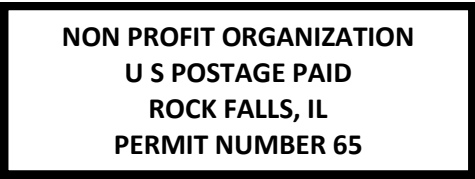


Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church  
501 8th Avenue  
Rock Falls IL 61071

DATED MATERIAL--  
PLEASE DO NOT HOLD.



# Immanuel Messenger

## January 2024



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:  
*We gather as people of Christ, serving with love, hope and faith.*

**YOU are an important part of the community of faith at Immanuel! Your insight, support and service makes a difference in the life and ministry of Immanuel. You are invited to two special meetings in January:**

**Sunday, January 14, 2024—Fiscal Forum at 10:15 a.m.**

At this gathering we will go over the 2023 purposed budget. There will also be time for questions and discussion about our purposed spending in support of the ministries of Immanuel.



**Sunday January 21, 2024—Annual Meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a Potluck to follow.** Join us in discussing the ministries of the congregation! In addition to voting on the 2024 budget, council members will be elected. **All voting members are strongly encouraged to attend the annual meeting.**

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

Immanuel Office Phone: 815-625-3575      Fax: 815-625-3702  
Office Administrator - Jill Leesman      [office@immanuelrockfalls.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.      Website: [immanuelrockfalls.org](http://immanuelrockfalls.org)  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

In-Person Worship - Sundays at 9 a.m. & Weds. at 4 p.m.

Sunday School at 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

Facebook: Immanuel Ev. Lutheran, [www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/)  
Phone-in worship—available anytime—**1-888-975-5536**

**LAST CALL on Annual Reports!**

Please share your Annual Report with the church office by January 3. **Annual reports will be emailed out and hard copies will be available in the Narthex beginning on Friday, January 12th.** If you would like one mailed to you, please call the church office at 815-625-3575. Thanks!



Grace and peace of Christ  
to you all!

At the writing of this article, we  
are in a sprint to  
Christmas Eve with a  
bounty on all sides...

Pastor Hank has shared with  
our congregation that she is  
enduring an aggressive & entering hospice... Pastor Hank was fortunate to  
serve with you all from 1998-2015. I imagine you have countless stories and  
memories of time shared. I would be honored to hear any memories you  
would like to share. You are welcome to call or text anytime. Please join me  
in prayer... *God of love, thank you for Pastor Hank, for her life, ministry and  
eternal life in you. Help her to feel your presence, love and peace in the  
midst of reality. Bring meaningful connection points into each day. Bring forth  
a peaceful passing at the right time; not to hasten the day but that she would  
not suffer. Uphold her and all who are hurting. In Jesus' name, Amen.* You  
are welcome to send Pastor Hank a note at: Heather Meyer & Pastor Hank  
219 N Nina St. Cortland IL 60112.

January 26-28 some of our youth will join hundreds from the Mid-west in  
experiencing God at a Quake. You can read a bit more about this on p. 3.  
The theme for this year is from Matthew 11:28, located above. These words  
from Matthew are once again a gift... "Come to me, all you who are weary  
and burdened and I will give you rest." (Mt 11:28). I find myself breathing  
deep and giving thanks again for God's generous grace, for each of you and  
our partnership in the gospel and for the bounty of each day. As we journey  
through 2024 may we have the courage, vulnerability and grit to breathe  
deep and rest in God; knowing that God is with us.

