

Immanuel Messenger

March 2024



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:

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



Join us for Tri Church Lenten worship on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at Immanuel and 6:30 p.m. at St. John's (703 3rd Ave., Sterling)! The content of both services will be the same whether Pastor Bree, or Pastor Jacob or Pastor Makayla is leading. You can learn more about the content of our Lenten Journey on p. 13. Please make plans to join us for worship, food & fellowship! We are church together!

Lenten Lunches & Suppers: During Wednesdays in Lent, (March 6, 13, 20) **Immanuel welcomes you to enjoy a light lunch at 11:30 a.m. and St. John's welcomes you to supper at 5:30 p.m.** Immanuel, St. Paul and St. John's are providing food on different days. Sign up outside the church office to volunteer to help or bring food. Thanks!



Join us for HOLY WEEK WORSHIP!

IMMANUEL'S HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 24, Palm Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.

March 28, Maundy Thursday Worship - 12:15 p.m.

March 28, Maundy Thursday Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Stripping of the Altar will be at 6:30 p.m. worship only.

March 29, Good Friday Worship - 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.

March 31, Easter Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.



Grace and peace of Christ to you!

As you may recall, 2 St. Paul youth, 10 Immanuel youth, 2 adults and I participated in the Schaumburg Youth Quake. It was a wondrous weekend of experience God and sharing life together through worship, music, scripture, games, prayer, and more! The speaker for the weekend, Packer Dave iterated throughout the weekend the deep seated truth--"God loves you not matter what. Deal with it." Truly, regardless of circumstance, regardless of how life feels, God loves you no matter what!

**"God loves you no
matter what!**

Deal with it!"

-Packer Dave

As it declares in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." No matter what, you are loved. The question for us daily and minutely is, how are we going to deal with the reality that God loves us and all human beings completely and fully. Will we welcome God's love, enjoy it and share it? Will we ignore God's love, pretend it is not for us and deny it? For me, it depends on the moment. How about for you? Regardless of how we choose to respond, God loves and loves and loves. May we have the courage to welcome, enjoy and share the abounding love that God continually gives.

Thanks be to God for you all!

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

Council Meeting Highlights February 19, 2024

1. Council voted unanimously to elect Shannon Schutz to a three year term on congregational council.
2. Voted to amend 2024 budget line items (14) from 21,000 to \$23,000; (13) 1,302 to 1,431; (26) to \$333. Under provisions of our constitution section C12.05(c) & (d). Such actions will not in either section incur new obligations of more than 5% of total budget. Motion approved.
3. Motion by Terry Andersen and seconded by Shannon Schutz to authorize \$1,410 from the capital fund to be put towards 2024 parsonage rental property insurance costs. Motion passed.
4. Motion to pay the remaining balance of \$7,891.94 for the boilers from the capital fund. Motion passed.
5. Motion approved to authorize Bill Wescott to obtain up to \$50,000, 6-8 month CD from excess in general checking.
6. Approve transfer of \$1,506 from final 2023 revenues from major repair line item to roof fund. Motion approved.
7. Council installation will be March 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. worship.
Next meeting will be on March 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Hackbarth, Council Secretary



Please contact Pastor Bree or the church office (815-625-3573) if you have a prayer request for the congregational prayer list.

Please let us know if you are hospitalized or in need of a visit. Due to privacy laws, medical facilities and care facilities are not allowed to contact us unless you direct them to do so. **If you would like a visit or to be included in congregational prayers, please call the church office (815-625-3575).**





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.

Happy Birthday to all who have a birthday in March!

Happy Anniversary!

Mike & Chris Wilen

3/04/1972

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!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring collection Sunday, February 11, 2024. We collected \$66.60

for the food needs to stock the Sterling Buddy Bags at the First Presbyterian Church in Sterling. Thank you for giving generously! You change is changing lives!

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

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.*



THANK YOU!

Salem Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges Immanuel's gift of \$400 in memory of Pastor Hank Milner. Immanuel's generous gift will be used for their Sunday School and National Youth Gathering team. Thank you!

THANKS also to all who mailed cards and/or attended Pastor Hank's service! We thank God for Pastor Hank and all the communion of saints over time and space.

