



# Immanuel Lutheran Church & Preschool

## A Year in Review 2017 (January-October)

### “Know, Follow, and Share Christ”

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8*  
**2017 Theme Verse**

#### Current Immanuel Staff:

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Gerald Kapanka
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Donald Illian
Preschool Director/PK Teacher	Sharon Limback
Preschool Associate	Cindy Grim
Preschool Associate	Thelma Meyerhoff
Preschool Secretary	Deb Newton
Parish Administrator	Melissa Lynch
Budget Director	Cheryl Lauer
Youth Director	Colby Reinking
Education Director/PK Teacher	Jackie Illian
Tech Director	Jon Illian
Music Director	Ashley Ehrich
Custodian	Diane Daman
Organists:	Linda Gomez
	Sharon Limback
	Karen Weber

#### Current Board of Directors:

Myron Piehl	President
Lois Bonefas	Vice President
Linda Mahncke	Secretary
Ron Kelderman	At Large
Kris Kleiner	At Large
Rod Kobliska	At Large
Pete Natvig	At Large
*Scott Dunbar	Treasurer

\*Pastor Kapanka  
 \*Sharon Limback  
 \*Melissa Lynch

\*denotes ex officio

#### Current Deacons:

Josh Schrum	Chairman
Gene Boevers	
Kendall Daniels	
Justin Downs	
Joe Faust	
Jason Heinz	
Doug Kaune	
Martin Kunz	
JT Reisdorph	
John Schrum	
Bob White	



#### Valley Lutheran School Delegates:

Anne Dawson  
 Jody Dunbar  
 Warren Hartman  
 Pete Natvig  
 Dave Schoepske

#### Alternates:

Lisa Brandau  
 Bob Camarata  
 Joanne Hartman  
 Angie Meron  
 Marcy Trower



#### From Our Senior Pastor:

It is hard to believe that 2017 is coming to a close. The older I get the faster time flies. This past year has Immanuel has seen a rebirth of sorts in our interest and involvement with missions. In January of this year, we hosted the Perspectives in World Missions Bible Study. 21 members from our congregation attended every Monday for 15 weeks. Being a part of Perspectives, has re-awaken our passion for bringing the saving knowledge of Christ to unreached peoples all over the world. At the completion of Perspectives, the 21 Immanuel participants continued to meet and formed the Immanuel Missions Group. It is their desire to bring to the congregation a better understanding of the need, offer missions information, and encourage support for our missions endeavors here at the church.

I want to thank the Endowment committee for offering \$100 scholarships to participants in Perspectives. They have once again offered \$100 to anyone who is interested in taking Perspectives this winter. Registration has now begun, and classes start in January.

Our staff expanded this summer with the addition of Ashley Erich as the music director. Ashley has an abundance of energy and has overseen the rebirth of the praise team, adult choir, hand bells and children’s chimes. These groups are enhancing our worship with weekly participation.

2017 will be remembered as the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. At Immanuel we celebrated this occasion in several ways. In the Spring our Staff studied the book “Being

Lutheran” in our weekly devotions. It was so well received the we wanted to offer the entire congregation the same experience. So, this fall we started multiple bible studies using the same book. A sermon series following the book was also begun. More than 75 individuals and couples are reading and studying “Being Lutheran.”

In addition to the Bible study and sermon series, we have weekly installments of the Faces of the Reformation. These short biographies help us to get to know the names and contributions of those who worked along with and in some instances against Martin Luther. We also have begun our “500’s” of the Reformation. This is a monthly congregation challenge to participate in a challenge for the benefit our community. We began with a 500 mile walk challenge, followed by collecting 500 can goods for the needy. This month we are asking for 500 children’s books and next month we will be seeking 500 hats and mittens for those less fortunate. Thank you to all who have participated.

This year we held our first Oktoberfest. Much planning and work went into making this a tremendous success. Nearly 200 people braved the cold raining weather to join in the food fellowship and fun. Nearly 50 of those were not members of our church. It is my hope and prayer that we can make this an annual event.

