

Immanuel Lutheran CHURCH

"God with Us" - Ceresco, NE

Visit our website



January 2018 Newsletter

"Who Owns All Our Stuff?" Thoughts from Pastor Scott



It's funny how, as a kid, most of us didn't start out having a lot of "stuff". We had some games, books and clothes but could probably could have fit all our "stuff" into a car.

Almost 40 years ago, my wife Carla and I started our lives together. I remember loading an open 8 foot U-Haul trailer with my dresser, bed frame and mattress, some boxes of clothes, pots and pans, and clothing to move into our first apartment. Funny thing is, though, that each time we moved, we needed a bigger U-Haul truck to move our "stuff". When we moved to Lincoln from Minnesota, we needed the biggest U-Haul truck they have PLUS a 12 foot trailer hooked on the back AND our two cars stuffed with our "stuff".

But, we reach a season in our life when we often ask "What am I going to do with all my stuff?" I asked that question five years ago when we decided to downsize to a house half as large as what we used to live in. It was amazing how much "stuff" we had accumulated – things we had to maintain, keep clean, and store away. Although it was difficult for me to give away some of those things it was a freeing experience... spending less time having to take care of my "stuff" and letting others use it instead.

In January, we'll be looking at our "stuff" – the things we have, the time God gives us, and the passions God gives us as we ask the question, "Who owns our stuff?". It's all a gift from God to us and as we start 2018, it's a good time for us to remember that it belongs to God and He wants us to make the most of it.

God is with us... Pastor Scott

January 10th (Wednesday) Special Church Meeting 7:00 pm



An informal meeting with Bishop Maas of the Nebraska Synod, ELGA, will be held January 10th as Immanuel Lutheran Church prepares to leave the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and only be affiliated with the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ). This is part of the process as Immanuel moves from its relationship with the ELCA. All members of Immanuel are encouraged to attend this meeting :or dialogue with Bishop Maas and thank him for the relationship we have had with the ELCA over the past years. Please be sure to mark this meeting on your calendar and plan to attend. There is NO Confirmation class this evening.

January 21st (Sunday) Congregational Annual Meeting

After Worship

Plan to stay after worship on January 21st for our church's annual meeting. Pastor Scott will reflect back on our past year and the year ahead, plus we'll be approving the 2018 church budget, selecting delegates to attend upcoming regional and national church assemblies, and discussing other important items related to our faith family. All confirmed members are eligible to vote at this meeting and are encouraged to attend.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 4th (Sunday) Special Congregational Meeting

After Worship

On Sunday, October 22nd, 2017 Immanuel voted to leave the ELCA and remain as an LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) congregation. Following protocol, a second meeting needs to be held to bring the issue before the congregation again and vote to confirm whether or not Immanuel's membership wishes to leave the ELCA. As was the October 22nd meeting, this will be a short meeting to only discuss and vote on this issue. All Confirmed members are urged to attend this important meeting.



100th Anniversary
Immanuel Lutheran
God With Us - Yesterday, Today, Forever

Let's celebrate Immanuel's history

Ninety-nine years ago, in 1919, a group of Swedish Lutherans from Grace Lutheran Church began Immanuel Lutheran Church in Ceresco. God has been doing many things in the lives of people and through the life of our congregation and we would like to celebrate those milestones.

If you are interested in being a part of Immanuel's Centennial Task Force or help in some way, please contact Jane Otto (cellphone: 402.525.2223). This is a great opportunity for us to remember the faithfulness of generations who have gone before us and look forward to the start of Immanuel's new century ahead.



Youth Lock-in at Immanuel Coming...

All Immanuel youth and their friends, ages 6th through 12th grades, are welcome to attend an upcoming youth lock-in at Immanuel later this winter. However, we need your help with ideas for games, devotions, and lots of other things. Please let Pastor Scott know your ideas and if you can help with the lock-in. This will be a fun time to celebrate God's love at our church with your friends!

"CRAZY CHRISTMAS CAROLING" WITH THE YOUTH WAS DECEMBER 20TH!

