

# ITEMS



Volume 61 No. 11

November 2019

## Upcoming Events

Nov 2-30: Stars of Hope

Nov 7-8: ILP No School

Nov 9: Fall Fest / Beef Dinner

Nov 14: Women's Bible Study, 9:15am

Nov 14: Serving at St. Matthew's

Nov 12-13: ILP Chapel Days

Nov 27-29: ILP No School

Nov 27: Thanksgiving Worship

Dec 14: Annual Cookie Walk



### Men of the Word Bible Study

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 7pm  
(No Class Nov. 18)

### Women of the Word Bible Study

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 7pm  
(No Class Nov. 11)

### People of the Word Bible Study

5<sup>th</sup> Monday, 7pm (Men & Women)

### Women's Morning Bible Study

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 9:15 am  
(No Class Nov. 28)

### Adult Bible Study

Sundays, 10:15 am  
(No Class Nov. 17)



Did you snap a photo  
at one of our events?  
Please share it with us  
by emailing it to:

[office@immanuelmokena.org](mailto:office@immanuelmokena.org)

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019

### Ruth Society's Annual Fall Fest & Beef Dinner

By Carole Sluis & Mary Oesterreich



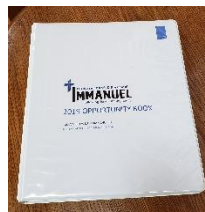
On November 9, 2019 we will host our annual Fall Fest including craft show, beef dinner and bake sale. Please join us for this enjoyable fundraising event.

**Craft Show & Bake Sale:** 10am - 7pm (Free Entry)

**Beef Dinner:** 4pm - 6:30pm

(Adults: \$13, Children 6-12yrs: \$4, Children 5 & under: Free)

**Interested in Volunteering?** Fall Fest Beef Dinner Sign-up sheets will be up in the lobby beginning Oct 4. The Ruth Society greatly appreciates all the help from our congregation. All the money we earn goes to our missions and Immanuel. Any questions please contact Mary Oesterreich at 708-479-7745.



## Introducing a World of Opportunity!

With the lobby under construction we have created a centralized location for all volunteer sign-ups, called the Opportunity Book! It can be found during worship services on the podium as you enter/exit the sanctuary. Check it Out!

## 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

YOY Comparison	SEPT 2019	2019 YTD	2018 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	26,435	264,102	239,631	24,471	10
Interest	362	1,967	1,656	311	19
Expense	32,144	265,375	215,416	49,959	23
Balance	-5,347	694	25,871	-25,177	-97

\* Increased expenses in 2019 compared to prior year primarily attributed to pastoral vacancy in 2018.

## Weekly Attendance

### 5:00 pm Saturday Services

Oct 05.....49    Oct 19.....38

Oct 12.....36    Oct 26.....42

### 9:00 am Sunday Services

Oct 06.....65    Oct 20.....86

Oct 13.....71    Oct 27.....85

Baptized Membership: 751  
Confirmed Membership: 600  
Households: 372

## November Worship Schedule

### Saturday Worship (5 pm)

Contemporary: 2, 9, 16, 23

Traditional: 30

### Sunday Worship (9 am)

Traditional: 3, 10, 17

Blended: 24

*Pastoral Coverage by Pastor Breitbarth  
November 16 – November 17*

## Bulletin & Items Publishing

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

Articles for the December Items are due by **November 21** and will be on our website, mailed, and in the lobby after **December 1**. The Items Newsletter is also available online at [immanuelmokena.org](http://immanuelmokena.org)

## 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 Bubeck 815-469-7573**

**Elder 3: Bruce Bechtel 815-485-5455**

**Elder 4: Nick Whittier 815-485-9269**

**Elder 5: Jerry Vrshek 815-469-5059 (Director)**

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



**Have you moved or  
has your contact**

**information changed recently?**

If the answer is yes, please call or email the church office with your new information so you don't miss out on our communications for church events/info!

