

INTEGRATE

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



Volume 65 No. 7

July 2023



VBS
God's Great Adventure
Out in our big back yard!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Family VBS Monday, July 17th through Wednesday July 19th from 6pm to 7:15pm. All families with children between 2 years old and 4th grade will enjoy learning about Jesus in our big backyard with singing, games, and activities.

Something **NEW** this year is our **Big Kid Camp**. On Thursday 7/20 and Friday 7/21 from 6pm to 7:15pm, all children from 5th to 8th grade are invited to participate in a Big Kid version of VBS with games and activities that culminates on Friday with a bonfire. Parents do not need to attend.

Registration for both of these is available on www.immanuelmokena.org.

OUTDOOR SERVICES

We will have outdoor services one Sunday per month this summer, weather permitting. The dates are:

- July 16 (with communion)
- August 13

Come join us outside in God's beautiful creation!



JUMP ON THE BUS

by the Board of Stewardship

We have extended the collection dates for Jump on the Bus! We are collecting donations through July 23 for MorningStar Mission – look for the donation bins in the lobby. A list of items that are most

needed is on page 4 and is also available by the bins in the lobby. Thank you for any assistance you are able to provide!

ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED!

Please consider purchasing the Altar Flowers for a weekend! We have had very few people sign up for the summer months. You could buy flowers to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, remember a loved one, or to honor our Savior. Sign up on the magnetic bulletin board or in the Opportunities Book. Contact Mary Oesterreich or Barb Belanski if you have any questions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Outdoor Worship Services	July 16 (with communion), August 13 – 9 am
Jump on the Bus Collections	June 24 – July 23 (see page 4 for more info!)
Family VBS	Monday-Wednesday, July 17-19, 6:00-7:15 p.m.
Big Kids VBS	Thursday-Friday, July 20-23, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

At Immanuel Mokena, our tagline is “following Jesus, finding family.” To us this means in the process of striving to be like Jesus, we grow together as Christians and followers and develop strong relationships as part of the family of Christ.

As we grow together, we are focusing on a key 1-2-3 here at Immanuel:

1 Mission: making disciples.

2 Places where it happens: temple spaces and table spaces.

3 Key Relationships: with God (UP), with people who know and love Jesus (IN), and with those who don't yet know how much He loves them (OUT).

We want all people to know that they are very-much-loved children of God, and we want to walk beside them as they discover their place in His Kingdom.

Financial Summary

YOY Comparison	MAY 2023	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	26,245	140,408	127,719	12,689	10
Interest	87	405	86	319	
Facility	2,690	7,455	650	6,805	
Expense	29,965	144,476	139,615	4,861	3
Balance	-943	3,792	-11,160	14,952	

> Pastor's Scholarship Fund Balance \$18,800

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 *Integrate* are due by the 26th of the month and will be on our website, emailed, and mailed after the 1st of the month. The *Integrate* Newsletter is also available online at immanuelmokena.org

Official Acts



Baptism: June 11, 2023 – Caruso Joseph Fitzpatrick, son of William & Nicolette Fitzpatrick

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

Elder 6: Fred Eassa 708-275-9907

Elder 7: Harold Oesterreich 708-479-7745

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

Rays of HOPE

God's Kids Club

Include on Memo: God's Kids Club

Ruth Society

LWML

Pastor's Scholarship Fund

Include on Memo: Pastor's Scholarship Fund

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

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE

Rays Of Hope

Immanuel Lutheran

Include on Memo: God's Kids Club

Ruth Society

LWML NID

Immanuel Lutheran



Women's Ministry Corner

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries Update

Immanuel – YOU
rock!! Over \$1000 has
been collected to

support the Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries (RLOM) in East Dundee – you have seen the need for such a ministry in our Northern Illinois District and have generously responded – thank you. For anyone who would still like to contribute to RLOM, a door offering will be held July 22nd /23rd .

A matching grant has been submitted to Synod to match our total contributions – four other churches in our circuit – Good Shepherd, Trinity, Christ, and St. Paul are joining us in this endeavor – a goal of \$4500 –\$5000 is envisioned!! Praying that this is possible!

