

INTEGRATE

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



Volume 67 No. 8

August 2025

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

- Saturday, August 2, 3:30 pm **INDOORS** followed by the Church Picnic outdoors
- **No Sunday service on August 3!** Come to the Saturday service and picnic!
- Sunday, August 10, 9 am **OUTDOORS** (rain date August 17)

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

WE ARE FAMILY! At Immanuel, our focus is Following Jesus and Finding Family, so, to kick off this year's opening of God's Kids Club, we would like to invite all families with children from 2 years old to 8th grade to join us for a Grandparents Day Celebration on Sunday, September 7th at 10:15am. The best part is that we want you to invite your grandparents to come too. If you are a Grandparent, we invite you to come and bring your grandchildren. Together, we will all explore what God is up to and get to know each other a little better. We can't wait to see you!



You Belong Here



175th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, October 26th, we will officially celebrate our momentous anniversary with a special worship service at 11:30am in the Sanctuary, followed by a formal dinner at Tuscany Falls banquet hall in Mokena at 1pm. Tickets will be on sale beginning August 1st. There will be no other services that weekend. For more information, see page 5.

SUPPORTING EMILY WILSON'S DEACONESS JOURNEY

Thank you for your generous donations the weekend of July 26&27 in support of member Emily Wilson, who will begin her graduate studies this August at Concordia Seminary St. Louis (CSL) to pursue a Master of Arts with Diaconess Certification. Emily will speak after the services about her plans on the weekend of August 9th and 10th, and there will be another opportunity to donate for anyone that missed the previous free will offering and wishes to contribute. You may also drop off or send donations to the office — make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and note Emily Wilson on the memo line. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Picnic	Saturday, August 2, after the 3:30 pm worship service – see page 4
Emily Wilson presentation	Saturday & Sunday, August 9 & 10, after services
Widows Support Group lunch	Wednesday, August 13, Noon – see page 3
Phil's Friends project	Friday, August 15, 2 pm – see page 4
Adult Bible Study resumes	Sunday, September 7, 10:15 am
GKC Grandparents Day	Sunday, September 7, 10:15 am
175 th Anniversary Celebration	Sunday, October 26 – see page 5

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	JUN 2025	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	27,235	181,372	184,167	-2,795	-2
Interest	373	2,145	1,682	463	28
Facility	938	8,173	9,986	-1,813	-18
Expense	31,805	178,812	175,585	3,227	2
Balance	-3,260	12,878	20,250	-7,372	-36

> Pastor’s Scholarship Fund Balance 6/30/25 \$46,860
> Organ Fund Balance 6/30/25 \$65,198

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

Baptism – July 19 – Beckham & Landon Cresto, sons of James & Michelle Cresto



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 (Director)

Elder 2: Jim Bubeck 312-952-1727

Elder 3: Bruce Bechtel 815-685-2133

Elder 4: Jerry Vrshek 815-953-8153

Elder 5: Dan Korthauer 708-372-1594

Elder 6: Harold Oesterreich 708-479-7745

Elder 7: Bruce Malm 815-474-5274

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

Ruth Society

LWML NID

Immanuel Lutheran



Women's Ministry Corner

RUTH SOCIETY

No meeting will be held during August. We will resume meetings in September.

WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP

The Widows Support Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, August 13 at noon in the lobby. Contact Nancy Kaczmarczyk at nkacz@sbcglobal.net for more information.



LWML CONVENTION

"Omaha Memories"
By Barb Belanski

Even though I was unable to attend the Lutheran Women's Missionary League convention last month in Omaha, my heart

and soul participated via Facebook posts and news brought to me by my LWML sisters. More than three thousand ladies from across the country came together with hearts filled with the Joy of Jesus and ready to delight in fellowship together, study the Word, get business done and "Grow in God's Grace". An exciting \$2,622,270 mission grant goal was adopted that will support 33 mission grants all around the world - God's love will be shared and surely shining with the gifts of our mite offerings!!

Terrific Bible studies blessed the convention both early morning and evening. Also excellent luncheon speakers and wonderful exhibitors filled the busy schedule. Women were eager to study, eager to learn, eager to connect with each

other, eager to serve and eager to shine the Light that comes from Christ alone.

Thank you Delynn and Marcia for representing Immanuel - I was with you in spirit. Already looking forward to Oklahoma in 2027!!!!



WOMEN OF THE WORD

Women of the Word will resume on August 25 at 7 pm in the Library. We would love to have you join us!



MEN OF THE WORD

Due to holidays and schedules, Men of the Word will resume on October 6.

ELIZABETH LIMANOWSKI'S KIDNEY SEARCH

On behalf of the entire Limanowski family, they wish to thank you for your thoughts, prayers, love, and support for Elizabeth. For

those of you who do not know Elizabeth, she is the sweet 27-year-old young lady who has made our Prayer and Identity bracelets for the past two years.



In April of this year, she was diagnosed with end-stage renal failure and is in need of a kidney transplant. Elizabeth is currently listed on the transplant list at Loyola Hospital. Receiving a kidney from a living donor is the best option for her, however the national donor waitlist

averages 2–5 years. The only way to shorten the wait time is to get a living donor directly.

If giving the gift of life is something you'd be willing to consider, please reach out to the transplant team at Loyola Hospital in Maywood at 888-584-7888. They will get you set up with your own coordination team that is completely confidential. Elizabeth can accept a kidney from an A or O type, but if you aren't a match you can still donate a kidney on Elizabeth's behalf and that will get her bumped higher on the national donor wait list.



