



Immanuel Lutheran Church

221 Brierton Lane

Festus, MO 63028

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www.ilcfestus.org

August 2025

Endure

Well, the 2025 Youth Gathering is now behind us. There are many youth leaders, including our own, who take a sigh of relief as they look back on that time with joy. All of the preparation and the long hour days were worth it. Thank you, youth leaders, and members of Immanuel for making this trip possible.

Then there is the youth themselves. They may be giving a sigh of relief as well but I believe it too comes with a focus of joy and growth. The Youth Gathering provides opportunities for growth in the Word, the development of new friendships, and eye-opening views of the expansiveness of the Body of Christ as it floods corridors in a convention center.

Now as everyone has returned and goes back to work and school, what remains unchanged? I hope you see the point of this question. So often when we go to gatherings and retreats and workshops we return renewed and energized, and then a return to normal life tends to dampen things. We return to the ordinary and it does not seem as exciting or as joy filled as our prior experience.

Is that OK? Yes, that is OK and that is extraordinarily normal. It is here in the "ordinary" life where you find once again that

God brings to life what you have learned and what you have grown in: to endure. That was the theme of the Youth gathering, but it isn't just a random topic to occupy 5 days. It is the gift of Jesus.

If anyone hears the word "endure" and first thinks of themselves, you got it wrong. As they say, you have put the emphasis on the wrong syllable. The Word of God in Hebrews 12 takes us to Jesus, the one who endures all for us. That's blessed good news. He endures the scornful shame of the cross. For what? For the joy!

Sit down and take in this word of the Lord. Be comforted in all times and in all situations- I mean all situations. Does that sound possible? It almost doesn't, but it is in Jesus that we see the impossible completed. Yes, you are that joy that is set before Jesus-you, He calls you by name. He makes you His child. He loves and cares for you.

So then in Him and by Him and because of Him you endure, running the race set before you, looking to Jesus, looking to Jesus, looking to Jesus who never lets you out of His sight.

-Pastor Castens

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Pat Doenges	8/1	Jennifer Gordon	8/18
Todd Killgore	8/1	Donna Daugherty	8/19
Ali Waltman	8/1	Kehlani Fair	8/19
Bob French	8/3	Angie Ibaviosa	8/19
Preston Meyer	8/3	John Volker Jr.	8/19
Joey Bradley	8/4	Mia Zuchek	8/20
Steven Davis Sr.	8/5	Cindy Bishop	8/22
Rhonda Johnson	8/6	Emily Hurt	8/25
Christopher Roylance	8/7	Levi Kaminsky	8/26
Lillian Wehner	8/7	Jillian Schubert	8/26
Jaxon Zuchek	8/8	Collin Shoults	8/27
Madison Cox	8/9	Gerald Martin	8/28
Marcus Gordon	8/12	Doug Wehlermann	8/28
Joy Albano	8/13	Eydie Thurman	8/29
Davonna Lucas	8/13	Anne Torrence	8/29
Russ Poncet	8/15	Kelly Willhite	8/30
David Faerber	8/17	Sharon Burnham	8/31
Joe Volker	8/17		

Anniversaries

6 th :	Pat and David Faerber
6 th :	Ken and Sharon Gielow
8 th :	Amanda and Brad Wehlermann
10 th :	Stephanie and Scott Heine
14 th :	Ken and Myra Bins
14 th :	Jenn and Pastor Kyle Castens
16 th :	Frank and Janice Baumgartner
17 th :	Darlene and Kyle Schmitz
18 th :	Bob and Gayle French
25 th :	Debbie and Robert Sevier
31 st :	Angie and John Ibaviosa

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The bible study will resume when the Midweek Program begins on September 10th at 6pm. The class will pick up with our study of the Book of Acts and then look at one or more of Paul's epistles. I look forward to seeing as many as possible growing in the Word.

EVANGELISM

Our next blood drive is Monday, August 11th in the FLC. Drop-ins are welcome!

We will have a 10x10 booth at the **Twin City Days** Main Street Market on Saturday, September 6th from 9am to 3pm.



MIDWEEK

September 10th is our Kick-Off night for Midweek. Classes begin at 6pm and we will end at 6:55. It's a time to meet the teachers, have some pizza and have some fun. Thank you to our volunteer teachers Amber Palos, Gayle French, Katie Bourque and Kerri Dawson. They make this program a huge success.

