

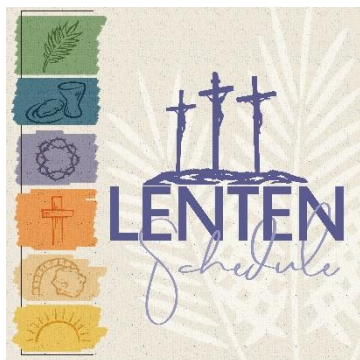
INTEGRATE

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



Volume 66 No. 2

February 2024



LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will have Lent Midweek Services on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Worship service dates are:

February 14 – Ash Wednesday at 7 p.m.

February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20 at 7 p.m.

This year there will be no meals served before Lenten Services. Please see page 4 for more details.

A PERSONAL PRAYER FOCUS FOR 2024

God calls us to pray. Jesus commands us to pray. It is fulfilling and life-giving, and we know it's good for us. Doubtless you've prayed before. But how do you grow in that spiritual practice? Well, that's just the point. You practice! Practice with us this Lenten season by picking up a Prayer Focus 2024 flier in the Lobby and choose a word for your prayer focus. There are cards for you to write your chosen word and a Bible verse – hang one in a prominent place in your home and bring the other to church at the beginning of Lent to display for others to see our collective prayer practicing. If you have questions, please talk to Pastor Aaron. We hope you will join us in this simple Lenten effort!



PIZZA AND PLAY

Young families are invited to a **Pizza & Play** Event in the gym on February 20 at 5:30 pm. We will order pizzas and set out a bunch of fun activities for the kiddos to run around and have some fun. We are asking for a \$10 donation per family to put towards the pizza. Children need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please sign up on the Opportunities Board to register so we know how many pizzas to order.

LENTEN STEWARDSHIP PROJECT – LWR PERSONAL CARE KITS

This Lent, the board of stewardship is asking you to put God's love in action by making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Across the globe, families have been suffering from crises such as war, violence, natural disasters, disease and extreme weather. We want to announce to the world that Christ makes a new season possible: a Season of Hope. See page 4 for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m.

Pizza & Play

Tuesday, February 20, 5:30 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays, February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20 at 7:00 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	DEC 2023	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	48,379	354,108	328,047	26,061	8
Interest	287	1,145	420	725	172
Facility	450	11,965	4,925	7,040	142
Expense	27,240	326,744	315,633	11,111	4
Balance	21,876	40,474	17,759	22,715	127

> Pastor's Scholarship Fund Balance \$24,150

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.

Official Acts

- - - - None in January - - - -

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 (Director)

Elder 4: Jerry Vrshek 815-469-5059

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

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

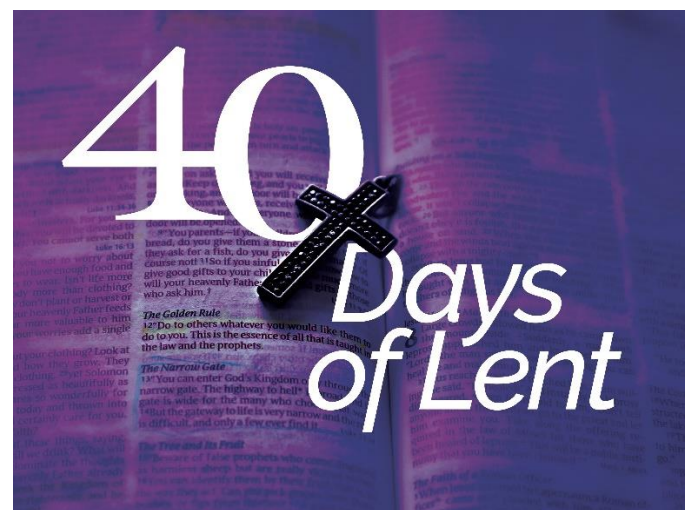
LWML NID

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

RUTH SOCIETY

Please note that there will NO meeting in February. Next scheduled meeting is March 7th at 7pm in the Hub.

Some good news.....

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries maternity home will be opening soon. A Rite of Blessing was held in early December thanking God for the maternity home ministry and the safe place that will provide a loving home for single pregnant women in crisis pregnancies as well as connecting them to a Lutheran church as their spiritual home. Upon opening, an Open House and party is being planned to celebrate what God is doing through this ministry.



