



Fill the Frankfort Township Food Pantry This Fall with Our Paper Drive

By Sarah Bechtel

The Board of Stewardship will be holding a paper drive for the Frankfort Township Food Pantry from 9/26 through 10/11. We are asking members to donate paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, etc.) or you may also donate Dollar Tree gift cards or checks payable to Frankfort Township Food Pantry. The recent supply issues and price increases of paper products have made it even more difficult for the food pantry to provide these items to those members of the community that rely on their services. Collection bins will be placed in the narthex and also will be available at the Sunday outdoor services. Thank you for any help you can provide!



Don't Forget to Join Us for Outdoor Worship This Fall!

If you are looking for an opportunity to worship our Lord in a safe socially distant setting, you are welcome to join us in our outdoor sanctuary Sundays at 9am as weather permits through October.

Please bring a chair or blanket and join us in our wooded sanctuary behind the church for worship. Masks are encouraged but not required. We will remain socially distanced and the outdoor services will NOT be live streamed. If you have trouble walking please make sure you pull up as close the worship space as possible. Services will be held weather permitting, and in the case of inclement weather we will proceed with our traditional indoor service where masks are required.

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	AUG 2020	2020 YTD	2019 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	29,535	222,402	237,667	-15,265	-6
Interest	37	1,486	1,469	17	1
Facility	250	2,150	3,690	-1,540	-42
Expense	25,129	225,706	233,231	-7,525	-3
Balance	4,693	332	9,595	-9,263	-97

> Mortgage Balance \$188,640.90

IN-PERSON SERVICES RESUME Contemporary Saturdays at 5:00 pm Traditional Sundays at 9:00 am

There will be limited congregational responses and singing during worship to help keep the spread of germs to a minimum. The praise band and organist will still perform in a limited capacity.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF FINANCIAL, PASTORAL OR OFFICE SUPPORT?

Please Contact Us:

Pastoral Support: 708-479-5600 x2

Office Support: 708-479-5600 x1

Live-Streamed Weekly Worship

Tune in to Facebook, YouTube Channel or immanuelmokena.org (click connect, live stream) to view the services live from the comfort of your home. Service times are listed above. Outdoor services will not be streamed.

Bulletin & Items Publishing

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

Articles for the November *Items* are due by **October 23** and will be on our website, emailed, and mailed after **November 1st**. The *Items* Newsletter is also available online at immanuelmokena.org

* Please consider signing up on our website to receive the newsletter via email.

Official Acts

Baptisms: Wren Tehako – September 20
Isla & Reese Berger – September 27

Memorial Service - September 05
Kurt Klode (June 29, 1953 – July 28, 2020)

Wedding of Hannah Nilsen to Colton Burdette on September 25

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 312-952-1727
Elder 3: Bruce Bechtel 815-485-5455
Elder 4: Nick Whittier 815-485-9269
Elder 5: Jerry Vrshek 815-469-5059 (Director)
Elder 6: Lynn Gilmore 815-600-6855

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



Update Your Info!

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

Donations To Special Groups

Please follow the below instructions for submitting donations via check to any of the following groups.

GROUP **MAKE CHECK PAYABLE**

Rays of HOPE

Rays Of Hope

God's Kids Club

Immanuel Lutheran

Include on Memo: God's Kids Club

Ruth Society

Ruth Society

* For Special Group Donations: Clearly write on the outside of your offering envelope where the funds should be designated.



CONVERSATION STARTERS FROM THE PASTOR

A Worthwhile Challenge

It is clear to me that our world is going through a challenging season right now. A global pandemic. Civil unrest. Tension in government during an election year. A hard-hit economy and rising unemployment. The list could go on, it doesn't even begin to encompass all of the personal challenges we face on a daily basis, most of them known only to us.

