

INTEGRATE

A newsletter for the family and friends of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church



Volume 64 No. 10

October 2022

High School Youth

Join us for First
Sunday Fellowship!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

First Sunday Fellowship - Join us for games, a snack, and a devotion!

October 2
November 6
December 4

3:30-5 pm @ The Schellhas' Home

OKTOBERFEST & TRUNK OR TREAT

On Sunday, October 30th at 11:30 a.m. you are cordially invited to enjoy a brat with your church family. Bring your trunk and share your treats with our kids and get reacquainted with your friends. Each family attending is being asked to bring a donation to one of the two "Giving" trunks provided by the Frankfort Food Pantry and PAWS. Please [RSVP via this link](#).



Thinking back a few years, to the first Sunday in March of 2020, our church family came together to celebrate how God had blessed us. We had a new pastor, our God's Kids program was showing growth, renovations to the Narthex were complete and so much more. Then, within days our world came to a screeching halt. This is our opportunity to reflect on what God has taught us in the Pandemic. What did we learn from the pandemic? Let's make this Celebration Sunday 2.0

Any questions, please contact the church office or Lyn Thorne at 708-805-4456.

CLOSE THE GAP

Immanuel members should have received a letter regarding concerns with the level of offerings so far in 2022. As of the end of August, our expenses exceeded income by over \$17K. The Close the Gap initiative is a campaign to bring in additional offerings to shrink that deficit so that we do not deplete our reserves. Please note "Close the Gap" on the memo line and place checks in offering plate or send to the church office. Thank you for prayerfully considering a donation to this effort.



UPCOMING AND CONTINUING EVENTS

LWML Sunday/Weekend	October 1 & 2 worship services – everyone wear purple!
Youth First Sunday Fellowship	October 2, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Halloween Hallows Parking	October 7 & 8
Flu Shot Clinic	October 16, after church
Men of the Word	October 3 & 17, 7:00 p.m. in the Pavilion
Women of the Word	October 10 & 24, 7:00 p.m. in the Lobby
Oktoberfest & Trunk or Treat	October 30, 11:30 a.m.

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 2022	2022 YTD	2021 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	30,435	199,624	212,546	-12,922	-6
Interest	34	173	1,405	-1,232	-88
Facility	650	1800	1,275	525	29
Expense	26,806	218,711	216,153	2,558	1
Balance	4,313	-17,114	-927	-16,187	

> Pastor's Scholarship Fund Balance \$11,950

WORSHIP SERVICES

Contemporary Saturdays at 5:00 pm
 Traditional Sundays at 9:00 am

God's Kids Club (Sunday School) and Adult Bible Study - Sundays at 10:15 am (September through May)

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.

Announcement & Integrate Publishing

Announcements are due on Wednesdays by 9 a.m. Articles for the November *Integrate* are due by October 26 and will be on our website, emailed, and mailed after Nov. 1st. The *Integrate* Newsletter is also available online at immanuelmokena.org

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

Official Acts

Wedding – September 3, 2022:

Andrew and Rebecca (Lipscomb) Alford



Funeral – September 14, 2022:

Florence Record (September 15, 1930 – September 9, 2022)

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: Jerry Vrshek 815-469-5059 (Director)

Elder 5: Lynn Gilmore 815-600-6855

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

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

The Great Shema

There are certain phrases, proverbs, and even songs that are so pervasive in our society that all you have to do to get

someone to say or sing them with you is to start them off. See if you can finish these: "Better late..." "A bird in the hand is worth..." "Take me out to the..." See what I mean? There are some bits of language that are so embedded in our culture that the chances of someone raised in the culture NOT knowing them is slim to none...and this is just a tiny sampling. Feel free to come up with several more of your own.

