

Immanuel Messenger

April 2024



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:

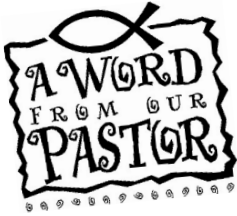
We gather as people of Christ, serving with love, hope and faith.



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

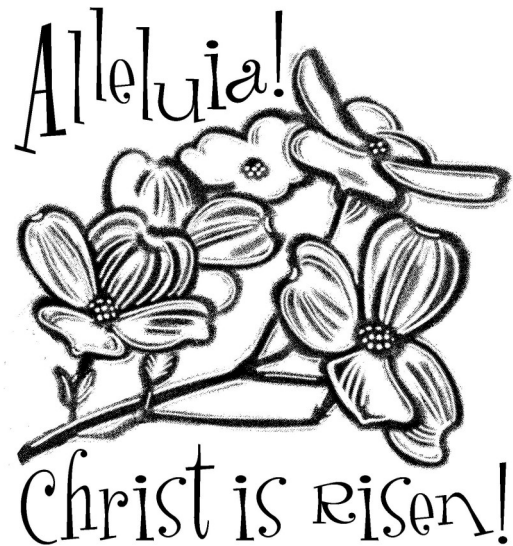
The sixteen members of The Agape Ringers use over 200 bells and chimes to perform musical styles ranging from classical to jazz to familiar pop music. Founded in 1992, they have earned rave reviews from audiences across the United States, Canada, and England. **A free will offering will be received and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

Refreshments will be provided following the concert. Sign up outside the church office to help. Thank you!



**Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Into every nook & cranny of our days the resurrected Christ is present; bringing forth love and grace! Beloved people of Immanuel, God is close as your every breath. As you breath deep this Spring, may you grow in awareness of God's life-giving presence through Jesus Christ! May you choose to welcome and enjoy the new life that God ushers us into as we choose to remember God's love and presence. May the Holy Spirit guide us and grant us courage to allow God to guide us as we seek to serve to follow Jesus! It continues to be a gift to journey alongside and serve God with you!



Pastor Bree

Pastor Bree Truax (pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com, 360-989-4906)

Pastor Bree will be on Continuing Ed. & Spiritual Renewal April 1-4 and off April 5-6 in LaCrosse, WI and off and on vacation April 19-22.

For emergency pastoral care April 1-6 and April 19-22, please call the church office at 815-625-3575 or Pr. Kathy Burkheimer at 815-590-0974. Thank you!

Council Meeting Highlights on March 18, 2024

1. Service Ministry is forming a PADS guild that will meet on the 4th Friday of each month to work together to prepare the meal that is donated to the PADS shelter from Immanuel. They are working on finding individuals in the congregation that may have access to Thrivent Action grant cards that can be used to help defray the cost of the meat for the PADS meal. Stay tuned for more details.
2. Parts have been ordered to make the necessary additions to our new boilers after a recent inspection. Many thanks to Dennis, Scott, Terry & Nolan for taking this on.

Next meeting will be on April 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel.

Respectfully submitted, Stacey Hackbarth, Council Secretary



We'd Love to Honor Our Graduates!

Do you have an 8th grader, high school, college or vocational graduate in your household? Please let the church office know by May 5. Watch your email for graduate questionnaires and photo submission requests.

Immanuel looks forward to celebrating their achievement during worship on May 19. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us! Thank you!



Please contact Pastor Bree or the church office if you have a prayer request for the congregational prayer list. **Prayer requests will remain on the list for a month and can be renewed as many times as needed.**

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 church office (815-625-3575).**

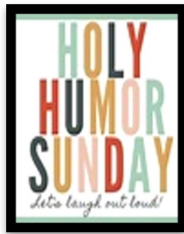


We thank God for all of you, and for all who have birthdays in April! We specifically honor members who are 80 years or older.

Virgil Rhodes (93)	4/12	Patricia Mintun	4/13
Nancy Strock	4/20	Dale Smith	4/27
Shirley Boyer	4/28		

Although we have no members married 50 years or more this month we praise God for all who were married this month!

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.



Join in celebrating HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY on April 7!

*Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity— "Holy Humor Sunday!" For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. **Join us for this special worship service! You are invited to bring and share or submit your favorite appropriate joke during worship!***

Phone in worship continues to be offered weekly. The phone broadcast is of worship at Immanuel 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.**

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

Dixon Healthcare
800 Division Street
Dixon, IL 61021

Delores Kuhlemier

10116th Avenue
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Swede Knapp

Morningside of Sterling
2705 Avenue E,
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. In April we are worshipping at **9:30 a.m. at Morningside of Sterling** (2705 Avenue E) on **April 9th** and at **Parkway Center**, (1801 Ave. G in Sterling) at **3 p.m. on Sunday, April 14.** If you would like to assist with these opportunities please contact Pastor Bree. We are the church together!