On one hand, it would be overstating the fact to say that we are living in unprecedented times. On the other, in the broad span of history, the challenges we face today are nothing new. There have been plagues and depressions before. There has been civil unrest and outright war. Nations have risen and fallen, and whole ecosystems have been shaped by forces beyond human control. In fact, if you look closely enough, all of these events are found in biblical times, and many of them happen directly to God's people, the people that He has loved with an everlasting love and drawn close to His heart with a persistent kindness and grace. You don't have to read through too much of the biblical narrative to come across plenty of challenges that God's people have faced.

So while there are some challenges that no one in their right mind would choose for themselves, and can't be controlled by human power or initiative, there are some challenges that we can actively step into for the sake of health and growth. And I believe there are some challenges that our Savior Jesus actively encourages us to pursue, knowing that our life with Him will be enlivened and enriched beyond measure when we trust His leading. In fact, Jesus had a masterful way of inviting people into His life, then challenging them to be people who would grow the Father's Kingdom by their obedience to His commands. He loved every person exactly as He found them, but loved them too much to allow them to stay the same. He graciously ushered them into relationship with God, which is the essence of the Gospel, then challenged them to seek the Father's heart and change their ways to look more like His, which looks like a picture of His righteousness and His good law. Jesus invited His disciples to come and follow Him, to join their life to His, to be on His shoulder and observe how He walked through the world. But in the same breath, He pointed to the

cross, His destination and a symbol of theirs, and gave them a glimpse at what discipleship would cost them all.

My friends, some of the challenges we are facing aren't ones we would willingly choose, and we trust God to bring peace, health, and resolution in His time and His way. However, I firmly believe that God is challenging us to step into new patterns of spiritual growth and maturity. Most notably, I desperately want to see Immanuel become a community of people who know the heart of God and **pray** earnestly for His kingdom's coming in our midst, wherever we go and wherever we are found.

I know we all have our challenges. But I've found that when we lean into the challenges God sends us, we find unexpected blessings, and we will all be better off. We will be more alive. We will be more fulfilled. Our lives will be running over with meaningful experiences, rich with God's goodness. I pray you hear good news from God in Temple spaces, and find plenty of opportunities to minister to your friends, coworkers, and neighbors in your Table spaces, and find joy along the way, because...

Adventure is out there!
Pastor Aaron



LWML Northern Illinois District VIRTUAL Convention: *By Barb Belanski*

The LWML Northern Illinois District held their virtual convention with the theme "Led by the Spirit" on September 12, 2020. President Jan Gerzevske presided over the pre-recorded convention which included singing and Bible study led by pastoral counselors Rev. Doug Swanson and Rev. Jeffrey Howell. Participants also heard reports by LWML President Debbie Larson and LCMS Northern Illinois District President Rev. Allen Buss.

Testimonies from two 2018-2020 mission recipients were shared as well as a tribute to past Northern Illinois District President Jan Mauer (2010-2014) who received her crown of life in May 2020.

Seven new mission grants were selected for the biennium 2020-2022 totaling \$93,750. These are

the grants your mite dollars will be funding for the next two years:

- Worship Anew Ministry and Unchurched \$17,600
- Jacmel Lutheran Home and Center of Refuge Orphanage \$15,000
- Dr. William Griffin Community Center Food Pantry \$18,000
- Phil's Friends \$10,000
- Dorcas Project-Leadership training for women in Ghana \$17,000
- Lutheran books for Buddhist Southeast Asia \$15,000
- Salam Christian Fellowship \$1,150

Detailed descriptions of these mission grants will be detailed in future issues of *Items*.

Mite box offerings will continue to be collected on the first weekend of the month.....pick up a mite box (bank) from the LWML table in the narthex and encourage all members of your family to participate in this "super-easy" way of supporting missions – thanking you in advance for your support in sharing the love of God around the world!!

Women of the Word Returns



Online Bible Study

We've resumed meeting using Zoom. If you would like a link to be invited to our virtual Women of the Word, please send an

email to Leeann at dceleann04@yahoo.com. We will continue looking at each Fruit of the Spirit. Newcomers are welcome!