This past year a new member class was offered three times, in the winter, summer and fall. A total of 14 adults attended and eventually joined the congregation. We joyfully welcome them into Immanuel’s family. A total of 43 new members were added to the church this year and 13 members left the congregation. We also transferred to the church triumphant 12 members of our family. And we joined together three couples in holy matrimony.

Altogether, I would say that 2017 has been a very busy and productive year. But more importantly, than all the activities have been the consistent and constant reception of God’s Word through our regular worship. Each week we can gather and receive God as He comes to us in word and Sacrament. Nothing we do is more important or more beneficial than what God does for us.

Pastor Kapanka

## 2017 Church Statistics

Baptisms:	10 (1 adult/9 children)
Confirmations:	12 (9 adults/3 children)
Transfers In:	16 (13 adults/3 children)
Profession of Faith	9 (5 adults/4 children)
Transfers Out:	7 (6 adults/1 child)
Release:	6 adults
Deaths:	12
Weddings:	3

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 262  
(Does not include Palm Sunday or Easter)

## From our Visitation Pastor:

### 2017 Senior Ministry and Shut-ins

Our Lord has powerfully enabled me to continue our ministry to our Senior Citizens and Shut-ins.

On Nov. 1, 2002, fifteen years ago, I was invited to begin calling on our Shut-ins with Word and Sacrament ministry. As of Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, we had 72 individuals and couples on my shut-in list. Eleven of those are still able to worship regularly, but I keep an eye on them to make sure I do not detect a sudden change in their worship habits. In which case, they are contacted to see if they would like me to bring them communion in their homes. Eleven others are still at home, but are unable to make it to church, thus, as much as possible, I bring them the Word of God in their home every month. Rose Davis and I also coordinate the delivery of worship discs to their homes every week, if they want them. We also have sixteen Elder Care Facilities (nursing homes, etc.) that are responsible for the physical care of one or more of our members. As much as possible I visit each of them monthly to share the Word and serve the Body and Blood of our Lord. Whenever I find LCMS members of other congregations, and they are receptive to our ministry, I contact their home pastors for permission to minister to them. At the present time, I am seeing eleven from surrounding congregations.

Pastor Illian

## Worship Celebrations:

**Lent:** During the six weeks of Lent, we focused on the Ten Commandments and pondered the depth of Christ’s sacrifice for us as He placed Himself under the curse of the Law. Despised and rejected by the leaders of His own people, Jesus willingly went to the cross so that we may be accepted into His Father’s family.

**Fall:** This fall, Pastor has used the book *Being Lutheran:*

*Living in the Faith You Have*

*Received* as the basis for a sermon

series. Some of the topics have

included: Lukewarm, Lazy, Pastel,

Ordinary, and Unresolved. We are

reminded that when it comes

down to it, being Lutheran is

about following Jesus. We have incorporated the 500<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of the Reformation and the Synod’s theme of

*It’s Still All About Jesus* into our worship services and

activities... Faces of the Reformation, bios on 23 men and

women passionate about the Reformation re-discovery of

the Gospel—either for *or* against it, Reformation memes

imbedded in our pre-service slides, bulletin blurbs in our

Weekly News, and our “500” challenges.



**Special Door Offerings:** Christmas Food Baskets, Lutheran Hour Ministries, Wiens family (missionaries); the Gideons, Pastor Appreciation

## Bible Study Celebrations:

**Sunday Morning:** Pastor Kapanka leads this Bible study. This year he concluded an in-depth study of the book of Revelation and began a study of the Large Catechism



**Small Groups:** There were several small groups that met regularly throughout the year. In the spring, Pastor & Kathy Illian led an adult group following the lessons from the *Dig In* program. The Tuesday Women's Group concluded their study on *The Sermon on the Mount* and began a study of the book of *Nehemiah*. Folks at the Village Coop studied *A Man Named Martin*. The staff concluded its study of various *Psalms*, worked through *Dog & Cat Theology*, and began studying the book of *Romans*. This fall, 70+ in small groups studied the book *Being Lutheran* as part of our Reformation 500 Celebration.