Gracious Father, we pray for Your hand of blessing on the maternity home of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries in East Dundee as it prepares to open its doors this year. We also pray that You would bless the single mothers and their unborn children who are brought to the maternity home, revealing to them Your presence and peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



National LWML Grant 2023-2025

Disaster Response Team, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX

Goal: \$50,000

Trinity Lutheran Church Disaster Response Team (TLC DRT) in Tyler, Texas, answers the call to serve our neighbors in need by ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of people affected by severe storms such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. The team is comprised totally of volunteer workers who set up base camps in areas that have been affected by natural disasters. They listen compassionately to the stories of people who have been affected by storms and share Christ's love with them in Word and action. TLC DRT's equipment and trailers are also used by volunteers from other teams, causing additional wear and tear on equipment. This grant will allow repair and replacement of necessary equipment so the team can continue to be Christ's hands and feet and share God's love to people affected by disasters.

Northern Illinois District LWML Grant 2022-2024

MOST Ministries

Goal: \$8,000

MOST Ministries enables committed Christians to go on short-term missions and share God's love through both witness and acts of service. This grant will enable MOST Ministries to cover the cost of attending the Team Leader Training Orientation and one Team Leader Retreat for four Team Leader Trainees who begin their training in 2023 and 2024 (four Team Leader Trainees in each year).

LWML NEWS for February.....

Thank you for supporting our LWML mission grants both within our Northern Illinois District (NID) and those selected nationally. Seventy-five percent of your offerings are delegated for NID grants – the remaining 25% supports national grants. Mite boxes are available on the LWML table in the narthex. Display your mite box in a prominent place in your home for your entire family to participate in supporting missions. Return your offerings in the large white "mite" box!! Thanks again.



WOMEN OF THE WORD

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



MEN OF THE WORD

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Todd Carlson is looking for one or two people to help with the sound board on Saturday night. If you are interested please call the church office (708) 479-5600 x1.

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Giving Tree

Thanks again for the generous donations to the 2023 Giving Tree. Here are the details of the contributions:

St. Matthew Soup Kitchen	\$450
LCMS Disaster Relief	\$250
Lutheran Bible Translators	\$100
Pastor's Scholarship Fund	<u>\$5350</u>
TOTAL	\$6150

Lenten Stewardship Project

LWR Personal Care Kits – Lent may be a time of reflection, but it need not be one of inaction. This Lent, the board of stewardship is encouraging the congregation to put God's love in action by making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Across the globe, families have been suffering from compounding crises such as war, violence, natural disasters, disease and extreme weather. We want to announce to the world that Christ makes a new season possible: a Season of Hope. We're excited to engage in this project as a church family during our Lenten journey this year.

Each week, a different item will be collected in the lobby.

- **Week 1 (2/17-18):** Bars of Soap (2-3 bars, 4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)
- **Week 2 (2/24-25):** Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52"x27", dark color recommended)
- **Week 3 (3/2-3):** Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

- **Week 4 (3/9-10):** Combs
- **Week 5 (3/16-17):** Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)

A handout listing the above schedule and items will also be available in the lobby.

We welcome any donations you can provide. The board of stewardship will add to what is collected to ensure we have enough for each personal care kit.

FROM THE BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

With Valentine's Day falling on Ash Wednesday and the lack of volunteers for hosting the meals, we will not be planning meals before service this year. I think we all agree that we enjoy opportunities to gather and break bread together, but maybe it is time to reimagine how and when we do that. All ideas welcome. Feel free to drop a note in mailbox C1 or email lynthorne54@gmail.com.



January was a crazy month for weather. Hopefully, that is all done, and we can start looking forward to warmer weather.

February brings us to celebrating Valentine's Day and continuing to learn our letters. It doesn't end with our letters, we have to continue with numbers, shapes and colors. The highlight will be celebrating our friends with a Valentine's party.

We will be doing the gift card fundraiser just in time for Easter. Let the preschool help fill your Easter baskets. The gift cards can even help when purchasing food for Easter dinner.

We are now accepting registration for the 2024-2025 school year. Tell your friends and neighbors!



A Big Shout Out to the Christmas Carolers, Pat Drysdale for her help after my surgery, and to Marcia Prosken and to Kevin and Maetha Smith for getting me to my therapy sessions. Thanks for all your help.