Meeting Dates: October 12 and 26
November 9 and 23
December 14



Men of the Word Returns

We've started a *new*, inter-generational conversation centered on the question, "What does it mean to be a godly man in

today's world?" Bring a lawn chair and join Pastor at the Olsen's home (22143 Clove Drive, Frankfort) at 7pm Monday, October 5th.

Meeting Dates: October 5 and 19
November 2 and 30
December 7
*No Class November 16

Flu Shots By Mary Oesterreich

Due to Covid-19 we have decided not offer the flu shots this year at Immanuel.

Altar Flowers By Barb Belanski

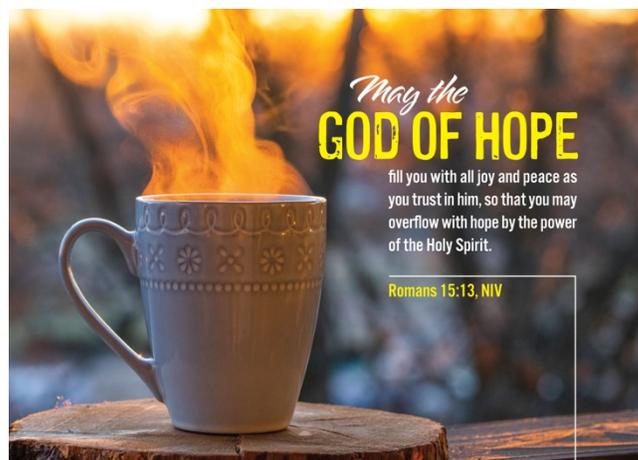
During the Covid-19 shut down from March through May many of you had signed up for Altar Flowers and we are asking you to consider signing up for an alternate date for 2020.

Each bouquet is \$20. Please contact Barb Belanski, (773) 704-1416, if you would like to sign up for Altar Flowers. Checks should be made payable to the Ruth Society and placed in the offering plate or lockbox by office entrance. Be sure to write Altar Flowers on the memo line.

The Ruth Society would like to thank all those that have ordered flowers in the past and for honoring the Lord.

Thank You

Mary & Harold would like to thank you for your continued prayers, love and support during Harold's hospitalization. Please continue your prayers during his rehabilitation.



Ways to Submit an Offering

- **Drop off** a check (or cash in sealed envelope with your name) in the secure black lockbox by the church office entrance door.
- **Mail** a check to the office: 10731 W La Porte Rd, Mokena, IL 60448
- **Electronic Giving** – go to the website, www.immanuelmokena.org, and click on Electronic Giving under the Giving menu. Fill in the secure form with either credit card or checking account information to submit offering.

- **Joyful Response:** many members already use this service which automatically debits their checking account at a specified interval (weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, etc.) for a specified amount. The form can be found on the Electronic Giving page on the website – just fill it out and drop off or mail to the church office.

God's Kids Club has begun with a Zooming Start!

By Lyn Thorne

God's Kids Club is off to a great start with our virtual classes using Zoom. We have actually gained some new students. Our Bible Point for this unit is "God always loves us" and if you happen to say that to one of our students, don't be surprised if they respond (with a loud voice) WOW GOD!



Thanks to our Bible Buddy Savanna, we are also learning to memorize Ephesians 3:18.

"And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is."

If possible, Nicolette, can you embed the graphic of Savanna and this verse from one of the four lessons?

Please continue to keep God's Kids Club in your prayers that the Lord will guide our staff and open our children's ears and hearts to hear the word of God.

Fellowship Under the Stars

By Lyn Thorne

Movie Night - E.T. Thanks to all of the people that came out for our movie in the pavilion, we raised \$100 for the Frankfort food pantry. With those funds, 180 rolls of toilet paper were purchased.

