**HEAD USHERS NEEDED!**

If you would have asked us years ago if we saw ourselves as head ushers, the answer would have most definitely been NO! Neither of us ever really thought we would even do as much as help usher during the offering or help serve communion much less be head ushers. To be frank, we are not even sure why, just that it seemed intimidating. We certainly didn’t know then that we would soon have a passion to be involved in any way possible.

The first couple of times we attended Immanuel, we only knew a handful of people in the congregation. However, we were welcomed by everyone with open arms, truly learning what Immanuel Pastors mean when they say, “all are welcome”. We quickly went from being occasional attendees around the holidays, to making Immanuel “our church” by becoming members. We started worshipping weekly and missing our church family when we were out of town. Church became more and more about the community as we were becoming stronger in our faith journey and learning that we truly are surrounded by God’s love. It wasn’t long before we wanted to do more than just attend church services, we wanted to be involved.

About that time, we felt God’s nudge. There was a notice in the bulletin about an upcoming class geared toward worship service assistants. We attended, were given instruction on different ways to help, and soon after started helping by ushering and serving communion. Guess what? It wasn’t at all intimidating as we once thought. As a matter of fact, we very much look forward to it! We interact with people who sit in other sections that we otherwise may have never talked to. We’ve had the privilege of meeting many new people and adding even more friends to our church family.

As Head Ushers there is no extra time involved for us in preparing. Yes, we arrive a few minutes early and we may have to reach out to a few people to see if they’re willing to serve. However, most times we don’t even have to ask as many people, including children, come to us and ask to serve.

See, being involved is not just about us feeling we are contributing, but sharing in His love as He instructs us to do in the Bible. Serving allows us the ability to not only know our church community, but become closer to Him through service. Without all of the individuals who help, our worship service and church experience wouldn’t be the same. Yours in Christ, Doug & Jen Bartz