to do with clarity of purpose and an understanding of the implications of the action.

In light of all of the challenges that we face in our own local settings, in the synod and throughout this church, I came away from this meeting of the Conference of Bishops weary but more hopeful. The ELCA is a church still determined to move forward, trusting that we have been gathered together by the Holy Spirit to carry out God's own mission. And ours is a synod grounded in what binds us together, namely the regular gathering around the means of grace - the Word, Jesus Christ, proclaimed, and the Sacraments.

This is a time in our life together that calls for our best leadership together. I remain deeply grateful for the privilege to serve as bishop among you. And keenly aware of our frailties, I continue to thank God for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

Peace to you always... and grace,

Rev. Michael L. Burk, Ph.D.
Bishop

BIRTHDAYS

1 Pam Green
1 Chad Ellis
3 Cody Soper
5 Alita Stark
5 Clark Venzke
6 Lucas Ellis
6 A J Lewis
6 Kelsey Sievers
7 Lynette Sievers
8 Tamara Virizi
9 Teresa Todd
9 Lynne Zoulek
10 Elaney England
12 Sharon Boner
13 Jessica Dennis
13 Ted Kruse
14 Alan Olson
14 Johnathan Griffin
14 Kimberly Goodwin
16 Steve Vetter
16 Karl Bennett
16 Allison Rebling
18 Donna Satterfield
18 Robert Seubert
20 Ann Bennett
20 Jeff Talbot
21 Luca Kroll
22 Richard Humston
22 Jordan Flory
23 Emily Conway
23 Francis Johnston
24 Heather Uitermarkt
26 Ryan Uitermarkt
27 Shari Bond
28 Lauren Mueller
29 Holly Mueller
30 Vickie Gonterman
30 Kathy Evans

ANNIVERSARIES

1 Janette & Peter Edwards
2 Jill & Matthew Newhouse
5 Alan & Vicki Rebling
6 Ashley Cory & Reed Fisher
10 Peg & John Harris
10 Rose & John Simmering
12 Charlane & Tom Tanner
20 Sandy & Don McAvoy
21 Darrell & Linda Boettcher
22 Brandon & Amy Statler