

ITEMS



Volume 61 No. 3

March 2019



A Winning Combination *By Barb Belanski*

Who would think that preschool art and spaghetti would make an evening of fellowship and fun? Well, on February 9th, the two were a winning combination. The evening was shared with Immanuel's preschool and the Boards of Fellowship and Education.

The preschool presented their first-of-a-kind Art Show. Hundreds of handmade art projects by every class and age level were represented – from finger and brush painting to sculptures. Little fingers were busy for months getting ready for the art gala. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbors came to view and enjoy the artistic displays. Under the leadership of Linda Marquardt, preschool director, and her creative preschool staff, the evening became alive with oohs and aahs. An added feature of the evening was a silent auction of beautiful baskets, gift certificates, and even rides to school in a fire truck or police car. Down to the wire bids energized the exciting auction results.

After the guests viewed the Art Show, they were invited to Immanuel's annual spaghetti dinner. Pasta, two kinds of sauce, meatballs, Italian sausage, bread, salad, dessert and beverages were on the menu. Heritage Hall was packed to the brim - everyone was enjoying the ambience and delicious food. To add to the fellowship, games of BINGO were played – winners had their choice of fantastic prizes. Lynn Thorne, chairman of the Board of Fellowship, planned and organized the entire event.

Thanks to both Linda and Lynn for providing an opportunity for this valuable ministry of Immanuel's preschool to blend together with the members of Immanuel. Looking forward to next year – maybe it will be black tie??



“ **Thank you to all** that supported the 1st Annual Preschool Art Show, it was a great evening, we welcomed over 100 family members from the preschool and earned over \$2100 for the preschool alone. It was a great collaboration between fellowship and the preschool. We are already planning for next year! - Linda Marquardt, Preschool Director

SERVING THE LIVING LORD AT IMMANUEL

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

	JAN 2019	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	22,701	22,701	26,748	-4,047	-15%
Interest	122	122	73	49	67%
Expense	34,158	34,158	31,459	2,699	9%
Balance	-11,335	-11,335	-4,638	-6,697	144%

YTD expense includes \$10k moving costs for Pastor Schellhas.

Weekly Attendance

9:00 am Sunday Services

February 03.....93
February 10.....65
February 17.....68
February 24.....81

5:00 pm Saturday Services

February 02.....58
February 09.....67
February 16.....51
February 23.....53

Baptized Membership: 748

Confirmed Membership: 602

Households: 373

March Worship Schedule

Contemporary Service

Saturdays: 2, 9, 16, & 30
Blended Sunday: 10

Traditional Service

Saturday: 23
Sundays: 3, 17, 24, & 31

Mid-Week (7pm)

Ash Wednesday, March 6
March 13, 20, & 27
April 3 & 10

Bulletin & Items Publishing

Bulletin articles are due on Wednesdays by 9 a.m.

Articles for the April *Items* are due by **March 20th** and will be on our website, mailed, and in the narthex after **April 5th**. The *Items* Newsletter is also available online at **immanuelmokena.org**

Official Acts

Funeral: Kelsey Kruspe, February 2, 2019

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.

WE HAVE MOVED!



If you plan to move or have already moved, please call or email the church office with your new address information!

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

Worship SCHEDULE

CONVERSATION STARTERS FROM PASTOR



Tilting **THE TABLE**

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This African proverb is something that has been resonating with me as I consider Jesus' command to all of us to GO

and make disciples. That mandate is clear. But it's not something that we are made to do alone. We need each other, by God's design. So one of the key questions we must answer as a community is, "Where is God leading us? Where does He want us to GO as a community, following in Jesus' footsteps?"

At its core, the work of the church has never been to build and maintain buildings, or to maintain a balanced budget (although these pieces have certainly become a necessary and godly part of how the American church functions and stewards its resources). The work of the church isn't even primarily focused on the weekend gatherings, though the importance of being in God's Word together can hardly be understated or undervalued. To be clear, all of this activity is moral and godly, and it's necessary for good order in our community.

