



# Immanuel Lutheran Church & Preschool

## A Year in Review 2019 (January-October)

### “Know, Follow, and Share Christ”

2018-2019 Theme Verse: *“I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” Acts 13:47*

#### Current Immanuel Staff:

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Gerald Kapanka
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Donald Illian
Preschool Director/PK Teacher	Jackie Illian
Preschool Teacher/Conf Coord	Anne Dawson
Preschool Associate	Cindy Grim
Preschool Associate	Thelma Meyerhoff
Preschool Secretary	Fran Peters
Parish Administrator	Melissa Lynch
Budget Director	Cheryl Lauer
Youth Director	Colby Reinking
Tech Director	Jon Illian
Custodian	Diane Daman
Organists:	Linda Gomez
	Sharon Limback
	Karen Weber

#### Current Board of Directors:

Kris Kleiner	President
Kevin Culpepper	Vice President
Jessica Bedard	Secretary
Barb Buescher	At Large
Bruce Clark	At Large
Tracy Faust	At Large
Jamie Stien	At Large
*Kim Redinbaugh	Treasurer
*Pastor Kapanka	
*Jackie Illian	
*Melissa Lynch	

\*denotes ex officio

#### Current Deacons:

Josh Schrum	Chairman
Andy Bedard	
Gene Boevers	
Kendall Daniels	
Joe Faust	
Jason Heinz	
Martin Kunz	
Craig Reinking	
JT Reisdorph	
John Schrum	
Adam Volker	
Bob White	



#### Valley Lutheran School Delegates:

Kim Meyer  
Warren Hartman  
Pete Natvig  
Corissa Volker  
Jody Waterbury



#### Alternates:

Nancy Culpepper  
Joanne Hartman  
Heather Rios  
Kelly Rodriguez

#### From Our Senior Pastor:

##### Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:1-5*

As I was pondering back over the past 12 months, the words of Psalm 100 came to mind. My heart is filled with songs of praise for all that God had done. In the category of personal events, I can thank God and sing His praise for two successful surgeries on veins in my legs, training for and completing both a 20-kilometer race and a full marathon; both run with my son. The privilege to travel with some amazing fellow Immanuel saints and friends to England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. Being invited to take part in my ninth National Youth Gathering with exceptional young adults from Immanuel and all over the Synod. And perhaps most significantly, adding a new member to our family, Baily Rose Kerrigan Kapanka, our puppy.

As your Pastor I have been blessed to Serve the Lord with gladness at Immanuel for nearly 20 years. This past year we worshipped together almost 150 times. Each occasion provided for God to come to His people through His Word and/or His sacraments. There have been baptisms, weddings and funerals. All significant events in the life of a congregation and the lives of our family. It was a joy to

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise!” Whether we were welcoming a new child of God into our midst at the font or commending a faithfully departed into the arms of Jesus, we never forgot that “His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.”

This year our emphasis on “Building on the Foundation” is being highlighted by a focus upon personal spiritual growth. We are Learning to Love our Bible in adult Sunday School. We will take up the opportunity to “Know that the Lord is Good,” when we study personal prayer and devotion later in the year.

The flock of Immanuel is thrilled to send Robin Morelock, a “the sheep of His own pasture” to Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea, to support the work of Bible translators. Robin will be assistant manager of the store and manager of the warehouse. God has heard our prayers to raise up a missionary to “Go” from among the sheep of our congregation.

This year also brought our worship and Bible classes into the electronic media age. Through the diligent efforts of our Technology Director Jonathan Illian, we began live streaming our worship services across the internet. On a typical Sunday between 6-12 people, who cannot be with us in person, watch live over their computers or phones. And another 100 plus throughout the week catch a portion or all of the recorded service. I can tell you what an amazing blessing it is firsthand. While in the United Kingdom, our tour was traveling from York, England to Edinburgh, Scotland on the bus at 2:30 in the afternoon and watching live the worship back here in Cedar Falls. Jon also began streaming our Bible class and loading them to the church’s Facebook page. “Give thanks to Him; bless His name!”

