

Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church  
501 8th Avenue  
Rock Falls IL 61071

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ROCK FALLS, IL  
PERMIT NUMBER 65

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**MINISTERS: MEMBERS OF IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Immanuel Office Phone: 815-625-3575 Fax: 815-625-3702  
Office Administrator - Jill Leesman office@immanuelrockfalls.org  
Custodian - Jerry Adams  
Organists & Music Directors - Virginia Schumaker & Lori Attig  
Sunday School Superintendent - Jennifer Morgan  
Pastor Bree Truax Cell: 360-989-4906 pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com

**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Website: immanuelrockfalls.org  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

In-Person Worship - Sundays at 9 a.m. & Wednesdays at 4 p.m.  
Sunday School at 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

Facebook: Immanuel Ev. Lutheran, [www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/](http://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/)

# Immanuel Messenger

## March 2023



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:

*We gather as people of Christ, serving with love, hope and faith.*



Join us for Lenten worship on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at St. Paul and 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel! The content of both services will be the same with Pastor Makayla, Pastor Bree and Intern Michelle leading as they are able. Throughout this series, we will be exploring the book of Jonah and how God calls us out of the depths alongside the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod. God meets us in real spaces where we find ourselves somewhere between trust and doubt, courage and fear, anger and empathy. Please make plans to join us on this Lenten Journey! St. Paul is located at 1701 16th Ave., Sterling).

**Lenten Lunches:** During Wednesdays in Lent, (March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29) St. Paul welcomes you to enjoy a light lunch. **Soup, bread, and dessert will be served at 11:30 a.m.** Mid-week worship will be from 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m. and you are welcome to eat after the service as well. To-go containers will also be provided. We hope to see you there! **Immanuel is helping to provide Lenten meals on March 15, 22 & 29. Please sign up outside Immanuel's church office to provide food and help with cleanup.**



### Let's "learn by doing" this Lent!

As we discussed at Ash Wednesday worship, one of the 4H slogans is "Learn by doing." We learn by doing, by actually trying out different practices. We learn by trying, and failing, and trying again and learning as we go. We learn by doing!



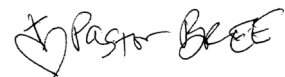
A word from the pastor continued from page 1.

TRULY, God loves you as you are and can't love you anymore than God already does! AND how we live matters—to changes our lives and the lives of those around us.

**What faith practice might you learn by doing this Lent?** In what ways are you hoping to grow? Perhaps you would like to:


- ◆ Pick up the free Lenten devotional from outside the church office and read it daily...
- ◆ Spend time in prayer—praying in motion or to music or in silence or through scripture or while creating or cleaning... or throughout each part of the day—talking with God and listening all day long...
- ◆ Cut back 15 minutes or 30 minutes or an hour or more of tech time/tv times each day; opening that time for other activities. Consider using this time connecting with God or others. You could read your Bible or devotional or call a friend or write a letter or go for a walk or create something or serve in some way...
- ◆ Handle your worries in a different way... Worry is a part of life AND you can choose to pray about things you are worried about and let them go (again and again if needed)... Pray, let go and work to change what you can vs sitting in the worry...
- ◆ Utilize 2 resources available outside the church office—*You are beloved of God and so much more!* This resource includes nearly 4 pages of scriptures and statements about who God makes us to be. *Five statements for posting around the house or putting in your pocket to carry with you throughout the day* are also available.
- ◆ As you shower or wash your hands remember your baptism. You are God's beloved child, washed in the waters of baptism and always being made new through Christ!

*Let us pray... Turn me toward you, O God. Turn me to Lenten practices that call me from death to life. In the name of Jesus, Amen.*




Pastor Bree Truax,  
pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com cell: 360-989-4906

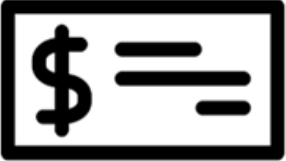
**THANKS for supporting the mission & ministry of Immanuel! Your partnership in the Gospel makes an immense difference! We have THREE secure ways for you to give.**



**ONLINE**  
Immanuelrockfalls.org



**MOBILE**  
Tithe.ly app



**IN PERSON**  
Cash or check

**All donations will be included on your yearly giving statement. Thank you for your prayers, service & giving!**

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to the local businesses below who are supporting the Messenger! Thanks be to God for your generosity! If you own a local business and would like to be a part of the team of businesses that help make the Messenger possible, please contact the church office.