Thanks be to God for each and every one of you! -Pastor Bree Truax  
Cell: 360-989-4906 email: pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com


# BREATHE.

Matthew 11:28

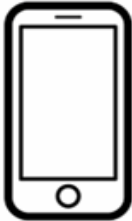
*"Come to me, all you who are weary  
and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

*Matthew 11:28*

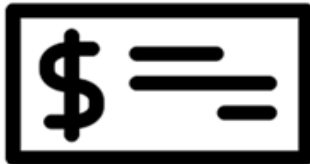
**THANKS** for supporting the mission &  
**ministry of Immanuel! Your partnership in the  
Gospel makes an immense difference! We  
have THREE secure ways for you to give.**



**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  
mmaccil.com 815.626.8760



*Specializing in Irrigating Seed Corn & Vegetable Production*

Terry Schutz	Marc Schutz	(815) 716-0310
2303 Hickory Hills Rd.	Shane Schutz	(815) 716-0320
Rock Falls, IL 61071	Chad Wetzell	(815) 716-3837
Home: (815) 625-8905		
Cell: (815) 716-0300		

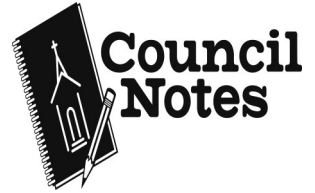
## You are an important part of the body of Christ!

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

## Council Meeting Highlights

December 18, 2023



1. Congregational Budget Review is January 14, 2024 following worship.
2. Annual meeting to take place after worship on January 21, 2024.
3. The Council is praying and hoping that God will raise up leaders to serve on Council.
4. Council voted to designate the 2023 special ministry (red line envelope) from October to the Loaves & Fishes Breakfast program.
4. Next meeting will be on January 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Stacey Hackbarth, Council Secretary



**We have a great crew of 6th-12th Graders heading to the Schaumburg Youth Quake, January 26-28!**

While at the Quake we will be experiencing God through community, worship, the Bible, teaching, service, games and more! Our group consists of 10 youth from Immanuel and two youth from St. Paul. Special THANKS to Jennifer Morgan, Keegan Roth and Pastor Bree for chaperoning! Please keep the Quake crew in your prayers! For Quake participants: We will leave after school on 1/26. Watch your email and texts for the final scoop and packing list. Thanks!

You are most welcome to worship with Immanuel over the phone each week! You can call into worship ANYTIME at **1-888-975-5536**.

You can access the St. Paul livestream worship thru their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulSterling/>  
 You can access St. John's livestream worship thru their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SterlingStJohns>







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

Karen Goss	1/02	Don Ebenezer	1/28
Joyce Kereven (93)	1/07	4276 US Hwy 441S	
Gerry Trieloff (95)	1/09	Unit 308 New Jersey St.	
Jane Johnson	1/15	Okeechobee, FL 34974	
Larry Gholson	1/22		

Happy Anniversary!

Duane & Judy Lou	1/08/1971
Randy & Karen Wolber	1/10/1970



Winter Worship and the Weather

Generally speaking, we will be having worship on Sundays & Wednesdays. If it is unsafe for you to journey to worship, please stay home and be safe. In the event that worship needs to be cancelled, weather cancellations will be postings on our Facebook page, Immanuel Ev. Lutheran — [www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/](http://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/). Postings will be made no later than 6:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings and 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. If time permits an email blast will also be sent. Your safety is important!

**We trust you to do what is best for the safety of your family and we promise to do our best to communicate any weather related schedule changes.**

Thank you!



Thanks  
for your  
participation

from these donations support Immanuel Lutheran Youth ministries.

**Thank you to everybody** for all the aluminum cans you brought to us. Thanks to Gerald Foskitt for taking them to be recycled! *You are most welcome to save and bring your bagged uncrushed aluminum beverage cans by Immanuel and place them in the entryway. Money raised*

TREASURER TIDBITS CONTINUED

On Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, the Finance Committee will present the budget, as well as, any questions or concerns to the Church Council at their regular monthly meeting. At that meeting, the Council will after deliberation, either recommend the budget be moved forward or suggest adjustments as may be required. But



