

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

1226 East Washington Washington, IA 319-653-3950

February, 2010

Sunday Worship

**8:00AM
& 10:30 AM**

**Sunday School at
9:15 AM**

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

**Ash Wednesday
February 17
Soup Supper 5:30
Worship 6:15
Every Wed.
during Lent**

**50th Anniversary
Celebration
September 19, 2010**

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Beginning The Season of Lent by Peter J. Weller

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance, for reflection and taking stock. It originated in very early Church history as a preparatory time for Easter. By observing the forty days of Lent, Christians imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. And, the season invites them to re-examine their life and relationship to and with God.

The Psalm for Ash Wednesday is the 51st Psalm, in which King David confesses his sins to God. David was called and anointed by Samuel to be King of Israel while Saul was yet the king. Several times, Saul attempted to kill David. After battle on Mt. Gilboa during the ongoing wars with the Philistines, Saul and his three sons were killed, and David became the undisputed King of Israel.

Despite his brilliant reign and many accomplishments, David's personal life was filled with problems. Although he already had two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, he took a fancy to Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. He managed to get Bathsheba pregnant and then sent Uriah into battle where he was killed. David then married Bathsheba.

When confronted by Nathan the prophet regarding his affair with Bathsheba, David admitted his sin. While the first child of David and Bathsheba died, a second child born to them was named Solomon.

And then, David's son, Amnon, raped his half-sister, Tamar. Another son, Absalom, who was Tamar's brother, then killed Amnon. Later, David's son, Absalom, led a rebellion against him. The rebellion was crushed and Absalom was killed. Toward the end of David's life, his eldest son, Adonijah, attempted to take the throne twice, and was ultimately put to death. David had already chosen Solomon to be king.

Very probably, David wrote Psalm 51 following his confrontation with Nathan. It is the most eloquent confession of sin to be found anywhere in the Bible. David writes, "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment."

Furthermore, David has the faith that God will listen and grant forgiveness to him. He continues, "You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. . . . Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

"Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit."

Like David, we, too, acknowledge that sin is real, that it is within each of us. We confess our sins to God with the assurance that they are forgiven, through the gift of God's son, Jesus Christ, who was offered once for all time as a sacrifice for the sins of all. This is what David certainly hoped for, and asked God for. God loved David and called him a man after His own heart (1 Sam 13:14)—because David was humble, and like Jesus, he depended upon the Lord to lead him.

Monthly Updates

January Attendance

January 3	8:00 am	48
	10:30 am	60
January 10	8:00 am	45
	10:30 am	90
January 17	8:00 am	54
	10:30 am	74
January 24	8:00 am	65
	10:30 am	69
January 31	8:00 am	72
	10:30 am	92

General Fund Gifts - December

1/12 th of annual budget =	\$ 13,814.75
December 6	2,155.00
December 13	1,351.00
December 20	1,635.50
December 24,25,27	3,607.00
<i>Simply Giving</i>	2,503.00
November \$	11,251.50
November \$	12,804.60

“Building Fund Gifts” - December

Monthly mortgage payment -	\$3,422.55
December 6	725.00
December 13	385.00
December 20	565.00
December 24,25,27	440.00
<i>Simply Giving</i>	790.00
December \$	2,905.00
November \$	2,630.00

At this time we have payments made through February. Next payment due 3/23/10.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is March 6 at 2 pm in the Washington Mennonite Church. All are invited for this one hour service that was written by the women of Cameroon. The theme is "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God". Immanuel Lutheran is one of 7 community churches involved in the program each year. If you have any materials about Cameroon, please contact Judy Venzke.

Thrivent Fraternal

There are a few changes in the volunteer part of Thrivent this year. The Care in Congregations section is on hold until summer. That would be the committee of Mike Jewell, Oscar Hernandez, and Dale Venzke. The \$1200 available for us to spend for projects within our church is not available. The Care Abounds in Communities continues, but with a little less money. The Henry-Washington chapter will have \$6585 to help individuals or organizations in need. We have already voted to supplement \$600 on Kids Against Hunger in a work project at Swedesburg and \$500 to supplement Alissa Jewell with her garage and bake sale and soup supper to earn money for a mission trip to Kenya. Your representatives on this board are Ray Poe, Janette Edwards, Dorothy Grim, and Judy Venzke.