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

1801 Avenue G
Apt. 145
Sterling, IL 61081

Mary Lou Wolber

203 E. 9th St.
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Delores Kuhlemier

10116th Avenue
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Swede Knapp

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

Nancy Maxwell

710 W. LeFevre
Apt. 204
Sterling, IL 61081

Virgil Rhodes

Allure
308 S. 2nd Street
Walnut, IL 61376

Shirley Boyer

1102 E. 13th Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Deb Gonzalez

812 W. 5th Street
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Shirley Downey

Morningside of Sterling
2705 Avenue E, Apt. 110
Sterling, IL 61081

Betty Harms

1801 Avenue G
Apt. 305
Sterling, IL 61081

Patricia Mintun

Allure
612 W. St. Mary's Rd.
Sterling, IL 61081

Lois Deetz

28286 Woodside Drive
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Joyce Greenwalt

P.O. Box 144
Polo, IL 61064

**Special THANKS to all who continue to
remember our home bound through prayers,
cards and visits! We are church together!**



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 3 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 2023, we received Thrivent Action Team grants for supplies for Quilters, Buddy Bags, VBS, LSSI and 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/.

Now is the time to sign up for Summer Camp!

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, worshipping, singing, and praying.



Fees and Grants: **Partial Week Camps: \$400* Full Week Camps: \$550***

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.

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



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!

7th-8th Graders: Immanuel confirmation classes meet from 10:15 - 11:00 a.m. on Sundays AND monthly with Tri Church Confirmation Students. **Tri Church Confirmation is on February 11 at Immanuel from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Lunch is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bree at pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com. Come and explore your faith with us!

The schedule for the rest of the school year:

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



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. Come and grow in God with us!



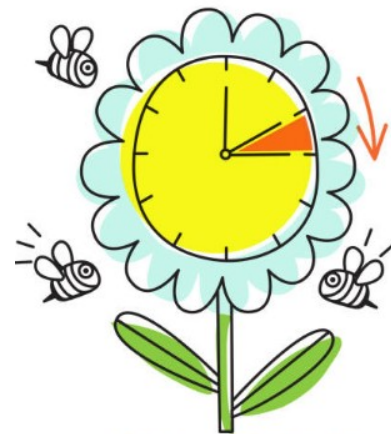
Culver's Share Night

Do you like to eat?
Join us at Culver's!

Please help support our youth from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Tues., April 2!

Proceeds will help support youth going to the National Youth Gathering and Young Adult Gathering in July. A normal Tuesday will pay out 10% of sales. If they see an increase in sales over their average Tuesday we could get 20% of sales.

(Which is what happened last time due to your support!) **Come and dine from 5 - 8 p.m., and Immanuel youth will deliver your food!** There will be a tip jar out on front counter to support LYO. Culver's will present a check by about 8:15 p.m. Thanks in advance for your support!



Daylight Saving Time
begins at 2 a.m. on
March 10. Spring Forward
and change your clocks
late on March 9.



Lilies to Adorn Our Altar

Immanuel has a loving tradition of adorning our altar area with living Lilies for Easter. You are invited to participate in this ministry to beautify our Sanctuary! This year we are trying something new for lilies. We will purchase 30 lilies and receive donations towards them. Suggested price is \$13 per plant and donations of any amount, more or less will be appreciated. Anyone who donates toward a lily purchase will have your name and dedication shared in the Easter Bulletin and the April Messenger. Any donations exceeding the cost of the lilies purchase will be used towards altar guild needs. You are welcome to take one of the 30 lilies home with you following the Easter service.

To support lilies & Altar Guild needs: Fill out the form below and enclose cash or a check made out to "Altar Guild." Envelopes can be found in the pews. You may also mail it to "Altar Guild" at Immanuel or place it in the offering plate. THANK YOU!

----- LILIES ORDER FORM-----

My/Our Name(s) _____

Phone _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To the Glory of God for _____

Please mail or drop your order and payment off to Immanuel.

Cost: \$13 per lily. Make checks out to "Altar Guild."

