

# INTEGRATE

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



Volume 65 No. 12

December 2023



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Midweek Advent worship services on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. on December 6, 13, & 20. Dinners will be served before services at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Program – Sunday, December 17, 9:00 a.m.

NO SERVICES – Saturday, Dec. 23 & Sunday, Dec. 24 9 am!

Christmas Eve worship services – Sunday, December 24 at 4 pm & 10 pm

Christmas Day Hymn Sing worship service – Monday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.

## COOKIE WALK

The Cookie Walk returns on Saturday, December 16, 9:00 a.m. until we run out of cookies! We are looking for bakers who can donate as many cookies as possible for the annual Cookie Walk. All proceeds go directly to fund all the Fellowship events throughout the year, like the Picnic, playdates, and Oktoberfest. Your donations can be dropped off on Friday December 15 in the gym from 9:30am-4pm, (please avoid 8:30-9:30am and 11am-12pm as that is drop off and pick up times for Preschool) or Saturday morning from 7am to 8am. **This year we will only be accepting cookies in the gym using the far east door off of the rear parking lot.** If you are willing to volunteer, please let Lyn know at [lynthorne54@gmail.com](mailto:lynthorne54@gmail.com) or sign up in the lobby.



## ORDER YOUR ALTAR POINSETTIA

Adorn Immanuel's altar this Christmas with red poinsettia plants. Orders are due no later than December 17. Cost is \$8 per plant – please make checks payable to Ruth Society. Forms are available in

the lobby, or you can order online by clicking [here](#). Plants may be taken home after the 10pm Christmas Eve Worship Service.

## GIVING TREE

Soon you will see a tree in the lobby with tags for many different organizations and funds. If you are looking to make additional financial gifts this season, these tags can provide inspiration! Please return the tags and envelopes to the Stewardship box located near the tree. Checks may be made payable to Immanuel Lutheran with the organization or fund noted on the memo line.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Services	Wednesdays, December 6, 13, & 20, 7:00 p.m.
Cookie Walk	Saturday, December 16, 9:00 a.m.
Christmas Program	Sunday, December 17, 9:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve worship	Sunday, December 24, 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Day hymn sing	Monday, December 25, 9:00 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	OCT 2023	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	28,030	281,254	267,026	14,228	5
Interest	81	783	285	498	
Facility	1780	9,975	2,765	7,210	
Expense	25,913	274,438	269,599	4,839	2
<b>Balance</b>	<b>3,978</b>	<b>17,574</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>17,097</b>	

> 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](http://immanuelmokena.org) (click connect, live stream) to view the services live from the comfort of your home. Service times are listed above.

## Official Acts

Baptism – November 19, 2023 – Lennox Leroy Daly, son of David & Elise (Sommerfeld) Daly



Baptism – November 26, 2023 – Olive Odette Wilson, daughter of Kevin Wilson & Lauren Arnett



## 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

### 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

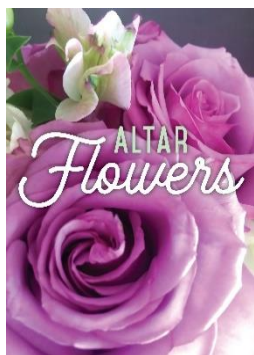
### RUTH SOCIETY

The Ruth Society Christmas Party will be December 7 in the Hub at 6 pm.

Please note that there will NO meetings in January or February.

The Ruth Society would like to thank all those who participated in our very

successful Craft & Bake Sale. Tina Kruspe was the winner of the Raffle Basket.



### ALTAR FLOWERS

Sign up for 2024 Altar Flowers! We are now purchasing altar flowers from the Flower Cottage. Two vases are \$40; one vase is \$20. They will deliver the flowers to the church! You can sign up for the current month or the next month on the west wall in the Lobby or

other months in the Opportunities Book. Please make checks payable to the Ruth Society and place in the Ruth Society mailbox D1 in the classroom across from the office. Orders are due one week in advance. If you have any questions or desire specific flowers or colors in the arrangement, please call Marcia Prosen at 708-479-1035.