Great Lake Region

Featuring Michigan & Upper Peninsula
Photo Artistry XX
By Nancy Rash & Lyle Moen
Feb 1-Mar 1
Helen Wilson Gallery
Washington Free Public Library

BOOK CLUB- February 10

Don't forget that this month the Book Club will be reviewing - The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold February 10 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Dodici Coffee Shop. Everyone is welcome to attend! There are extra copies of the book available to borrow, contact Linda Venzke at 461-3657.

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]

Council Members for 2010: Ed Burdock (Ed/Youth) 653-2495 - Kathy Dea (Ed/Youth) 653-6097 Kate Glinsmann (Ed/Youth) 653-7314 - Marty Westen (W/E) 653-6021 - Linda Six (W/E) 657-3411 - 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 - Gary Fischer (Stew/Fin) 653-2098 -Mark Kendall((Stew/Fin) -653-6561

Wandering Worshipers

Tom & Charlane Tanner
December 24, 27, 31, 2009

January 3, 2010
Grace Lutheran Church
Clarksville, TN

Yaro & Mary Chmelar
January 17, 2010
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Beloit, WI

Jane Kruse
January 24

First Lutheran Church
[Pastor Al is the interim there thru March]
Keokuk, IA

Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out will plan on meeting
February 16 6:00 p.m. at the Applewood Bistro
At Halcyon House Washington.
No reservations needed!

Father/Son Pancake Supper

February 16—6:00PM Shrove Tuesday
Calling all father's and their sons or "adopt" a son for the evening and bring them to the pancake supper at Immanuel. There all kind of treats in store for the evening (Ice Cream Sundays too)!!! Please talk to Pastor Steve if you are interested in helping.

Two Bingo dates in Feb: Thursday, Feb 4 at 7 PM at the Washington Care Center and Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7 PM at McCreedy Home. Only a one hour commitment each night. Come and make a difference in the lives of our local nursing home residents. Contact Lynette Sievers if you can help, or if you have questions 653-6945.



CHILD VOICE INTERNATIONAL

Our collection of loose dollars is in full swing. There are envelopes in the pews at church for the collection of loose monies to try and buy a pickup truck for Child Voice use. It is our goal to collect as much as possible by the time of our Church's 50th celebration next September 19.

As of January 31 we have collected \$4,301.20. This total also includes money from people working at Hawkeye concessions. If you are interested in helping with concessions contact Lynette Sievers 653-6945.

Thanks to everyone that has contributed. This will change the lives of several people for the better.

H.O.P.E (LWR projects)

Our craft/Christmas project to help farmers and craftsmen in low income areas of the world was successful for them and for us. The profit that went into our H.O.P.E. fund was \$350.

Health Kits and Layettes are desperately needed in Haiti. There will be a collection point at the church. Bring as many items as you feel you can buy or donate money and H.O.P.E. volunteers will purchase what is needed to finish a kit. On February 16th 9:30 a.m. all women and men who are free are welcome to come and put the kits together for shipping. Below are the items needed. Please follow exactly what is said. For instance, the toothbrush must be in its original wrapping. It can't be part of a package of two or three. The comb must be wide toothed and sturdy.

Health Kits- 1 hand towel and 1 washcloth (dark colors recommended), 1 bath-sized, large bar of soap (4 to 5 oz.) in its original wrapping, 1 adult-sized toothbrush in its original wrapping, 1 sturdy, wide-toothed comb unwrapped, 1 metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, 6 band aid's 1/2 to 3/4 inches secured with a rubber band.

Layettes (clothing sizes may go up to 24 months)- 2 light-weight cotton shirts or onesies, 2 long-sleeved or short sleeved gowns or sleepers with or without feet, 2 receiving blankets (med-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn), 4 cloth or "t-shirt" diapers, 1 sweater or sweat shirt, 2 full sized washcloths, 1 large bar of gentle soap (4-5 oz) in its original wrapping, 2 diaper pins.