Phyllis Seno

Thank you to the Christmas carolers who came to my home. It was so nice and welcoming to get professional singers at my door and it brought tears to my eyes. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Phyllis Karpola

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

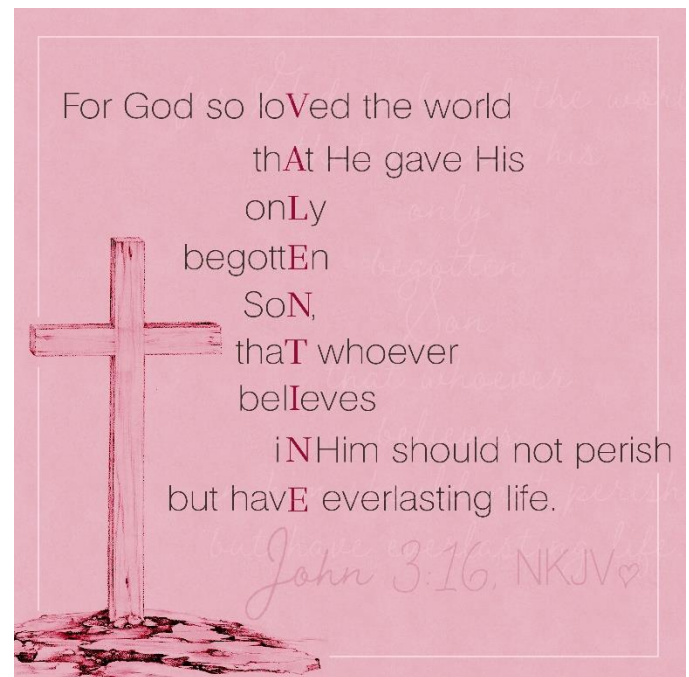
Beta Sigma Psi – National Lutheran Fraternity's Alumni Chapter is offering a \$3,000 scholarship given out to a Lutheran male freshman attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Fall 2024. There is no obligation to join Beta Sigma Psi to receive this award. Runner-ups may be eligible for \$1,000. Our scholarship application may be found online at <https://forms.gle/cDewGziVwUjPdcGG8>. All applications are due March 29th, 2024.

The Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation also offers additional scholarships and grant opportunities for members of the Lutheran community. These opportunities can be found here <https://www.betasigmapsi.org/scholarships-for-high-school-students/>

Trinity Lutheran School in Tinley Park is now enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year. They are a Kindergarten-8th grade school teaching Christian beliefs and values daily. They are staffed by highly qualified and State Certified teachers. For more information, contact Trinity's Admissions Director, Victoria West at 708-532-3529 ext. 225 or at admissions@tlcs.org.

WALCAMP OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

Walcamp, a year-round Christian ministry in Kingston, Illinois offering camp programs for youth, families, and groups, continues to celebrate God's goodness and 60 years of ministry. Can you help them share the news that they are asking for more partners in ministry through their I ♥ Walcamp donor program? Be Our Valentine and share the love! February is I ♥ Walcamp month! \$10-\$100+/month can provide meals, supplies, and more for the campers in need or other non-budgeted items. Help them continue their mission to EXPLORE CREATION, EXALT CHRIST, and EQUIP CHRISTIANS. Visit www.walcamp.org/heart for more information.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2 Terri Hutson
3 Jim Bowlds
3 Matthew Fuka
3 Ginger Krol
4 Emille Liberty
4 Payton Spargo
5 George Tolsky
6 Sarah Hayes
7 Katie Eberth
8 Donny Schwer
10 Stephanie Barton
12 Jenna Kaiser
12 Adam Sekula
13 Brittany Bubeck
13 Betty Jansen
13 Abby Olsen
13 Bill Sluis
16 Elijah Kruspe
16 Barry Schulz
16 Carly Weis
17 Earl Baker
17 Rachel Dudczyk
18 Amanda Baker
18 Judy Smith
20 Katie Kaczmarczyk
20 Desiree Woerner
21 Laura Bechtel
21 Jerry Vrshek
22 Barbara Baker
22 Georgia Goetsch
25 Julia Bowlds
25 Dee Dee Nilsen
26 Raiden Moffitt
27 Laura Fenn
28 Tom Flannery
29 Ava Goetsch

Anniversaries

- - - None in February - - -

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)