## From Our Board of Directors:

The board met monthly with the exception of June. We received regular reports from Melissa Lynch (Parish Administrator), Pastor Kapanka and Colby Reinking (Youth). We rejoiced in some things that happened at Immanuel this past year -- DVD ministry for shut-ins, New Ambassador program, New organ replacement, Hosted Perspectives program with many Immanuel members attending, New flooring in gathering room, Directional signs on Greenhill Rd., Successful Oktoberfest, 500 Year Reformation Anniversary celebration, Successful VBS, Church picnic and "Being Lutheran" Bible Study.

We again reviewed demographic reports by Carol White. We recommended that Immanuel try to reach out to a 2-3 mile radius of church to enhance our image in attempts to gain growth and continue to be service orientated to the neighborhood and community. Some things being done are new web site, text in church, paper communication, You Tube recording of sermon, Facebook page and car window stickers. We reviewed board policies, did a board self-review and a senior pastor review. We also reviewed the church facility use policy and the emergency plan.

Ashley Ehrich was hired as the new music director and Jackie Illian was hired as preschool teacher for 3-year olds. An extra payment of almost \$150,000 was applied to the building principal loan. Any extra funds that are received each month are also being applied to the building loan principal. While we celebrated our giving to the Building

Fund, we realized that the giving to the General Fund needed to improve. Board members addressed this issue to members of the congregation with a letter.

God is continuing to bless us at Immanuel. We are thankful we can serve HIM and keep focusing on our mission to "Know, Follow, and Share Christ".

Linda Mahncke, Board Secretary

## FYI: Our Biblical Core Values

**The Bible is true:** We believe and proclaim the Bible as the truth of God and as the sole source and authority of our faith and life. We strive to preserve this truth to the next generations.

**Worship:** We value worship as a community and in our personal lives.

**Family:** The family unit is the foundation for marriage, love, nurture, mentoring, security and Christian education.

**Education:** We support a strong and vibrant Christian educational ministry that reaches out to believers and unbelievers and helps to develop followers of Christ.

**Fellowship:** We are a church family, who values time and activities spent together.

**Service:** We strive to love and serve God and our neighbor, as Christ serves and loves us.

## Family Celebrations:

**Super Bowl Party:** Football fans & friends enjoyed family fellowship, snacks, and the Super Bowl game between the Patriots and Falcons on our big screen tv's in February.

**Family Game Night:** In March, game lovers gathered to compete in various family-friendly games and enjoy some fellowship.

**Church Picnic:** The Welcome Committee provided the main course for this potluck picnic following services on August 27. This was an opportunity to fellowship with our church family and new friends and visitors. We had a great turnout!

## Congregation-Wide Projects:

**Country View Joy Tree:** Members of Immanuel provided Christmas gifts for 30 Country View residents.

**Reformation 500 Challenges:** During this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we challenged the congregation to walk 500 miles in September. (We walked over three times that!) In October, we donated 500+ cans (707 lbs!) to the NE IA Food Bank for distribution to the needy. In November, we are collecting 500 children's books for distribution through Orphan Grain Train. In December, we will collect 500 hats and mittens.



**Food Bank:** The first Thursday of each month the Immanuel staff and other congregation members packed weekend food bags for school children, food bags for seniors, and sorted/repackaged various food stuffs such as apples, potatoes, noodles, and crackers.

## From Our Board of Deacons:

It's been great to see so many new members, visitors and returning members. It's also great to see so many children in church. And we are excited to get behind and get the ball rolling on our new take on Confirmation.

Josh Schrum, Deacon Chair

## From Our Technology Director:

It has been such an honor to serve as the Technology Director here at Immanuel Lutheran and I am thankful to have such an opportunity. I continue to ensure that the services are entered and running on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday as well. I am still generating two versions of the worship services, as we adjust the Wednesday evening service to reflect modified version of the Sunday morning service.