UPDATE FROM BOBBI SCHMIDT
OUR LOCALLY SPONSORED MISSIONARY

Hello, all. Sorry for the lack of updates the last two months, it's really gone by in a whirlwind! I left Mozambique on a high, having finished a successful week of Kids Club. It was a great week celebrating God's love for us!

Then I flew home for Christmas. My parents decided to treat me and my sister and her family to a trip to Disney World! So no sooner had I landed back in Iowa when we took off again for Orlando! We had a great time; then flew back to Iowa on Christmas day.

Around this same time, I got an email about an opportunity to serve with an organization called Emoyeni, in Badplaas, Mpumalanga, South Africa. It's a small town about three hours east of Johannesburg. They needed someone to stay with 5 orphan kids whose foster father has brain cancer. They are uncertain what will happen with the father and whether they will be able to go back to them once the medical crisis is over. So they are exploring long term options. The director of Emoyeni, USA wanted to meet with me before I left, so I made a last minute trip out to Cape Cod to meet with him and his family (it's his step father that has brain cancer!). It was great to meet them face to face and get more info on the kids I'd be living with and the situation in general.

So I arrived back in South Africa on Jan 14th and stayed the night in Joburg, then headed out the next day to Badplaas. I am staying on a farm with another family, who they hope will serve as the new foster parents, if the present parents are unable to continue care. They also have 2 kids. The 5 kids I am staying with are ages 10-15, 2 boys (twins) and 3 girls. Four of the kids are biological siblings; then the other girl has older siblings who have already gone out on their own. I have only been here a week now, so we are all still working on getting settled and getting to know each other. Please pray that we will form a nice bond and that they will feel properly supported and loved in this difficult time for them. With their foster father being ill, it is like they are losing parents all over again; and the future is rather uncertain. But we know that God is in control and he will provide all our needs, physical, emotional and spiritual.

I will try to post some picture some time to facebook for those of you who are plugged in to that, though I'm not sure how much internet access I will have. Its very beautiful here, we are on the side of a mountain, so the views are spectacular! At the moment, the plan is that I will be here until sometime in April. I will try to keep you posted regularly.

Thanks for all your love, support and prayers, Bobbi

Hi church family! I'm Joseph Lyons, son of Tom and Mary Gail, and a member of Immanuel Lutheran that headed off to college in 2006 at Northwestern in Illinois. This spring break I'm headed on a mission trip with my Evanston congregation to Cuba. We're staying with the First Presbyterian Church of Havana with the goals of learning about the political, social, economic and religious aspects of life there through fellowship with our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ.

We'll be engaging with many missions of the church while we're there, one of which is supplying those in need with medicine. Because of the economic situation on the island, many over-the-counter medicines we take for granted are unavailable in stores. First Pres asked us to bring some with us. I'm going to try to pack light and bring some in my bag, but I thought we might come together as a church to really help them out. I know things are tight here at home, but I was thinking if everyone brought one medicinal item, we'd easily fill a suitcase.

What medicines are needed in Cuba that we may donate to the church? Simple over the counter drugs are in short supply in Cuba. The church regularly gives away Ibuprofen, Cephalexin (antibiotic), Immodium, Vitamins (Centrum), Children's vitamins, Vitamin C, Vitamin E for women, Vaginal cream (Monostat), Antibiotic ointment, Benedryl, Hemorrhoid ointment. Please check expiration dates: no expired medicines.

Also, baggage fees on airlines have increased a lot. Because of the economic embargo, we have to take a domestic flight to Miami and then a charter flight from there to Havana. Both legs of the journey charge \$20 for the bag and then the charter flight charges \$1 per pound. If anyone would prefer to donate money towards baggage fees, that would also really help out. So would a light and cheap suitcase that I could just leave there to save paying for the bag on the way back.

¡Ya se te ha declarado lo que es bueno!
Ya se te ha dicho lo que de ti espera el Señor:
Practicar la justicia,
amar la misericordia,
y humillarte ante tu Dios.

You have been told, O man,
What is good, and what the LORD requires of you:
We are called to act with justice...
We are called to love tenderly...
We are called to serve one another...
And to walk humbly with God...

