

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHAPEL



### NEWSLETTER – August 2025

Rev. Adam Rouse  
Pastor

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#### Pastor's Page...

##### What are the two kingdoms?

I was recently at the district convention where representatives from all churches in Central Illinois meet so we can move forward in agreement with our fellow believers. One of the results from this time is that all pastors were encouraged to teach about the Lutheran concept that we call the Two Kingdoms. Have I even mentioned that at Immanuel yet?

The concept of the two kingdoms is equally simple and complicated. The simple part is that we remember the prayer Jesus Christ made for His believers in John 17. We are to be in this world, but not a part of this world. In other words, we interact with those around us whether they are believers or not, yet we always act as God calls us to act: as obedient believers in Jesus Christ. This first part of our life is called the left-handed kingdom.

The other simple part is that there is also an aspect of our life that is just between us (the church) and our God. This is the life that we anticipate living for eternity and there are glimpses of it here, right now! When we pray, when we are in worship, when we forgive others (and many other times as well), we witness those glorious glimpses! This second part of our life is called the right-handed kingdom.

Now for the complicated part. We live in both kingdoms at the same time. Living in the right-handed kingdom is not a break from the left-handed kingdom. Living in the left-handed kingdom does not separate us from the right-handed kingdom.

I absolutely know that this will seem complicated to a majority of you. Yet, it's the truth of how we live. It's also what The Father and Son tell us to expect and what the holy Spirit prepares and strengthens us for. The best part of all, comes when you understand what it means to live in both kingdoms at the same and what God calls us to do with this reality. You might catch yourself saying, "Wow! I understand life now!"

I'll keep this article short. There is already a lot to process and hopefully you'll be looking forward to more teaching on the Two Kingdoms!

The one thing you can count on for certain is that I, as a disciple of Christ like you, and I as a pastor for you, love you no matter what. There is no kingdom where I'm not called to love you. In John, we hear that all disciples are to be known because of their love for each other (this most frequently takes place in the left-handed kingdom). Then in His commission for us to act in His name (which means it takes place in the right-handed kingdom), I speak His very own love to you!

*Ever in His Peace,  
Pastor Adam Rouse*

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# Lutheran High Building Update

July 10th, 2025

As you may recall, a few weeks ago the results from the Lutheran High School's capital campaign planning study were distributed via personal letters, emails and bulletin announcements. In that announcement, the addition of a Development Director was identified as an immediate need. We are very pleased to announce that our search and interview process has brought us a wonderful "new" addition to our LuHi staff...Nicole Matteson.



As of July 1, Nicole is now responsible for leading the LuHi development team and driving fundraising strategies. From 2022 to 2025, Nicole represented Our Savior's Lutheran Church as a voting member on the Lutheran High School Board of Directors. During her time on the board, she held the position of Vice Chairman and was a member of the Executive, Finance, and Communication committees. With over 30 years of military service and 26 years as a Federal employee, Nicole brings a wealth of experience in building high-performing teams and fostering a culture of collaboration and transparency. While serving in various roles, Nicole managed upwards of \$250M each fiscal year. She is known by her colleagues as an influential agent for positive change who leads with confidence and approaches even the most difficult and complex challenges with tireless perseverance and a commitment to success. Nicole holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a primary area of study in Accounting. Nicole's sons (Payton and Carter) both attend(ed) Lutheran High School and her husband (Dale) is an Elder at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. She is passionate about the Christian faith and dedicated to advancing the mission of Lutheran High School. Please feel free to send Nicole a personal note of congratulations at [n.matteson@spiluhi.org](mailto:n.matteson@spiluhi.org)

Blessings,  
George Perkins,  
Chairman, Lutheran High Board of Directors



**Lutheran High School**  
Springfield, IL

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### Go and Bear Fruit

Fruit trees are one of the many wonders of God's creation. To see the beauty of the tree and its fruit, to enjoy its taste, and to realize that it all came from a tiny seed is beyond our comprehension. An apple seed is planted in the ground, and, with water and sun as nourishment, miraculously a seedling surfaces that develops into a fruit tree. After a period of time, the apple tree fulfills its mission by bearing apples.

We, as Christians, are like that apple tree. We, too, have been fed and nourished by God so we can bear fruit. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..."* (John 15:16). Jesus tells us *"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). The life and power of any plant is found in its vine. The vine uses the branches to produce its fruit. The branch is simply a growth of the vine, produced by it and appointed to bear fruit. The branch exists only because the vine makes it possible.

Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian steward. When we stay connected to Jesus, we are told that we *"will bear much fruit."* Christ has given us the task of ministering to the needs of others and spreading the Gospel. As we stay connected to Him through His Word and Sacraments, we discover God's perfect will for us, and we are empowered to please Him by bearing fruit (Colossians 1:9-10). God has created us to bear fruit (Ephesians 2:10), but only through Christ is it possible for us to do so.