**CHERYL A. STUTZKE**  
Event Coordinator  
castutzke@sbcglobal.net

### **BLUE GOOSE RUN**

14609 Blue Goose Road  
Sterling, Illinois. 61081-9164  
815-772-7200

## **Moeller, Myers** & ASSOCIATES PC Counseling & Consulting

3917 E. Lincolnway, Suite C  
Sterling, IL 61081

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Shane Schutz (815) 716-0320  
Chad Wetzell (815) 716-3837

## You are an important part of the body of Christ!

Each of you matter to God, to our congregation and community! Pastor Bree and the Church Council are here to serve alongside you. You are welcome to contact Pastor Bree and Church Council members as needed.

### Council Contact Information

|                                     |  |  |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Pastor</b>                       | Pastor Bree Truax<br>360-989-4906 <a href="mailto:pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com">pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com</a>                     |  |   |   |
| <b>Executive Board</b>              | President<br>Ronda Borgmann<br>815-622-9306<br><a href="mailto:Rondaborgmann@gmail.com">Rondaborgmann@gmail.com</a>              | Vice President<br>Kevin Arnold<br>309-434-8638<br><a href="mailto:Karnold@growmark.com">Karnold@growmark.com</a> | Secretary<br>Stacey Hackbarth<br>815-303-3386<br><a href="mailto:shackbarth1@icloud.com">shackbarth1@icloud.com</a> | Treasurer<br>Bill Wescott<br>815-590-6270<br><a href="mailto:paramedic61071@yahoo.com">paramedic61071@yahoo.com</a> |
| <b>Congregational Life Ministry</b> | Terry Andersen<br>815-303-6580<br><a href="mailto:vterry@yahoo.com">vterry@yahoo.com</a>   | Luke Sandrock<br>815-499-0293<br><a href="mailto:lsandrock@2cornerstone.com">lsandrock@2cornerstone.com</a>      |   |   |
| <b>Faith Formation Ministry</b>     | Stacey Hackbarth<br>815-303-3386<br><a href="mailto:shackbarth1@icloud.com">shackbarth1@icloud.com</a>                           | Molly Hackbarth<br>815-213-2309<br><a href="mailto:Mehackbarth9124@gmail.com">Mehackbarth9124@gmail.com</a>      |   |   |
| <b>Service Ministry</b>             | Pam Shoffner<br>815-716-0190<br><a href="mailto:mccrash2007@hotmail.com">mccrash2007@hotmail.com</a>                             | Kevin Arnold<br>309-434-8638<br><a href="mailto:Karnold@growmark.com">Karnold@growmark.com</a>                   |   |   |
| <b>Support Ministry</b>             | <a href="mailto:Nolan Scanlan">Nolan Scanlan</a><br>815-441-7489<br><a href="mailto:nscanlan6@gmail.com">nscanlan6@gmail.com</a> | Scott Attig<br>815-303-9642<br><a href="mailto:attig80@yahoo.com">attig80@yahoo.com</a>                          |   |   |
| <b>Hospitality Ministry</b>         | Sheryl Wagner<br>815-252-7923<br><a href="mailto:dashwagner@gmail.com">dashwagner@gmail.com</a>                                  |  |   |   |
| <b>Worship Ministry</b>             | Bonnie Cassens<br>815-535-8323<br><a href="mailto:BJCassens@yahoo.com">BJCassens@yahoo.com</a>                                   | <i>Please keep our Council Members and Pastor Bree in your prayers.</i>  |   |   |

## Council Meeting Highlights February 20, 2023

1. Election of officers were decided as follows:  
President – Ronda Borgmann    Vice President – Kevin Arnold  
Secretary - Stacey Hackbarth    Treasurer - Bill Wescott
2. Held discussion on ministry wheel and members selected what they would like to lead:

Service Ministry – Pam Shoffner & Kevin Arnold  
Worship Ministry – Bonnie Cassens  
Support Ministry – Nolan Scanlan & Scott Attig  
Faith Formation Ministry – Stacey Hackbarth & Molly Hackbarth  
Hospitality Ministry – Sheryl Wagner  
Congregational Life - Terry Andersen & Luke Sandrock



3. Council installation will be March 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. worship.
4. Next meeting will be on March 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacey Hackbarth, Council Secretary

### Annual Meeting Update January 29, 2023



- 55 voting members participated in the Annual meeting on January 29.
- Elected to 3 yr. council positions: Stacey Hackbarth, Bonnie Cassens, Pam Shoffner and Scott Attig
- Youth council position: Molly Hackbarth
- Elected to the Trust Fund Team for 3 yr. term: Linda Wolber & Lisa Gordon
- Synod Assembly Delegates: Bill Wescott & Ronda Borgmann
- Synod Assembly Youth Delegate: Volunteer is needed.
- Nominating Committee: Kevin Arnold, Ronda Borgmann, Nolan Scanlan, Mary Andersen & Greg Sandrock
- 2023 Spending Plan was approved.