Micah 6:8

For All Members and Friends of Immanuel Lutheran Church

A Celebration of the

Golden Anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Save the date: **September 19, 2010**

One year from now we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Immanuel Lutheran Church. To celebrate this occasion there will be a very special Sunday Morning Worship Service with our Bishop in attendance. A meal and fellowship will follow. Please circle the date on your calendar.

During these past 50 years we have focused on growing our church. All expectations have been exceeded. We have grown from a gathering of less than 30 families to a congregation that exceeds 150 families. Our church building began with two rooms, a Sanctuary and an All-purpose Room. "All-purpose" was not an exaggeration. It served as a Sunday-School parlor/kitchen/fellowship hall/sew room/and meeting room. This simple church building has grown to the wonderful facility we have today.

Now it is time to continue celebrating growth and prosperity in our Christian Community by REACHING OUT beyond our borders. The focus of this special day will be on Child Voice International in Uganda. A child soldier and his mentor from Child Voice spoke of their need for support from our congregation in July. (Remember the two men who left Ragbrai and came to Immanuel to talk and worship with us?) Our Church Council believes that we can provide them with a sorely-needed, used Toyota pickup truck. Won't you climb on board and help this dream come true?

Look for more details in your monthly Newsletters and church bulletins.

Yaro & Mary Chmelar, Co-chairmen

Alissa Jewell is currently preparing for a mission trip through the 410 Bridge organization to Kwambekenya, Kenya in March. She will be joining a team of 22 people from Prairie Lakes Church in Cedar Falls, IA, to work alongside the community members in the village for 10 days. Their work could include: working on the land, in the medical facility, and/or in the schools. Since the start of the mission trips, this village has improved immensely. The churches are fuller and people are caring for one another and are working together. Education is also improving, with twice the number of students qualifying for secondary school in 2009 than in the previous year. The medical facility was opened to provide healthcare for community members, and leaders in the community are showing great signs of growth and maturity in their leadership. In order to go on this trip, Alissa needs your continued help. Alissa needs your prayer support for her and the Kenya team. Please pray for their health, safety, travels, the Kwambekenya village, and for their fundraising efforts. Alissa truly appreciates the help you have all given her with private donations and with the garage sale/bake sale. You all are helping make this trip possible! Contact her at alissa.jewell@gmail.com or call her at 319.653.4775 for more information or to make a donation. Thank you!

Luther League Report

Well, here we are again with a New Year starting. Between the cold, snow, ice, etc... we have found some time as a group to do a few things. We have been very busy on all fronts but it is nice when we all can settle down and spend some time praising God.

We ended last year with our annual Christmas Road Rally and Christmas gag gift party. For the Road Rally, we break the kids into groups with an adult driver, give them a list of items that they need to find, and send them out with a camera to take the pictures. The teams get points for every item they find and the team with the most points wins. They have 30 minutes to run all over town to get these pictures. The group has to be in the picture as well. Once every team gets back to the church, we upload the pictures on my computer and then the teams judge each other's finds. As you can imagine its gets very loud and very competitive. The items that they all look for are things like largest presents, an inflatable Santa, the group eating Christmas cookies, and things like that. It is always a lot of fun and the kids really enjoy themselves.

The gag gift party is even better. We have the kids buy a gift for \$5.00 or less and bring it to the party. We draw names to determine the order of the opening and then the fun begins. The person that opens a gift gets to chose whether or not they want to keep the present or trade it for one of the other presents that has been opened. It keeps going until all of the presents have been opened. So, you can see that it is not good to be first, but it is great to be last. Some of the gifts we have seen have been things like stink bait, plastic shoes, whoopee cushions, Barbie doll accessories, etc... The best gift this year was a yard gnome which I think Maggie Baker ended up taking home. That will look good in your yard Rich!

Once, we came back from the break, we took the Junior High group to the Youth Quake in Des Moines. We had 16 kids and 6 adults go along. This is a weekend that is all about praising God kid style. It started at 8:00 pm on Friday January 8 and ended at 11:00 am on Sunday January 10. As you can imagine, it is non-stop fun and celebration. We do not get much sleep and I have come to realize that the older I get, the longer it takes to catch up on sleep.