*"If we live by the Spirit,"* Paul exhorted, *"let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another"* (Galatians 5:25-26). As children of God, we have this fruit because His Spirit lives in us, not as a result of our own efforts. We do cease to bear fruit when we give in to our sinful natures, becoming, in Paul's words, *"Conceited, provoking one another."* We are to *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness"* (Ephesians 5:11a), but are to *"Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:8b-10).

Go and bear fruit!

### **Antidote for Ingratitude**

What happens to the desire of a person to continue giving when there is no response from the recipients? The grandmother who sends a check every birthday and every Christmas and never receives a phone call or a thank you note starts rethinking her habit of giving. The donor who never receives a letter of appreciation from the charity he faithfully supports starts researching other charities that might be more worthy of his financial gifts.

God isn't like this. He continues to give to us even though we are ungrateful and even unheeding of His goodness to us. The sun shines, ripening the fruit on the vine; the rains fall, watering the earth; your God-given abilities enable you to perform the job you've chosen so that you can provide for your daily needs. Yes, God is faithful, even when we are not.

Certainly, as God's stewards, we know we bring grief to the heart of God by our ingratitude. The best antidote for ingratitude is to give. Giving gets our minds off ourselves and focuses our thoughts on our Creator and Provider. Giving brings home the realization of just how bountifully God has blessed us that we are able to give generously. Giving sacrificially reminds us of all that Jesus sacrificed in order to make us His own. Giving brings joy like the joy Jesus had when He endured the Cross for the joy of what that work would accomplish for those He loves.

The cure for ingratitude is to give. In our giving, we are merely returning to God a portion of what He has already given us. Let that act of giving, then, become a habit of giving. You will find your ingratitude turning to joy in giving and deep appreciation for your Savior.

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# :::CELEBRATIONS::::::::::

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## SEPTEMBER EVENTS...

September 1, Monday  
September 4, Thursday  
September 8, Monday

September 11, Thursday

September 13, Saturday  
September 15, Monday  
September 17, Tuesday  
September 18, Thursday

September 21, Sunday  
September 22, Monday

September 25, Thursday

Labor Day, Church Closed  
Choir, 7pm  
Bible Study (Church), 10am  
Dart Ball, 6 – 8pm  
Elders' Meeting 6pm  
Ladies' Aid, 10am  
Bible Study, (Chapel), 6:30pm  
Choir, 7pm  
Card Party/Game Night, 6pm  
Bible Study (Church), 10am  
Newsletter Deadline  
Retirees, 11am  
Choir, 7pm  
Church Council Mtg., 11am  
Bible Study (Church), 10am  
Dart Ball, 6:00 – 8:00pm  
Bible Study, (Chapel), 6:30pm  
Choir, 7pm

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## MEMORIALS...

*In Memory of Tammy Marcum*  
Dave & Diane Lientz

*In Memory of Nadine Sisti*  
Immanuel Ladies' Aid  
Edna Seipel

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## Pop Tops for Ronald McDonald House

There is a container on the table in the hallway for pop tops from soda cans to be taken to the local Ronald McDonald House.

## DOLLARS FOR MISSIONS...

The new (and current!) project is **\$10,000 to replace insulation in the chancel ceiling at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal.**

Dating from 1980, the fiberglass batt insulation above the Wittenberg's chancel has fallen from its intended place, that is, immediately under the roof. The area which needs replacement measures some 775 square feet.

The task of replacing this insulation will require ingenuity and creativity. In short, the total price will end up being much greater than relatively minor costs for materials.

## Camp CILCA Homecoming

The Camp CILCA Homecoming is Saturday, August 2 in the afternoon and evening. There will be a volleyball tournament and pickup softball game, swimming, guided hikes, live and silent auctions, vendor fair, pulled pork meal from 4-6pm for \$15, outdoor worship, evening concert featuring Eshelon, and campfire sing-a-long and s'mores. Help CILCA celebrate 75 years of outdoor ministry! ([cilca.org/homecoming](http://cilca.org/homecoming))



# IMMANUEL REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TREASURER'S REPORT, JUNE 2025

Total Receipts .....	\$ 28,233.89
Total Expenditures.....	\$ 21,600.10
Net GAIN .....	\$ 6,633.79

## Restricted Fund Giving for June, 2025

(Included in total receipts above)

Missions.....	\$ 260.00
Maintenance/Upgrade.....	\$ 425.00
Together in Missions .....	\$ 235.00
Manna .....	\$ 98.00
Memorial .....	\$ 115.00
Chapel .....	\$ 743.00
Dollars for Missions.....	\$ 92.00
Parking Lot.....	\$ 6,885.00

**Accrued Liabilities owed Vendors as of June 30, 2025, were \$00.00.**

## Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to Date:

Receipts .....	\$323,361.16
Expenditures.....	\$291,997.72
Net GAIN .....	\$ 31,363.44

## Monday Morning Bible Study – Church



Bible Study meets on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for a time of Bible Study & Fellowship.