I can hardly wait for what the Lord has in store for us in the coming year. After a long wait for approval from the city, hopefully we will be able to put in the additional parking lot. SPARC is continuing to “Establish and foster a lifelong relationship with Christ through developing... A personal, ongoing faith journey, a Lutheran Identity, A heart for Christian service and Mission, A hunger for God’s word, A Passionate and proud faith, and A strong defense for the hope that we have in Christ.” In line with this mission, they are planning a summer trip to Creation Museum and Ark Encounter. Missions committee is putting together a servant week at the Dakota Ranch in North Dakota. As a congregation we will commission Robin Morelock to serve the Kingdom in Ukarumpa. Continuing the theme of Building on the Foundation, our focus shifts to congregational growth with emphasis in Service, Fellowship, and Witness.

Surrounding and supporting all these efforts will be the most important thing we do; gathering for the Divine Service on a weekly basis. It is here that we “Come into His

presence with singing!” We confess, and are absolved, we pray and receive His precious Body and Blood, and we are sent out to witness and serve one another.

“Give thanks to Him; bless His name!”

Pastor Kapanka

### 2019 Church Statistics (through 10/31/19)

Baptism:	3 children
Confirmation:	3 adults
Transfer In:	13 adults & 2 children
Profession of Faith	3 adults
Transfer Out:	6 adults & 8 children
Released:	0
Removed:	44 inactive 5+years
Deaths:	6
Average Weekly Worship Attendance:	262
(Does not include Easter)	

### From our Visitation Pastor:

On November 1, 2019 we began our 18th year of calling on the Shut-ins. Currently we have 71 people on our list; 28 are listed as "attending church," but since many of them have been recently infirmed we give most of them a phone call to make sure our list is up-to-date. Seventeen on the list are not members of Immanuel but have asked to be seen on a regular basis. Those who are members of churches with which we are in fellowship are served communion once I contact their home pastor to make sure it is alright with him. Four are members of churches with which we are not in fellowship, and therefore not communed. Twenty-six are visited in their care facility. Right now, we have services at Mallard Point, North Crest (with individual calls), and the Rose of Waterloo. Beside those three we are also making calls at Bartels Home in Waverly, Bickford Manor, Bridges, Friendship Village, Mallard Point, NewAldya, Pillar (previously known as Country View), Pinnacle Prairie, Ravenwood, Rosewood Estate, Western Home, with its various homes (Prairie Winds, Wind Haven, Elizabeth Martin Center, and Stadard) and Willow Wood at Gladbrook. Nearly all of those in a care facility would love to have more than one call a month, so we have set up a program by which volunteers commit themselves to stopping in frequently to visit.

Pastor Illian

### Worship Celebrations:

**Lent** began with Ash Wednesday and so did our emphasis on Moses’s book called Exodus in a sermon series titled *Let My People Go*. In Exodus, Moses asks Pharaoh to let God’s people go seven times and Pharaoh finally does it! When he does, God’s salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Israel’s

scriptures mention the exodus 125 times! In the book of Exodus, God reveals who He is through His absence and His presence, through His silence and His speech, through His wrath and His mercy, and through His judgment and His amazing grace. In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of Jesus.

**New Paraments:** This year we purchased a beautiful new set of purple paraments for use during Lent, including two frontlets for the altar and a banner (with a matching stole) through a gift in memory of Bud, Louise & Larry Lauer.

**Guest Speaker:** In June, Tim Bickel, POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) Advocate, was our guest speaker. Tim also led our Adult Bible Class between services with an update on God's great work among foreign newcomers and people abroad.

**2019-2020 Theme Kick Off:** Our Theme for the coming year is Foundations of Faith 1. We are constructing the first layer of our foundation on the personal aspects of Word, Prayer, and Worship. On September 15 we began laying our first building block -- The Word during an Adult Bible class called *Learn to Love Your Bible!* Over several weeks, Pastor is sharing 10 tools to assist us in Learning to Love our Bible.