If there is a technology need, I am tasked to work the problem until it is solved, or I work with outside technology partners to ensure the needs are corrected. I ask the congregation to continue to let me know if there are things needed in the area of technology, as I am always willing to add my knowledge to help problem solve situations as they arise.

I continue to work with volunteers in two main Technology Assistant positions, both as Presentation Assistants and Video Recording Assistants. We continue to work to cross-train as many people as possible, as we want to maintain a satisfactory pool of volunteers to serve on any given Sunday or Wednesday.

The main assistant schedule is planned two months in advance, so our volunteers can plan their schedules accordingly. We continue to enlist volunteers to serve in this capacity and we are looking to beef up our ranks with fresh blood. We are currently looking for any members, from students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade on up, to help us run the services. All you need to do is be able to do is have the capacity to push a button and you're all set! It's not much more than that. Please consider helping to serve the congregation in this capacity. New training sessions are scheduled on a quarterly basis and I can always train someone on the spot, if the training session doesn't fit your schedule.

The "Text In Church" program, which was implemented on Sunday, November 20, 2016, has gone very well. This program is designed to help visitors feel a direct communicational connection to Immanuel Lutheran and

helps keep our congregational members in the loop regarding coming events and important information.

In addition, our Sunday services are posted on a regular basis on the congregation's YouTube site. This site will act as a storage medium that can be accessed by anyone with web access. This makes it possible for loved ones who are out of the area on business, military deployment, or even college students who are out of the area while at college.

Finally, I have begun collecting bids for a new recording system, which will allow us to get higher definition recordings of our services and special events. In addition, this new system would allow live streaming to our website and/or our social media sites. This is in the very basic, preliminary stages and once I receive more information, I will put this information forward. The reason I am pursuing this is due to interest from several members in the congregation who have expressed an interest in contributing funds toward this technology upgrade. I will work to get a proposal ready in the coming months, along with cost information so that people will be able to contribute to something tangible. More information will be shared soon.

I would like to express my deep thanks for allowing me to serve Immanuel Lutheran in this capacity and I look forward to continuing to serve the work the Lord puts before me at Immanuel.

Respectfully submitted, Jonathan Illian

## Caring Celebrations:

Our Caring Ministry is open to all Immanuel members. These are just some of their activities you could get involved with:

- ♥ Christmas food baskets for those in need
- ♥ Partners in Prayer Ministry
- ♥ DVD Deliveries to shut-ins

**Love, INC:** Our partnership with Love INC includes financial support and participation in one of their GAP Ministries -- gas cards. We distribute

up to four gas cards a month. Love INC sets up the appointments through their Clearinghouse. Clients come here to Immanuel at a specified time between 10:00 and 11:00am on Wednesdays, meet with one of our members and receive their gas card. Kathy Diehl is our Church Ministry Coordinator and attends Love, INC Board of Director meetings. (Volunteers are always needed to distribute these cards!)



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

**GriefShare** is part of a national Christ-centered grief recovery support group. This 13-week program met here for the first time over the winter/spring and is meeting this fall

for another 13-week session. Lois Bonefas leads this program here at Immanuel. The meetings are open to anyone dealing with the death of a family member or friend, whether the loss is recent, or years ago.

## From Our Preschool Director:

**Immanuel Preschool JOYS that we have seen...  
In the year of our Lord - 2017!**



**“Jesus Christ is the same  
yesterday and today  
and forever.”  
Hebrews 13:8**

**Staff:** In August we added a part-time teacher for the 3-year-old class, Jackie Illian. Her assistant is Cindy Grim. Sharon Limback continues to teach the 2 groups of 4-year-old classes and serves as the director of the preschool. Thelma Meyerhoff is her assistant. Deb Newton is our secretary. Together this preschool staff has 129 years of experience.

**Families:** We have connected with 38 families of 3 and 4-year-old children in our classes. Of those 38 families **24** are new to our school! Statistics sent to the synodical office: 13% are members & 87% are non-members; 3 are members of other LCMS churches and 1 another Lutheran church; 19 are members of other denominations and 10 are unchurched.

