

# INTEGRATE

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



Volume 66 No. 4

April 2024



## VBS PLANNING MEETING

Before we know it, VBS will be here! We are starting the planning with a meeting on Monday, April 8th at 6pm. Please come and meet with us. We value your input!

VBS will be July 29-31 this year.

## LENTEN STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Thank You for your Donations! Thank you for the many, many contributions towards the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. We received an outpouring of donations — what a blessing these items will be to those who receive them! The kits will be assembled at a later date — we will let the congregation know when assembly will take place for those who wish to join the Board of Stewardship in preparing the kits for donation.



## APRIL FOOD DRIVE

The board of stewardship will be collecting donations for the Frankfort Township Food Pantry from 4/13 through 4/28. Non-perishable food items and paper products are always welcomed by the food pantry — this is another way we can share our blessings with the community around us.

## 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!

## NEW LWML MITE BOX

Check out the new LWML mite box — get yours on the LWML table in the narthex and support the current National and District mission grants!! See some of those mission grants on pages 3 & 4.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Ruth Society Meeting  
VBS Planning Meeting  
April Food Drive  
VBS

Thursday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.  
April 13-28  
July 29-31

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	FEB 2024	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	42,329	77,620	57,774	19,846	34
Interest	64	131	155	-24	
Facility	2,164	2,344	2,535	-191	
Expense	24,414	56,645	56,049	596	1
<b>Balance</b>	<b>20,143</b>	<b>23,450</b>	<b>4,415</b>	<b>19,035</b>	<b>431</b>

> Pastor's Scholarship Fund Balance 2/29/24 \$25,200

> Organ Fund Balance 2/29/2024 \$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](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

Baptisms:

March 12, 2024 – Alex Yost, son of David & Amanda Yost

March 12, 2024 – Maddie Andreas, daughter of Frank & Emmy Andreas

March 13, 2024 – Hayden & Harper Bloom, daughters of Scott & Tamara Bloom

See page 6 for pictures!

## 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**

*Include on Memo: God's Kids Club*

**Ruth Society**

**Ruth Society**

**LWML**

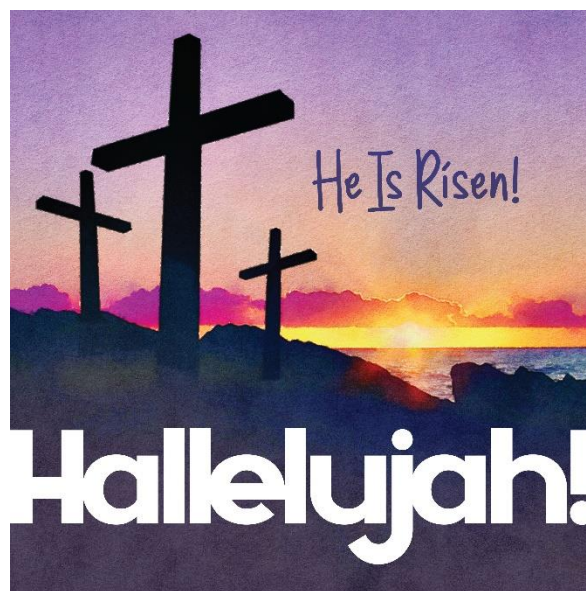
**LWML NID**

**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**

The next scheduled meeting is April 4th at 7:00 pm in the Hub.

A slate of candidates will be presented for President and Treasurer.

### **Easter Lilies**

The Ruth Society would like to thank the following people for donating lilies for the Easter services:

Easter Lilies are given to the Glory of our Risen Savior by:

Rich & Barb Belanski  
Leo & Kathy Cleary  
Nasser Diab  
Bruce & Barb Malm  
Colleen & Keith Maranto  
The Schellhas Family  
Troy & Jean Smith

Nancy Baker  
in memory of Ewald & Alta Bergemann

The Bloom Family  
in memory of Tami's father Frank Shank,  
and Rev. Carl R. & Valerie M. Bloom

The Bowlds Family  
in memory of loved ones who have gone before us in the faith

Kerry & Jill Gerken  
in memory of Armond Saline & Kevin Lietz

Lynn R. Gilmore in memory of  
parents Bob & Charlotte Gilmore

Dorothy Mazanke  
in memory of Olga Mazanke

Naomi Nagy  
in memory of Rod Nagy

Mary & Harold Oesterreich  
in memory of Francis & Walter Phelps  
and Burnette & Harold Oesterreich