**Special Door Offerings:** Christmas Food Baskets, POBLO, cremation expenses for a member in need, Spring Break Mission Trip, Gideons, Pastor Appreciation

## Bible Study Celebrations:

**Sunday Morning:** Pastor Kapanka leads this Bible study. This year he concluded a an in-depth study of Acts and began a series called *Learn to Love Your Bible!*



In June, Kate Phillips, student at Concordia Ft. Wayne, was a guest speaker during Adult Bible Class. She shared how God has sent her to serve as a deaconess intern in the Dominican Republic and how Immanuel can partner with her in sharing the Gospel there.

**Small Groups:** There were several small groups that met regularly throughout the year. The Tuesday Women's Group concluded their study *All Things New* on 2 Corinthians and moved on to *The Armor of God*. Folks at the Village Coop studied the book of Ezekial. The staff studied the book of John.

## From Our Board of Directors:

Over the past year, the Immanuel Lutheran Board of Directors met on a monthly basis except for December 2019. Pastor Kapanka and Melissa Lynch provided regular reports to update the Board on important issues and current events.

In the first quarter, we welcomed Jason Hayes and Bruce Clark to the Board, and appointed Kris Kleiner to the position of President, Kevin Culpepper to the position of Vice President, and Jessica Bedard to the position of Secretary. The Board also appointed new Endowment Committee members and Deacons. Ideas for the usage/development of the newly purchased land were discussed in January and by March, a Special Voters meeting was held to vote on the proposed Site Plan. The creation of a Staffing Committee was completed as a result of the SMART goal created during the Strategic Planning session held the previous Fall.

During the second quarter, the Site Plan was modified due to the total amount of pledges received and the congregation was notified by the Board of the pledge amount status. The Mission Committee presented a request to the Board asking for monetary support for Immanuel's first missionary, Robin Morelock, who will be heading to Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea in the Spring of 2020 through Wycliffe Bible Translators. This request was referred to the Endowment Committee for further review with a recommendation from the Board of Directors for approval. Discussion was held regarding the upgrade/enhancement of our current communication technology. The Board also approved new Sexual Misconduct, Child Protection, and Sex Offender policies for implementation, and completed a Board Self-review.

The third quarter saw the resignation of Board member Jason Hayes due to his acceptance of a new job in Wisconsin. Jamie Stien was named as his replacement. We also bid farewell to Music Director Ashley Ehrich and her family who moved to Lincoln, NE. A nomination committee was appointed by the Board President and Vice President to seek out members who were willing to be nominees to the ballot for election to the Board of Directors. The Senior Pastor Performance Review was also conducted through Board, Staff, and member surveys.

In October the Board reviewed the results of the Senior Pastor Performance Survey, set the Pastor's salary, reviewed the 2020 budget, and proposed changes to our Constitution & Bylaws, as well as changes to the Endowment Bylaws. Both the Constitution & Bylaws and the Endowment Bylaws to be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting in November.

We rejoice in the many blessings the Lord bestows on Immanuel Lutheran!

Jessica Bedard, 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.

Missions: We proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ locally, nationally, and globally.

## **Church Family Celebrations:**

**Pizza Party:** In January, the Mission Committee hosted a "unique" Pizza Party that focused on the lifestyles of multiple cultural people groups and highlighted participant attitudes. It was a fun learning/dining experience!

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Thanks to member Corissa Volker and other volunteers, Immanuel held it's first Easter Egg Hunt in April for Pk-5<sup>th</sup> graders on the lawn surrounding the church. 70+ children hunted for eggs and learned a bit about the resurrection of our Lord at the same time!

**Goodbye:** In August we said goodbye to Ashley Ehrich, our Music Director. We thanked Ashley for her work with our Children's Chimes, Hand Bells, and Adult Choir. We wished her God's speed as she and her family moved to Lincoln, NE.

## **Congregation-Wide Projects:**

**Trip to Mission Central:** Last November, 20+ members of Immanuel traveled to Mission Central in Mapleton, IA to learn about the mission work of the LCMS.

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

**Prayer Vigil:** As part of our Year in Missions, a 12-hour Prayer Vigil was held in January to focus prayers on the mission field and many of our missionaries.