**Family Activities:** \*Family Game Night \*4's Quilt Project \* Butterfly project for Easter \*3's last day family picnic \*4's Closing Program at Valley Lutheran \*Home Visits before school began \*Family meeting before school began \*Family Pizza Party in Sept. \*4's Family Thanksgiving Play & Pie \*4's will share the Christmas story with family & friends in December.

**Special Days for Families:** Mom's Day - 4's moms visited Valley Lutheran School while children visited the kindergarten classroom before Mom's Day activities in our classroom. Dad's Day, Grandparents' Day for the 4's; Parent/Teacher Conferences in February & October; camping & fishing at George Wyth State Park

**Community Involvement:** 4's visited- the Grout Museum & Planetarium, a dentist, Hartman Reserve, Heartland Acres farm, George Wyth State Park, Walnut Court & The Rose 3 times, the fire station (we donated food to the firefighters). We donated food to the Police Dept. during National Lutheran Schools Week, and fed the crew that worked on replacing the floor in the church; We also made and delivered ROCK invitations to the neighborhood during National Lutheran Schools Week. Pastors McHone, Brokenshire, Wegener, Kane, Mennet, Illian & Kapanka led

chapel for us during the year, also Barb Gregersen from Grace Lutheran, and Jackie & Jon Illian.

**Chapel Offering Projects:** school supplies, Feed the 5,000, clothing and stuffed animals for Orphan Grain Train; \$443.82 in chapel offerings to be used by Orphan Grain Train for shipping items around the world; and a special offering of \$570.11 went to Lutheran Schools in Houston, TX following the hurricane

**Congregation Involvement & Projects:** \*Children sang at 5 worship services during the year \*through the different product donations slips the congregation helped us raise over \$600 in extra income \*Tom Newton & Ron Pries helped with our camping and fishing trip! Diane Daman, we thank you for cleaning our room and the church!

**2017 is almost gone, but the JOYS IN JESUS  
Go on...and on...and on!**

Sharon Limback, Director

**Preschool 3 class:** I began teaching the preschool three-year-old class this fall. I currently have nine children in my care from 8:30 – 11:00 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. For many of the children, this is their first experience with formalized education or even the first time in an educational setting. The most important thing that they hear every day is how much Jesus loves them and cares for them. During our time together, we also work on basic things like learning the alphabet, colors, shapes, and numbers. Sharing, taking turns, and verbalizing skills are also a big part of the teaching process at this level. It is a joy to watch them grow. I always welcome visitors and would love to have you stop by and see us.

Jackie Illian

## From Our Education Director:

It has been a busy complete first year for me as the education director. Some of my duties include, but are not limited to, the educational programs of the church. Each Sunday, we have educational opportunities in the form of Sunday School and Bible Study. Pastor leads a Bible study each week. The study of Revelations has finished, and we are now into the Large Catechism. Sunday School classes are working through the Old Testament, starting with Genesis. The 6-8 grade class is working in the New Testament to support the confirmation class. On the average there are 31 students participating in the Sunday School classes.

Last fall, we began a Wednesday night program called “Dig In.” The attendance the first year was minimal and we even considered not having a program this year. We have since changed that plan and now are serving on average 14 students in our program. We learn Bible stories, sing songs,

play games, and do crafts. The students are building friendships and enjoying the time that they spend with one another as we continue to share the Word of Christ with them.

**Vacation Bible School** this year was different from the last few years as we hosted VBS by ourselves. We advertised our program to the surrounding neighborhood with flyers, banners, and on Facebook. The efforts of promoting our program were successful, as new faces



showed up for the week. The support from the congregation was a great help as we planned, prepared, and carried out the program. Volunteers are one of the most important aspects in the carrying out the plans and I just want to thank everyone that helped in any

way. The registered numbers of students were 64, with an average daily attendance of 45.

**Cradle Roll:** Cards were sent to children ages 1-3 during the month of their Baptism birthdays.

Jackie Illian

## From Our Youth Director:

**Mission:** To engage in faithful fellowship, demonstrate valuable service, and bear witness to the love and grace of God to each other, our congregation, and our community.