We thank God for all of you, and for all who have birthdays in March! We specifically honor members who are 80 years or older.

Mary Jane Scanlan 3/26

Happy Anniversary!

Robert & Wendy Fauble 3/28/1969



If you don't see your name on this list or there is a correction to be made, please contact the church office at 815-625-3575.

Thank you all so much for the lovely cards and balloons on my birthday. It was so nice. God Bless You All, Betty Harms

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring collection Sunday, February 12, 2023. We collected \$55.00 for the Loaves & Fishes Breakfast program at the Broadway Methodist Church in Sterling. Thank you for giving generously! You change is changing lives!

Thank you everyone that donated to the February noisy offering designated to East Coloma School needs.

THANK YOU for purchasing bread and subs! Thank you for giving generously in support of our youth!

Thanks for your participation

Thank you everybody for all the aluminum cans you brought to us. You are most welcome to save and bring your bagged uncrushed aluminum beverage cans by Immanuel and place them in the entryway. Money raised from these donations support Immanuel Lutheran Youth ministries.



Food & Supplies Collection

Food & Supply Drive will be held on Wednesday, March 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Greencastle of Sterling. Greencastle of Sterling is an independent living community. There is a wish list on the flyer on the bulletin board. Drop off items at 15 E. 23rd Street, Sterling. Questions call 815-380-2148 or email at mfolkers@embraceliving.org

Phone in worship continues to be offered weekly. The phone broadcast is worship from the Sunday prior. Bulletins are emailed and mailed out. If you would like to receive these communications and are not please contact the church office. Phone in worship with us anytime, toll free at 1-888-975-5536.

Worship with us from HOME



Northern Illinois Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

The 2023 Congregational Resourcing (CRE) event, is being held at Sauk Valley Community

College. The NIS Congregational Life Committee, which organizes this event, invites you to pray for all who are participating! Immanuel has a great group who will explore their faith and congregational resources at CRE this year on Saturday, March 4, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Everyone interested in community gardening is invited to attend a planning session on Thursday, March 9th, 6:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church. For more information please contact Carol Ahrens at 815-291-6987 by text or voice.



Garden Space Available



MENZ GROUP

Menz Group will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling on Monday, March 6, at 6:00 p.m. This opportunity is open to all men. A hearty welcome and invitation is extended! Please contact Gerald Foskitt at 815-499-6566 with questions.

**WELCA Bible Study** will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:00 a.m. at Immanuel. Please bring your Bible and Gather magazine. All women of Immanuel are members of WELCA and welcome to join WELCA for a time of fellowship and Bible Study! All are welcome!



**WELCA** sent cards to 10 Immanuel college students in February! Thanks be to God for each of them: Salvidor Ramos, Nolan Hicks, Natalie Ramos, Dakota Roush, Tess Schaffer, Sloan Schutz, Bailey Wetzell, Elise Moeller, Molly Buck and Meg Morgan. **If you have a college student that we are not aware of please let us know. Please keep our college students in your prayers.**



**Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA Spring Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL. "Women at the Well" is the theme of the day!**

The Bible study and worship will be led by Pastor Makayla Dahleen from St. Paul Lutheran in Sterling. The Bible Study will address the story of the woman at the well, John 4:1-42. Bibles Are optional for the participants to bring for this retreat. Covid immunizations are highly recommended.

The cost of the retreat is \$25.00. The registration fee includes coffee, snacks, lunch and materials. If you would like to apply for a half scholarship for the retreat, please complete the scholarship form and mail it to the Vice President, Ruth Anne Hartman as directed on the form located on the table in front of the church office. **The scholarship registration deadline is March 15th.**

**The registration form for the retreat is also located on the table in front of the church office.** Send the registration form and check payable to NIS WELCA to Kim Choin, 7400 East Oakwood Drive, Wonder Lake, IL 60097. **The registration deadline is April 1st.**