**Mission Trip:** During spring break, 18 members of Immanuel embarked on a mission trip to New Orleans's Camp Restore.



**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.

## **From Our Technology Director:**

I want to say a quick thank you to everyone who have been watching the Facebook Live broadcasts of our 8:30am services each week! Due to a breakdown of our current camera system, we "let the genie out of the bottle" with our make-shift live streams back in April. Since then, we have been gathering a faithful following of members and visitors who watch from a distance. The viewers include members who go on vacation or have moved away from the area, but in addition, this has turned into a great outreach tool, as people are viewing from across the country and around the world. However, because we have been limited to using my personal iPhone to create the live streams, the sound and picture quality leaves something to be desired...to say the least.

Building upon this idea, we have great news to share! We have purchased a new camera system that will be able to live stream our services and Bible classes, which gives an upgraded HD quality video and audio. This new camera system will address not only the live stream broadcasts, but will also solve our technical issues regarding the creation of the DVDs which we distribute to our shut-ins. We plan on having this new system up and running before the run up to Advent and our Thanksgiving and Christmas festival services. This system will be an answer to the calls from our viewers to "up the game" on our broadcasts. The great quality of the equipment also creates the possibility in the future for more "broadcast quality" breakthroughs, as the system is expandable to accommodate whatever broadcast needs arise in the future. Thank you to everyone for your patience, as we create an upgraded online experience for all!

Respectfully submitted, Jonathan Illian

## **Caring Celebrations:**

Our Caring Ministry is open to all Immanuel members. These are just some of the 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, or if the situation warrants – they can be mailed. Kathy Diehl is our Church Ministry Coordinator and attends Love, INC Board of Director meetings. (Volunteers are always needed to distribute these cards!)

**GriefShare** is part of a national Christ-centered grief recovery support group. This 13-week program, held here in the fall, is led by Lois Bonefas with the help of Deb Staack. (This fall there are six participants.) The meetings are open to anyone dealing with the death of a family member or friend, whether the loss is recent, or years ago.

During the summer of 2019 we also offered grief support when there wasn't a GriefShare session. The meetings were on the first Monday of each of those months. No formal program at those meetings, just a time for fellowship and sharing.

**Dementia Live:** Member Tracy Faust along with Home Care Assistance & NuCara Home Medical hosted Dementia Live here in September. Participants gained a heightened awareness of the challenges faced by those who live with dementia along with valuable tips and tools to improve communication and care

## From Our Preschool Director:

It has been a busy couple of months as the Preschool Director and 4-year-old teacher. The program is well underway with full classes in the morning and afternoon. We have had a camping experience, field trip to the fire station, and hosted our Grandparent's Day. All these experiences were filled with learning about the creation that God has provided.

Daily, the children learn about God through our Jesus Time messages and activities. It is great to see their eyes light up when they have learned something new. Several of the children take the messages to heart. If you ask them about the things that they have learned from the stories, they will be able to share with you the story, even tell you if you are wrong about it!

We are now busy preparing for the upcoming holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our Christmas program will be held on December 16 at 2:00 p.m. and we invite the congregation to attend.

From the director side of things:

Our preschool once again passed and has renewed its DHS license. We have an annual visit from our licenser each



year, but this year was a renewal year in which a more thorough look is taken.

A lot of what is happening is me getting acquainted with the program and Iowa regulations. There are trainings that I need to attend and reading that needs to be done. All of this is so that we can make sure we are doing what is right and in the best interest for the children and families that we serve.

Continue to keep our program in your prayers as we start to enroll for next year in the coming months. Our goal is to continue to grow our program and reach more families with the love of Christ. Stop by and see our classrooms in action anytime.

Jackie Illian

**3-year-old Preschool:** We have 13 three-year-olds in our program this year, and they are a hoot! We've learned a lot about God - from how He made our whole world, to how He led His people out of slavery and told them to build a tent-church to tote around in the wilderness. My favorite was when Mean King Pharaoh (who looked a lot like Mrs. Grim) chased us to the sea, and we got to go through on a dry path! Some of us were concerned when the water splashed back together, and our Pharaoh didn't make it through... thankfully Mrs. Grim was OK! We start every day with prayer; we learn to recognize our names; we learn how to sit still (getting there anyway) and listen; we learn how to share and take turns and be good to our friends; we color and paint, cut and glue, and make beautiful artwork. Sometimes we just play!

