

ITEMS



Volume 60 No. 11

November 2018

THANKSGIVING

Tis the season
for inward reflections
a time to share
outward expressions.

A time to be,
for all things thankful
a time to convey to God
just why we're grateful.

Tis the season . . .
for inner thoughtfulness
a time to thank God
for His kindheartedness.

A time to see,
how much we're blessed,
a time for our gratitude
to be openly professed.

Tis the season . . .
for thankful contemplation
a time to say ***Thank You God***
whatever our situation!

Psalm 95:2

“Let us come before his presence
with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise
unto him with psalms.”

King James Version - Public Domain
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Deborah Ann Belka

COMING SOON

FALL FEST & ROAST BEEF DINNER **Saturday, November 10th**

This annual event is sponsored by the Ruth Society.
Bake Sale and Craft Show: 10 am to 7 pm
Dinner: 4 pm to 6:30 pm
Lite Luncheon: 11 am to 1 pm
Dinner tickets: Adults - \$12; 6 – 12 yrs - \$4
5 & under – Free

(Tickets will be available at the door.)

We will need your donations to our "Country Kitchen", including baked goods, homemade canned products (including preserves), etc. If you are working on crafts, please make a few extra. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to volunteer your time. If you have any questions, please call Mary Oesterreich at 708-479-7745.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP **Wednesday, November 21st at 7 pm**

Please take time out of your busy schedules to join us in giving thanks to God for our many blessings.



SERVING THE LIVING LORD AT IMMANUEL

Official Acts

Baptism: Thomas Carpenter, October 20, 2018

Mission Statement: "Caring and sharing since 1850, the mission of the family of God at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mokena is to effectively teach the Word of God, promote the spiritual growth of the Christian family, and continuously reach out with love and service."

Connecting people in loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, with each other in contagious Christian community, and with our calling of servanthood in the world.

Financial Summary

		2018	2017		
	Sept 2018	YTD	YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	22,412	239,631	267,138	-27,507	-10%
Interest	394	1,656	880	776	88%
Expense	19,781	215,416	239,506	-24,090	-10%
Balance	3,024	25,871	28,512	-2,641	-9%

Mortgage balance \$229,631.63

Reduced expense YOY primarily attributed to not having a full-time pastor from March through September.

Weekly Attendance

9:00 am

September 30	83
October 7	98
October 14	101
October 21	105
October 28	95

Baptized Membership: 739
Confirmed Membership: 593
Households: 363

Elders

Immanuel has elders who assist the pastor during the worship service and outside of worship. Their job is to be of service to you in any cares/concerns you may have with the congregation and within your family. Here are your elders:

Elder 1: Marty Olsen 815-464-4373

Elder 2: Jim Bowlds 708-479-3757

Elder 3: Jim Bubeck 815-469-7573

Elder 4: Bruce Bechtel 815-485-5455

Elder 5: Nick Whittier 815-485-9269

Elder 6: Jerry Vrshek 815-469-5059 (Director)

Please contact these Elders should you have any needs/concerns/questions.

Bulletin & Items Publishing

Bulletin articles are due on Wednesdays by 12 p.m. Articles for the December *Items* are due **November 19th** and will be on our website, mailed, and in the narthex after **November 30th**. We post the *Items* Newsletter on the website!

www.immanuelmokena.org

*If you plan to move or have already moved
**PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH
OFFICE** with your new address!!*

Church Office
708-479-5600
ielc1850@att.net



PASTORAL CALL UPDATE

On Sunday, October 21 the congregation voted to extend a Call to Rev. Aaron Schellhas, Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Illinois. He has received the Call documents that we sent to him, and he is giving prayerful consideration to our Call. Please keep Pastor Aaron, St. John's, and Immanuel in your prayers. If you have any pastoral needs during our vacancy, please call one of the elders or the church office and leave a message for the church secretary.

Jerry Vrshek, Director, Board of Elders

GREETERS PROGRAM

The Elders are re-instituting the Greeter program at Immanuel. We are looking for families, couples, or individuals to greet members and visitors as they come into church on Sundays.

The only requirements are that you arrive between 8:30 and 8:40 am before the 9 am service and bring your smile and a warm handshake. If you are interested and can help, please add your name to the Greeter Sign-Up sheet located on the bulletin board next to the flower chart. If you have any questions, please call Jerry Vrshek at 815-469-5059.

MORNINGSTAR MISSION STARS OF HOPE

Once again, we will support MorningStar Mission as they help those in need have a brighter Christmas. Visit the display in the narthex to select a tag with wish lists attached. Wrapped gifts with the wish lists attached to the package(s) must be returned to the narthex by Sunday, December 2nd.

GIVING TREE

As in the past, after Thanksgiving a tree will be in the narthex with tags and envelopes you may use to make monetary donations to various organizations. This year we will include hurricane disaster relief as the need for assistance will be long-lasting.

ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesday evening services will be held at 7 pm during Advent on the following dates:

December 5th
December 12th
December 19th



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24th
4 pm Family Christmas Worship
10 pm Candlelight Christmas Worship

Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25th
10 am Christmas Worship

Rejoice!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA & GOD'S KIDS CLUB PROGRAM

Join us on Sunday, December 16th, as the choir and God's Kid Club present their annual Christmas program. This year's Cantata is "Tapestry of Light, A Celtic Christmas Celebration."