For over 20 years, Immanuel has been supporting PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) in hope that all people would have safe shelter as they seek

permanent housing. In addition to providing funds through Immanuel's benevolence, Immanuel has a long history of providing a meal for guests of PADS the fourth Friday of each month. **MANY THANKS to all who have generously and tirelessly provided food over the years!**



The Twin Cities PADS Homeless Shelter is transitioning to a new name--Twin Cities Homeless Shelter. The Twin Cities Homeless Shelter serves 20–25 guests per night for emergency shelter, and an entry point for addiction recovery and mental health services. The shelter is open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. **We are endeavoring to reboot how we plan meals for the 4th Friday of the month and discern if we are still able to do so. Join us for a special meeting to discuss a path forward and prayerfully discern on Sunday, March 17th at 10:15 a.m. in the Friendship Room.** In the mean time, you are most welcome to sign up outside of the church office to help with a meal. You can learn more about the Twin Cities Homeless Shelter at <https://www.twincitiespads.org/>. Thank you for the MANY ways that you are living out God's love through prayer, service and generous giving!



Do you enjoy projects; fixing things, tending to facility needs? WE NEED YOU! We are hoping to have a team of people to field property and facility requests monthly. **Please join Property Team leaders Terry Andersen & Scott Attig on March 10 at 10:15 a.m. in the Friendship Room if you are willing to serve.**

Projects will be handed off to interested parties. **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!** Please participate as you are able. If you are unable to make the meeting but interested in helping please contact Terry or Scott whose contact info is on p. 14. Thanks!

A word from our treasurer...

Beloved members of our family at Immanuel:

I want to share with members of the congregation a few financial facts that were discussed and had action taken at the congregational council meeting on February 19th.

2024 BUDGET ITEM AMENDMENT

The Council following discussion voted unanimously to change one of our musicians' salaries from \$10,500 which had been approved at the Congregational meeting in January under the 2024 budget to \$12,500.00. This action is authorized under our constitution, if the increase does not exceed 5% of the total approved budget of the church. It also required our musicians Social Security and Medicare payments increased as well and actions were taken to do the same. The changes are in Section 02-/Sec OPRT line (13) change from \$1,302 to \$1,431; line (14) change from \$21,000 to \$23,000; and line (26) change from \$305 to \$333.

BOILER PROJECT

We have received the final statement for the replacement of (2) Well McLain Boilers. The total came to \$24,545.00. Through the generosity of our church members, we raised \$17,033.06 to assist in defraying the cost. The remaining balance of \$7,511.94 was elected by the Council to be taken from our Capital Fund. Big shout out to those that worked on this project and then Property Chairman Nolan Scanlan.

FINAL BALANCE 2023 BUDGET 17-SUPPORT

The Council historically, transfers the remaining balance in the Major Repairs line item # 02 to the Roof Fund at the beginning of the new fiscal year. The council approved unanimously the transfer of \$1,506.00 to the Roof Fund.

(Continued on pg. 11)

(continued from pg. 10)

Lastly, an update on our current financial status. Our current balance sheet through February 12th shows our total assets at \$275,225.60. We have a current checking balance of \$133,499.77 with \$11,578.36 in obligations pending leaving \$122,921.41 available. In lieu of our balance, I asked the council to approve authorization for me to seek another CD not to exceed \$50,000 for a period of 6-8 months. The Council voted unanimously for me to proceed with the purchase.

Psalm 121: "I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the lord, which made heaven and earth."

Thank you for your on-going partnership in the gospel and generous giving!

—Bill Wescott, Treasurer



Join us at Immanuel on Sunday, April 14 at 4 p.m. for a concert by The Agape Ringers, Chicago's premier handbell ensemble.