Two of our families are Immanuel members. Some of the others attend church elsewhere, but several have no church home. We plant seeds of faith in these little ones and pray that their families are touched by God's love in the process. Do what you can to be welcoming to the families who come when we sing in church; help them feel comfortable and accepted in a place that may feel foreign to them. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Anne Dawson, Teacher

## Education Celebrations:

**Vacation Bible School:** From July 21-25 the church was transformed into outer space for this year's VBS theme *Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World* where kids (PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) explored God's miraculous mission and learned about His plan of salvation from creation to cross. 71 children registered. Average daily attendance was 55. Thank you to Nancy Culpepper and all the great volunteers!



**Sunday School:** This year Sunday School is using a “flexible new curriculum, *Enduring Faith*, that nurtures lifelong disciples of Jesus. As students’ progress through the program, they learn all about their Savior, Jesus Christ, what their Savior means for them, how to defend their faith, and how to teach the faith to others. Lessons spiral to help students go deeper each time they reencounter a Bible passage. Age-appropriate activities build skills to strengthen Bible learning.” 46 students are registered in PK-8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Children’s Christmas Program, *Celebrate the Gifts*, will be performed during late worship on December 15.

Nancy Culpepper is our volunteer Sunday School Coordinator. Thanks to Nancy and all our volunteer teachers and helpers!

**SPARC (Servants Pursuing Authentic Relationships with Christ):** We are planning a trip to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter near Cincinnati. Tentative dates are June 24-27, 2020. We are working to keep costs down to respect budgets and allow all SPARC students to go. Trip activities and funding are geared toward students who are finished with their My First Catechism and communion class. Others are welcome to come along, but our focus will be on these students currently eligible to earn credits for Faith Alive and Christian Retreats. We hope to offer this same trip every three years!

We are on our sixth Faith Alive class since beginning SPARC. Our current class on life issues is being taught by Dr. James Lamb and Keri Smith of Lutheran Family Services, along with Pastor Kapanka. Attendance is usually around 12-18 students. After covering the material together, we have been dividing into middle school and high school discussion groups, which better allows students to discuss the topic at their maturity level. Student feedback has been positive.

Many of our students have been turning in Active Listening notes and service hours. Great job!

Next steps: We are starting to define and plan the mentor and vocation components of the program for our higher-level students.

Anne Dawson, Coordinator

## **From Our Youth Director:**

### **National Youth Gathering – Minneapolis**

This past summer 12 youth, along with Pastor Kapanka, Martha and I attended the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The gathering was a 5-day experience that drew around 25,000 youth participants from around the country and around the globe to the Twin Cities to celebrate, share, and dig deeper into the faith that we confess and live out as brothers and sisters in Christ. The theme for this year’s gathering was “Real. Present. God.” This theme, based on Psalm 46, was the topic of

nightly mass events, and numerous sessions throughout each day which ranged in topic from how Science and Faith intersect, to faithfully witnessing to the LGBT community, to answering hard questions about what we believe, and even a self-proclaimed “Hippie Pastor” who encouraged youth to think for themselves using the truth of God’s word. The next gathering will be in Houston, TX in 2022.

### **Incorporating SPARC**

We continue incorporating Faith Alive topical series into youth group and this year, in cooperation with the SPARC committee, we have experimented with offering the Faith Alive events on Wednesday nights. This happened with the first Faith Alive series and will happen again with one of the two that are planned for the spring semester. This has been largely due to feedback from the youth who felt that youth group was being overshadowed or replaced with Faith Alive events. The consistency and routine of youth group was thrown off a bit by only having 2 or 3 weeks of regular bible study between faith alive events, which the youth are also encouraged to attend. We saw good attendance from the youth at the first series that did run on Wednesdays and will continue to evaluate how to navigate the intersection of SPARC and regular youth bible studies. Topics for upcoming study will include exploring the Old Testament and Revelation.