October Christian Symbol

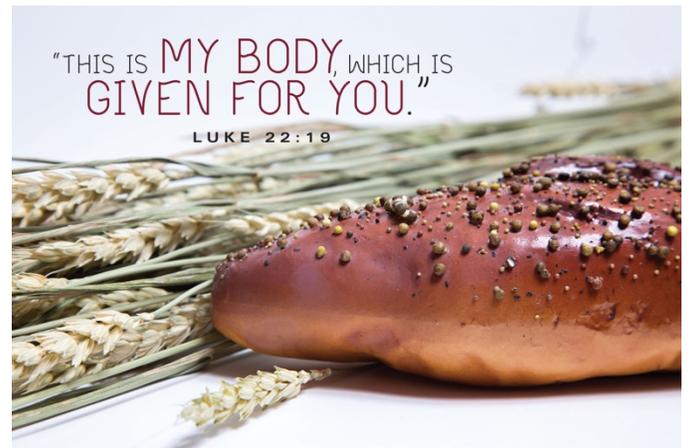


Plow: This farming implement is mentioned frequently in the Bible, often in verses about the

harvest. Plowing symbolizes preparing the heart to receive God's truth, or the "seed" of God's word. The plow also represents commitment; Jesus says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62, NIV). The prophet Elisha burns his plow to show his commitment to answer God's call (see 1 Kings 19:21).

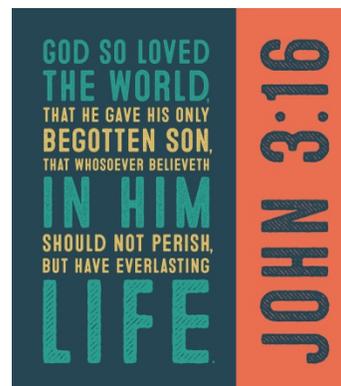
October Interim Communion

Registration is now open on our website for October Interim Communion dates. Sign up now to make sure you get a spot!



The Best Medicine Source NewsletterNewsletter

Near the end of his life, Protestant reformer Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, "My best prescription for head and heart is that 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever



believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'"

That Bible verse became a refrain for Luther on his deathbed. "What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity," he said of John 3:16. "It is

the Bible itself!" After repeating the words of that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther exclaimed, "They are the best prescription for headaches and heartaches!"

Important Note: Effective Immediately we have suspended the use of Heritage Hall for all fitness and sporting groups. We are currently working on updating our procedures to be in compliance with the Illinois Department of Health for the reopening of our Preschool.

Suggested Podcasts

- Essentially Translatable from Lutheran Bible Translators
 - www.GravityLeadership.com/podcast/
 - www.EverydayDisciple.com/episodes
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Faith at Home Options

By Nicolette Fitzpatrick

How to find the Vlog and Live Streaming Worship Services...

- www.immanuelmokena.org – Go to Connect, Select Faith@Home or Live Stream
 - Facebook – Follow us @ImmanuelMokena
 - YouTube – Our channel is Immanuel Lutheran Mokena (you can subscribe to the channel to be notified when new videos are posted)
-

A Singular Focus Source NewsletterNewsletter

When we try to focus on too many things at once, sometimes we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their house (see Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly. Surely Jesus doesn't mean that quiet devotion is needed while serving others is not. But when we let ourselves get "worried and distracted by many things," we may lose sight of the one crucial thing: love.

St. Francis is credited with the following quote: "God came to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees and cried, 'Beloved, what may I give?' 'Just love,' God said. 'Just love.'"

And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), St. Paul writes, "For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love." Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill your days, remember to choose rightly — by choosing love.

