
INTEGRATE

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



Volume 65 No. 8

August 2023

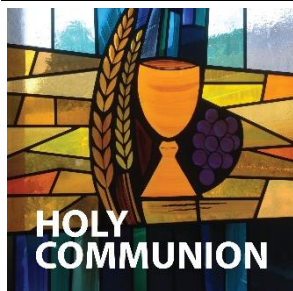


TRUSTEES NEED VOLUNTEERS

We have some projects that need to be completed at church and could use some volunteers to help with one (or more!) of these efforts. We will be painting the hallway by the classrooms, sealcoating the back parking lot, and repairing the retaining wall along the drive by the east side of the church. If you could help with any of these projects, please contact Bill Allen at 815-405-4478.

OUTDOOR SERVICES

We will have outdoor services one Sunday per month this summer, weather permitting. The last date is **Sunday, August 13, 9 a.m.** Come join us outside in God's beautiful creation!



NEW COMMUNION PROCEDURES

We are now using a hybrid communion system. Pastor gives each communicant a wafer and the Elder carries a tray which is **WINE ONLY**. Individual cup & wafer for wine, juice, or gluten free wafer are available at the table as you approach. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Pastor Aaron or one of the Elders.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE CREW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Board of Christian Fellowship is looking for volunteers to help with the coffee set up once or twice a month. If you are interested, please contact Colleen Maranto or Lyn Thorne.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SOUND BOARD MIXER

Volunteers are needed to run the Sound Board Mixer at Saturday evening services and Tuesday Praise Band practices. Training will be provided! Contact Todd Carlson at (779) 435-0817.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Outdoor Worship Services	August 13 – 9 am
Preschool resumes	August 21
God's Kids Club resumes	September 10, 10:15 a.m.
Adult Bible Study resumes	September 10, 10:15 a.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	JUN 2023	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	26,206	166,614	147,624	18,990	13
Interest	73	479	109	370	
Facility	240	7,695	850	6,845	
Expense	27,474	171,950	169,172	2,778	2
Balance	-955	2,838	-20,589	23,427	

> 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

----No official acts in July ----

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

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

LWML

LWML NID

Pastor's Scholarship Fund **Immanuel Lutheran**

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.



Women's Ministry Corner

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries

Such good news to share with all of you. Our matching grant application to support the new maternity

home being built in East Dundee has been awarded \$1700 from Synod's Life Match Grants. Also, through your generosity and offerings, a total of \$1512.61 has been collected to support the Redeeming Life Ministries. As a bonus, four of our Circuit 16 churches are also raising funds in their congregations which will be included in Immanuel's offerings – the total offerings collected plus the matching grant dollars will then be sent to support and show our love to Redeeming Life. Watch for the September newsletter for a final count and report – thank you for supporting this new Christ-centered home for women and children.

RUTH SOCIETY

Welcome back! On September 7th we will have our first meeting since June. Dessert will be served a 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Dues will be collected. Please invite a church friend to our meeting.

Ruth Society is a group of Lutheran women working together for the need of their church.

Using their expertise and gifts that the Lord gave them.

To prepare the Altar for worship service.

Helping to maintain the robes for the Elders, Acolytes, and Confirmands.

Setting up and working on the Fall Festival.

Offering to lend a Christian hand in time of need.

Christmas and Easter decorating of the church.

Issuing get well cards to the congregation.

Employing our resources to make quilts for the Lutheran World Relief.

Thursday, first of the month meeting.

Yearly meetings September-June time 7:30p.m.



Serving The Lord With Gladness Since 1943

FROM THE LWML

LWML offerings support both National and District Mission Grant Projects

At the recent LWML Milwaukee convention, 31 mission grants totaling \$2,345,000 were selected for the 2023-2025 biennium. The Northern Illinois District is currently supporting nine mission grants for \$160,000 through 2024. 75% of your mite offerings remain in our District while 25% are submitted for national grants.

The following are descriptions of both a National and District grant currently being funded:

National - Orphan Grain Train Servant Center Goal: \$100,000

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) has carried out the mission of the Lord for thirty years by providing humanitarian service. They work through the church so the Gospel always accompanies their service. They have assisted orphans, carried out domestic disaster relief, gathered, sorted, packed, and distributed food, clothing, medical supplies, equipment, and educational materials for those experiencing poverty in the U.S. and internationally. The original facility in Norfolk, Nebraska, is outdated and lacking adequate space to carry out their expanding work. They need to build an additional facility to increase their mission capacity and increase the safety level for volunteers. With an increased work area, larger groups of volunteers can work on donations received and the output of mercy meals can double to 10,000,000 meals annually. This grant will help OGT complete their building project.

District - Lutheran Bible Translators Goal: \$15,000

The majority of the Subula people of Cameroon are Muslims. The Subula people are eager for a

revised version of the New Testament and for the Old Testament to be translated. Lutheran Bible Translators requested \$15,000 to translate fifteen chapters of Scripture to put God's Word in the hands of the Subula people.

Watch for more grant descriptions in subsequent newsletters. Mite offerings may be placed in the large mite box on the LWML table in the narthex. Thank you for supporting missions.



WOMEN OF THE WORD

Women of the Word is looking to resume in the second half of August. Watch your email for more information.



MEN OF THE WORD

Men of the Word is looking to resume in the second half of August. Watch your email for more information.