### Bible Studies

We have resumed our regular bible studies with the starting of the school year. Participation at weekly bible studies has gotten more consistent as the fall has gone on. We typically have 6-8 members attending which seemed to have taken a while to get back into the routine of things because earlier in the fall it was not uncommon to have only 4-5. One thing that I am beginning to see this year that we had not seen much of in the past is that youth are bringing friends to youth group. I think they are becoming more comfortable with the idea as they see others doing it. At the beginning of the year, each student was also given a prayer journal which I have encouraged them to journal in and also bring to youth group. At the end of our bible studies we have been taking time to write in our prayer journals and pray about the topics of the night.

In addition to meeting at church each Sunday night, we have also done our last meeting of each month at Martha and my house where we have had campfires and played games. As I'm sure you have seen during 8:30 worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month we are continuing to do youth-serve Sundays. The youth participate in the worship service by greeting the congregation, assisting with ushering duties, and reading the messages from scripture. These may take a hiatus during the holiday season since they fall either on or very near holiday services.

### Car Show & Events

This year's third annual Immanuel Lutheran Youth car show was a very big success. We saw an increase of approximately 15 cars from 46 and 42 in years previous to at least 66 cars this year. The fundraiser brought in approximately \$1,600 which was an increase from last year. In October the youth also helped canvas our surrounding neighborhood with flyers for the Octoberfest event that the congregation put on. We also did a Halloween event by going to the Haunted Hayride at Eagle Lake that is put on annually by the Waterhawks ski team. This is an event that we had done in the past, but it has been 3 or 4 years.

### Fall Upcoming

In November, we plan to once again participate in Operation Christmas Child. This is something that we have done each year and the youth really seem to enjoy it. We pack and wrap shoeboxes full of toys, Christian items, and general hygiene items based on an age and gender of a child and drop them off at our area location. The shoe boxes are then sent off to third world countries to children who would otherwise not likely receive Christmas gifts.

### Looking Ahead

In preparation for the National Youth Gathering coming up in the summer of 2019, I am planning to have an informational meeting during the month of January. I would like to give youth and their families plenty of time to determine if their youth will be attending the NYG 2019 gathering in Minneapolis, MN. This is where a lot of the initial information will be given, such as a rough travel plan, and a timeline to commit and register. I plan to require a deposit due during the summer of 2018 of \$100 to have a financial commitment from each student. If possible with fundraising this would be refunded but that is not a guarantee.

### Service

This is one of the challenges that I face each year is to find opportunities for accessible, affordable, and meaningful service for the youth to engage in. Especially those that are open and available for all youth ages freshmen through seniors. We have done the Operation Christmas Child each year, some yard work projects, but I would like to find others that may be even more impactful. If anyone hears of opportunities for the youth to serve our community or other neighboring or distant communities I would welcome the suggestions.

### Events anticipated for Spring

- Initial NYG Meeting
- College Hill Retreat
- Valentines Dinner (Fundraiser)
- March Activity
- May Fundraiser

Colby Reinking

## Women's Celebrations:

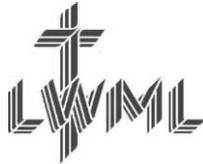
**Advent by Candlelight:** This was the fourth year for Advent by Candlelight and the first at Immanuel. We co-host this event with Grace Lutheran. We had 26 tables this year with 140 women in attendance. The theme was "Heartstrings of Advent." The Johnson Strings provided musical entertainment. A Love offering was taken for Alternatives Pregnancy Center. We had a great group of men who served the tables.

Barb Buescher

### Women Build: Habitat for Humanity

On June 2, a team of six women and three men from Immanuel participated in a Habitat Build at a home on Western Ave. in Waterloo.