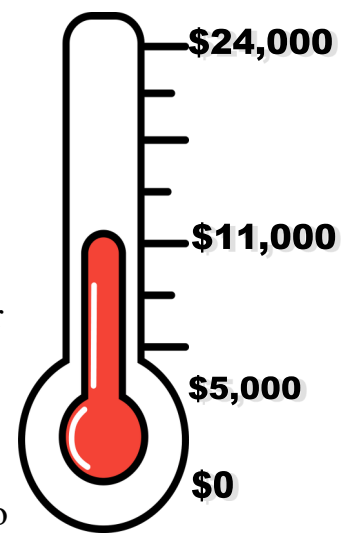
before the meeting is adjourned, the Church Council will recommend a budget for 2024 be sent to the Congregation for consideration at the **Sunday, January 21st Annual Congregational meeting.** Again, as the voting members of the Congregation, you determine our 2024 budget through your input and vote. You make a difference!

Well, there you have it, my monthly communication is complete. Let me leave you with these thoughts to consider. ***His grace is sufficient, keep the faith, it is well with my soul, love, and blessings, in God's embrace, and may God surround you with his Love.*** —Bill Wescott, Treasurer

BOILER FUND

We are nearly half way to raising the funds needed to replace the heating boilers. These boilers heat the worship space—Sanctuary, the room off the Sanctuary—the Friendship Room, the top floor Sunday School rooms, and the basement under the Sanctuary and Friendship Room. The projected cost of the project is \$24,000. Through your generous donations and fundraising we have roughly raised \$11,000. **THANK YOU for your generous support!** Immense thanks to Denny Schumaker, Jerry Adams and Nolan Scanlan who are checking and tending to the boilers twice a day so that we have heat leading up to the boilers being replaced.

If you would like to contribute to the boiler fund, please clearly label your gift and drop it by the church office or the offering plate.



TREASURER TIDBITS

Fellow Brother and Sisters in Christ of our beloved Immanuel Lutheran—

Hoping that your Christmas was one that brought joy and remembrance to you and your family. Allow me to share this biblical verse with you from Luke 21:1-4; “While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.” Thank you for giving to the Lord!

For the last couple of months, I and the Stewardship Committee have been sharing with you information concerning our Stewardship Drive and our progress on our 2024 Church Budget. Thank you to the committee members, Luke Sandrock, Kris Sandrock, Pam Shoffner, Clark Smith and Pastor Bree for their work on this important measure. We have had a couple of meetings to review the various ministry requests, as well as, staff salaries and benefits for budget consideration as we progress towards our final budget for presentation and approval. As of this writing, we are still waiting and hoping to receive additional commitment cards, so that we can finalize our projected Income Revenue for the coming year and set our expense line items accordingly. **Many thanks** to all who have already turned in their fiscal commitment cards!

Here is the timeline for Immanuel's budgeting process. Please review the dates so that you can ensure your presence at the meetings when the congregation will be presented the 2024 Budget. **The Council will present the budget for the 1<sup>st</sup> review on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> following church service that day.** The budget will be presented, and as a voting member of the church you can ask any questions that you may have.

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

<b>Gerry Trieloff</b> Morningside of Sterling 2705 Ave. E Apt. 233 Sterling, IL 61081	<b>Swede Knapp</b> Morningside of Sterling 2705 Ave. E Apt. 106 Sterling, IL 61081	<b>Shirley Downey</b> Morningside of Sterling 2705 Ave. E Apt 110 Sterling, IL 61081
<b>Emma Bailey</b> Citadel 105 E. 23rd Street Sterling, IL 61081	<b>Nancy Maxwell</b> 710 W. LeFevre Apt. 204 Sterling, IL 61081	<b>Betty Harms</b> 1801 Avenue G Apt. 305 Sterling, IL 61081
<b>Vera Stutzke</b> 1801 Avenue G Apt. 145 Sterling, IL 61081	<b>Virgil Rhodes</b> Heritage Health 308 S. 2nd Street Walnut, IL 61376	<b>Patricia Mintun</b> Allure 612 W. St. Mary’s Rd. Sterling, IL 61081
<b>Mary Lou Wolber</b> 203 E. 9th St. Rock Falls, IL 61071	<b>Shirley Boyer</b> 1102 E. 13th Street Sterling, IL 61081	<b>Lois Deetz</b> 28286 Woodside Drive Rock Falls, IL 61071
<b>Delores Kuhlemier</b> 1011 6th Avenue Rock Falls, IL 61071	<b>Deb Gonzalez</b> 812 W. 5th Street Rock Falls, IL 61071	