Regular Wednesday Midweek classes will begin September 17th with dinner at 5:45, class at 6:00 and pick up time at 6:55. Calendar for the year will be handed out at our Kick-Off. All children from Kindergarten to Confirmation are encouraged to join us. Any questions, please contact Anne Torrence.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are proud to announce that Denise Bradley will become our new Sunday School Superintendent. We are excited for her new ideas and talents. Children 3 (potty trained) to 6th grade are encouraged to attend. The opening begins each Sunday at 9:15 with a light breakfast and announcements. Classes are from 9:30 to 10:15. We also offer a youth class lead by Joe Bradley for Confirmands and high schoolers. Pastor Castens leads our adult class. REMEMBER - Sunday School is for all 3 - 103.



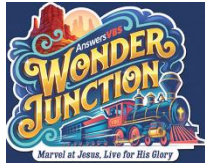
RALLY SUNDAY

Mark your calendar for September 7th - Rally Sunday. The Board of Education is sponsoring this event during Sunday School 9:15 to

10:15. A light breakfast will be served, normal opening and announcements followed by entertainment and presenting Bibles to our incoming third graders. Please plan on joining us.

VBS WRAP-UP

Thank you to everyone at Immanuel Lutheran Church for supporting Vacation Bible School with your tithes and prayers. Thank you to our volunteers who were led by Kathie Nelms & Debbie Sevier. Thank you to Kathie Nelms and her staff for a wonderful Funfest on July 20th, MILC for providing our lunch and WOI for the bingo game. With everyone's support, we shared the Good News of Jesus with over 100 children and adults. We are going to leave the Wonder Junction decorations up for a few weeks and hope everyone enjoys seeing the message that was shared.



We are looking for team leaders for next year's VBS. Please consider this very worthwhile ministry. A director and coordinate for Funfest are needed.

TRUSTEE

Work is in progress on the repair of handrails inside and outside of our Church. Letters on the FLC are being repaired and replaced. The goal is to have work completed by the end of August. Trustees continue to work on regular maintenance of our facilities and if you are able to help, contact Mike Wehner or Linda Ketcherside.

Linda Ketcherside and her team are working to clean and organize what little storage our facilities have to offer.

We are asking all ministry groups to:

1. Locate all their items.
2. Go through and throw away items that are no longer needed. If you are holding on to old documentation, consider having those papers scanned and stored electronically.

3. Determine what kind of space you need and
4. Work with Linda to set up a space for your needs.

After a period of time, If items are found that are unclaimed, they will be disposed of accordingly.

Members: If you are doing cleaning at your homes and want to consider donating to ILC - please contact an appropriate ministry that might use those items and see if they are wanted before dropping them off. Reminder - our storage is limited, and we want to make sure all that are in need of storage have an appropriate space.

Thank you for your help in keeping our facilities organized and clutter free.



WOMEN OF IMMANUEL – LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSIONS

Our next meeting is Sunday, July 27 (Room 4-5 FLC 11:30-1:00p) immediately after the late service. All women of Immanuel are invited to join us!

Coming Events in August:

- Quilters- Quilters meet every Wednesday in FLC at 12:30p for fellowship and quilting activities.
- Pricilla's Circle- Meets on the fourth Thursday in the FLC from 9:30-10:30am for Bible study.

Future Mission/Service Projects:

- August – Volunteer for Grace Days
- October – Volunteer for Joyful Jubilee Reformation Service
- November – Volunteer/Donate for Pie Auction and 'Give Thanks-Help a family in need'

Future Events:

- November 15- LWM Zone Fall Rally
- December 2 – Reason for the Season

Beginning in 2025, minutes from the meetings will be published on the church website (www.ilcfeet.org), under 'Information/Meeting Minutes'. Meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September and November. Reminders will be posted in future newsletters and the bulletin. Hope to see you at the next meeting!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Immanuel is currently supporting FIVE (5) students that are pursuing careers in church work and are attending one of the Missouri Synod approved universities or seminaries.

