

INTEGRATE

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



Volume 65 No. 9

September 2023



GOD'S KIDS CLUB RESUMES

God's Kids Club resumes on Sunday, September 10, at 10:15 a.m. We invite parents to attend with their students for an Orientation and Welcome. Anyone interested in God's Kids Club is encouraged to come. Bring a friend! Classes are available for children 2 years to 8th grade. For more information, contact Lyn Thorne at 708-805-4456.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study resumes Sunday, September 10, at 10:15 a.m. Come join us in the library as we dive into God's Word!

AUTUMN SOCIAL

From the Board of Fellowship

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 24th

It's our first ever ALL IMMANUEL AUTUMN SOCIAL

Time: 2pm

Where: Picnic Pavillion (our gym if weather doesn't cooperate)

Featuring a Chili Cook-Off, Bears Game, Hot Dogs, Games

Bring: An appetizer or dessert to share and your choice of beverage



Chili Cook-Off Details: There is a sign-up sheet on the Opportunities Board in the Narthex for all contenders in our CHILI COOK-OFF. You will need to bring one crockpot of your favorite recipe to be tasted by everyone attending. Everyone tasting will be given the opportunity to vote for their favorite and the winner will receive a fabulous prize.

MAUI WILDFIRE FREE WILL OFFERING

From the Board of Stewardship

In response to the wildfire disaster in Maui, the Board of Stewardship will be having a free will offering the weekend of 9/16-17. We will be sending \$500 to the LCMS Wildfire Relief from the stewardship budget and will add any congregational donations received that weekend. You may also give directly to their wildfire relief on the [lcms.org website](https://www.lcms.org). Thank you for any assistance you are able to contribute!



UPCOMING EVENTS

GKC & Adult Bible Study resume	September 10, 10:15 a.m.
Maui Wildfire Free Will Offering	September 16-17
Confirmation Orientation	Wednesday, September 20, 5:30 p.m. (see page 4)
Autumn Social	Sunday, September 24, 2:00 p.m.
LWML Weekend	September 30-October 1 (see page 3)
Oktoberfest/Trunk or Treat	Sunday, October 29, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (see page 4)

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	JUL 2023	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	36,234	202,848	169,189	33,659	20
Interest	75	553	139	414	
Facility	100	7,795	1,150	6,645	
Expense	28,910	200,860	191,905	8,955	4
Balance	7,499	10,336	-21,427	31,763	

> 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 – August 13, 2023 – Sloane Beechy, daughter of Jake & Kim Beechy



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 815-685-2133

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

Ruth Society

LWML NID

Immanuel Lutheran



Women's Ministry Corner

RUTH SOCIETY

Welcome back! On September 7th we will have our first meeting since June. Dessert will be served at 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.

FROM THE LWML

LWML WEEKEND – September 30-October 1

We will have selected readings, songs, message, and convention memories during and after the weekend's services.

LWML NID Zone 16 Fall Workshop

Salem - Homewood

September 9th - 8:30 registration

Meeting 9 till noon

Ingathering items for the homeless in Homewood (hats, gloves, socks, soap, hand sanitizer, deodorant, lotion, hard candy, comb, snack bars, food gift cards \$5-\$10, kleenex small size, chap stick)

Join us for Bible study, fellowship and service!



Serving The Lord With Gladness Since 1943

LWML offerings support both National and District Mission Grant Projects

Both National and District (Northern Illinois) are funded by your generous mite offerings. 75% of your offerings support District grants while 25% fund the National grants. Recipients of grants are both throughout the United States and around the world. Below are high lights on two of these grants:

NATIONAL: A Healing Space for At-Risk Children – Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND \$100,000 The Christ-centered, healing ministry of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch creates an eternal, life-giving impact in the lives of children, age 10 to 18, who have faced unimaginable trauma. Due to childhood traumas of violence, abuse, neglect, and more. Ranch children experience debilitating emptiness and loneliness at the deepest levels; levels that only Christ can heal. A gap in spiritual care on the Ranch's Bismarck campus has been a chapel facility specifically designed to be a healing space for traumatized boys and girls. A construction date of Spring 2024 has been set to build a chapel to serve as a healing space to help them know and experience the mercy of Christ and His healing power. This grant will help meet the construction costs of the Chapel on the Bismarck campus and provide healing for at-risk children.

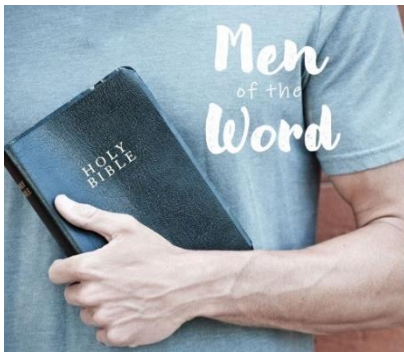
DISTRICT: Voice of Care - \$10,000

Voice of Care is a ministry helping the church provide spiritual care to people with disabilities and lay volunteers to serve in five types of disability ministry: Congregational Life, Disability Awareness, Facility Ministry, Outdoor Ministry, and REST (Respite Education and Support Tools). Because 90% of people with disabilities are not connected to a church home, the need is great for learning how to serve and evangelize those who are "differently-abled".