**Betty Harms is turning 100 on February 3rd!** You are invited to join in a card shower for her. You can drop a card by Immanuel thru February 1 to be delivered or mail cards to Betty at (1801 Avenue G, Apt. 305, Sterling, IL 61081).

**Immanuel is offering worship at two area care Facilities monthly.** We are leading worship the **second Sunday** of each month **at Parkway Center**, (1801 Ave. G in Sterling). On January 14, we lead at 4 p.m. The **second Tuesday** of each month, we are leading worship **at 9:30 a.m. at Morningside of Sterling** (2705 Avenue E). Volunteers welcome! Thank you for supporting this ministry!

**WORSHIP at Parkway Ctr & Morningside**

Everyone who participates at Immanuel is a part of our community of faith. As per our constitution, active members are able to vote at congregational meetings and serve on Congregational Council. If you would like to become a member of Immanuel, please contact Pastor Bree at 815-625-3575. All are welcome!



**A reminder....**

Church Constitution & Bylaws  
According to the constitution of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, voting members are confirmed members who have communed **AND** given an offering of record during the current or preceding year (2022 and 2023). These two requirements must be completed by Dec.31, 2023 in order to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting or any other special meeting called by the council. If you have been worshipping from home by phone or online please contact the church office so that records can be updated. An offering of record means that we have a record of your offering in our system as well as a record of your having received communion. If you are unsure about whether or not your offerings and communion have been recorded correctly, please contact the office administrator, Jill, in the church office at 625-3575.

**Offering envelopes for 2024 are available to be picked up in the narthex.** Please dispose of 2023 envelopes because your number for 2024 may be different. If you cannot find your envelopes or you would like some, please contact the church office at 815-625-3575. If you are willing to help distribute offering envelopes to relatives, friends or homebound members, please contact the church office. Your assistance in delivering envelopes is greatly appreciated and will decrease our postage expenses. Thank you!



**2023 contribution statements will be mailed by the end of January.** If you need yours sooner, please contact Jill in the church office.

Our 6th-12th grade youth are selling **sub sandwiches!** Proceeds will assist with expenses of the 2024 National Youth Gathering and LYO Opportunities! **Sandwiches Feature La Gondola bread from Kewanee and Avanti's meat and cheese from Walnut.** These sub sandwiches are sure to please. Choose from a loaf of bread or Super Sub! **Sandwiches can be ordered through Feb. 4 & will be available for pick up following worship on Feb. 25th!** ***SUBS DO GREAT IN THE FREEZER!!! THANKS for your support!***



**Sub Sandwich Order Form**

(Orders are due by February 4 and may be picked up after worship on February 25th).

**Sandwiches feature 16” La Gondola Bread** (from Kewanee) & **Avanti’s Ham, Salami, and American Cheese** (from Walnut)

**Fresh Bread \$4/loaf** Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal \$\_\_\_\_\_

**16” Super Sub \$10 each** Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal \$\_\_\_\_\_

Double Ham, Double Salami, & Double American Cheese

Additional donation toward LYO opportunities \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks out to Immanuel Lutheran Youth.**



**4th-6th Grade Girls:** Strong Girls 2 Women (SG2W) 2024 - Strong Girls Dream is being offered for you!!! **Strong Girls 2 Women is a weeklong day camp at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt Morris designed to empower strong girls in grades 4-6 to envision their potential while forming relationships and exploring their creativity.** Using women role models who speak on their professions, games, art, and dancing, SG2W reminds our campers every day, "I Am Enough!" In June 2024, we will dream our biggest, wildest, most amazing dreams and wonder together how we can make those dreams reality with God and each other. What are your biggest dreams, strong girl? Be watching for online registration info in March. #SG2W

---



National Youth Gathering participants will be holding a rummage sale in June of 2024. **You are welcome to donate gently used items for the sale by placing them in the room labeled "Rummage Sale Items" in the basement.** Please refrain from bringing adult clothing, children's apparel is welcome. THANKS!