A group of youth and the pastors of the Methodist and Covenant churches, plus Pastor Scott spent the evening of December 20th going around Ceresco to sing "crazy" Christmas carols, collect items for the Peoples City Mission of Lincoln and have a "white elephant" exchange.

Thank you to Thrivent for the gift of t-shirts!

A good time was had by all!



"Crazy" caroling at LeRoy & Barb Hanson's home. Notice Conner Kreikemeier standing on his head while we sang?



The items we collected from people in town as we went house to house singing the "crazy" carols. Thanks to Sharon & Harlan Johnson for securing Thrivent funds to purchase additional items for the People City Mission!

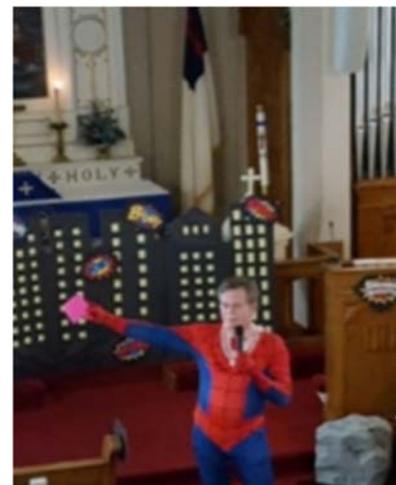


The "white elephant" gift exchange. Each person brought a gift worth little or nothing and wrapped it up. We drew numbers and then took turns choosing a gift from the pile in the center of the circle. If we didn't like what we unwrapped, we could swap it with a gift that another person had. A box of soda pop seemed to be one of the favorite "gifts" that no one wanted to let go of. Thanks to everyone for a fun night and helping the People City Mission of Lincoln.

IMMANUEL'S SUNDAY SCHOOL SHARES A "SUPER" CHRISTMAS STORY

On Sunday, December 17th, our Sunday School's children and youth shared the Christmas story in a new way. Taking the theme of "superheroes" they were looking for the greatest "superhero" of all time... Jesus. Even Pastor Scott got in on the action, dressed as Spiderman for the announcement time and welcoming members and guests to our worship service that morning.

Here are some photos from the program.



A Christian video library free for you to use

Have you had a chance to check out the great collection of videos at [rightnowmedia](http://rightnowmedia.org)?

There is something for all ages – children, youth and adults – who want to grow in their understanding of Scripture, current issues, entertainment, and much more. With colder weather coming, it's a great time of year to turn on your computer, smartTV, or other device and enjoy watching quality, Christian messages.

To learn more about the mission of RightNowMedia go to <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/mission>



Upcoming Worship Events

February 14- Ash Wednesday



JANUARY LECTORS

Jan. 7 - Ray Otto
Jan. 14 - Kevin Olson
Jan. 21 - Tim Wheland
Jan. 28 - Suzy Fredrickson

FEBRUARY LECTORS

Feb. 4- Jane Otto
Feb. 11- Janis Bible
Feb. 14 - Shawn Rudeen
Feb. 18- Fran Freeman
Feb. 25- Scott Black

JANUARY USHERS

Jan. 7 - Dean & Kathi Johnson
Jan. 14- - Kevin & Gaylene Olson
Jan. 21 - Tim Wheland
Jan 28- John & Janis Bible

FEBRUARY USHERS

Feb.4 -Leroy & Barb Hanson
Feb. 11- Christie Bevington
Feb. 14-Doug & Shawn Rudeen
Feb. 18- Fran Freeman
Feb. 25- Scott & Shannon Black

ACOLYTES FOR WORSHIP:

Jan. 7 - Mason Kreikemeier
Jan. 14 - Conner Kreikemeier
Jan. 21 - Andrew Otto
Jan. 28 - Isaak Fredrickson





**Food
Pantry
Needs**

January Food Pantry
Hot & Cold Cereals
Pop Tarts
Granola Bars

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Scott Larson, Pastor