But the purpose of the church is, as Paul put it, "equipping the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12, CSB). Worship services, and the gathering of God's people (church, from Gk. ekklesia) serve as an opportunities to be filled with the great Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection, what it means for our daily lives, and how we live it out. Equipping ALL of God's people, not just the leaders, to be a light in a dark place, maximizes the impact of the Gospel and our common mission, given to us by Jesus.

God's Word, the inviting and challenging words of Jesus, is the best tool for our equipping. And Lent is a season of reflection, prayer, and intentional study of the Word. The Red Letter Challenge (RLC for short) is a vehicle we're using to engage not just our minds, but our hearts and our lives, too, in the process of faith- and life-formation. It's my prayer that as we engage in the RLC together, God's Spirit will begin to bolster our hearts for the road ahead, and give new insight and direction as to where we should go together. We must seek the heart of the

Father, and spiritual maturity before we start to move!

A few weeks ago in church, I brought out a table, marking it with a starting line and an X for the finish line. With a bouncy ball on the table, I and a group of people, of various ages and other characteristics tried to land the ball on the "X." It wasn't easy. It wasn't a straight line. And I'm not sure if we actually ever got the ball to stop rolling. But it was fun!

Our journey together will be similar. I pray it will not be swift and lonely, but far and together. May God grant us vision to see where He wants to go. And may His Word continue to be the thing that fills us up and gives us strength for the journey ahead! Adventure is out there!



The Red Letter Challenge workbooks are available in the church office Monday- Friday during business hours or after worship services on Saturday or Sunday. God's Kids Club will also be following a curriculum that coincides with the challenge so we can learn together. We will begin our Red Letter Challenge on Ash Wednesday!

FOOD DRIVE **For Frankfort Township Food Pantry**
By Sarah Bechtel
A food drive will take place from

March 16th through March 24th. Please keep the food pantry in mind as you do your shopping the next few weeks – perhaps you can pick up extras of items you see on sale! The food pantry is in need of nonperishable items, and paper goods are helpful, too. They also welcome gift cards from Dollar Tree and grocery stores. Thank you for any donations you are able to give!

Son Shine Gang Meeting

We will be meeting on March 13th at the Pepper Mill at Noon. Hope you can make it. Please call Harold at 708- 479- 7745.



Easter Egg Hunt – April 20th By Sarah Bechtel

Mark your calendars for Immanuel’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th. The time has not been set yet – watch the website and Facebook for more details to be announced! As in the past, we will need donations of candy (no peanuts) and volunteers to help on that day. Extra friendly faces are always appreciated to help welcome our visitors from the community!



RSVP Today for The Board of Fellowship “Dinner Night Out”

By Lyn Thorne

Our next “Dinner Night Out” will be at Doc’s Smokehouse of Mokena on

Thursday, March 21st at 5:30 pm. A sign-up sheet is available in the lobby/narthex so we can obtain a headcount, and each person will be responsible for their own bill. This is a great opportunity to meet and converse with the congregation.

Mid-Week Lent Dinners By Lyn Thorne

There is a sign-up sheet available in the Lobby for volunteers to provide the Lent Dinners. There are only a few dates left needing to be filled.



We would like to invite the congregation to join us for our Mid-Week Lent Dinners. They will begin at 6:00pm, beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6 through

Wednesday, April 10th! Our Lent worship services will follow at 7:00 pm.



Praise Band News By Nancy Mirocha

If you are interested in checking out the Praise Band hymns for each month, go to the church website, immanuelmokena.org, click on music under the ministries section, and scroll down to Praise Band current selections. Enjoy the youtube videos.

Serving St. Matthew’s Soup Kitchen

On each of our visits, we are humbled and thankful for God’s blessings on this ministry. Our next visit is planned for **MARCH 14**. Everyone is invited to join us – we leave Immanuel about 10:45am and are back to Mokena by 2:00pm – please **call Barb at 708.995.5375 if you are interested in joining us.**

2019 Serving Dates: 03/14; 04/25; 05/09; 06/13; 07/11; 08/22; 09/12; 10/10; 11/14; 12/12



New Books in Immanuel’s Library!