Here is an update as to the progress of the property for the new maternity home:

Renovations are in progress!! The season of wading through municipal requirements and waiting through permit delays is over. Work can resume to renovate the house into the 5-bedroom maternity home to minister to single, pregnant women. Plumbing and electrical inside and water and sewer tie-ins outside are first on the list. Follow our progress on FB and IG or at rlom.org! We praise God for your partnership in mission!!

PICTURES FROM THE LWML CONVENTION



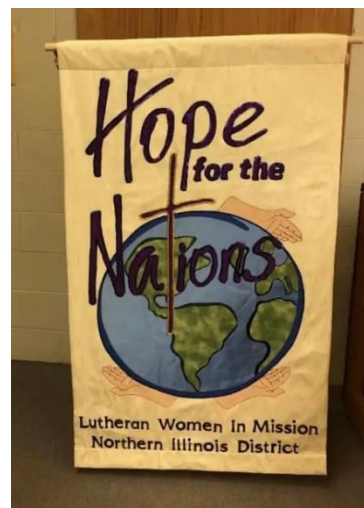
At the Milwaukee LWML Convention with 3480 of our Lutheran sisters and friends!



Thank you to all who supported Delynn, Ruth, Miriam and Barb on their LWML Mission Walk in Milwaukee.....your gifts of \$585 will be supporting the new 2023-2025 Mission Goal of \$2,350,000 for 31 mission grants all around the world. You were in our thoughts as we completed our 1 mile trek – again, thank you!



Past LWML Northern Illinois District presidents including our very own Barb Belanski!



The banner for
the Northern
Illinois District

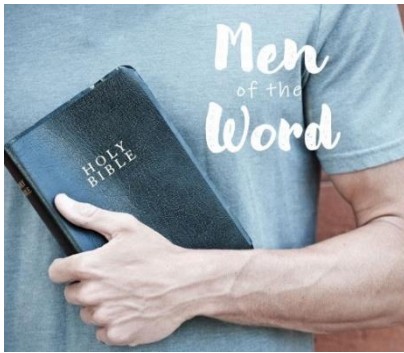
RUTH SOCIETY

Next meeting will be September 7th at 7:30 p.m.



WOMEN OF THE WORD

Women of the Word is on summer break! We are taking a break in June & July and will resume in the second half of August.



MEN OF THE WORD

Men of the Word is on summer break! We are taking a break in June & July and will resume in the second half of August.



The summer is flying by so fast! The carpets and rugs will be cleaned by the end of the week. We have a new teacher joining us for the 2023-2024 school year and the completed paperwork is on its way back into the office. Are you sure that the school year ended?

We are busy getting our fundraising events set-up as well as our school theme for the year. I can't wait for the children and families to be back at school.

Our enrollment is growing but we still have a few spots available. If you know anyone that is looking for a preschool, send them our way. We are now accepting registration for the 2023-2024 school year. Classes are filling up fast.

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Jump on the Bus

MorningStar Mission in Joliet serves the community in many ways. Even though school has just finished, they are already preparing for the next school year. Their annual Jump on the Bus program provides hundreds of children with every school supply they need – from pencils and crayons to backpacks and tennis shoes.

At Immanuel, we have supported this program for many years by collecting donations of supplies which are used to fill backpacks with everything a child needs for school.

We will be collecting donations from 6/24 through 7/23 – look for the donation bins in the lobby. A list of items that are most needed:

- Backpacks
- Blue And Red Pens
- Black Sharpies
- Mechanical Pencils
- Headphones
- Earbuds
- Elmer Glue Sticks
- Protractors
- 2&3 Inch Binders
- Adult Hoodies XL-4X
- Men's And Women's Gym Shoes

All items should be new – no used items, please!



PARKING LOT RE-PAVEMENT

Thanks to our trustees for coordinating the re-pavement of the parking lot. Our prayer is that from the very moment that anyone enters this place, they will begin to know the inviting presence of Jesus in our midst. A solid parking lot in our culture = "Welcome in the name of Jesus."

