

# *Who are we?*

## *Immanuel Lutheran is . . .*

**...a 30 something congregation.** We were founded in 1979. Yes, we do have several 30 something members. Quite a few 50 something members also. Being relatively “young,” as far as churches go, we do not have a “We have always done it that way” mind set. Relatively young describes our membership and also our openness to new offerings.

**...an extended family church.** We are blessed to have lots of interaction amongst generations. This is a phenomena that is lacking in much of our society today. We cherish it.

**...a mission minded church.** In addition to mission support for our church body, we also support six local, regional and international missions through a once a month second plate mission offering.

**...a church with a diverse membership.** We are a regional church. Approximately 40% of our membership do not reside in Grinnell. We are joined by people from 10+ surrounding communities. On Sunday morning you will see worshippers from a wide variety of vocations, ages, groups and household makeup. Many, many Immanuel members are “transplants” from other communities and states.

**...a town and country church.** While our front yard looks out upon the Grinnell Senior High School and the Rock Creek/bike path road, our back yard looks out upon a field of corn or beans and a tree farm complete with a pond.

**...a Christ crucified church.** St. Paul said it best and most succinctly, “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” 1 Corinthians 2:2 Both day and night the cross of Christ is held before our eyes through the large white lighted cross that adorns our 11th Avenue view.

**...a Lutheran church.** No we don't worship Martin Luther. Luther himself said, "Don't call yourself "lutherans" Luther did not die for you. Christ died for you." As Lutherans, our core doctrinal touchpoint is that we are declared right with God by God's undeserved gifts and work, this is only because of what Jesus Christ, God's Son has done by coming into this world, living a life of total obedience to God the Father and dying and rising again. The blessings of Christ's life and work become our through faith. Even faith is a gift of God worked by the Holy Spirit of God in The Scriptures and Sacraments.

**...a liturgical church.** The word "liturgy" indicates a prescribed form or set of forms for public religious worship. Our worship follows a pattern that has been used by Christian churches for thousands of years. Worship is not about human activity but about God's presence and gifts being given to us. Following a set pattern guides us in receiving the blessing of the presence of our God and receive His proclamation of forgiveness.

**...a sacramental church.** A Sacrament is a sacred act giving divine blessings. It is instituted by Christ Himself. The words of Christ are connected with a visible element (water for baptism and bread and wine) for Holy Communion. The Sacraments reveal and give the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

**...a confessional church.** God's Word and Plan of salvation do not change. Even in our society where church teachings and practices frequently change, the teachings of Immanuel do not. We have pledged to follow the three worldwide Christian creeds that churches have been confessing for thousands of years. We hold to the doctrinal positions which go back to the 15th century when the Reformation occurred.

**...the church of the Lutheran Hour.** The Lutheran Hour is a radio program that has been broadcast over the radio since 1930. It is currently aired on over 1400+ radios stations to an estimated 800,000 listeners each week. The official name of the entity sponsoring these broadcast sermons is Lutheran Hour Ministries. [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) Lutheran Hour ministries also supports ministry centers in more than 30 foreign countries. [www.lhm.org/international](http://www.lhm.org/international)