By Sarah Bechtel

Thanks to generous donations, here are a few titles that are new to our library. Remember, all of our adult collection is cataloged on the LibraryThing database — just go to the website under Ministries/Library to find the link or use the QR code in the library. You can search for titles, authors, topics, etc.

[When The Game Is Over It All Goes Back in the Box](#)

by John Ortberg (248.4 ORT)

Using popular games as a metaphor for our temporal lives, this book neatly sorts out what’s fleeting and what’s permanent in God’s kingdom. Being Master of the Board is not the point; being rich toward God is. Winning the game of life on Earth is a temporary victory; loving God and other people with all our hearts is an eternal one.

[Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out, and Lonely](#)

by Lisa TerKeurst (248.8 TER)

In Uninvited, Lysa shares honestly from her own struggles with rejection and gives readers concrete truths to combat the lies our old Enemy hurls our way. You can stop feeling left out, because even when you are overlooked by others, you are handpicked by God.

[Water From The Rock - Timeless Writings To Strengthen Your Faith And Anchor Your Soul](#)

from Honor Books (248 HON)

Where do you go for the king of spiritual meat and potatoes that will build you up and make you able to face anything life dishes out? The Water From the Rock series is filled with inspiring stories and faith-strengthening reflections. This book includes soul-stirring quotations and excerpts from Christians who have come through the fire and know how to encourage you.

[New to the library fiction:](#) many titles from Christian writer Lawana Blackwell. Many of this author’s novels are set in the English countryside of the nineteenth century.



We're Seeking Creative People

By Jerry Vrshek

We are in the process of developing a "Visual Arts Ministry" that will help plan, produce and run

the Services that will be shown on the monitors in the sanctuary. We are looking for members who would be willing to help with this ministry. If you have an interest in helping in this area or have questions, please contact Jerry Vrshek (815) 469-5059.

Calling All Greeters, Readers, and Ushers

By Jerry Vrshek

A number of members have indicated on the "Time and Talents" form that they are interested in helping in these areas. We would like to develop a plan of action that our members will know at least a week in advance that they will be helping in these areas. We have a Greeter sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex/lobby. Please add your name to the Service where you can help. Remember to bring your smile and a firm handshake. Please be there 30 minutes before the Service begins.

We will personally contact members to be readers (Old Testament and Epistle - first and second readings) to schedule their time to read. We thank you for volunteering.

Ruth Society News

Ruth Society--- one of our objects is to promote sound Christian love and fellowship. We cooperate with other boards within the congregation in serving needs of the church. We would love to see new faces from Immanuel women members at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is **Thursday March 7th at 7:30pm.** We start off with refreshments and followed by a short meeting on what we will be doing at church for the month of March.

Our hostesses for our March meeting are, Mary Oesterreich, Naomi Nagy, Delynn Flannery. Devotions by Mary Oesterreich. Please join us. You will be amazed at all the things we do for our church and community. More information may be obtained by calling Bev Whittier Ruth Society president, at 815-485-9269.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

By Barb Belanski

As you deposit your mite offerings today, know that you are supporting Grace Christian Academy in the "Little Village" neighborhood of Chicago. Their mission grant of \$18,000 will provide: a new oven for the lunch program; wiring to add much needed air-conditioning; stair tread to front and back stairs; and the purchase of new video equipment to help spread the mission of preparing students for success in High School, College, and beyond as well as raising future Christian Leaders for service to God and their community. Thank you for supporting the 2018-20 LWML mission grants.

Thank you for your support of the LWML Northern Illinois mission grants with your mite offerings. If you don't have a mite box, help yourself to one from the LWML table in the narthex. Offerings will be collected April 6/7th.

