
INTEGRATE

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



Volume 66 No. 3

March 2024



LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Lenten Midweek Services – Wednesdays, March 6, 13, & 20 at 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday with communion – March 24, 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday with communion – March 28, 7:00 pm

Good Friday – March 29, 7:00 pm

NO SATURDAY WORSHIP

Easter Sunday with communion – March 31, 8:00 am & 10:30 am

NO GOD'S KIDS CLUB OR ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON EASTER

EASTER LILIES

The Ruth Society is taking orders for Easter lilies. Orders will be taken **March 10-24**. Please place your order in the green bag on the counter or in D1. Thank you in advance!



EASTER BUNNY PHOTO OP

The Easter Bunny returns for another Photo Op on Saturday, March 23, 9am – Noon. The Easter Bunny requests donations to the animal shelter when you come. See page 4 for more details!

IMMANUEL WORSHIP COORDINATOR ROLE

Interested in growing in your service journey at Immanuel? We have the opportunity for you! The Board of Elders is creating a new role to support our weekly worship process – the role of Worship Coordinator. This opportunity is available to all. See page 4 for more details!

SCAM ALERT

It seems like this happens once or twice a year: Pastor Aaron does NOT have a new phone number, cell or otherwise, and will NEVER ask you for gifts cards or anything like that. It's a scam. Mark it as spam or delete these. You can always call the church office 708-479-5600 if you have any questions or concerns.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Midweek Lenten Services
LWR Care Kits Collection
Pizza & Play
Easter Bunny Photo Op

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Through Sunday, March 17 – See pages 3-4 for more details
Tuesday, March 19, 5:30 p.m. – See page 4 for more details
Saturday, March 23, 9 a.m. – Noon

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	35,291	35,291	31,778	3,513	11
Interest	67	67	80	-13	
Facility	180	180	300	-120	
Expense	32,232	32,232	28,194	4,038	14
Balance	3,306	3,306	3,965	-659	-17

> Pastor's Scholarship Fund Balance \$24,150
> Organ Fund Balance \$24,475

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

New members – Daniel & Sharon Korthauer

February 26, 2024 – Funeral
Megan Golembiewski
(November 28, 1985 – February 20, 2024)

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:

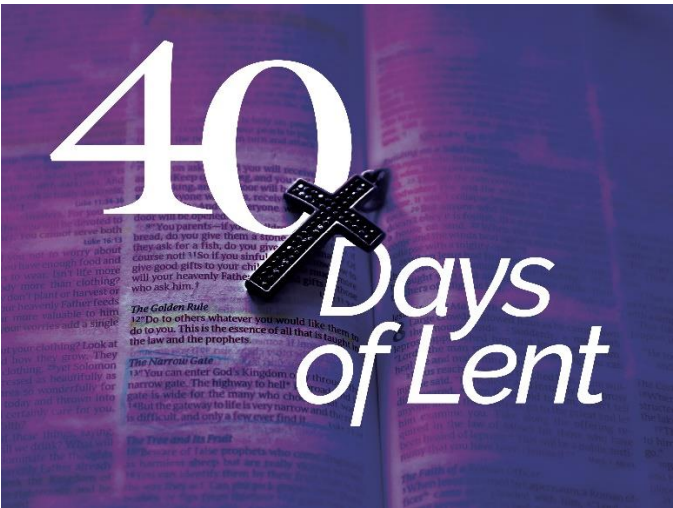
- Elder 1: Marty Olsen 815-464-4373
- Elder 2: Jim Bubeck 312-952-1727
- Elder 3: Bruce Bechtel 815-685-2133 (Director)
- Elder 4: Jerry Vrshek 815-469-5059
- Elder 5: Lynn Gilmore 815-600-6855
- Elder 6: Harold Oesterreich 708-479-7745

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
<i>Include on Memo: God's Kids Club</i>	
Ruth Society	Ruth Society
LWML	LWML NID
Pastor's Scholarship Fund	Immanuel Lutheran
<i>Include on Memo: Pastor's Scholarship Fund</i>	

* 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

The next scheduled meeting is March 7th at 7pm in the Hub.

Easter Lilies

The Ruth Society will be taking orders for Easter lilies March 10-24. Please place your order in the green bag on the counter or in D1 mailbox. Thank you in advance!

- Turn on & off lobby TV
- Turn on & check sound board
- Coordinate lighting & extinguishing of altar candles
- Ring the bell at the start of service
- Take attendance & log in the journal (including # of communicants on communion Sundays)
- Ring bell during Lord's prayer
- Provide oversight for special conditions – snow in parking lot (clear from entrance, salt as necessary)
- Bring offerings to the altar on non-communion Sundays
- Put away offerings in basement safe
- Usher during communion



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!

This is a great way to get more involved in service at Immanuel. The plan is to create a monthly schedule of those serving this role for each service. If one is unable to attend on their planned service we would request contacting an Elder in advance.

If interested please contact Pastor Schellhas or one of our Elders – Jerry Vrshek, Bruce Bechtel, Lynn Gilmore, Marty Olsen, Harold Oesterreich, Jim Bubeck.



MEN OF THE WORD

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

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Lenten Stewardship Project

LWR Personal Care Kits – Below is the information we provided last month regarding this ongoing project. We will continue to accept donations in the lobby of any of the items at any time through 3/17 — the schedule is a suggested sequence.