**Dorcas:** It's been a busy but exciting year for the Immanuel Lutheran LWML Dorcas Society. We have had several Quarterly Bible Studies; had a guest speaker from Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity; assembled flowers for Immanuel shut-ins; raised \$147 from our Mother's Day Flower Fundraiser; sent a Young Women's Rep, Rachel Wegener, to the National LWML Convention in Albuquerque, NM; enjoyed a Barn Happy outing; raised \$317.88 at a Pizza Ranch fundraiser; organized a Zone Prayer Service at Immanuel; celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LWML; had a wonderful progressive dinner; spent many hours cleaning Valley Lutheran School; packed 9 health kits, assembled 25 school kits, and tied 17 quilts all of which were delivered to Orphan Grain Train to distribute to needy all over the world; we welcomed three new members; and we look forward to Christmas caroling at local nursing homes this December. We continue to invite all women of Immanuel to join our society!



Jen Determan

**Chick Flick:** Immanuel women met bi-monthly at the home of Laverne Kelderman for food, fellowship, movie, and discussion. This year we watched *Joyful Noise*, *Sully*, *Hidden Figures*, *Lion*, *The Grace Card* and most recently *The Resurrection of Gavin Stone*. Lots of new faces attending our gatherings this year. In January, we will watch *All Saints*. Join us!

## Men's Celebrations:

**Men's Work Day:** Warren Hartman gathered men of our congregation to assist Love INC with some projects at client's homes during a work day this spring as part of a National Work Day promoted by Lutheran Hour Ministries.

**Pancake Breakfasts:** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, the men of Immanuel flip pancakes and cook up sausage for the congregation. A free will donation is taken, with the proceeds to benefit mission and ministry. This is a great opportunity to fellowship, while enjoying our men at work!

## Relationship Celebrations:

**Lenten Soup Suppers:** During the six weeks of Lent, members provided soups for Lenten meals. The free will offering went to a member family facing a financial hardship. \$1165 was raised.



**Pastor Illian's 80th:** Between services on July 23, we celebrated Pastor Illian's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and his 15<sup>th</sup> year as our Visitation Pastor. We were fortunate to have two visiting LCMS Pastors, both greatly influenced by Pastor Illian, assist with services that day. We are blessed to have the Illians as part of our church family!

**Glowing Embers:** Kathy and I have more or less fallen into the responsibility for our monthly Glowing Embers dinners. On the first Thursday of every month about 25 to 30 of us (ages 55 or more) gather in "the Bunkhouse" at the Cedar Falls Pizza Ranch. Here we sing, pray, visit, and eat to our hearts delight. Annually, at Christmas, we meet at the Village Coop to celebrate the birth of our Lord with food, games, singing and gift exchange. This year again we will be meeting at the Village Co-op on Dec. 7. If any would like to join us you are welcome, but please call us to make sure we are properly prepared.



Pastor Illian

**Sturgis Falls Days Ticket Sales, ID Validation, Beer Pouring:** Thank you to all who participated in this year's Sturgis Falls fund-raiser. We had 100+ spots to fill again this year! All money raised going toward expenses for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in 2019.

**Oktoberfest:** Despite the rain, 170+ dinners were served at our first Oktoberfest celebration. Over 40 church members volunteered their time and talents to make the event a success. The affair featured a festive décor, an authentic German meal, games like hammerschlagen, folks outfitted in lederhosen, an accordion & tuba player, door prizes, and a DJ playing polka favorites. All working to make the event a Big Success!

**Adult Coloring:** Marilyn Schrum & Val Hanson invited others to join them for some adult coloring and lunch here at the

church once a month. Thank you to Marilyn & Val for organizing this fellowship opportunity!

## Music Celebrations:

**Cantata:** Linda Gomez led members of an Adult Choir in presenting the Christmas cantata, *Joy in This Place*, at both services on December 11.



**Children's Choir:** Our children's choir, for ages K-5, rehearses on Monday evenings and sings for various church services throughout the year. Sharon Limback is the leader.

**New Music Programs:** In June, we were blessed to welcome Ashley Ehrich as our new Music Director. She leads Children's Chimes for ages K-5, Adult Hand Bells, Praise Band and Adult Choir at various times on Wednesday evenings and they perform at worship services throughout the year.