As you fill your mite box, keep in mind the words of the following: **Amazing Mites** (Tune: Amazing Grace)

Amazing mites are sent with prayer, Here and abroad to share, With those in need, that is our aim, And always praise His name. Each coin is giv'n with loving heart. In this we have a part. What joy it is to do God' work, From this we'll never shirk. Amazing mites, those coins so small, When in the box they fall, Become a force for our dear lord, And spread His Word abroad. Our mites help many in despair. They show how much we care. They tell the news of God's great love, And point to heav'n above.

*excerpted from Overflowing Love, past LWML publication



Immanuel Women Save The Date

Save the Date for the LWML Lenten Inspiration on March 30th at Christ/Orland. The theme is: **SERVING THE LEAST OF THESE - Matthew 25:40.** Learn how the churches in our District are serving individuals in need - plus time for worship and opportunities for fellowship with your Lutheran sisters. The registration form is in the narthex or you can apply online.



- 01 Paul Dillberg
- 01 Melissa Lipscomb
- 01 Nolan Marnul
- 03 Richard Belanski Sr.
- 04 Marty Olsen
- 06 Rachel Greenspan
- 08 Lisa Bartnik
- 08 Millie Shepich
- 08 Michael Sneideraitis
- 09 Randy Besse
- 09 Marlene Cupp
- 09 Donald Snedden
- 09 Jill Strilich
- 10 Ted Fuka
- 10 Blake Lopez
- 11 Barbara Malm
- 13 Keith Maranto
- 13 Susan Schuh
- 14 LeRoy Habel
- 16 Ronald Berger
- 16 Samuel Eble
- 16 Julia Welzen
- 17 Susan Olsen
- 18 Mandy Baker
- 18 Ashley Pomykala
- 19 Jodi Klode
- 19 Douglas Kocur
- 20 Lucas Wojno
- 21 Hannah Nilsen
- 23 Barbara Belanski
- 23 Hannah Eble
- 23 Lou Dawn Howard
- 25 Becky Bouck
- 25 Gail Compagnoni
- 25 Ruth Welzen
- 26 Cynthia Grebic
- 30 Carol Garcia
- 31 Jacqueline Hansen

- 02 David & Marcia Prosken 29 years
- 03 Jim & Sara Witherspoon 11 years
- 17 Gary & Judy Smith 57 years

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.



Christian Symbol

CHALICE & CROSS — The chalice with a cross rising from it symbolizes Christ's obedient suffering, even unto death. The cross is called a "passion cross," with pointed ends that represent suffering. We remember that in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus

begged his Father that the "cup" of suffering be taken from him. But ultimately, he prayed, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39, NIV).

PRESCHOOL NEWS

- 03/04:** Field Trip
- 03/05:** Field Trip / No School
- 03/19:** Chapel, 9:15 am
- 03/20:** Chapel, 9:15 am & 12:30 pm
- 03/25 - 29:** No School – Spring Break
- 04/01:** Classes Resume

Kindergarten Registration Dates:

- Mokena Dist.159 – 03/12, 5:30-8pm
- Frankfort Dist. 157C – 03/05, Noon-8:00pm
- Summit Hill Dist. 161 – Passed, Contact District
- New Lenox Dist 122 – Passed, Contact District



NOW OFFERING GLUTEN FREE

If anyone has health issues requiring gluten free communion wafers, please contact Pastor Schellhas.



Sunday morning at 8:00 AM on Chicago's CW station WPWR channel 50 (Comcast 184)

Tel: (260) 471-LOVE (5683) | Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002

www.worshipanew.org (Sermon Summaries)

Email: info@LMMinc.org

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

MARCH 03 > The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Psalm 99; Old Testament: Hebrews 3:1-6; Gospel:
Luke 9:28-36

*"His Exodus" - Sermon Text: Luke 9:28-36 - Rev.
Dr. Daniel Brege*

On the Mount of Transfiguration Moses and Elijah spoke to Jesus about His departure. The word for "departure" is literally "exodus." Through Moses God led His Old Testament people in an extraordinary Exodus. Christ traveled an Exodus that brings His people into the "Promised Land" of heaven!