We had a great time though. The guest speaker was Dan Scharnhorst who has got to be the best story teller that I have ever heard. His stories were so funny, but always had a great message about Jesus. The kids really liked him. He even came to our Family time on Friday night. The music entertainment was Swen and Dean. These two brothers are from Minnesota and can sing any song. They are wild and crazy and very funny. They have been to the Quake before and it was good to see them again. They also joined us during our family time.

We also had some old friends come with us as well. Well, they are not old in age, but are veterans to the whole youth group thing. Alissa Jewell and Ryan Morrison met us up in Des Moines and hung out with us all weekend. It was really good to see them and to hear their stories of international travel and mission work. They both are going to Africa soon and they told us about what they will be experiencing when they get there. Our group will be supporting their efforts financially and through prayer. We were very blessed to have them come once again and spend time with our group.

Every year Youth Encounter has group that they support through donations ad offering and this year it was Compassion International. This group asks for people to sponsor a child in need from all over the world. We decided as a group that we would like to sponsor a child. We pledge so much a month and this child gets the things they need to get through school, stay healthy, and have better living conditions. Our child's name is Nakato Proscovia and she is from Uganda. She lives with her grandma and has 3 other siblings. Her parents are not in the picture and she really needs our help. We get to write her letters and see how she is progressing. The kids were very excited to do this and we pray that if it is in your heart to sponsor a child that you do what you can. There are a lot of kids out there that need our help.

Well, that is about it for now. As always I want to thank God for all he has done in our lives. He is there with us all every step of the way. I also would like to thank all of those that support our youth. We could not do this without you. Most of all, thank you for allowing your kids to spend time with us. It is truly rewarding.

Until next time, may we Do justly, Love mercy, and Walk humbly with our God. Micah 6:8

Jason and Monique Rausch

Luther League Dates: Feb 7 H.S. Meet @ Rausch's 4:00 PM

Feb 14 All meet @ Church Valentine's Day Fun 6:30 PM

March 7 Jr. High Meet @ Church 6:30 PM March 14 High School Zone Meeting @ Church 6:30PM

To kick off the Lenten Season:

Shrove Tuesday—**February 16** at 6:00 PM

Father/Son or “adopt” a Son or Father

Mardi Gras Theme

Pancake Supper at Immanuel

Please come and enjoy Ice Cream Sunday’s as well!

Ash Wednesday—Lent begins

February 17

Soup Supper at 5:30 PM

Building/Grounds/Fellowship will be providing supper the first night

with proceeds to the carpet/tile fund

Worship 6:15 PM with Communion

7:00 PM Confirmation/Catechism

7:00 PM Adult Choir

Soup Suppers and worship will continue on the following Wednesday nights:

February 24, March 3,10,17,24

Each Group will be raising money for a special cause

Kids Against Hunger

will be one of our special focuses during Lent

Upcoming Dates:

Palm Sunday—Confirmation, **March 28** –Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday, **April 1**—Worship 6:30 PM

Good Friday, **April 2**—Worship 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday, **April 4**

Sunrise Service 7:00 AM

Luther League Breakfast 8:15 –10:00

Worship 10:30 AM

Birthday & Anniversaries for February

BIRTHDAYS

2 Nancy Rash
3 Lee Buchholz
5 Jolene Parriott
5 Jeanette Wagner
6 Mark Bradley
6 Vi Kruse
6 Judy Sells
7 Catrina Sells
8 Brad Buchholz
8 Elsbeth Reinert
8 Louie Sells
8 Ryan Zehr
11 Fletcher Green
11 Jacob Green
11 Evelyn Witthoft
14 Vickie Cox
14 Marcus Ancell
16 Sam Shepherd
17 Barb Bartholomew
17 Ajay Erickson
20 Jack Moore
20 Sean Soper
21 Ruth Jones
21 Rhonda Moore
22 Monique Rausch
23 Justin Dennis
23 Matthew Rueckert
24 Tiffany Evans
25 Dakota Flory
25 Aden Six
25 Avery Six
25 Ajay Six

ANNIVERSARIES

12 Don & Yvonne Buster
14 Mark & Jeanna Bradley
15 Mark & Christy Rueckert
15 Brian & Carrie Lueck
16 Ron & Bonnie Boshart
16 Nancy Rash & Lyle Moen