### **Events and Fundraisers**

Thank you to the congregation who supported Sturgis Falls, which helped to raise \$2,400 this summer. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Car show was another success to kick off the year. This year’s event raised over \$1,000.

In October, the youth took a trip to Bloomsbury Farms for some Festive Fall Fun. The youth were able to explore two different corn mazes, pig races, hayrides through the pumpkin patch, and a haunted house among many other activities. It was a great way to spend a beautiful fall day. Please note that the youth will not be selling Christmas Wreaths as they have done in past years. Upcoming Events: Operation Christmas Child - Nov, Valentines Dinner – Feb, Easter Breakfast – Apr.

### **Youth Account update - \$18,285.05**

I’ve mentioned since starting, that one goal was to build a budget that does more than send the youth to the gathering every 3 years. We have nearly recovered what we spent for this summer’s gathering, and we may be approaching that goal. As such, we hope to be able to have multiple lines in our budget to support sending youth on Mission Trips, purchasing curricular materials, or doing more activities as a group. Last month, for example, many of the youth attended the meeting about the opportunity that the Missions committee is offering to serve the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Thank you for your prayers and continued support of this ministry here at Immanuel.

Sincerely, Colby Reinking

## Women's Celebrations:

**Advent by Candlelight:** December 2018 was the sixth year for Advent by Candlelight. Our theme was *Joyfully Ring His Praises*. We had 17 tables with approximately 120 women in attendance. The Nazareth Lutheran Church Hand Bell Choir was our musical entertainment, with a special performance by our own Children's Chimes. A Love offering was taken for Alternatives Pregnancy Center. Many thanks to the great group of men who served the tables.

### Women Build: Habitat for Humanity

Eleven Immanuel members (10 women and 1 man) participated in the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build on May 15. We worked at 1624 W. 6th Street in Waterloo. Most of the day was spent making frames for the outside walls and placing them upright. In the afternoon, we got to work alongside of the owner of the home. It was a long tiring day, but good fun and fellowship was had by all.



### Dorcas:

- **January** – We had a fundraiser at Pizza Ranch and raised \$306.21 for local missions. At our monthly meeting, Laverne Kelderman lead a Quarterly Bible Study, we signed and addressed Valentine cards for shut-ins, and we disbursed mission funds as follows: \$500 to Valley Lutheran School's Dinner Auction Gala for table sponsor; \$100 to Missionary Wiens; \$100 to Missionary Hansen; \$100 to Robin Morelock for her Missionary trip; \$100 to Country View Care Center for resident's needs; \$100 to Lutheran Home for the Aged, Vinton; \$100 to Camp IO-DIS-E-CA; \$100 to Love, Inc.; \$100 to House of Hope; and \$100 to Northeast Iowa Food Bank.
- **February** - We met at the Village Coop, played Hearts/Dice, exchanged Secret Sister gifts, and invited other ladies of the congregation to join us.
- **March** – Joanne Hartman lead us in a Quarterly Bible Study at our monthly meeting. We also attended the Waterloo Zone LWML Prayer Service, and then tied 11 quilts for Valley Lutheran School High School Seniors.
- **April** – Dorcas hosted the Waterloo Zone Rally on April 6, 2019, at Valley Lutheran School. Our guest speaker was Dr. Tom Strub who spoke about his dental mission trips to Mexico. On April 11, Dorcas held a special presentation at Immanuel with guest speaker, Heather Rios, who spoke on human trafficking in the Cedar Valley.
- **May** – We had our May Breakfast at Laverne Kelderman's home where we assembled flowers for

Immanuel shut-ins. We also had a Mother's Day Flower fundraiser and raised \$155.