I can't believe that it is almost time for school to start. I believe that the years, months and days just keep going by at warp speed. It needs to slow down just a bit. We will all be back in the building and getting ready for the 2025–2026 school year. Preschool starts August 19. WOW!!

The teachers will be preparing, the rooms cleaned, the weeds pulled from the playground along with many other tasks to be completed. I can't wait for the families and children to be back in our building. I have been missing them. We will have an awesome year filled with God's love and blessings.

Thank you for all the things that have gotten done to make our space even better, whether it is outside or inside.

We do have a few spots available, if interested please contact us. The spots are filling fast.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Decorating Phil's Friends Journals Friday, August 15th at 2 pm

During Lent we collected items in support of the organization Phil's Friends. Phil's Friends is an organization established by a cancer survivor to provide Christ-centered support and hope to

those affected by cancer. On Friday, August 15th at 2 pm, the Board of Stewardship is organizing an event to decorate the notebooks — turning them into journals to be used by the recipients for thoughts, notes, etc.

All of the materials and supplies for decorating will be provided — hope you can join us!

Flood Relief Support



The teams of early response volunteers with LCMS Disaster Relief have responded to the disastrous Texas flooding. The Board of Stewardship recently sent \$1000 from their mission budget to assist in these recovery efforts. Thank you for your faithful, regular giving which enables our congregation to have a fund like this to assist others during these months-long recovery efforts. You can see the amazing work of LCMS Disaster Relief on their [Facebook page](#).

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP



Church Picnic

The church picnic will be Saturday, August 2nd with INDOOR church at 3:30 pm followed by the picnic. Cost is \$5 per person 12 years and older; kids are free. You can give your donation at the picnic. Cheke the Taco Man will be back by popular demand, making chicken, beef, and pork street tacos. [RSVP online](#) so we can purchase enough tacos!!

What to bring: a side or dessert to share, your own beverages (please refrain from alcoholic ones), a friend who would enjoy our faith and fellowship and a White Elephant gift for the Bingo prize table. We will be also be holding a Bags Tournament - \$5 per person with all money collected being donated to a charity to be determined.

Come and enjoy family friendly games, Immanuel's Famous Light Parade, bonfire and fellowship with your Immanuel Lutheran family!

175th Anniversary Celebration

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Tickets can be purchased using either an envelope located on the organ in the Narthex or on [online](#).

Ticket prices are as follows:

Under 2 and over 90 FREE

2 - 11 year-olds \$15.00 ea.

12 - 90 year-olds \$45.00 ea.

Included is a baked chicken dinner, complete with soup, vegetable, dessert, and soft drinks, coffee, and tea. A cash bar will be available. The children's meal will be chicken nuggets and french fries.

There will also be an activity table setup for our kiddos.

We are sincerely hoping to worship and celebrate God's Amazing Blessing to Immanuel with all of our families and extended families. This is a special opportunity to invite all of our family and friends who have previously been a part of our church family, so please share this invitation with them, as well.

Because we want to focus all our attention on this significant Anniversary, the Board of Fellowship has decided to forgo the annual Trunk or Treat/Oktoberfest this year, in hopes that everyone, young and old can join us for our 175th Anniversary Luncheon instead.

175th Anniversary Presentations

You have likely heard and enjoyed at least one of the presentations by Lynn Gilmore regarding Immanuel's history as we prepare for the 175th Anniversary celebration this fall. If you missed some or would just like the opportunity to read them — each presentation can be found on the Immanuel website. Just go to the [Our Story](#) page under About Us to access each one.

READERS

Would you like to read the Old Testament and Epistle lessons in our Saturday or Sunday worship service? If so, please look in the Opportunities Book at the Welcome Center in the Lobby. Under the "Readers" tab, there is a sign-up sheet with available dates. For more information, you can talk to Jerry Vrshek at 815-953-8153.



Message from Barb Belanski:

"This is Love"

'Thank you, Lord, for the wonderful friends you have placed in my life.'

Beautiful cards, thoughtful messages, caring calls, pleasant visits, loving prayers, gorgeous flowers - all these comforted and consoled me during my hip surgery recuperation. Thank you so much. Love my Immanuel family!

ELEANOR GOLDEN CARD SHOWER

Former long-time member Eleanor Golden is celebrating her 90th birthday on August 4. We invite you to send her a card to celebrate. Call the church office for her address!

IN THE COMMUNITY:

Concordia Publishing House Fall Catalog

It's time to settle in with a good book that nurtures your soul! The Concordia Publishing House fall catalog is now available and filled with inspiring, Christ-centered resources for every age and stage of life. Inside the catalog you'll find:

- New Releases
- Bibles
- Devotionals
- Children's Books

Pick up a copy of the catalog at the Welcome Center or browse online at www.cph.org/fall.

FREE SENIOR LUNCHEON

Mokena Fire Protection District invites you to a Free Senior Luncheon on Sept. 15, 10:30 am at Mokena Fire Station #1, 19853 S. Wolf Rd. Learn how to stop a bleeding injury with a short Stop the Bleed lesson and demonstration! Register for your spot at 708-479-5371 or www.mokenafire.org.

MOKENA MIRACLES DINE & DONATE AT MOKENA CREAMERY

Mokena Miracles is hosting a fundraiser on August 14, 3:00-8:00 p.m. at the Mokena Creamery, 19100 S. Wolf Rd. If you mention the Mokena Miracles name, the Creamery will donate 20% of your order to Mokena Miracles. Mokena Miracles is a not-for-profit organization with the goal to assist Mokena

families in times of need, who are facing difficult challenges like financial or medical setbacks.