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP COOKIE WALK

Date: Saturday, December 15th
Time: 9 am to 1 pm
Location: Heritage Hall (also known as our gym)



The Board of Fellowship is looking for bakers for this year's Cookie Walk. This is Fellowship's one fund raiser for the year and proceeds support all of the upcoming years fellowship events. We appreciate all of your support as bakers and as buyers. Any questions, please contact Lyn Thorne 708-805-4456. To sign up as a baker, please send an email to lynthorne54@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Frankfort Township Food Pantry paper drive. With your generous donations, we collected 18 rolls of paper towels, 5 packages of napkins, 8 boxes of Kleenex, 83 rolls of toilet paper, 8 packages of diapers, 8 packages of baby wipes, and 5 packages of paper plates. In addition, we turned in \$180 in Dollar Tree gift cards and a \$20 cash donation. We also took 36 food items to the pantry. Thank you for all of your generous donations.

NEW LOGO ANNOUNCED

The Board of Outreach worked with member and graphic artist, Ted Fuka, to create a new logo for Immanuel. They also adopted a tagline, "following Jesus, finding family" to hopefully appeal to those in our community looking for a church home.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT DRAWS BIG CROWD!

Trunk-or-Treat was held Sunday, October 28th from 4 to 6 pm and despite the cold and wind, we had big crowds. At least 150 families visited and were very appreciative of the food, drinks, games, and raffles we offered. Thank you to all who donated candy and bottled water – we used it all! A big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who made this event happen – from the hardy souls who braved the elements outside handing out candy and managing parking to the volunteers inside who served food, ran games, and much more. We collected a van FULL of donations for the Frankfort Township Food Pantry!!



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to the congregation for your support of the preschool's **October Read-A-Thon** -- we collected \$229 in donations!

November key dates:

Chapel – 11/13 and 11/14

Thanksgiving Feasts – 11/19 and 11/20

No School – 11/8, 11/9, and 11/21 through 11/23





- 1 Miriam Wilson
- 3 Jillian Banser, Barbara Seivert
- 5 Colin Marnul
- 7 Gerald Lerner Jr., Christina Somerville
- 8 Donald Bakken
- 9 Patricia Beckstrom, Evelyn Bruno,
Misty Olevich
- 10 Deborah Klode
- 11 Lucille Hostert, Jason Howard
- 13 John Beckstrom Bryan Dillberg,
Phyllis Soyk
- 16 Caleb Hack
- 17 Jeannine Diab, Jack Roberts,
Christian Woerner
- 18 Doris Keel, Alison Kiedaisch,
Mark Oesterreich
- 19 Crystal Kloppmann, Olivia Roberts
- 20 Amy Lydic, Kevin Smith
- 21 Ryan Krause
- 23 Walter Hawrysko, Kenneth Thorne
- 24 Hanna Ackerman, Karen Rohder
- 25 Samuel Olsen
- 26 Cynthia Heidkamp,
- 27 Robert Cupp, Ronald Rodeghero
- 28 Megan Golembiewski, Morgan Obis,
Joan Yunker
- 29 Wanda Dillberg, Nancy Kaczmarczyk,
Mason Marnul,



- 3 John and Sharla Wojno 11 yrs.
- 5 Jason and Kristine Nagy 8 yrs.
- 9 Timothy and Miriam Wilson 32 yrs.
- 11 Robert and Patricia Beckstrom 23 yrs.
Mark and Kimberly Oesterreich 12 yrs.
- 18 Joseph and Barbara Limanowski 29 yrs.
- 24 Frank and Edith Albers 56 yrs.
- 28 James and Susan Kruspe 46 yrs.

WE WISH GOD'S BLESSINGS ON ALL THESE PEOPLE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY. IF WE HAVE FORGOTTEN ANYONE'S SPECIAL DAY OR IT IS IN ERROR, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.



Thanksgiving
 blessings  Gatherings
 GRATEFUL *Family*
 Give Thanks Prayers  Blessed 

Let us come before Him
with Thanksgiving
Psalms 95:2



Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.
5 Martin Luther Drive,
Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996
Chicago and Northwest Indiana

**Sunday morning at 8:00 AM on
Chicago's CW station WPWR channel 50
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Tel: (260) 471-LOVE (5683)
Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002

www.worshipanew.org/sermon-summaries
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November 4, 2018

All Saints' Day Observed

Psalm 149; Epistle: Revelation 7:9-17; Gospel:
Matthew 5:1-12

"The Finish Line!" - Sermon Text: Revelation
7:9-17 - *Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer*

How do we bear all the unbearable things people are called to carry? God's Word in Revelation 7 lifts us from the challenges of daily existence, focusing our gaze upon the joys of eternity. How much more meaningful and bearable the journey becomes when we know and can see "the finish line!"

November 11, 2018

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 146; Epistle: Hebrews 9:24-28; Gospel:
Mark 12:38-44

"A Widow's Example" - Sermon Text: Mark
12:41-44 - *Rev. James Elsner*

It wasn't what you wanted in life – but it is where you are. Where do you turn in tragedy and loss, in loneliness and grief? Learn from the widow at the temple.

November 18, 2018

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 16; Epistle: Hebrews 10:11-25; Gospel:
Mark 13:1-13

"Step by Step" - Sermon Text: Hebrews 10:11-
25 - *Rev. William Mueller*

Living the Christian life is not at all like a short sprint but a long marathon. There are moments when we are tempted to hang it up, to quit, to exit off the race and hang up our running shoes. However, the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews spurs us to do just the opposite...and to daily encourage others to live this life in the name of Jesus!

November 25, 2018

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Psalm 93; Old Testament: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-
14; Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

"Watch!" - Sermon Text: Mark 13:26, 33-37 –
Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Jesus is coming again on Judgment Day, and His advice to us is, "Watch!" One reason we are to keep watch is that we do not know when this day will occur. There are other reasons as well which, when we consider them, will bring us great comfort and encouragement.