### UPDATE ON REDEEMING LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRIES (RLOM) – New maternity home in East Dundee

Many thanks have gone out to you in the past for responding to the Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries project to support women and their babies in East Dundee. Below is a thank you letter from the Executive Director, Sheryl DeWitt:

Thank you for supporting Redeeming Life Maternity Home with a wonderful donation of \$4,344.61! This gift from Immanuel, Trinity and Good Shepherd will sponsor the new maternity home's dining area, where the residents will spend much time together. We are so grateful for your friendship and loving kindness to serve single pregnant women in distress.

When these hurting women become residents at Redeeming Life, they are enveloped by safety, security, and love because you provide it through your amazing generosity. It is our joy and honor to serve and share the love of Christ with them on your behalf.

Please continue to lift our new maternity home in your prayers as we finish up the renovations and the many hurdles to completion. We are confident in God's timing for this ministry and are blessed to have you all as our partners.

You have certainly cared for and honored these women who suffer deeply in physical and emotional ways and who desperately need our help. Together we are changing and redeeming lives! Thank you for your compassion to serve and touch the lives of women and children through this ministry!



*Serving The Lord With Gladness Since 1943*

### FROM THE LWML

**LWML NEWS:** Read how your mite offerings are working in lands far away and right here in our own back yard – thank you for your support and showing the love of Jesus around the world.

### NATIONAL LWML GRANT – 2023-2025 Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit Goal: \$58,988.62

Restore Detroit is a ministry serving in the 9th Precinct of Detroit. Our goal is to partner with our community to restore our neighborhood in

Detroit. We do this by coming alongside our community in the good already happening and providing extra hands and feet. These extra hands and feet come from campers, groups of all ages, who stay on our campus at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and are partnered with our community on service projects. We know we can all work together to continue restoring the 9th Precinct to a beautiful and growing neighborhood.

#### **NO. ILL. DISTRICT LWML GRANT 2022-2024 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis – Increasing Student Enrollment Goal: \$8,000**

Concordia Seminary asked for a mission grant to help them address The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) considerable pastor shortage that is jeopardizing faithful pastoral care to church members.

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#### **WOMEN OF THE WORD**

Women of the Word will be meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. Join us! **No meeting on December 25 this month!**

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#### **MEN OF THE WORD**

Men of the Word meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m! Join us!

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#### **FROM THE BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP**

As we look forward to 2024, we want to thank all those who have served in any capacity to make our fellowship events possible. It has allowed us to connect and grow together in so many ways.

One thing we have learned is that serving is something we can all enjoy doing whether you are a member of a board or not. As we approach the new year, we plan to continue reimagining those opportunities to include everyone. Whether it is something great or small, God has given us all unique gifts that will allow us to serve Him with gladness. Stay tuned to exploring new ideas in January.



As we enter into the Christmas Season with all the lights, decorations and baking, we will keep our focus on the true Reason we are celebrating: Jesus' Birth! Our hope is to make sure that the children enjoy this time of year while keeping their focus on Jesus.

The children will be making their parent gifts and preparing for the Christmas Service. We will keep working on our letters, number, shape and color of the month as well. The teachers will be busy and we will keep the children moving right along.

We are currently doing our Pastabilities fundraiser and will be starting the gift card one again for those last-minute Christmas gifts. Watch for the emails and check the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping the preschool make some improvements to the playground. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mrs. Miranda.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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#### **FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**

*By Sarah Bechtel*

**Stars of Hope** - A big THANK YOU to all that took a star and purchased gifts for MorningStar Mission's Stars of Hope program. The gifts were delivered on Monday, 11/26. Thank you for making Christmas brighter for these children and teens!!