This also applies to other cultures or even subcultures within our own. In particular, I am thinking of words or idioms that we use in the church that those outside it may not readily understand or may require some explanation. I usually call these "churchy words." Others have called it "churchese." UrbanDictionary.com defines churchese as "Words that are common within the church setting and are familiar to only those who attend church." Example: "Jim was speaking in churchese and I had no idea what he was talking about." Whether it is big theological words like justification and Vicarious atonement, or certain hymns that everyone in our tradition is expected to know, we have some common language to describe our experience as God's people, to lean into it, and even to celebrate it. All of this helps to forge a common identity, but it can also be offputting for those who don't initially get it, or don't stick around long enough to have someone explain it to them. That's a different issue that we won't address here, but it can be one of the reasons why people are hesitant to cross the threshold of a church building.

Regardless, one of the most important pieces of our vernacular as a Christian community, and specifically as Lutheran Christians, is the Creed. Or we could use the plural "creeds" to refer to the 3 ecumenical creeds. Whether it's the brevity and efficiency of the Apostles' Creed, the defense of Jesus' divinity that we declare in the Nicene Creed, or the deep, rich complexity of the Athanasian Creed, the time we spend expressing verbally what we believe is foundational for us.

Luther rightly places his emphasis on the first of these three ecumenical creeds in his small catechism to ensure that anyone who has been properly trained in Christian belief comes into contact with a set of statements that begin to express the most important touch points of our faith. For New Testament believers in the God of the Old Testament (YHWH, as His Hebrew name is often transliterated), the Apostles' Creed is our expression of faith in a nutshell.

For the Old Testament believers, who trusted in YHWH God to lead them to the Promised Land and establish them there, the record of their beliefs and stories were written down in what we know today as the first 5 books of the Bible: the Torah or Pentateuch. These were the books Moses wrote down for God's people by His direction as a record of their history to that point. Most members of God's family knew these words by heart, much like we memorize Bible verses and parts of Luther's Small Catechism during the faith-forming journey of Confirmation. In that era, there were no chapters and verses assigned to these passages. They were so well known that if someone from that community began reciting a few words of a passage, everyone would be able to pick right up with them, like singing "Happy Birthday" in our culture.

Firmly ensconced in the tradition of the Torah is the creedal statement of the Old Testament people of YHWH. It's called "The Great Shema," a title based on the first word in the sentence. It's found most clearly in Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one." Monotheism was the most important theological doctrine of God's people, all the way up to Jesus' time. In fact, the idea that Jesus was God Himself flew in the face of this, and was the motivating factor in the Sanhedrin's inciting the crowd to call out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" on Good Friday. The Christian doctrine of the Trinity would have been just as odious to them, even though it was clearly expressed by Jesus (Matthew 28:19) and is at the heart of our beliefs. Just look how the Apostles' Creed is arranged.

So, why am I bringing all of this up? Because I want you to focus on that first word in that sentence. The Great Shema. "Hear" Or, better translated, "Listen." Listen in to what God is

saying. Lean in to hear...sometimes He whispers. His Word is full of plenty of episodes where He shouts. Where His power is writ large (i.e., the parting of the Red Sea, the fire and smoke on Mt. Sinai). Where He is absolutely clear about His will and plan (the Ten Commandments). But there are also ways that these faithful words whisper to us from across the millennia, inviting us to walk with Jesus. Some people search for THE Truth their entire lives, with ears roaming all over the place, hoping to catch just a tiny fragment. Yet we know One who is the Way to walk with YHWH, the abiding and solid Truth, and a Life that never ends. Jesus. He's whispering through the pages of Scripture, and His Spirit continues to nudge you to follow Him, to get going. Will you "hear"? Will you "listen"? Will you follow? When you do, I'm certain you will find that...

Adventure is out there!
Pastor Aaron



WOMEN OF IMMANUEL – SAVE THE DATE!

By Leeann Schellhas

Sunday, January 29

An Afternoon of Cocoa, Cookies, and enCouragement

Keep an eye out for more details!



WOMEN OF THE WORD PREPARE MEAL FOR CRISIS SHELTER

By Leeann Schellhas

On Friday, September 16, Women of the Word prepared and delivered a meal for 30 plus residents at our local domestic abuse crisis shelter. It was our hope that this small act of kindness might be an expression of God's care and love to those who were the recipients.