The sixteen members of The Agape Ringers use over 200 bells and chimes to perform musical styles ranging from classical to jazz to familiar pop music. Founded in 1992, they have earned rave reviews from audiences across the United States, Canada, and England. **A free will offering will be received and merchandise will be**

available for purchase. The Agape Ringers have performed as guest artists with jazz trumpeter Orbert Davis, the Rockford Symphony, the North Shore Choral Society, the Illinois Brass Band, the Elgin Choral Union, the Elmhurst Symphony, and the West Towns Chorus. You can learn more about them on the web at www.AgapeRingers.org, and on Facebook and YouTube by searching for "The Agape Ringers." You can also stream The Agape Ringers on any major music streaming platform, including Spotify and Apple Music. **Join us for a wondrous afternoon! All are welcome!**

WELCA Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:30 a.m. (note time change & location) at Morningside of Sterling. 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: Sloan Schutz, Elise Moeller, Ben Roth, Emily Lego, Isaac Attig, Molly Hackbarth, Jonas Hicks, Kathryn Rowzee, Tess Schaefer 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.**



Menz Group will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling **on Monday, March 4, 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.

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**.

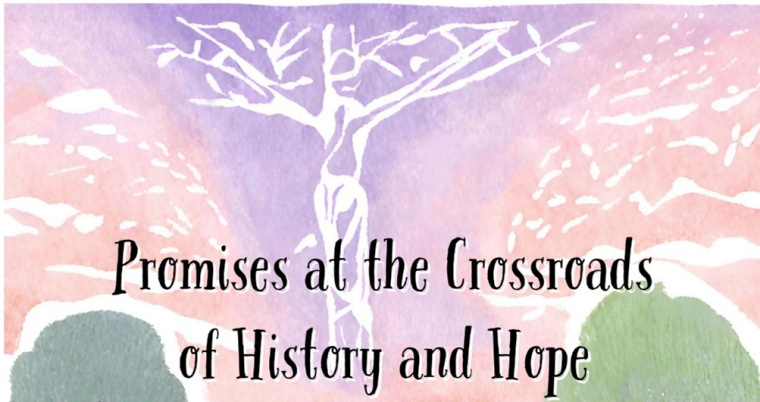
*Worship
with us
from*
HOME

The 2024 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 16, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Offering Envelopes



You will find two offering envelopes in your offering packet for Sunday, **March 31**. The red border envelope is designated for Easter and will be sent to the Northern Illinois Synod for benevolence. The other offering envelope is the regular offering and will be used for our expenses. Thank you.