---

**Throughout January we will receive donations for the YWCA of the Sauk Valley in Sterling through the Noisy Offering.** For the past 94 years, the YWCA of the Sauk Valley has been making a difference in our community. They are committed to making the Sauk Valley a better place for *everyone* by working to make our mission of peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all, a reality. They continue to evolve to meet today's challenges in eliminating racism and empowering women. Each year, the YWCA of the Sauk Valley empowers over 900 victims of violence so they become survivors. Yearly, they educate over 15,000 area children about sexual abuse, bullying, ways to stay safe, and how to get help if they are being abused. You can learn more about the YWCA of the Sauk Valley at <https://www.ywsauk.org/>. Thanks in advance for saving your change for the January Noisy Offering. Your change is literally changing lives!



**A HUGE THANKS TO ALL WHO PLANNED, PREPARED AND LEAD** the Sunday School and youth Christmas Worship on December 17th in person. MANY volunteers and MANY young people made this possible! Thanks also to all who contributed art work! Praise God for all of you and your willingness to serve

---



*Church Council meets monthly, serving the church through leadership.* People of God, as you may have heard Pastor Bree communicate, you have two options...

**Option 1:** Prayerfully consider serving on Church Council in 2024.

**Option 2:** Pray that God will raise up leaders in our congregation willing to serve on Church Council. NOW is the time to be choosing and enacting option 1 or option 2. **Thank you for your diligence in this!**

---

Due to congregational needs the communion prep class got bumped to February 25. We are hoping this course deepens our understanding of receiving God's love, grace and presence. Look for an article diving deep communion as the Lord's Table open for all regardless of age or ability in next month's newsletter. **Communion Preparation Class will be on February 25th from 11 am-2 pm.** Please sign up outside the church office to participate. This highly interactive class allows us time to explore what it means to receive communion. We will be working through a workbook about communion, baking communion bread and so much more! Young people of all ages are welcome. If young people have taken the class previously and would like to do so again as a refresher they are welcome! Young people are requested to attend with a trusted adult. **Please sign up to participate outside the church office by February 7 so that course materials can be purchased.** Thanks!

---



**MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!**  
**Please join in serving on January 7th following worship as**

**we undecorated** from Advent and Christmas season. Thanks in advance for your help! IMMENSE THANKS to the Altar Guild that helps us worship God weekly!



**Sunday School (S. S.) resumes on January 7th and 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.



**6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders: Immanuel Confirmation meets on Sundays from 10:15-11 a.m. weekly.**

**Tri Church Confirmation is on January 14 at St. John's from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Lunch is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bree at [pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com](mailto:pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com).

The schedule for the rest of the school year:

February 11, 2024 at Immanuel, exploring the Commandments

March 3, 2024 at St. Paul exploring the Commandments

April 14, 2024 at St. John's, exploring the Commandments

May 5, 2024 at Immanuel exploring Communion

**MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO  
HAVE DONATED THEIR CHOICE  
DOLLARS TO IMMANUEL!  
Your gifts make a difference!**

**Thrivent members, you have free Choice**

**Dollars to donate starting Jan. 1.** Call your Thrivent representative for more information. Your donation choice doesn't carry over year to year. **In 2023, we were blessed to receive \$1,718 in Choice Dollars!** 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 2023, we received Thrivent Action Team grants for supplies for the VBS, LOMC Work Day, Boiler Fund Fundraiser & more! 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/).