### Church Office Contact Information:

708-479-5600 | [office@immanuelmokena.org](mailto:office@immanuelmokena.org)



**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service**  
Wednesday, November 27 at 7pm



## CONVERSATION STARTERS FROM THE PASTOR

### 1-2-3 (Part 1)

(November 2019)

I love books. Well-crafted books. Hardcover, if I can get them. A cloth-covered, embossed book with

deckled edges and the smell of a library or a print shop all over it is a feast for the senses to me. As a self-proclaimed bibliophile, one of my biggest daily regrets is that I haven't had enough time to read.

And if "Who's your favorite author?" is your next question, I will try very hard not to look too giddy and wide-eyed as I say, "C.S. Lewis!" Aside from being a Bible nerd and a lover of Luther's acerbic wit, I know of no other author who can activate my imagination and engage my heart. The Chronicles of Narnia, where most people start their journey with Lewis. The often-overlooked Space (or Ransom) Trilogy. Creative Christian fantasy like The Screwtape Letters and The Great Divorce. Lewis' many, fantastically-crafted works of religious philosophy. The modern reader can learn much from this Oxford don, and the contemporary Christian will be well-fed in devotional introspection and bolstered for a robust life of mission and witness.

As of late, I've been slowly digesting the chapters of Mere Christianity, arguably Lewis's best and most accessible philosophical work. And just the other day, I read a passage that fit so well into the internal conversation I've been having with God. A pretty distinct "poke" in the plethora of nudges He routinely gives me. A gentle hand on my shoulder, to direct me where He wants our conversations here at Immanuel in the coming months to go. I just had to share it with you. Here it is:

"This is the whole of Christianity. There is nothing else. It is so easy to get muddled about that. It is easy to think that the Church has a lot of different objects—education, building, missions, holding services. Just as it is easy to think the State has a lot of different objects—military, political, economic, and what not. But in a way things are much simpler than that. The State exists simply to promote and to protect the ordinary happiness of human beings in this life. A husband and wife chatting over a fire, a couple of friends having a game of darts in a pub, a man reading a book in his own room or digging in his own garden—that is what the State is there for. And unless they are helping

to increase and prolong and protect such moments, all the laws, parliaments, armies, courts, police, economics, etc., are simply a waste of time. In the same way the Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose" (2001, p. 199).

So if God has placed us in this place, for such a time as this, for the purpose of shaping and crafting us into people who look like Him, shouldn't we be paying attention to that? When Jesus models disciple-making by His own life and practice, then encourages us to do the same in His final "marching orders," the Great Commission, shouldn't that mean something to us? What does it look to walk in the footsteps of the Master? If making disciples, making embodiments of who Jesus is out of our everyday life, is what we were made for, will the gracious, loving God we serve not also, by His Spirit, give us what we need to accomplish His will? I am confident that He who started this work in us will bring it to completion when all is said and done (Phil. 1:6). Keep your eyes peeled and your ears attentive to a more in-depth conversation about this starting after the first of the year. But in the meantime,...

*Adventure is out there! Pastor Aaron*

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## Advent Journals

"O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of our dear Savior's birth." From the earliest promise of His coming in the garden, to the angelic announcement of His birth in a field outside of



Bethlehem, the hope of the world is Jesus, the Son of God given to rescue and redeem a broken and weary world. In this four-week Advent reading plan, we will prepare our hearts for the celebration of

Jesus's birth by reading traditional scriptures of the season, approaching anew our need for Christ and celebrating the glory of His arrival." – *She Reads Truth.com*

In October we pre-ordered books in bulk to get discounted pricing, but you can still purchase on your own if you would like to join in. Please visit [shereadstruth.com](http://shereadstruth.com) and select the Advent journals.