- **June** – Sharon Limback lead a Quarterly Bible Study and we assembled eight fabric kits for Lutheran World Relief.
  - **July** -- We took a road trip to Shellsburg, IA, to Villa Comagena where Inge Schminke shared her personal experiences in Austria at the time of WWII. Many members of Immanuel joined us. Dorcas ladies also prepared and served dinner one evening during VBS.
  - **August** -- Margaret McCombs lead our Quarterly Bible Study at our monthly meeting and we assembled 36 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. A couple of Dorcas ladies also helped clean Valley Lutheran School for the new school year. Dorcas members also served dinner and cake at the Bellmer's wedding on August 24, 2019.
  - **September** – We enjoyed guest speakers from World's Window-Fair Trade here at Immanuel and were able to purchase handcrafted items made by artisans in Third World countries who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. On September 28 we attended the Waterloo Zone LWML Fall Rally and heard about our LCMS Campus ministries for UNI and U of Iowa students with Rev. John Wegener and Rev. Max Mons.
  - **October** – LWML Sunday was on October 6 where Dorcas members helped with both services. On October 24 we had a progressive dinner where all women from the church were invited.
  - **November** - We will assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief and address Christmas cards for our shut-ins and those in the military
  - In **December** we plan on Christmas caroling at local nursing homes and care facilities.
- Throughout the year Dorcas ladies help with funeral lunches at Immanuel and we continuously save our mites for worldwide missions.



Jennifer Determan, Co-President

**Chick Flick:** Immanuel women and friends met bi-monthly at the home of Laverne Kelderman for food, fellowship, movie, and discussion. This year they watched *Unbroken*, *Unbroken: Path to Redemption*, *Unconditional*, *In-Lawfully Yours*, *Breakthrough*, and *The Miracle Season*. The next flick will be *Overcomer* on January 6.

## Men's Celebrations:

**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! More men are always needed – speak to Jeff Dawson if you can assist! Some recent contributions went to help St. Paul Lutheran of Iowa City U of I Campus ministry. The student group will be taking a mission trip to Ethiopia in 2020. In December, the Mission Committee will assist with cooking and serving with proceeds to support Robin Morelock.

## Relationship Celebrations:

**Lenten Soup Suppers:** During the six weeks of Lent, members provided soups for Lenten meals. The free will offering went to assist with expenses for a spring mission trip to New Orleans and the two missionary families we help support. \$1,222 was raised.



**Glowing Embers:** 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. In June, for a change of pace, we went to the Crossroads Perkins Restaurant, and it went rather well. Our usual routine is to sing, share devotions, pray, visit, get up to speed on health conditions on various members, and eat to our hearts delight. This year on December 5 we plan to celebrate the birth of our Lord with food, games, singing, bingo and gift exchange at the Crossroads Perkins Restaurant.



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 during the annual July celebration! All money raised going toward expenses for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering held in July 2019.

**Oktoberfest Fall German Dinner:** On Saturday, October 26 116 attenders enjoyed festive music, played a few games of bingo and hammerschlagen, and most definitely enjoyed an authentic German meal prepared by LeeAnn Kleiner and the Kleiner family. Adults had the choice of German Goulash with Spatzel Noodles or Chicken and Noodles and Green Beans or Bratwurst with Sauerkraut and German Potato Salad. Dessert was slice of Black Forest Cake or Apple Strudel. Thanks to our great volunteers who made sure the event went smoothly.



## Music Celebrations:

There were five musical groups that met regularly during the first half of 2019; Adult Choir, Praise Band, Adult Handbells, Kid’s Praise Choir, and Children’s Chimes. (With Mrs. Ehrich’s move, several of these have been put on hold pending her replacement.)



Adult Hand Bells and Children’s Chimes played at several services this past spring, Chimes also made an appearance at last December’s Advent by Candlelight. Thanks to a generous gift from an Immanuel member, we were able to purchase new chimes!

Our Kid’s Praise Choir rehearses on Monday evenings and sings for various church services throughout the year. Sharon Limback is the leader.

In 2018, the Adult Choir prepared for a brand-new Christmas Cantata *Sing Christmas*, which was performed on December 9. Choir also sang at many services this past spring. This December, Linda Gomez will lead a choir favorite cantata *Joy in This Place*.

Praise Band is currently playing at both services on the second Sunday of each month as well as alternate services on the last Sunday of the month, under the direction of Praise Band member Dave Koehler. Practices are Wednesday’s at 6:30pm.

## Building Related:

Fencing was put in around the air conditioning units outside. This was at the direction of DHS as a safety feature. Expense for this was shared by the church and preschool (using Ide Estate funds).