WOMEN OF THE WORD

All women are invited to join us in the HUB on the 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7 pm. We are studying the book of Colossians. There's a seat at the table for you! This month's dates are October 10 and 24.



MEN OF THE WORD

All men are invited to join us on the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 7 pm. We will be meeting at the pavilion, weather permitting. (In case of bad weather we will move indoors to the HUB.)

RUTH SOCIETY

The Ruth Society meeting will be held Oct. 6th at 7:30.

Natalee Schellhas will give a presentation about her experiences at the Youth Gathering this summer in Houston.

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Save the date! Flu shots will be available after services on October 16.

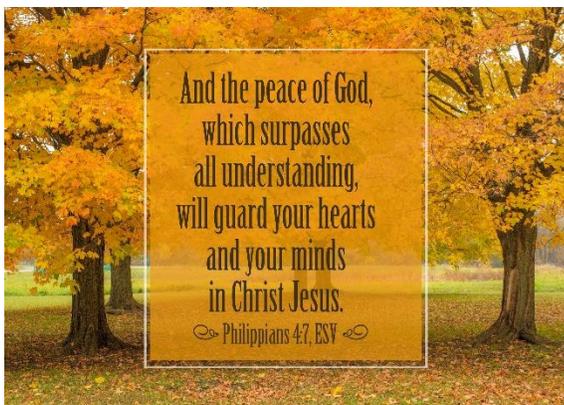


LWML SUNDAY



The work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be celebrated in the October 1 & 2 worship services at Immanuel. In honor of this 80th anniversary

celebration and in support of the LWML, a special collection is planned. Women will be greeters and readers and will have an integral part of the services – you don't want to miss hearing all about the exciting LWML news and how God is working through the women of His church. And, wear something purple: shirt, jacket, hat, pants, earrings, scarf, etc. Offerings may be placed in the LWML mission box as you enter the sanctuary. Checks can be made out to LWML NID. Looking forward to celebrating with you!



How can it almost be October? It amazes us every year how fast the school year goes once it gets started. We have 89 wonderful, different personalities and friend making children that have blessed us this year. There were some criers but we have made it through that as of now. We do have some strong personalities so we are working on "who the boss" is at school. Parent's must be trying to help with this one from home.

We have made it through 3 letters of the alphabet so far and will continue on until all 26 are completed. The children are learning the routine of the classrooms and how their schedule of the day looks.

The teacher's are exhausted by the end of the day. We tend to forget how the school year starts each year. Keep us in your prayers! LOL

A special thank you to Pastor Aaron for all your help the first couple of weeks including moving all the supplies downstairs.

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

By Sarah Bechtel



October Food Drive

We will collect non-perishable food items and paper products for the Frankfort Township Food Pantry from October 8th through October 30th. Thank you for any assistance you are able to provide!

1. Plastic Bags – Gallons & Sandwich
2. Salad Dressing – French, Italian & Thousand Island
3. Soap – Dish
4. Any type of cleaning products
5. Sugar – 4lb.

6. Tomato Juice / V8
7. Aluminum Foil
8. Paper Towels
9. Kleenex
10. Crackers – (all kinds)
11. Mashed Potatoes (packages)
12. Coffee (11.5 oz. can)
13. Salt & Pepper Pack
14. Granola Bars
15. Plastic Wrap
16. Trash Bags – 13 or 30 gallon
17. Taco Kit
18. Applesauce
19. Pasta Sauce
20. Campbell's Chunky Soup
21. Flour
22. Shampoo
23. Conditioner

Coming in November — Coat Drive

In November, the Board of Stewardship will collect gently-used coats which will be donated to MorningStar Mission in Joliet. Please set aside any coats you no longer need — those coats can be a blessing to someone else!