## 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 **NOVEMBER 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: 12/12**

## Help Fill the 2019 Altar Flower Chart!

There are only (3) slots left for 2019, please check the Opportunity Book to sign up today. *Please make checks payable to Ruth Society and do not forget to fill out your flower card message.*

(2) Flower Vases: \$40 or just (1) Flower Vase: \$20

## Lutheran Women in Mission



Your mite box offerings are helping to fund ten mission grants selected at the LWML NID 2018 convention. To view these grants visit our website,

select Serve, and click World. Help yourself to a mite box – your whole family is invited to participate. Thank you for supporting our Northern Illinois District and National LWML mission grants – you are a blessing to so many!!!

Mite offerings are collected on the first weekend of the month in the large mite box in our narthex. **Next Mite Box Collection: December 7/8<sup>th</sup>** Thank you for supporting LWML – your gifts are a blessing to many!

## Advent Preservice Meals By Lyn Thorne



Advent is coming and again this year, we will be hosting light meals before each service. The Board of Fellowship will host the first Wednesday, December 4th, but we are looking for volunteers to host the other two

Wednesdays. PLEASE SIGN-UP IN THE OPPORTUNITY BOOK in the Lobby/Narthex.

## Calling All Bakers and Buyers!

*By Lyn Thorne*



Please get your recipes out and mark your calendars for December 14th for the annual Cookie Walk! This event has become so popular that we more cookies than in the past. If you can please make at least 12 dozen, but preferably 20 dozen cookies, this would make our event even more successful.



PLEASE SIGN-UP IN THE OPPORTUNITY BOOK in the Lobby/Narthex. For those of you who may not know, these funds are used for to cover all of the Fellowship events throughout the year. On behalf of the entire Board of Fellowship we are so grateful for your support.





## Over One Thousand Visit Immanuel for Trunk-or-Treat 2019

By Sarah Bechtel



We were blessed with absolutely beautiful weather for this year's Trunk-or-Treat. Over one thousand children and parents enjoyed trick-or-treating from trunk to trunk and then many joined us in the gym where we served hot dogs, chips, and popcorn along with hot chocolate, coffee, and water. We ran out of the 420 hot dogs purchase by 5:15! A huge THANK YOU to all of the volunteers including those who provided the "trunks" and also those who prepared and served food, ran children's games, supervised raffles, welcomed our guests, managed the

parking lot, set up, clean up, and more!! Plus, a big thanks to all who donated candy and water – it was certainly needed!! Truly a team effort!



We were able to collect a van full of donations for the Frankfort Township Food Pantry which was much appreciated. They

also were thrilled to receive the cash donations of \$130 which they will be able to triple by using at Meijer during their Simply Give double match days in December!

## Spaghetti Dinner/ Preschool Art Fair

By Lyn Thorne

Mark your calendars for February 1st. We will finally get to play bingo!

## Paper Goods Drive Was Bountiful

By: Sarah Limanowski

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to the Frankfort Township Food Pantry Paper Drive. With your generous donations, we collected 38 rolls of paper towel, 13 packages of napkins, 34 boxes of Kleenex, 140 rolls of toilet paper, 5 packages of paper plates, and 4 packages of baby wipes. In addition, we turned in \$160.00 in Dollar Tree gift cards. We also took one food item to the food pantry. All of your generous donations were greatly appreciated. Thanks again!

## Christian Symbol (By: NewsletterNewsletter)



**Alpha & Omega**— Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. As John of Patmos greets the seven churches in Asia, he writes: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty'" (Revelation 1:8, NIV). "The Alpha and the Omega" is a metaphor that points to God's eternal nature.



"Dear Members, I would like to thank everyone who came to visit me at Smith's Crossing (a great place to recuperate), those who called with well wishes, support and sent cards. Also, those who came with meals and home visits. I

appreciate your prayers and taking me to the doctor's appointments. Thanks Bev and Barbara for taking the time to make my house ready for my return home. Special thanks to Pastor for his visits. Looking forward to getting back to church after the ATI sessions are over." – *Sincerely, Sharon Durkin*



## MorningStar Mission Stars of Hope

By: Sarah Bechtel

Beginning the weekend of November 2nd, Immanuel members will be able to select a tag

for the Stars of Hope program which provides Christmas gifts to families in need. Each tag will have wish lists for one child — gifts should be purchased and wrapped and returned to the lobby by Sunday, December 1st. Thank you for your support of this program — Immanuel members have helped make Christmas brighter for many children over the past years.