MARCH 10 > First Sunday in Lent

Psalm 91:1-13; Epistle: Romans 10:8b-13
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

*"God Commands His Angels" - Sermon Text:
Psalm 91:1-13 - Rev. Bill Mueller*

Psalm 91 contains one of the most treasured promises in all of Scripture. What does it mean that God commands His angels over us? How are we encouraged to live our Christian faith with this in mind?

MARCH 17 > Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm 4; Epistle: Philippians 3:17-4:1; Gospel:
Luke 13:31-35

*"Where's Your Home?" - Sermon Text: Philippians
3:20-21 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer*

Citizens incur obligations and benefits. Through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we hold citizenship in heaven. Paul encourages the Philippians, and us, to live each day mindful of the obligations and benefits we possess by answering for us the question: Where's Your Home?

MARCH 24 > Third Sunday in Lent

Psalm 85:1-9; Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13;
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

*"Temptation" - Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III*

We have been and will be tempted to sin. Who will help us in our time of need? Jesus – who was tempted in every way that we are, yet who never sinned.

MARCH 31 > Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm 32; Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Gospel:
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

*"The Prodigal Father" - Sermon Text: Luke 15:11 -
Rev. Thomas A. Eggold*

This story in Luke 15 is often called the "Parable of the Prodigal Son." But the word prodigal is actually a much better description of the father. You see, "prodigal" means "reckless" or "extravagant" and it is in the father's unrestrained and overwhelming grace that we find the truth that changes our lives.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
	TYPE OF SERVICE (T) = Traditional (C) = Contemporary					5p Worship/HC (C) LWML Mite Offerings Collected
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9a Worship/HC (T), LWML Mite Offerings Collected 10:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a God's Kids Club	Preschool Field Trip No School Except 5-Day am/pm Classes 7p Men's Bible Study	Preschool Field Trip No School 7p Board of Elders 7p Board of Trustees	RLC Day 1: 5 Principles, Being ASH WEDNESDAY 6p Lent Dinner 7p Lent Worship 7:45p Choir	RLC Day 2: 5 Principles, Forgiving 7:30p Ruth Society	RLC Day 3: 5 Principles, Serving	RLC Day 4: 5 Principles, Giving 5p Worship (C)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9a Worship (C) 10:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a God's Kids Club	RLC Day 5: 5 Principles, Going	RLC Day 6: Wk of Being 1:30p Board of Stewardship Mtg 7p Parish Planning	RLC Day 7: Wk of Being 12p Son Shine Gang 6p Lent Dinner 7p Lent Worship 7:45p Choir	RLC Day 8: Wk of Being 9:30a LWML Bible Study 10:30a St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen Serving	RLC Day 9: Wk of Being	RLC Day 10: Wk of Being 5p Worship/HC (C)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9a Worship/HC (T) 10:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a God's Kids Club	RLC Day 11: Wk of Being 7p Men's Bible Study	RLC Day 12: Wk of Being Preschool Chapel 7p Board of Christian Ed.	RLC Day 13: Wk of Forgiving Preschool Chapel 6p Lent Dinner 7p Lent Worship 7:45p Choir	RLC Day 14: Wk of Forgiving 5:30p Dinner Night Out Doc's Smokehouse	RLC Day 15: Wk of Forgiving 9:30a Quilting	RLC Day 16: Wk of Forgiving 5p Worship (T)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9a Worship (T) 10:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a God's Kids Club ----- 31 9a Worship/HC (T) 10:15a Adult Bible Study 10:15a God's Kids Club	RLC Day 17: Wk of Forgiving	RLC Day 18: Wk of Forgiving	RLC Day 19: Wk of Forgiving 6p Lent Dinner 7p Lent Worship 7:45p Choir	RLC Day 20: Wk of Serving 9:30a LWML Bible Study	RLC Day 21: Wk of Serving	RLC Day 22: Wk of Serving 5p Worship/HC (C) 2019 LWML Lenten Inspiration Event
< No Preschool – Spring Break >						