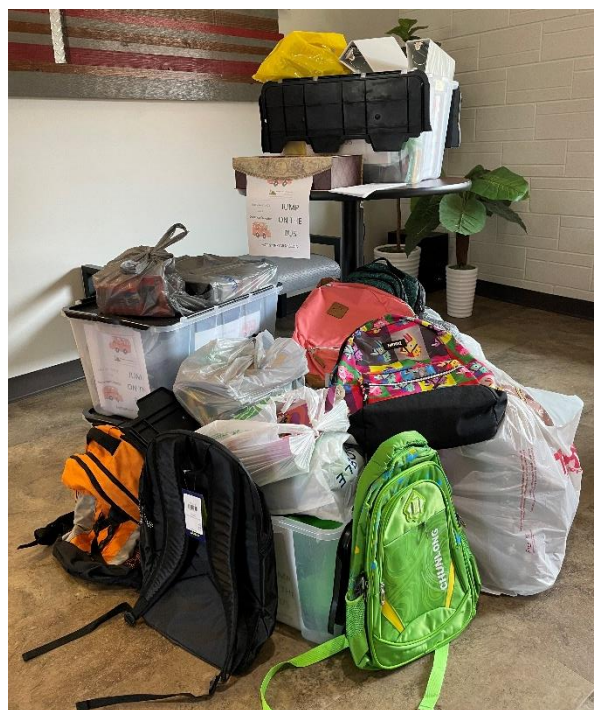
It is hard to believe that our 2023-2024 school year begins on August 21! We will be having Open House on August 21 & 22 for students and parents to become acquainted with the classroom and teacher. Our first day of preschool is August 23. We cannot wait to see all the children! Please keep our staff and students

in your prayers for a successful, Christ-centered school year.

We do have a few spots available for this school year. If you know anyone that is looking for a preschool, tell them to call us as soon as possible!

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

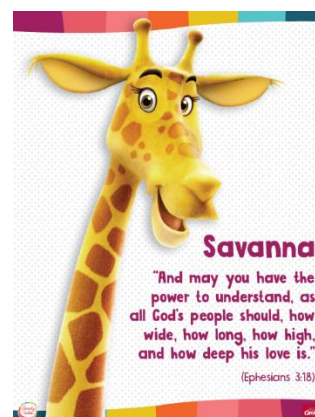
Jump on the Bus Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies to MorningStar Mission's Jump on the Bus program! We received a wonderful assortment of backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, glue sticks, and so much more. These donations will help MorningStar Mission provide hundreds of children with every school supply they need.



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.



VBS

We had a wonderful week of sharing the love of God with children and their families at VBS. Thank you to all the volunteers who made the week possible! Make sure you check out all the pictures on the bulletin board in the lobby and on our Facebook and Instagram pages!

MISSIONARY NEWS

Remember Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann, who were two of our Missionaries of the Month? They have sent us news of their continuing work in the Dominican Republic. [Click here to see their newsletter](#).

DID YOU EVER CONSIDER SERVING IN THE CHURCH OR AT AN LCMS SCHOOL?

Are you thinking about a second career in full-time church work?

Many LCMS pastors, teachers, deaconesses and commissioned church workers held other successful careers before pursuing a second career in service to Christ's church. You could do the same!

Have you been praying about a full-time vocation in the church? You can use your experience and skills from your current work as a second-career church worker.

Ready to learn more about opportunities to pursue a second career in full-time church work? Our seminaries and Concordia universities are happy to answer your questions. Visit <https://www.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve> for more information.

Our Lutheran schools, located all around the country, are seeking educators who are interested in a Lutheran school setting. If you are interested, speak with a local LCMS school administrator about open positions in your area.

INSTALLATION OF NEW PASTOR AT OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN, JOLIET

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Joliet invites you to the Ordination and Installation of Matthew Carlson on Sunday, August 20 at 3:00 p.m. You are invited to stay for dinner following the conclusion of the service – please RSVP to Our Savior at 815-725-1606 by August 11 for the dinner. Pastor-elect Carlson is a recent graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne and is presently completing his vicarage in California. Please pray for his safe travels in moving to the area and that God will bless his work at Our Savior and the community.

AUGUST

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Donna Bakken
 3 Carly Kruspe
 4 Mason Loucks
 5 Jake Dudczyk
 5 Kimmy Limanowski
 6 Jillian Spargo
 7 Sharon DeSanto
 7 Jill Gerken
 8 Julie Banser
 8 Ariya Cucci
 8 Tammy Twait
 9 McKenna Malley
 10 Caruso Fitzpatrick
 10 Gretta Schellhas
 12 Joseph Banser
 13 Hannah Grebic
 14 Erik Strilich
 16 Joan Baker
 16 Leann Yunker
 17 Dan Knight
 19 Jessica Nilsen
 21 Sara McNally
 22 Cheryl Thompson
 23 Ron Hamning
 23 Jason McNally
 24 Leeann Schellhas
 25 Joanne Teske
 26 Tammi Carlson
 26 Elizabeth Limanowski
 26 Erich Sneideraitis
 27 Melissa McNally
 28 Brett Bartnik
 28 Shannon Hamning
 29 Jean Smith
 29 Linda Steinbrenner
 30 Betty Dortmann
 30 Mike Saltzman
 31 Marcia Prosken

Anniversaries

1 Katelin & Tom Mrjenovich	8 years
5 Becky & Rob Burke	12 years
11 Leo & Kathy Cleary	16 years
12 Jim & Theresa Bubeck	34 years
30 Dave & Deb Ebert	37 years
30 Noah & Tina Kruspe	9 years
31 Bob & Maryanne Schultz	32 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)