## Birthdays

01 Miriam Wilson	19 Olivia Roberts
02 Marshall Smith	20 Amy Lydic
03 Jillian Banser	20 Kevin Smith
03 Barbara Seivert	21 Ryan Krause
05 Colin Marnul	23 Cindy Bednarski
05 Michael Victor	23 Wally Hawrysko
07 Penny Smith	23 Kenny Thorne
07 Christina Somerville	24 Hanna Ackerman
08 Don Bakken	24 Karen Rohder
10 Debi Klode	25 Sam Olsen
11 Tim Baker	26 Cindy Heidkamp
11 Lucille Hostert	27 Robert Cupp
11 Jason Howard	28 Tim Falbo
13 John Beckstrom	28 Megan Golembiewski
13 Bryan Dillberg	28 Emma Munson
17 Jeannine Diab	28 Morgan Obis
17 Jack Roberts	28 Joan Yunker
18 Joshua Dietrich	29 Wanda Dillberg
18 Eric Hostert	29 Nancy Kaczmarczyk
18 Alison Kiedaisch	29 Mason Marnul
19 Chris Kloppmann	30 Greg Golembiewski

## Preschool Read-A-Thon Fundraiser Proves Successful

*By Linda Marquardt*

Thank you for your pledges! The children read 1158+ books and we raised \$3586.50.



## Anniversaries

03 John & Sharla Wojno	12 years
06 Jason & Kristine Nagy	09 years
09 Miriam & Timothy Wilson	33 years
18 Barbara & Joseph Limanowski	30 years
24 Edith & Frank Albers	57 years
28 Jim & Susan Kruspe	47 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.*

## Upcoming Schedule

**11/7 & 11/8:** No School

**11/12:** Chapel Day (2day AM) 9:15am

**11/13:** Chapel Day (5day & 3day AM & PM)  
9:15am & 12:30pm

**11/25 & 11/26:** Thanksgiving Feast

**11/27-11/29:** No School – Thanksgiving Break



## **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](http://www.worshipanew.org) (Sermon Summaries)

Email: [info@LMMinc.org](mailto:info@LMMinc.org)

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

### **November 3, 2019 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost \*All Saints' Day Observed**

Psalm 149; Revelation 7:2-17; 1 John 3:1-3

"God's Israel" - Sermon Text: Revelation 7:9-10 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

"They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Only the blood of Jesus will do. Your blood cannot cleanse sin. Nor can the sweat of your labors or the tears of your contrition. There is no such thing as sinless saints, only forgiven ones. If you say you have no sin, you're fooling yourself. Temptations abound, and sin comes all too naturally to the natural born sinner. But the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.

### **November 10, 2019 – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

Psalm 148; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17; Luke 20:27-40

"God Chose You" - Sermon Text: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

To comfort the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul reminds them, "God chose you to be saved." God comforts us with those same words. "God chose you." So that you may have peace, we are reminded He chose you to be with Him forever.

### **November 17, 2019 – Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**

Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13; Luke 21:5-28

"Don't Get Tired!" - Sermon Text: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13 - Rev. Bill Mueller

With all of the pressures that Christians face today, it is easy to understand why many of us are so tired! However, God, through the words of the Apostle Paul, encourages us not to get tired! Why? Because the Lord is faithful!

### **November 24, 2019 – Last Sunday of the Church Year**

Psalm 46; Colossians 1:13-20; Luke 23:39-43

"What's Your Epitaph?" - Sermon Text: Colossians 1:18 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

An "epitaph" is a pithy statement that sums up a life, something you might see inscribed on a gravestone. What is the measure of *your* life? What's your epitaph?