**thrivent**®

Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food weeks leading up to the Big Game. Teaming up with local partners, these groups give 100% of donations to local charities, changing the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest

weekend of caring. More than \$143 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving & serving. **We will receive a special "Noisy Offering" for the Souper Bowl of Caring in soup cans on February 4th to support the Sauk Valley Food Bank.** The Sauk Valley Food Bank partners with any 501(c)3 group that gives away food.



**Birthday  
BUDDIES**

We are participating with Tri-Church serving LSSI group homes this coming year in a new program to make birthdays a special day for some people in our community! "Birthday Buddies" is a program that will give some differently-abled people an opportunity to feel God's love through a gift on their special day. Each of the Tri Church

Congregations will take turns providing a gift and cupcakes for residents monthly. Our first resident to celebrate is in February. We will be sharing the names of our assigned recipients with you all and encourage you to send cards or sign a card from Immanuel before their birthday. Thanks in advance for sharing God's love through the Birthday Buddies program!

**THANK YOU for giving to the  
Lord! You make a difference!**





**Altar Flowers**

You are welcome to sign up to provide flowers for the altar! The calendar for sign ups is located in the Narthex near the entry to the coat hanging area. You are welcome to provide your own arrangements or floral arrangements can be purchased by the office through Behrz Bloomz for \$25 per vase. .) Please let Jill know what special dedication you would like included in the bulletin.

---

Sauk Valley Diversity Alliance presents **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peace and Justice Celebration** on Sunday, January 14 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Open Door Community Church, 1705 6th Avenue, Sterling. The theme is "It Starts with Me: Spreading Hope, Courage and Unity". Admission is free and complimentary refreshments will follow.

Please contact Pastor Bree or Tina Wren at [Diversitycsv@gmail.com](mailto:Diversitycsv@gmail.com) with any questions.

---



**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
remembered



**Mark your calendars for the  
Black History Month Gala on February 24!**

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the **Black History Month Gala!** Celebrating the rich heritage and achievements of the African American community, this in-person event will take place at Elks (1279 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon). Get ready to immerse yourself in

a night filled with live entertainment, games, inspiring stories, and a vibrant atmosphere. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to be part of a special event that celebrates diversity and unity. Tickets are \$60 a piece and available at <https://www.facebook.com/DiversitySV>. All are welcome!



**WELCA Bible Study** will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2023, 9:00 a.m. at Immanuel. Please bring your Bible and the Gather Magazine. All women of Immanuel are members of WELCA and welcome to join WELCA for a time of fellowship and Bible Study!

---

**Menz Group** will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling **on Monday, January 8, 2023, 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.

---



**MENZ GROUP**

**Breaking Bread Together BBT**

Please join us for **BBT in January!** Breaking Bread Together or BBT is a time of sharing life, God's love and a meal together! These are **no host gatherings for all interested parties.**

Join us for **BBT on Wednesday, January 3, at 11:45 a.m. at Pizza Ranch** (3900 E Lincolnway, Sterling) and on

**Wednesday, January 24, at 11:45 a.m. at El Jacalita** (14 E. 3rd Street, Sterling). Come and share life with God and each other at BBT!

---

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

**Thank you** for your contribution of \$330.04 in noisy offering plus \$100 gift card for County Market, 5 gift cards to Wal-Mart with a total of \$130 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois's (LSSI) Holiday Hope Chest. At LSSI, we believe that we are called to care for our neighbors in need and with the help of friends like you, we will be able to purchase gift cards and/or gifts for our clients this Christmas! Thank you again for the generosity you have shown to the individuals and families we serve.