**Please remember our Homebound Members with a prayer, visit or card:**

**Gerry Trieloff**  
Morningside of Sterling  
2705 Avenue E, Apt. 233  
Sterling, IL 61081

**Emma Bailey**  
Citadel  
105 E. 23rd Street  
Sterling, IL 61081

**Vera Stutzke**  
14609 Blue Goose Road  
Sterling, IL 61081

**Mary Lou Wolber**  
203 E. 9th St.  
Rock Falls, IL 61071

**Deb Gonzalez**  
812 W. 5th Street  
Rock Falls, IL 61071

**Swede Knapp**  
Morningside of Sterling  
2705 Avenue E, Apt. 106  
Sterling, IL 61081

**Eugene Brinkman**  
403 Scenic Street  
Apt. 407  
Morrison, IL 61270

**Nancy Maxwell**  
710 W. LeFevre  
Apt. 204  
Sterling, IL 61081

**Lois Deetz**  
28286 Woodside Drive  
Rock Falls, IL 61071

**Virgil Rhodes**  
519 Don Marquis Drive  
Walnut, IL 61376

**Shirley Boyer**  
1102 E. 13th Street  
Sterling, IL 61081

**Bob Dietz**  
Citadel  
105 E. 23rd Street  
Sterling, IL 61081

**June Ufkin**  
Resthave  
408 Maple Ave., A104  
Morrison, IL 61270

**Betty Harms**  
1801 Avenue G  
Apt. 305  
Sterling, IL 61081

**Delores Kuhlemier**  
1011 6th Avenue  
Rock Falls, IL 61071

**Mary Jane Scanlan**  
308 Washington St.  
Tampico, IL 61283

**Patricia Mintun**  
505 7th Avenue  
Rock Falls, IL 61071



**WORSHIP  
at Parkway Ctr  
& Morningside**

**Immanuel is offering worship at two area care Facilities monthly.** We are leading worship the **second Sunday** of each month at **2 p.m. at Parkway Center**, (1801 Ave. G in Sterling). The **second Tuesday** of each month, we are leading worship at **9:30 a.m. at Morningside of Sterling** (2705 Avenue E). If you would like to assist with these opportunities please contact Pastor Bree.



**Thrivent members, don't forget you have free Choice Dollars to donate until **March 31**.** Your donation choice

doesn't carry over year to year. Call your Thrivent representative or Larry Cooper at 815-625-2200 for more information. THANK YOU for remembering Immanuel through your past Thrivent Choice giving!

**Did you know that each Thrivent member can apply for Thrivent Action Team grants of \$250 each yearly?** In 2022, we received Thrivent Action Team grants for supplies for LSSI and Rock River Hospice and Home!

Thanks to the Thrivent Members who made this possible! Action Team projects can be fundraisers or service projects or educational programs and are applied for online at:

[www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/](http://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/).

**Now is the time to sign up for Summer Camp!**

Splash into summer with the Joy of the Lord! "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." —John 15:11



Jesus is the source of all of our joy. Join us as we gather as a community that will experience the Joy of the Lord through our daily experiences at LOMC. We explore the joys in nature, hiking, canoeing, team building, splashing, worshiping, singing, and praying.

Fees and Grants: **Partial Week Camps:** \$350\* **Full Week Camps:** \$500\*

**A non-refundable deposit per camper is required to hold your space. Full week and partial week camp deposit:** \$75 per camper

\*The first **125 overnight campers** get a **\$75 grant** to attend LOMC this summer! To register go to [lomc.org](http://lomc.org).

The Lyle Zimmerman memorial has one \$200 scholarship available. Please contact Pastor Bree to apply.

**7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Immanuel confirmation classes meet with Pastor from 10:15 - 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Come and explore your faith with us!

**Sunday School (S. S.) is offered weekly from 10:15 –11 a.m. on Sunday!** We have a Pre-School-1st grade class that meets downstairs led by Danyelle Robinson. Lori Attig is leading music for this age group as well! 2nd-6th grade class is led by Jennifer Morgan with a variety of assistants. High School Class is working on a variety of projects each week. Come and grow in God with us!



**6th-12th Graders: Join us for Tri Church Team Time at the Duis Center on Sunday, March 19th from noon to 2 p.m.** We will be gathering during this open swim time at the Duis Center to share life and God's love together! We will also share some updates on the Abounding Love & Life Trip June 18-21! The Duis Center is located at 211 East 23rd Street in Sterling. Entry fee to swim is \$6.50. We want everyone to be able to participate—if you in need of a sponsorship to participate, please speak privately with Pastor Bree. All 6th-12 graders are welcome! **Y'all are welcome to head to a no host lunch after the education hour before we swim!** Those participating will choose the location.

The **Noisy Offering** throughout March will support **student needs at Montmorency School.** Thank you for saving your change and using your change to change lives!



When being admitted to the hospital or nursing home, you are welcome to let the admitting clerk know that you are a member of Immanuel Lutheran, Rock Falls. **If you would like a visit or to be included in congregational prayers, please call the office (815-625-3575).**