## From Our Music Director:

**Summer Choir** met 3 times in July and sang on July 23rd. There were anywhere from 2-10 participants at practices.

**Praise Band** started practicing in August 2017, 2 guitars, drums, I play keyboard, 5 regular vocalists with at least 2 others singing occasionally. They have 1 or sometimes 2 pieces prepared for either prelude, special music, communion or leading congregational singing and either the 8:30 or 11:00 service.

**Adult Choir** started practice in September and has usually has an average of 10 people singing. They have sung at either the 8:30 and/or 11:00 services at least twice per month. They have prepared special music or music for communion and have helped lead new hymns.

**Adult Handbells** started meeting in September, they played at the 8:30 service on October 22. There are 8-10 participants.

**Kids Chimes** started practicing in September and there are currently 10 children who regularly attend practices. They played for the first time at the 11:00 service on October 22.

Ashley Ehrich

## Building Related:

The following are some of the items related to our building that we dealt with this year:

A frozen sprinkler pipe resulted in repairs in part of the sanctuary, our original Gathering Space floor was replaced with tile, our hail-damaged roof was replaced,



ongoing organ issues (due to a probable lightning strike) resulted in a new organ being installed, window blinds were installed in two classrooms, glare reduction film was applied to the south windows in the sun room, directional signage to the church was added on Greenhill Rd., and we investigated the purchase of additional property for future parking.

In addition to the regular goings on here at Immanuel, our building was used this year for funerals, weddings, birthday celebrations, a farewell gathering, a Red Cross blood drive, Perspectives classes, AEA Speech therapy, Deaf Ministry, and was even the location for scenes shot September 1 by Brothers in Christ Productions for a Bible study video.

We were able to make a significant principal payment, as discussed at our last Annual Meeting, to our building loan and have made several over and above payments to principal this year.

## Building Savings:

## Other Committees:

**Welcome Committee:** Our goal is to welcome visitors with conversation and foster a connection with everyone that walks through our door. We are always looking for folks with a passion for making others feel valued and connected. The Welcome Committee displayed our name tags, distributed informational materials to visitors, and hosted a church picnic in August. They are working on updates to our website and a new church brochure.

**Mission Committee:** January thru May of 2017, 21 Immanuel members attended the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, hosted at Immanuel Lutheran. There were about 50 new students, and with alumni, attendance was 60 to 70 each week. Perspectives featured speakers who were mostly career missionaries who are now stateside for training or administrative purposes. The main points of Perspectives are to show how God has a heart for saving all people, teach the history of mission work, and demonstrate how the unreached can be most effectively reached. We thank the endowment fund for providing \$100 scholarships to Immanuel members.

Following the 15-week Perspectives course, Immanuel members continued to meet and formed a mission committee. The committee is still in development; we have been in contact with mission committees from Nazareth and Trinity Bible for insights to help us organize ourselves.

We are recommending that the congregation adopt two missionary families, the Wiens and the Hansons. The Weins are from the Waterloo area and are focused on the unreached in Thailand. They visited Immanuel in August and Scott Wien spoke between services. A door offering was held for them. The Hansons are lowans going to Hong Kong to teach, witness and lead Bible studies, as well as train leaders in the church.

The mission committee's purpose is to remind the congregation of the need for spreading God's word and to support missionaries. Some of the ways we've been doing this is by performing little skits before church or during the children's message, promoting Perspectives, and supporting missionaries with prayer, financial support and encouragement. Immanuel will again provide \$100 scholarships to members who want to attend the next Perspectives class in January.

**Confirmation Reconsidered:** This group is looking at an overhaul of our confirmation program. They will be making recommendations to the congregation at this year's Annual Meeting.

**Endowment Committee:**

**Perpetual Trust: (9/30/17)**

**Endowment Fund: (10/31/17)**

**Oetting Scholarship Fund:**

**Memorial Fund: (10/31/17)**

## **2017 Financials (Jan-Oct):**

**Church Budget**

**(Actual thru 10/31/17)**

**In all we do and say to God be the glory!**

**(Financial info available in the office.)**