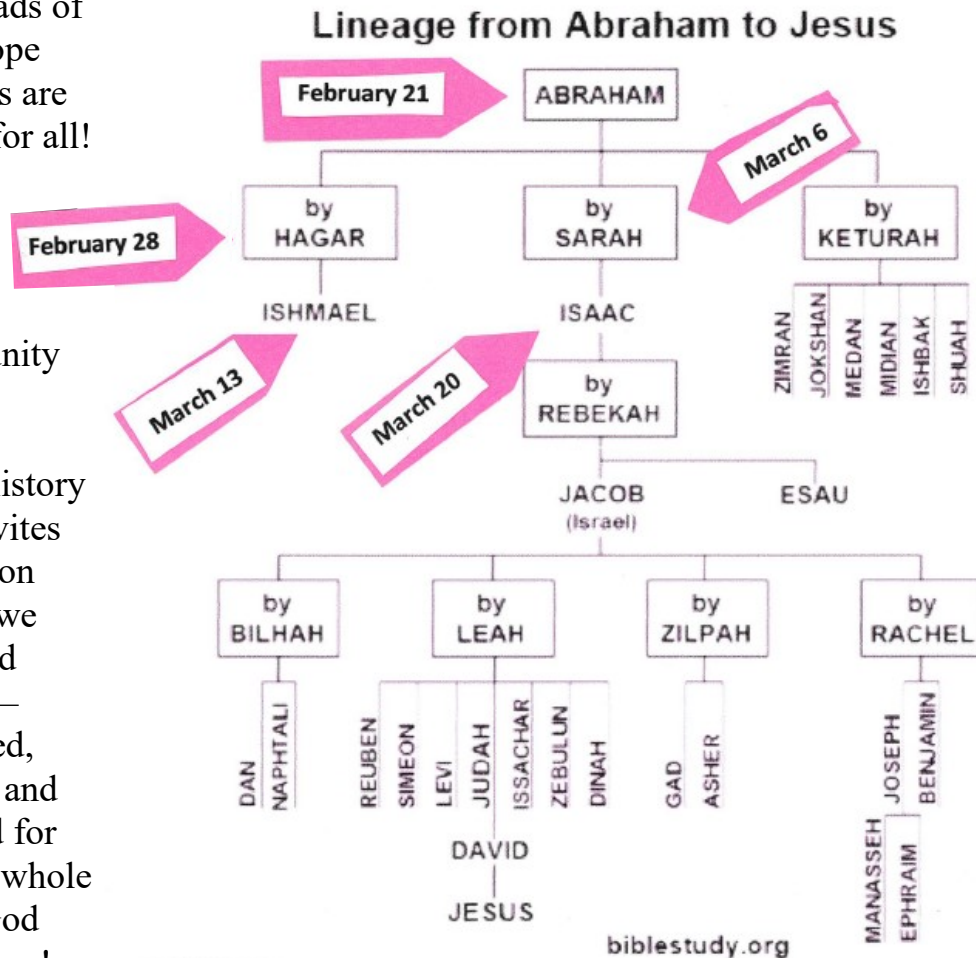


The Northern Illinois Synod has provided our Lenten Series materials this year through the good work of Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox of the Nourishing Vocation Project at St. Olaf College. Each week we are exploring people who are in the lineage of Jesus. Special

thanks to Betty Clementz for compiling and sharing this graphic illustrating what we will be exploring!

At the Crossroads of History and Hope God's Promises are true and valid for all!

As Dr. Char notes, "The season of Lent affords a unique opportunity to prayerfully consider this crossroads of history and hope. It invites us to reflect upon who and what we have been – and point to Christ – promise fulfilled, love incarnate, and hope embodied for the sake of the whole world." May God guide our journey!



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 pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com			
Executive Board	President Ronda Borgmann 815-622-9306 Rondaborgmann@gmail.com	Vice President Kevin Arnold 309-434-8638 Karnold@growmark.com	Secretary Stacey Hackbarth 815-303-3386 shackbarth1@icloud.com	Treasurer Bill Wescott 815-590-6270 paramedic61071@yahoo.com
Congregational Life Ministry	Terry Andersen 815-303-6580 vcterry@yahoo.com	Luke Sandrock 815-499-0293 lsandrock@2cornerstone.com		
Faith Formation Ministry	Stacey Hackbarth 815-303-3386 shackbarth1@icloud.com	Please keep our Council Members and Pastor Bree in your prayers.		
Service Ministry	Pam Shoffner 815-716-0190 mccrash2007@hotmail.com	Kevin Arnold 309-434-8638 Karnold@growmark.com		
Support Ministry	Scott Attig 815-303-9642 attig80@yahoo.com	Terry Andersen 815-303-6580 vcterry@yahoo.com		
Hospitality Ministry	Sheryl Wagner 815-252-7923 dashwagner@gmail.com	Shannon Schutz 815-590-6150 sschutz2000@gmail.com		
Worship Ministry	Bonnie Cassens 815-535-8323 BJCassens@yahoo.com	Ronda Borgmann 815-622-9306 Rondaborgmann@gmail.com		

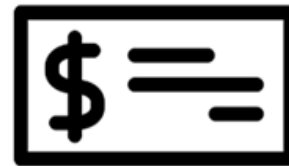
THANKS for supporting the mission & ministry of Immanuel! Your partnership in the Gospel makes an immense difference! We have THREE secure ways for you to give.



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.

Moeller, Myers

& ASSOCIATES PC
Counseling & Consulting

3917 E. Lincolnway, Suite C

Sterling, IL 61081

mmaccil.com

815.626.8760



CHERYL A. STUTZKE
Event Coordinator
castutzke@sbcglobal.net

BLUE GOOSE RUN

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



Specializing in Irrigating Seed Corn & Vegetable Production

Terry Schutz
2303 Hickory Hills Rd.
Rock Falls, IL 61071
Home: (815) 625-8905
Cell: (815) 716-0300

Marc Schutz (815) 716-0310
Shane Schutz (815) 716-0320
Chad Wetzell (815) 716-3837

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

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE PAID
ROCK FALLS, IL
PERMIT NUMBER 65**

**DATED MATERIAL--
PLEASE DO NOT HOLD.**

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/