## Helping Through Hats

The stewardship board would like to thank Tammy Twait and her sister, Kim, for their hours of work in creating beautiful, hand-knitted hats in sizes for infants, children, and adults. We recently assisted Tammy in preparing these hats (235 total!!) for donation to Aid for Women, MorningStar Mission, and Phil's Friends. A Bible verse card was included with each hat. What a blessing they will be to all who receive this gift of warmth and love.



## CHURCH DECORATING

Come over to church on Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. to help decorate the church! We will be decorating inside the sanctuary and lobby. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there!

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## FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

Pastor Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann send us greetings from the Dominican Republic. To read their most recent letter, [click here](#).

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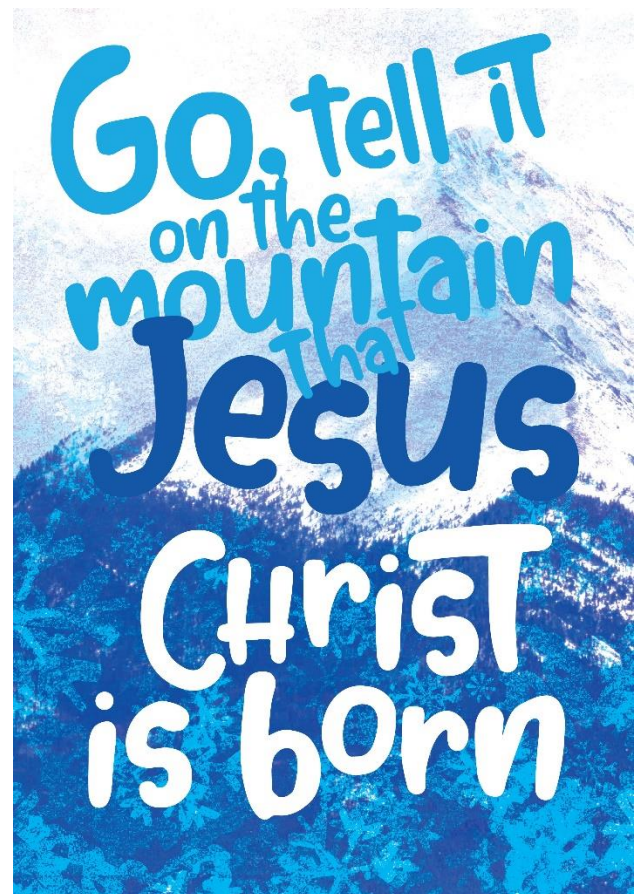
## MOKENA VFW – HOLIDAY TOYS

Mokena VFW will be collecting toys and distributing them to local needy families through the Frankfort Township Food Pantry.

Unwrapped new toys can be dropped off at:

Mokena VFW – 19852 Wolf Road  
Monday-Friday, Noon – 6:00 pm.  
By Monday, 12/11/2023

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# **DECEMBER**

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- 2 Hannah Goetsch
- 2 Natalee Schellhas
- 3 Kelly Baker
- 9 Jim LaRocco
- 9 Bev Whittier
- 14 Olivia Hutson
- 15 Pam Bakken-Miller
- 15 Tina Bowlds
- 16 Cameron Senne
- 17 Donald Compagnoni
- 21 Aaron Schellhas
- 23 Lois Yunker
- 25 Nicole Maranto
- 25 John Mirocha
- 25 Sophie Pattenaude
- 27 Theresa Bubeck
- 27 Jeff Sneideraitis
- 27 Ray Steinbrenner
- 29 Mitchell DeVivo
- 30 David Bechtel

### Anniversaries

- |                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 2 Jim & Tina Bowlds       | 34 years |
| 3 Jerry & Karen Vrshek    | 46 years |
| 16 John & Desiree Woerner | 28 years |
| 19 John & Nancy Mirocha   | 53 years |
| 22 Kevin & Maetha Smith   | 53 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.*

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### 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](http://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](http://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)