Scholarship Fund for Pastor's Children

Did you know Immanuel has a special fund to assist the pastor's family with education costs for their children? The fund was established to assist the current pastor of Immanuel and has a balance of \$11,950 as of 9/21/22. Please note, funds do not transfer if a pastor leaves Immanuel. This is another way we can bless our pastor and his family — please prayerfully consider a donation. Make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran and note Pastor's Scholarship Fund on the memo line.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Trinity Lutheran Church, New Lenox invites you to their **Craft & Vendor Fair** on Saturday, October 22. The time is 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and admission is free. This is a fundraiser for the youth of the congregation.

Virtual Grief Workshop Series – Fall 2022

Come join the Grief Support Team at Lightways, founded as Joliet Area Community Hospice, for their annual Fall Grief Workshop. These

workshops will be virtual and are for anyone that has experienced the death of a loved one.
 September 29 – Telling Your Grief Story
 October 6 – The Grief Experience
 October 13 – Self Care & Coping
 October 20 – Remembering

Visit lightways.org/griefsupport or call 815-460-3282 to register

St. John's United Church of Christ, Mokena, invites you to celebrate the **100 years of the St. John's Church building on October 2.**

9:45 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Opening Cornerstone Time Capsule – Contents of the capsules of 1922 and 1987 will be viewed at their Community Center.

Refreshments and homemade cookies from their past decades of published cookbooks will be served.

Pancake Breakfast - October 2 – 7:30 am-Noon
 Sponsored by the **Mokena Fire District and the Mokena Lions Club.** Join them at the Wolf Road Fire House at 19853 S. Wolf Road. No tickets or set price – donations appreciated. Fire demonstrations on fire safety and vehicle rescue will take place and vehicles and equipment will be on display. Food donations for the Frankfort Township Food Pantry will be collected.

Foster Parents Needed - Camelot Care Centers is looking for dedicated individuals and couples who want to make a difference in the life of a child through foster parenting. Camelot works together with DCFS for foster parenting. For more information call 708-747-7250.





OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Bob Fleckenstein
1 Greg Strobel
2 Gary Banser
3 Kim Horneij
4 James Kruspe
5 Leo Cleary
5 Russ Fleckenstein
6 Jonathan Eassa
7 Ray Fleckenstein
7 Timothy Knight
7 Laura Stubbe
9 Lyn Thorne
9 Tim Victor
10 Bill Allen
11 Layla Wojno
12 Bill Pomykala
13 Jimmy Bowlds
14 Dave Ebert
14 Susan Kruspe
14 Lee Zagralalis
15 Emery Schwer
15 Amy Zagralalis
16 Leslie Cosich
19 Becky Burke
20 Jolene Baker
20 Kerry Gerken
21 Lynn Gilmore
21 Scarlett Pattenauode
22 Sierra Perrin
23 Wendy Nagy
23 Karen Tatro
23 Karen Vrshek
24 Nasser Diab
24 Bruce Karpola
25 Ted Fenn
25 JoAnna Rowell
25 Kelly Snedden
26 Dale Disabato
27 Colin Schwer
27 Christina Temple
28 Kathy Cleary
28 Emilia Stimatz
30 Wren Tehako

31 Lauren Maranto

Anniversaries

1 Dale & Kathy Disabato 45 years
4 Carole & John Ellis 25 years
5 Cheryl & Dennis Thompson 48 years
7 Melissa & John Leemhuis 5 years
11 George & Deborah Tolsky 42 years
12 Kyle & Jodi Klode 37 years
12 Lance & Dee Dee Nilsen 31 years
15 Bill & Doreen Pomykala 39 years
16 Carol & John Golembiewski 46 years
20 Bruce & Diane Braner 49 years
20 Jamie & Beth Smith 16 years
26 Patrick & Amy Lydic 31 years
28 Ed & Rita Nykrin 27 years
30 John & Kim Horneij 29 years
31 Donald & Gail Compagnoni 64 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.

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.

How to find the Live Streaming Worship Services...

- www.immanuelmokena.org – Go to Connect, select 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)