Immanuel is truly blessed to have the following five members pursuing church work. The following students have been approved to receive Scholarships for the school year 2025/2026:



* **Ella Bradley** – 2nd year at Concordia-Seward, pursuing a major in Christian Education Leadership and Theology.

* **Emma Fiala** – 1st year at Concordia-Seward, pursuing a major in Secondary Education / Lutheran Teacher's Diploma

* **Vaclav Fiala** – 2nd year at Concordia-Seward, pursuing a major in Secondary Education/English & Art

* **Robert Finch** – 4th year at Concordia-St. Paul pursuing a major in Theology.



* **Marlene Roylance** – received her bachelor's degree from Liberty University. 1st year at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, pursuing a Masters in Diaconess Studies.



As of July 7th, the Scholarship Fund had \$25,197.78. Total payments for the Fall Semester

will be \$6,000 and total payments for the Spring Semester will be \$6,000

The Scholarship Fund is solely supported by our members and currently receives donations on a regular basis. However, with the current payment schedule and number of students, the Fund will only have enough money thru the 2026/2027 school year.

The Scholarship Committee will be meeting sometime this Summer/Fall to review and discuss any issues and possible fundraising options. It is the goal of the Committee to keep the Fund at a level so we can continue to provide financial assistance for our current and any future students. --- The Scholarship Committee

INASMUCH FOOD DONATIONS & BRENDAN'S BACKPACKS

As reported in Immanuel's Facebook group – delivery was made on 6-30-25 to the Ozark Food Pantry and to the United Methodist Church. Our tubs are located in the FLC Gym and we hope to be able to make another delivery in a couple of months.

With school starting in another month, we will once again begin collecting for Brendan's Backpacks. There is a designated tub also in the FLC. Remember that foods needed are one serving size, child-friendly items.

PLEASE NOTE: ITEMS THAT HAVE AN EXPIRED DATE CANNOT BE USED FOR EITHER BRENDAN'S OR INASMUCH.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Elders are continuing to review the current inventory of books to make sure that content complies with Immanuel's beliefs as a church of the Missouri Synod. Once this review has been completed, the room will be cleaned up and books reorganized and new titles will be added as approved by Pastor and the Elders. Currently, we

are not accepting any donations. Our current display in the Church Narthex highlights "Being Lutheran". Thank you. – Library Volunteers

RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT

The Voter's Meeting was held on Sunday July 13 with a Potluck dinner after the late service. Here are highlights from the meeting:

- 28 voting members were in attendance.
- 2025 Financial results through 6/30/2025 were presented. Please see David Poley for a copy if you were not in attendance as they are not published on the website.
- Various boards reported on their activities. These reports are included as attachments in the minutes found on the website.
- New 2025-2026 Capital Fundraising Project- IMMANUEL TOOLBOX HEROES- was presented. This Project focuses on upgrades/repairs on the Family Life Center.
- Upcoming events: Grace Days, Saturday, August 2; Joyful Jubilee, Saturday, October 25.
- The completed minutes of the voters' meeting are posted online.

Please visit the Website

www.ilcfestus.org/Information/Voters

Meeting Minutes/July 2025 for more details. The next regular Voter's meeting will be Sunday, October 12 after the late service. Reminder will be published in the bulletin.

-Christine Walter, Recording Secretary



From the Finance Board.....

Finance Board has had fifteen openings in 2025, the most recent dated 7/21/2025. (Our final opening for July will occur after submittal of this Newsletter report). Our Budget for 2025 is \$339,886 or \$13,076.38 per opening. We are currently \$(2,235.33) under budget.

Aside from the budget, Immanuel members designated a little over \$35,000 to-date in contributions to Memorials, Missions, Daycare, VBS, NYG, Youth, Scholarship Fund and Renovations.

Budget position to date is listed in the table below. In 2025 we will continue to post our Budget Position in the weekly bulletins. In addition, there

Finance Board Update	
YTD through 7/21/2025	
Budget Requirement*	\$ 189,607.51
Budget Received	187,372.18
Difference over or (under)	<u>\$ (2,235.33)</u>

**2025 Budget = \$339,986 or \$13,076.38 per opening*

is a new 2025-2026 Capital Fundraising Project: TOOLBOX HEROES- starting at Immanuel. The goal and accumulated contributions will be posted in the weekly bulletins as well as the monthly newsletter.