Gary & Judy Smith  
in memory of Edgar & Marjorie Smith, Dale & Ruth Stater, and Michael Lamb

Kevin & Maetha Smith  
in memory of Bill & Hazel Mutsch,  
Bob & Betty Smith

Kathy Temple  
in memory of Parents & Siblings

George & Deb Tolskey  
in memory of George P. Tolsky  
and Jack & Rosemarie Warren

Bev & Nick Whittier  
in memory of our parents  
Ed & Elsie Walsh,  
N.T. & Louise Whittier,  
and brother Greg Whittier

### **LWML NEWS**

#### **Zone 16 Spring Rally**

Sunday, April 21, 12:30 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church, Country Club Hills

\$10 per person

Bible Study by Rev. Bryan Reeves

High Tea Party – wear your hats & pearls!

Ingathering will be Purses for a Purpose. Please bring a new or like-new purse filled with items from the following list: snacks, protein bar, tissues, lotion, pen, journal, gifts cards, puzzle books, comb, brush, lip balm, deodorant, wipes, body wash, shampoo, nail clippers, fingernail file, toothbrush, toothpaste, razors.

**Contact Barb Belanski ASAP (773.704.1416) if you would like to attend!**

#### **NATIONAL LWML GRANT – 2023-2025**

**Mobile Kitchen-2023-2025 Mission Grant — \$85,000**

Forged by Fire Services strives to actively make known the love of Jesus Christ through its actions and words by providing warm meals, bottled water, and spiritual care to people in times of need following a disaster or economic downturn. They pray with those in need and offer resources such as devotionals and Bibles. This grant will allow the purchase of a mobile, self-contained kitchen trailer unit to provide meals in communities affected by disaster. Over 130,000 meals have been served in the Gulf Coast region. The mobile kitchen will benefit



smaller communities in need that are often overlooked by larger organizations. When serving, Forged by Fire Services strives to connect local LCMS congregations within the communities and shares the mercy and grace of Christ, one plate of food at a time.

#### **NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT LWML GRANT 2022-2024**

**Walcamp - Goal: \$18,000 Paid: \$6,476.47**

Walcamp's pavilion is used by many of their programs, as well as many user groups. A few local congregations utilize this area for Vacation Bible School, while another uses the area for a large congregation camp out. They are planning on adding a serving kitchen to the structure.

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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!

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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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#### **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:

- Manage lights & thermostats
- 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

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.

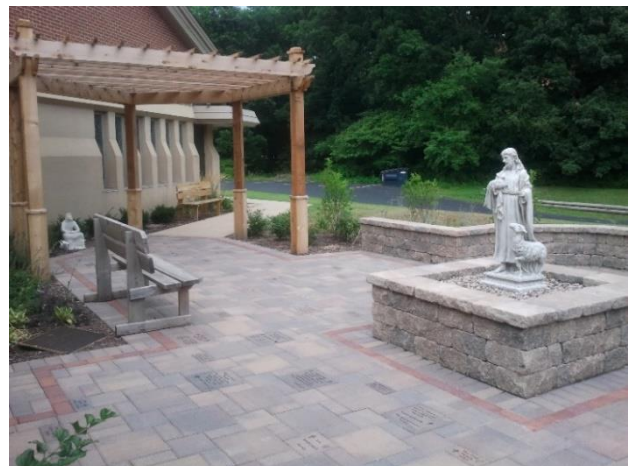
If interested please contact Pastor Schellhas or one of our Elders – Jerry Vrshek, Bruce Bechtel, Lynn Gilmore, Marty Olsen, Harold Oesterreich, Jim Bubeck.

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

##### **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.





We had the best time with our grandparents for Grandparent's Day. Chapel was fun and then the children showed them their classrooms.

We are back from spring break and ready to hit the road to the end of the year. Hard to believe that we are already at this point. There is still lots to do before school is out in May. The children will be celebrating Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, having a Resurrection Party, finishing up the alphabet, Hearing and Vision testing. Everyone will rock it just like we have been this whole school year.

We will be doing the gift card fundraiser and plant sale. Lots of opportunities to enjoy some quality items.