Warmest regards,

*Kathy Hall*, LSSI Assistant VP for Advancement



***Thank You To All Who Donated Poinsettias for Christmas Services!***

**In Loving Memory of:**

Harold, Lillian & Terry Adams  
Ed Downey  
Hugo & Mabel Gerken  
Don & Marge Dietz  
Jessica Gordon  
Dan & Joyce Gordon  
Doug Gordon  
John & Shirley Luttrell  
Ivan Rosenow  
Richard & Hazel Livingston  
William & Betty Wescott  
Harry, Virginia & Terry Winters  
Marian Rhodes  
Marian Rhodes  
Don & Liz Andersen  
Glen Kuhlemier  
Ken Strock  
Our Parents: Merle & Verneta Attig  
Russ & Ellen (Boots) Spencer  
Harry & Evelyn Steltzer  
Daniel & Helen Johnson  
Dawn Johnson Keenan  
Charles Maxwell  
Kala Maxwell  
Norden & Mary Scanlan  
Donna Scanlan, Bessie Brown  
Terry Schutz  
Loved Ones Passed  
Robert Wolber  
Johnie & Doris Leopard  
Stephanie Rivera

**Given By:**

Jerry & Betty Adams  
Downey Family  
Tom & Betty Clementz  
Tim & Sharon Dietz  
Dan & Lisa Gordon  
Dan & Lisa Gordon  
Dan & Lisa Gordon  
Dan & Lisa Gordon  
Avis & Kris  
Bill & Linda Wescott  
Bill & Linda Wescott  
Bill & Linda Wescott  
Virgil Rhodes  
Terry & Mary Andersen  
Terry & Mary Andersen  
Delores Kuhlemier  
Nancy Strock  
Sid & Shirley Attig  
  
Jerry & Betty Adams  
Ed & Carole Johnson  
Ed & Carole Johnson  
Nancy Maxwell  
Nancy Maxwell  
Nim & Sally Scanlan  
Nim & Sally Scanlan  
Pat & Chris McCarty Family  
Greg & Kris Sandrock  
Mary Lou, David & Sandra  
Brandy Leopard  
Brandy Leopard



**In Loving Memory of:**

Martin Schaefer Sr.  
Marvin & Donalee Harms  
Kim Finnicum  
Merle Linton & Sara Shuman  
Paul & Florence Simpson

James A. Sikkema

**Given By:**

Kelly & Martin Schaefer Jr.  
Mike & Rita Schaffer  
Clark & Barb Smith  
JoAnn Linton  
Linda Wolber, Kellie, & Jared Gardner  
DuWayne & Abby Wolber, Deyon, Darci & Daniel  
Linda Wolber, Kellie, & Jared Gardner  
DuWayne & Abby Wolber, Deyon, Darci & Daniel

The one large poinsettia in the narthex is from Vera Stutzke in loving memory of her beloved husband, Edwin Bud Stutzke. The second large poinsettia is from Vera Stutzke in loving memory of her parents, Henry & Freda Mennenga, and Erick & Tillie Stutzke, Lawrence “Skip” & Lorraine Janssen.



**In Honor of:**

Our Children, Grandchildren & Greats!  
Walter & Kathleen Smith  
Norm & Gerald Kerr  
Children & Grandchildren

**To the Glory of God:**

All My Family  
Our Children & Grandchildren  
To the Glory of God  
Altar Guild  
Family, Both Past & Present  
Our Children & Grandchildren  
Our Family  
Family & Friends

**Given By:**

Rick & Pauline Moeller  
Clark & Barb Smith  
Clark & Barb Smith  
Riley & Diane Arellano

**Given By:**

JoAnn Linton  
Greg & Kris Sandrock  
Kathy Burkheimer & Gary Puckett  
Clark & Barb Smith  
Dennis & Virginia Schumaker  
Kelly & Deb Keaschall  
Mike & Sherry Leaf  
Riley & Diane Arellano

***Thank You for your generous remembrances and gifts! Y'all donated to support the purchase of 30 poinsettias and battery operated candles to adorn our sanctuary. Remaining funds will be used for flowers and Altar Guild needs. Thanks much!***