Loved For Who We Are

When I was a child, my parents loved me not because I was good but because I was ... their child. I loved them, and I wanted to please them, but their love of me did not have to be earned. Neither does the love of God. We are loved because we are his children, because we are. If we feel that we ought to be loved because it is our due, or because we deserve it, the less we will truly feel the need of God's love; the less implicit will be our trust; the less we will cry out, *Abba!*

—Madeleine L'Engle, *Walking on Water*



Baptism of Wren Josephine Tehako on September 20, 2020



Baptism of Isla Grace Berger & Reese Viola Berger on September 27, 2020



Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Burdette-September 25th

OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

01 Bob Fleckenstein
 01 Greg Strobel
 02 Gary J. Banser Jr
 03 Kim Horneij
 04 James Kruspe
 05 Leo Cleary
 05 Russ Fleckenstein
 07 Ray Fleckenstein
 07 Timothy Knight
 09 Daniel Rohder
 09 Lyn Thorne
 09 Tim Victor
 11 Layla Wojno
 12 Bill Pomykala
 13 Jimmy Bowlds
 14 Dave Ebert
 14 Susan Kruspe
 14 Lee Zagralalis
 15 Amy Zagralalis
 16 Leslie Cosich
 16 Alexander Rohder
 17 Sharon Schwanbeck
 19 Becky Burke
 20 Jolene Baker
 20 Kerry Gerken
 21 Lynn Gilmore
 21 Scarlett Pattenaude
 22 Sierra Perrin
 23 Wendy Nagy
 23 Karen Tatro
 23 Karen Vrshek
 24 Nasser Diab
 24 Bruce Karpola
 25 Ted J. Fenn
 25 JoAnna Rowell
 25 Kelly Snedden
 26 Dale Disabato
 27 Christina Temple
 28 Kathy Cleary
 31 Lauren Maranto
 31 Shirley A. Schulz

Anniversaries

01 Dale & Kathy Disabato 43 years
 04 John & Carole Ellis 23 years
 05 Dennis & Cheryl Thompson 46 years
 11 Bob & Joan Fleckenstein 62 years
 11 Deborah & George Tolsky 40 years

12 Kyle & Jodi Klode 35 years
 12 Lance & Dee Dee Nilsen 29 years
 15 Bill & Doreen Pomykala 37 years
 16 John & Carol Golembiewski 44 years
 20 Bruce & Diane Braner 47 years
 20 Jamie & Beth Smith 14 years
 26 Patrick & Amy Lydic 29 years
 28 Ed & Rita Nykrin 25 years
 30 John & Kim Horneij 27 years
 31 Donald & Gail Compagnoni 62 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.

Responding to the Storms of Life



MY STORM SAYS...	GOD SAYS...
I can't go on	My grace is sufficient 1 Corinthians 12:9
I can't manage	I will supply all your needs Philippians 4:19
I can't forgive myself	I forgive you Romans 8:1
It's impossible	All things are possible Luke 18:27
I can't figure it out	I will direct your steps Proverbs 3:5-6



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

October 4, 2020 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 80:7-19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

"Garbage and the Cross" - Sermon Text: Philippians 3:4b-14 - Rev. William Mueller

When push comes to shove, what are you going to trust? Will you put your trust and hope in what you can accomplish or in what Jesus Christ has already done for us and graciously gives to us?

October 11, 2020 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 23; Isaiah 25:6-9; Matthew 22:1-14

"Don't Give Up!" - Sermon Text: Psalm 23:6 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

As you consider your sin and struggle with the burden of guilt that we all bear, today's reading will bring you the promise that, because of the atoning work of Jesus Christ, the Master has canceled your debt and welcomed you into His kingdom. And now, because of this unfathomable gift of grace you and I can forgive our brother or sister from the heart.

October 18, 2020 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

"Heaven and Earth" - Sermon Text: Matthew 22:15-22- Rev. Paul Shoemaker

The kingdom of this world will always be tainted by sin. But the kingdom of God will only know perfection. We are not to confuse the two kingdoms as we look forward to the day when we will live forever in God's eternal kingdom.

October 25, 2020 – Reformation Sunday

Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

"Gospel Certainty" - Sermon Text: Romans 3:19-28 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

We are completely certain about very little in life. But we can and do have total certainty about the most important matter – our salvation. This is Gospel certainty.