ToolBox Heroes

2025-2026 Capital Funding Project

Goal	\$ 50,000.00
Received through 7/21/2025	1,129.57
Remaining to Goal	<u>\$ 48,870.43</u>

Immanuel Lutheran Childcare

Playground Update



© Designation

We have been working towards our playground goal for a long time now. We have finally reached that goal! We have purchased new equipment, turf on our little playground, leveled the playgrounds, put up a retaining wall, and added shade structures. We have had grants, donations, fundraisers, and memorials to help make this goal possible. We owe a big thank you to the Dawson Family, Marschel Family, Marler Family, and Wehner Family for their monetary donations to the playground fund.

God is good!



AUGUST

Immanuel Lutheran Childcare Newsletter

Summer Happenings

We have been having so much fun this summer. Mrs. Gracie has set up fun days with the kiddos. They went to Cooking Class, Movie Theater, Bike Day, Water Park, Vacation Bible School, Kona Ice, and so much more! A BIG thanks to Mrs. Gracie and all the teachers and support staff for an amazing summer!



Bible Drive Donations

We are starting our Bible Drive for our Beginner's Bibles. The church members donate to this drive. The Bibles are used throughout the school year with Pastor Castens during Chapel time. Our Pre-K will receive their very own Bibles at graduation!

Dates To Remember

August 18th - First
Day of School

September 1st -
Closed for Labor Day



SERVING IN WORSHIP FOR August 2025



Date	Preach	Lead Worship	Adult Bible Study	Elders	Children's Message	Lectors	Ushers	Acolytes	Greeters	Organist
08/03	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	<u>8am</u> Don Brandt <u>10:30am</u> Dave Carlson		<u>8am</u> Nick Giannatasio <u>10:30am</u> David Fiala	<u>8am</u> Kent Steffens Jan Baumgartner <u>10:30am</u> Cole and Matt Malusky	<u>8am</u> Morgan Meyer <u>10:30am</u> Blake Gordon	<u>8am</u> Cindy Bishop <u>10:30am</u> Karen DeClue	Rhonda Johnson
08/10	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	<u>8am</u> Jason Schubert <u>10:30am</u> Ken Bins	Rhonda Johnson	<u>8am</u> Karen DeClue <u>10:30am</u> Joanne Waltman	<u>8am</u> Randy Wagner Dave Kutscher <u>10:30am</u> Gabe Skaggs Austin Habsieger	<u>8am</u> Annabelle Buttner <u>10:30am</u> Emery Roth	<u>8am</u> Don & Christine Walter <u>10:30am</u> Tanya Banderman	Rhonda Johnson
08/17	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	<u>8am</u> Don Brandt <u>10:30am</u> Ed Malusky		<u>8am</u> Dale Giannatasio <u>10:30am</u> Janene Shelledy	<u>8am</u> Andy Loesl David Birks <u>10:30am</u> Paul, Ali, Mat- thew Waltman	<u>8am</u> Ali Waltman <u>10:30am</u> Naomi Shemwell	<u>8am</u> Ron & Shirley Wright <u>10:30am</u> Ann Stueve	Rhonda Johnson
08/24	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	<u>8am</u> Jason Schubert <u>10:30am</u> Joe Bradley	Joanne Waltman	<u>8am</u> Kerri Dawson <u>10:30am</u> Joe Bradley	<u>8am</u> Anne Torrence Kerri Dawson <u>10:30am</u> Jeremy and Jack Malusky	<u>8am</u> Jewel Schubert <u>10:30am</u> Blake Gordon	<u>8am</u> Kerri Dawson <u>10:30am</u> Kristy Stuber	Rhonda Johnson
08/31	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	Pastor Castens	<u>8am</u> Don Brandt <u>10:30am</u> Dave Carlson		<u>8am</u> Don Brandt <u>10:30am</u> Radka Fiala	<u>8am</u> Gunnar Hosay David Birks <u>10:30am</u> Joe and Thomas Bradley	<u>8am</u> Lucas Weber <u>10:30am</u> Kinley Whitehead	<u>8am</u> Jennifer Becker <u>10:30am</u> Ella and Grace Waltman	Rhonda Johnson

Altar Guild: Kerri Dawson and Anne Torrence