For more pictures, visit our website at www.immanuelmokena.org



BEFORE



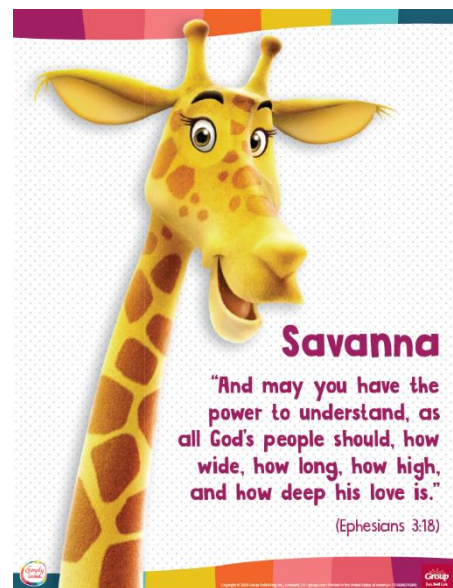
AFTER

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

We are excited to already be in the planning stages of this fall's God's Kids Club and we hope you will consider bringing your children to join us in celebrating Jesus.

Our first day back will be Sunday, September 10th. We meet at 10:15am immediately after the 9am service.

If you have children between the ages of 2 and Kindergarten, you and your child will be joining our **"Littles"** class. Not only is this an opportunity for your little one to get to know



Jesus through the lens of Bible Buddies and our teachers, but parents get this opportunity to get to know other parents in our church family. If you have a younger sibling, bring them with you. They will fit right in!

If your kiddos are in 1st through 4th grade, they will be joining our **"Middles"** class. This level does not need parental attendance, so you are free to join the adults in the library for an hour of Bible study.

Our **"Bigs"** are our 5th through 8th grade students. This class is designed specifically for this age group as they navigate Confirmation and making their faith their own.

Please register all new students on www.immanuelmokena.org. Returning students need not re-register. On the 10th of September, we will have an introduction in the Hub for all students and families, before breaking into our designated classes.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lyn Thorne at gkcdirector@immanuelmokena.org.



Thank you for the flowers, food, and cards that were sent to the house. Bruce really enjoyed the food! Thank you, Friends!

–Phyllis Karpola

Thank you so much to Jerry Vrshek, Lynn Gilmore, Dan Knight, Jim Bubeck, Bill Allen, and Bill Pomykala for all the yard work you did around my house. I am so thankful for your help!

–Phyllis Seno

Just want to thank everyone for the cards, thoughts, and prayers. I am doing better, but continue praying for me, it truly helps!!!

Blessings – Dee Culbertson



PICNIC PICTURES

Church Picnic, June 3





Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 Maetha Smith
 6 Kylie Koehler
 7 Michael Dudczyk
 7 Andy Lopez
 8 Beth Loucks
 8 Mike Navratil
 9 Kalie Bartnik
 9 Riley Saltzman
 11 Raegan Burke
 11 Jessica Thorne
 14 Alyssa Bell
 14 Jordan Horneij
 15 Keith Karpola
 18 Zackery Hayes
 19 Jill Adams
 19 Cody Fenn
 20 Colleen Maranto
 21 Nancy Baker
 21 Peyton Burke
 22 Dakota Perrin
 22 Jarred Schellhas
 23 Delynn Flannery
 23 Bob Schultz
 25 Jacob Kruspe
 26 Tyler Maranto
 27 Daniel James Foiles
 28 Zachary Bubeck
 28 Naomi Nagy
 28 Anthony Pierce
 28 Kathy Temple
 29 Gary Smith
 30 Sarah Bechtel

Anniversaries

3 Don & Gayle Snedden	52 years
4 Paul & Wanda Dillberg	29 years
8 Ray & Doris Fleckenstein	34 years
17 Art & Eileen Hostert	52 years
20 Bruce & Barb Malm	38 years
27 Brittany & Nick Pattenau	10 years
29 Keith & Colleen Maranto	34 years
30 Greg & Marsha Flesch	35 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)