IMMANUEL WORSHIP COORDINATOR ROLE

Interested in growing in your service journey at Immanuel? We have the opportunity for you! The Board of Elders is creating a new role to support our weekly worship process – the role of Worship Coordinator. This opportunity is available to all. What is the role?

The worship coordinator will assist with many of the key functions it takes to support each service. Key elements of the role:

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.

- Manage lights & thermostats

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. We plan to assemble the kits in April, and will announce the date and time so that others can join us in this activity if they wish!



LOOKING AHEAD -- FOOD DRIVE COMING IN APRIL!!

FROM THE BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP



Pizza & Play

Young families are invited to a Pizza & Play Event in the gym on March 19 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.

Easter Bunny Photo Op

The Easter Bunny returns for another Photo Op on Saturday, March 23, 9am – Noon. There will

be a limited number of families per 15-minute time slot, so registration is required. Come into the church lobby to take photos with the Easter Bunny and bring a donation for the Animal Shelter. Each child will receive a gift bag from the Easter Bunny. There is no cost for this event. Please register online [here](#).

Prayer Patio

With spring approaching, we want to remind everyone that an engraved brick in our Prayer Patio is a wonderful way to honor a special event or a special person. We will be placing an order for this year in July, so please be sure to have your orders in to the church office on or before July 1st.



The weather has been teasing us, but the children have been able to get outside earlier than usual. We have been loving the sun and are hoping it comes back to stay soon.

Where does the time go? It feels like we just returned after Christmas Break and now we are wishing everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day!! The children are preparing for Easter as we have entered Lent by putting our Alleluias away. During chapel, we talked about giving something up to help us see what Jesus did for us. There are two children that have given up something for Lent. One gave up Mario and the other Hershey's Kisses. I can't wait to see how they do.

We will be doing the gift card fundraiser starting soon for Easter as well as the plant sale is coming soon.

We are now accepting registration for the 2024-2025 school year. Classes are filling up fast!



A Big thanks to Jerry Vrshek, Kevin Smith. and Dan Knight for removing those bushes!

Phyllis Seno

TRINITY LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL IN NEW LENOX IS HIRING

Do you love working with young children? Do you have experience in early childhood education? We would love to hear from you! Trinity Lutheran Preschool is a Christian program that is child-focused, play-based, and developmentally appropriate.

We will be filling the following positions:

- Preschool Director/Teacher
- Preschool Teacher
- Preschool Aide (potentially)

If you are interested in being considered for any of these positions, please submit a resume to Michelle Buell at mbuell3769@gmail.com

THRIVENT CHOICE

Did you know that in 2023 Immanuel received \$778 in Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funding? By directing Choice Dollars through the Thrivent Choice program, eligible Thrivent clients with membership can influence where Thrivent distributes some of its outreach funding each year. Making a measurable difference since its inception in 2010, Thrivent has provided more than \$550 million in charitable outreach funds through Thrivent Choice, to help support the initiatives of churches, educational institutions and other nonprofit organizations. Please consider directing Choice Dollars to Immanuel. **Thrivent members need to direct remaining 2023 Choice Dollars by March 31.**

For more information about the Thrivent Choice program and Choice Dollars:

- Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.
- Contact your Thrivent financial advisor

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

St Paul Lutheran Church, 6201 Vollmer Road, Matteson, will host a Community Resource Fair on March 16, from noon to 3 p.m. We will provide an opportunity for those who have concerns or needs to ask questions of organizations that can help. 30 organizations will be present to offer senior services, social services for families, help with Medicare and Medicaid, help for disabled people, mental health care, health care for families, safety issues, housing, and more, including Lutheran Church Charities comfort dogs. Questions? Call 708-720-0880 or 708-209-5335.

YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

Join us for the 2024 Martin + Katie Conference at University Lutheran Church in Champaign, IL on Saturday, April 6, 2024. At this free conference, learn about being men and women in Christ, meet new friends, get to know each other, and have fun. The conference is open to ages 18-35. Married or single are welcome. Registration is required, as capacity is limited. Info and registration are available at <http://martinpluskatie.org>. Plus: Extra bonus activities planned for Friday night, April 5, and Saturday night, April 6! All are invited to stay for Sunday Bible Class, Divine Service, and lunch on Sunday, April 7.



MARCH

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Paul Dillberg
1 Marc Golembiewski
3 Richard Belanski
4 Tyler Kaiser
4 Marty Olsen
6 Ted Fenn
7 Marita Navratil
8 Lisa Bartnik
8 Millie Shepich
8 Michael Sneideraitis
9 Marlene Cupp
9 Don Snedden
9 Jill Strilich
10 Ted Fuka
10 Blake Lopez
11 Barb Malm
11 Autumn Ryan
11 Colton Ryan
13 Randi Krol
13 Keith Maranto
13 Susan Schuh
15 Abby Howard
16 Ronald Berger
17 Susan Olsen
18 Mandy Baker
18 Ashley Pomykala
19 Sara Bell
21 Hannah Burdette
21 Katie Krol
23 Barbara Belanski
23 Lou Dawn Howard
25 Gail Compagnoni
25 Ruth Welzen
26 Cindy Anderson
29 Sloane Beechy
30 Herbert Teske
31 Karen Lowhorn

Anniversaries

2 Dave & Marcia Prosen 34 years
11 Kathy & Wayne Temple 51 years
15 Leslie & John Cosich 49 years
17 Gary & Judy Smith 62 years
21 Mike & Laura Saltzman 28 years
26 Beth & James Loucks 36 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)