WOMEN OF THE WORD

Women of the Word will be meeting the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month – September 11 & 25 – at 7:00 p.m. Join us!



MEN OF THE WORD

Men of the Word resumes on Monday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m! Join us!



By Tracy Miranda

As I write this, we have completed our 2nd day of Open Houses and will start school tomorrow. I love this time of year. The children and families are walking back into our building. We can't wait to teach, model, and love each child as well as learn with the children.

During Open House, a returning student who is 4 years old asked her parents to be baptized. This is what it is all about. All we did was teach and show how much Jesus loves us. The Holy Spirit was doing some amazing work in both the child and parents. Can't wait for this very special day to happen. I love my job!!!

Looking forward to a great school year and amazing things to happen. We are ready, bring it on!! We are truly blessed here at Immanuel.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Pastor Aaron invites students 5th grade and older, along with their parents, to a Confirmation Orientation meeting on Wednesday, September 20 at 5:30 p.m. We will discuss the class schedule, classwork, and opportunities for relationship building and fun. [Click here to register for Confirmation.](#)

Questions? Please call Pastor Aaron or the church office at 708-479-5600, or email Pastor Aaron at aaron@immanuelmokena.org



HALLWAY RENOVATION UPDATE

Thank you to all who volunteered to drywall, paint, and trim the hallway, and also to those who donated to our "Gift

Registry"! We have received \$800 of the \$1,044 needed to renovate the hallway. If you would like to contribute, make your check payable to "Immanuel Lutheran Church" and write "Hallway Renovation" on the check memo line or on the envelope.

OKTOBERFEST/TRUNK OR TREAT

October 29 11:30 am - 1:30pm

From the Board of Fellowship

We had such great reviews from our event last year that we are going to do it again this year.

All Immanuel and Preschool families will be invited to participate as givers and getters. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Opportunities Board in the next week or two. The Board of Fellowship will provide the Brats and Chips. In addition to the "Treat Vehicles", we will again ask the Food Pantry and Animal Shelter to bring their vehicles so that we can all have an opportunity to make a donation to them, as well. If you are willing to help plan and organize this event, please contact any member of the Fellowship group.





Congratulations to our organist Nick Forlenza on his college graduation! We were delighted to celebrate with you after outdoor worship. May God bless you in your teaching career and may He continue to bless the musical talents you share with us each Sunday.



Thank you to Kevin Smith & Jerry Vrshek for the painting they did for me.

– Phyllis Seno



NEWS FROM THE LCMS

We received this email from the LCMS about the LCMS National Offering:

Many thanks to you, dear members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, for your bold and faithful support of the 2023–2026 National Offering.

The LCMS preaches Christ crucified for all people. Your generous support will aid us in bringing this message to more people in more languages, that it may be known around the world.

Your contribution goes out alongside the generous offerings of your brothers and sisters in Christ. As the 2023 LCMS National Convention in Milwaukee concluded in early August, God's people in the LCMS had already given nearly \$315,000 to this effort toward an initial three-year goal of \$500,000. As of Aug. 17, that total had grown to nearly \$348,000.

These gifts will fund high-priority, high-quality translations of essential Christian teaching materials into various languages, beginning with Spanish and Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese) and then moving on to others (i.e., Arabic, Portuguese and Korean), as increasing total contributions permit.

LCMS-U AT SIUE

Know any college students at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville? Connect them to the LCMS-U campus ministry! College is tough; our college students need Jesus! Students can contact the church or you can provide contact information about your student and the church will reach out to them. Contact them at siuelutherans.com or email Pastor Biermann at jbiermann@trinitylutheranministries.org

FREE SENIOR LUNCHEON

The Mokena Fire Protection District invites you to a free senior luncheon on Thursday, September 21 at 10:30 a.m. The presentation will be "Home Safety for Older Adults." To register, call 479-5371 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., or register online at www.mokenafire.org. Seating is limited. Luncheon will be held at Station #1, 19853 S. Wolf Road.



SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 Barbara Limanowski
3 Natalie Lyman
3 Rusty Woerner
4 William Wilson
5 Judith Geovanes
5 Ava Munson
7 Paige Seivert
9 Nicholas Dudczyk
10 Jill Culbertson
11 Allan Sluis
14 Sarah Pomykala
15 Elliot LaRocco
15 Brenden Miranda
15 Kyle Nilsen
16 Art Hostert
16 Addison LaRocco
17 Jim Kruspe
18 Fred Eassa
19 L.J. Horneij
19 Mary Oesterreich
20 Reagan Seivert
21 Gina Dudczyk
21 Norman Kaczmarczyk
21 Troy Smith
21 Deborah Tolsky
22 Harlan Graves
23 Joey Howard
25 Nathan Mirocha
25 John Woerner
25 Emma Wohler
26 Timothy Wilson
27 Jenna Carlson
28 Rachel Fargo
28 Maggie Hoffman
30 Katelin Mrjenovich

Anniversaries

11 Troy & Jean Smith	36 years
15 Shane & Sara Bell	22 years
24 Candi & Conor Daly	7 years
25 Hannah & Colton Burdette	3 years
27 Kerry & Jill Gerken	31 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.
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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)