A special voter’s meeting was held in March to approve plans for the development of the land to our east. A one-year pledge drive began in May to raise funds for additional parking. Pledges made totaled \$158,953. This was not enough to do the entire lot as planned, but we intend on moving ahead with half the proposed spaces, as well as the necessary water detention areas. We are currently waiting on approval of an easement and consolidation of our parcels of land into one plat, which are being required of us by the City of Cedar Falls. We are praying for a spring build.

In addition to the regular goings on here at Immanuel, our building was used this year for funerals, weddings, birthday celebrations, graduation open houses, a Red Cross blood drive, Central Rivers Speech therapy, LCMS Deaf Ministry, a Dementia workshop, and St. Louis Seminary appointments.

### **Building Savings:**

Info available in the church office.

## **Other Committees:**

### **Mission Committee:**

The purpose of the mission committee is to educate and engage the congregation to support the work of Christian missionaries that His glory may be known among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples. (Ps 96:3)

The congregation had been supporting two missionary families: The Hansons and the Wiens. Support includes, not only financial support, but also prayers and encouragement. For this next year we will double the financial support for the Wiens, transferring the Hanson money to them. An important element for engaging the congregation is that they meet missionaries. The following have been introduced to the congregation this past year:

Tim Bickel, PABLO

Sarah Rich, Cambodia

Scot and Ivy Wiens, Thailand

Kate Phillips, Dominican Republic

Linda Medhus, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Rick Jones, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Mary Ho, All Nations

Joel and Tina Weber, Papua New Guinea

Last year's church theme was Reaching the Unreached. Pastor Kapanka first prepped the congregation by preaching on the book of Acts, which tells how the early Christian church spread the Gospel to the unreached. Each month from September to May, there was a mission activity. Additionally, each month one of the mission committee members gave the children's message during a Sunday service and introduced an unreached people group for us to pray for. The small group book study was Xplore, a workbook that shows us ways we can support spreading the gospel. The most notable of the monthly activities were:

Mission Central visit, 21 attended

Mission trip to New Orleans, 18 attended

Senders U, 26 attended, some from Fort Dodge

Last year, two more Immanuel members attended Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. 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.

It has been in Immanuel's prayers to raise up someone from our congregation for missionary service. Robin Morelock is preparing to go to Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe, to work at the Ukarumpa compound. There are about 100 linguists and 400 family and supporting

personnel on the compound. Robin will be managing the general store. We thank the endowment committee for the financial support they've provided.

This year's focus will be The Year of the Robin—sending Robin well. We will again hold monthly activities to engage the congregation and continue with the monthly Minute for Missions.

We are planning two mission trips: Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in summer 2020 and Dominican Republic early in 2021.

Bob White

### **Endowment Committee:**

The Committee is in process of consolidating all funds that make up the Endowment funds with Thrivent for investment purposes. An attorney is also reviewing the by-laws of the various funds to ensure actions taken by the Committee are not in conflict with these documents. We are waiting for the attorney to complete his review before proceeding with the final consolidation of funds with Thrivent.

Deb Oltmann, Endowment Treasurer

Financial information available from the church office.

## **2019 Financials (Jan-Oct 31):**

### **Church Budget (Actual thru 10/31/19)**

**Available from the church office.**

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

### **For Your Calendar:**

*Surviving the Holidays* Nov 25 5:30pm

Thanksgiving Eve Service 5:30pm

Decorate the Church Dec 1 noon

Advent Midweek – *Arise and Shine* Dec 4,11,18 5:30pm

Glowing Embers @ Crossroads Perkins Dec 5 11:30am

Advent by Candlelight – *Travel to the Manger* Dec 7 4-6pm

Cantata – *Joy in This Place* Dec 8 both services

Mission Committee Bake Sale Dec 15

Sunday School program – *Celebrate the Gifts* Dec 15 11am

Preschool Program Dec 15 2pm

Christmas Eve Services 5:30 and 11pm

Christmas Day Service 9am

New Year's Eve Service 5:30pm

Ethnic Potluck in support of Robin Jan 12 noon

Sunday School Movie Day Jan 18