## Chapel Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Evenings



Bible Study will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at the Chapel. The study begins at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for a time of Bible Study & Fellowship.

## Ladies' Aid

Happy Summer!!!! The Ladies Aid will not meet during the summer months. See you in the Fall!

## Elders

Elders will meet Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.



## Card/Game Party



Plan now to attend a card / game party on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and try your hand at playing cards or another game with some of your fellow parishioners. Tables will be set up to play various games and once the players arrive, we will order pizza (free-will offering taken for pizza). Bring your own drink, and snack to share if you want. Hope to see you there!

## Dart Ball



Dart Ball will meet Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> and Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

## Church Council

Church Council will meet Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, immediately following Bible Class.

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for next month's Newsletter is noon Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Retirees



Retirees will meet on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Those attending are asked to bring their own lunch and a \$1 gift for Bingo play.

Drinks and dessert will be provided. Darrell & Jan Hohimer will be our hosts. Everyone is invited to participate in fellowship and Bingo. Everyone is guaranteed to be a winner! Please join us!

## Church Potluck (changed from 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

Make plans to join us Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> for our Church Potluck immediately following Bible Study. A sign-up sheet will be available later this month.

**VOTERS**



**ASSEMBLY**

Voters' Assembly Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, following the service. It is important for communicant members 18 years of age and older to be present to help decide matters concerning our church. (change in normal date)



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### Ladies' Aid

Immanuel's Ladies Aid will begin a new year at 10:00 a.m. on September 11<sup>th</sup>. An exciting year has been planned for the ladies of Immanuel. Our new officers for the year are the following:

President - Dorothy Negangard  
Vice President - Nona Stuenkel  
Secretary - Debbie Negangard  
Treasurer - Amanda Rouse.  
Christian Growth – Norma Kammerlohr

We would like to thank our outgoing President Diane Lientz for 9 1/2 years of serving as President and Edna Seipel for 17 years of being our Treasurer. All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend Ladies Aid fellowship. We have a devotion by Pastor, a Christian Growth talk by Norma, a short meeting, and a time for fellowship and dessert. The meeting is always over by noon. Please consider putting the Ladies Aid meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. on your calendar.

### Choir Practice to Begin

Are you free on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm? If you are, please join our Sanctuary Choir. We meet for one hour each Thursday from September - May with the month of January off. We not only learn music to sing praises to our Lord but we have a lot of fun! The only requirement is having a blended voice. For more information, contact our volunteer Choir Director Dave Lientz.



### Parking Lot Project

Thank you members and friends of Immanuel...

In September 2024, Immanuel took on a huge project by contracting with P.H. Broughton for a new parking lot. The total cost for this project was \$139,640.55. The original quote was much more but we saved a considerable amount of monies by the volunteering of some members who did the sidewalks.

The Council and our Voters decided to take monies out of our savings account to pay for this project, with the intent of paying the monies back. In September, 2024 we began to receive offerings, over and above our congregations giving, to pay for the parking lot. As of June, 2025, we have received \$47,340.96.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving. We still have a little over \$92,000.00 to receive. We know that with each of us working together God will bless us in this endeavor. To God Be the Glory!

### Illinois State Fair




If you are planning to visit the State Fair on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, please stop by the Lutheran Worship Services at 9:00 a.m. in the Illinois Building. Come as you are!



# August 2025



## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHAPEL

					1	2
3 Divine Service w/Holy Communion, 9am Bible Study, 10:15am Chapel, 2pm	4 Bible Study, (church), 10am  Elders, 6pm	5	6	7	8	9  Card/Game Party, 6 pm
10 Divine Service, 9am Bible Study, 10:15am Chapel, 2pm	11 Bible Study, (church), 10am  Dart Ball, 6-8pm	12  Newsletter Deadline	13	14  Retirees, 11am Bible Study, 6:30pm (Chapel)	15	16
17 Divine Service w/Holy Communion, 9am Bible Study, 10:15am Church Council, 11am Chapel, 2pm	18 Bible Study, (church), 10am	19	20	21	22	23
24 Divine Service, 9am Bible Study, 10:15am Church Potluck, 11am Chapel, 2pm	25 Bible Study, (church), 10am  Dart Ball, 6-8pm	26	27	28 Bible Study, 6:30pm (Chapel)	29	30
31 Divine Service w/Holy Communion, 9am Voters' Assembly, 10:15am Chapel, 2pm						

Serving Us This Month:

Elder:

Church:

Dave Lientz

Todd Lutz, Asst.

Chapel:

David Jacobs

Altar Care:

Chantal Auxila

Tina Kern