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



Dear Friends,  
Thank you for the many cards, texts, emails, phone calls and especially prayers these past many months. Your caring support has been a great comfort to us.

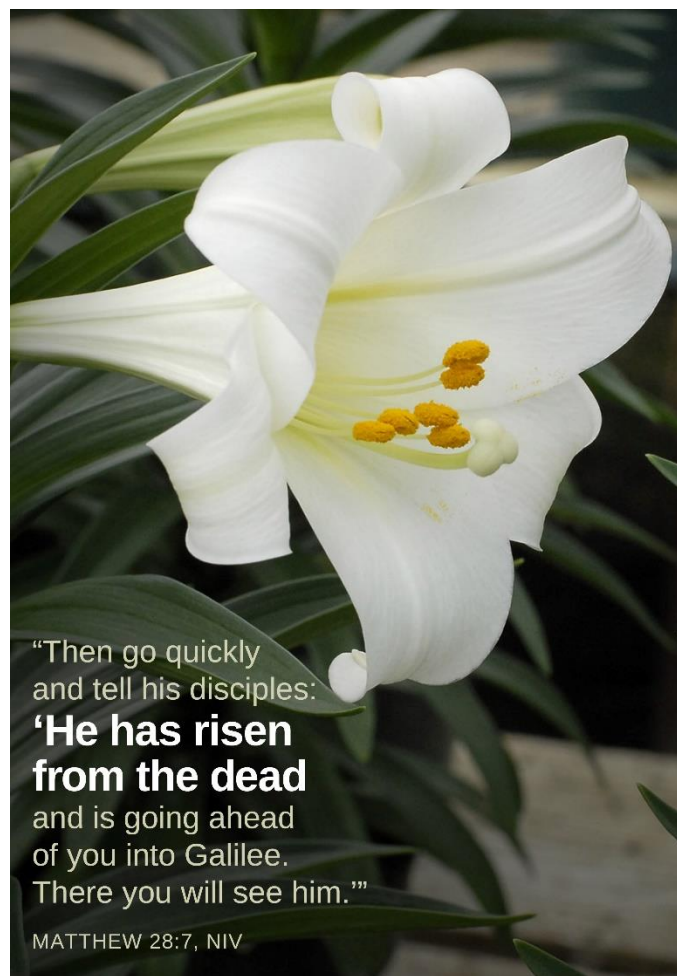
Nancy and John Mirocha

## FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

### A Life Quote for Easter:

"The disciples and the first century Christians may have felt like they were on the losing side. They had their doubts and fears. Maybe you do, too. They may have lost some earthly things. You may, too. But Jesus takes away the fear and the doubt. You have hope in His resurrection. You have hope even through the trials of life. You have a living hope in your living Lord."

-Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota



"Then go quickly and tell his disciples: **'He has risen from the dead** and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.'"

MATTHEW 28:7, NIV





## Easter Bunny Photo Op March 23



**Thank you for  
your donations to  
NAWS and PAWS!**



## Four Baptisms During Our Preschool Chapel Services!



**Hayden & Harper Bloom**



**Maddie Andreas**



**Alex Yost**



**Maddie with her class**



# APRIL

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- 1 Barb LaRocco
- 2 Patrick Lydic
- 2 Jessica Malley
- 3 Jim Bubeck
- 4 Kimberly Perrin
- 6 Edith Albers
- 6 Bruce Bechtel
- 6 Hayley Grebic
- 7 Kalie DeVivo
- 8 Maddie Roberts
- 10 Nick Whittier
- 17 Lisa Baker
- 17 Linda Jeffrey
- 19 Laurie Fuka
- 21 Solomon Fargo
- 21 Tim Malm
- 22 Nathan Eassa
- 24 Corey Diab
- 24 Tracy Miranda
- 28 Marsha Flesch
- 30 Rebecca Keen
- 30 Phyllis Seno

### Anniversaries

- 4 Marty & Susan Olsen 37 years
- 4 Kimberly & Mike Perrin 29 years
- 13 Richard & Barbara Belanski 17 years
- 17 Emma & Karl Wohler 42 years
- 20 Ted & Laura Fenn 33 years
- 24 Tim & Lisa Baker 39 years
- 25 Ray & Linda Steinbrenner 38 years
- 28 Tom & Delynn Flannery 12 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)