There was a great response to last month's Twin Cities Homeless Shelter (formerly known as PADS) meal meeting! Many thanks to all involved! **As those who**



gathered discerned, Immanuel will continue to provide an evening meal the 4th Friday of each month. The April meal is all set thanks to a generous donation from Culver's under the leadership of Ashlee Alber. Thanks be to God! We are hoping to secure a Thrivent Action Card for each quarter of the year to purchase the ingredients for our monthly meal. Volunteers will assemble to cook and deliver the meal to the Twin Cities Homeless Shelter the 4th Friday of each month beginning in May. **If you are a Thrivent Member and willing to utilize one of your Thrivent Action Card Grants for this service project please sign up outside the church office or contact Pastor Bree, Kevin Arnold or Pam Shoffner.** We typically provide food for approximately 20-25 people. This number depends on the amount of residents at the shelter. Monthly we will provide: (a). main dish (meat or casserole) (b). vegetable or salad (c). dessert. **The Monthly Meal Team will meet on Sunday, April 28 at 10:15 a.m. to determine the menu for the next quarter. All are welcome!**



Christ Lutheran School will host its annual **Trivia Night** on **Saturday, April 27th** at the CLS Gym. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. Trivia begins at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are **\$20 per person.** Additional FUNdraising opportunities are available through the Dessert auction, Silent auction and raffle! Babysitting available at 4:30 p.m. Any questions call CLS at 815-625-3800.

Join us for Breaking Bread Together (BBT) on April 17 & May 1! The purpose of BBT is to share life together; connecting in God's love and welcoming God's presence in all of life. These are no host gatherings for all interested parties. Join us on **Wednesday, April 17 at 11:45 a.m. Angelo's II (2525 E Lincolnway, Sterling) and on May 1 at 11:45 a.m. A's Kitchen (2004 1st Ave., Rock Falls)** Come and share life with God and each other at BBT!

**Breaking
Bread
Together
BBT**

Mark Your Calendars for Relay For Life

Members of Immanuel, their family and friends are invited to become members of the *Spirit of Immanuel*. Relay For Life team at the 29th annual event to be **held at Westwood Sports Complex in Sterling on Saturday, June 8 from 5 - 9 p.m.** Relay For Life is about celebrating survivors, honoring and remembering those lost to cancer, and Fighting Back against this cancer which is not fussy about who it attacks - male or female, younger or older, whatever nationality or heritage. Information will be shared through the bulletin. Please contact Service Ministry Council members, Pam Shoffner or Kevin Arnold with questions. **Cancer survivors:** Please register by calling 1- 800-ACS-2345 or online at www.relayforlife.org/saukvalleyil to walk the first lap, receive a free Survivor T shirt, and a free box meal after the opening lap.

The logo for Thrivent, featuring the word "thrivent" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. A red heart shape is positioned above the letter 't'.

Thrivent members, don't forget you have free Choice Dollars to donate. 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/.

On April 28, we will be giving thanks for Thrivent Financial and the good work they do during worship. We will be celebrating the Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Action Team Grants that have been blessing our ministries over the years! Larry Cooper, Thrivent Associate and William Vandermyde, Thrivent Financial Producer I, will be sharing time with us during worship and coffee hour. Please join us for this special celebration!

Let's Feed to Children



INDIVIDUAL PASTA DRIVE

**Join in supporting
the hunger needs
of young people
in our area!
Individually Packed
Pasta Donations
are needed!**

Let's Feed Our
Children serves
grab-and-go meals at
19 sites throughout
Whiteside County in
Rock Falls, Sterling,
Tampico, Erie, Fulton,

Lyndon, Prophetstown, and Morrison,) throughout the summer for young people
ages 18 and younger. In the summer of 2023 they served over 34,000 free meals!
**You can be a part of this vital service through your donation of Individually
Packed Pasta April 1 - May 12th.** Kid's favorite choices are: Easy Mac, Chef
Boyardee style of pasta, ramen noodles and chicken noodle soup.

**Immanuel's collection basket will be in the narthex throughout April 1 - May
12. We will bring the collection forward during the offering on Mother's
Day, May 12. Thanks in advance for donating as you are able!**

**The Noisy Offering throughout April
will support Lutheran Social Services
of Illinois (LSSI).** Serving Illinois since

1867, LSSI is one of the largest statewide social service providers. LSSI is a
nonprofit social service organization of the three Illinois synods of the ELCA.
The Mission Statement of LSSI is: Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social
Services of Illinois (LSSI) brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and
communities. Thank you for supporting LSSI through our April Noisy Offering!
Your change, literally changes lives. Thanks!





Geraniums to Adorn Our Altar

Immanuel has a loving tradition of adorning our altar area with living Geraniums for Pentecost that are then planted on our grounds to be enjoyed all summer long. You are invited to participate in this ministry to beautify our Sanctuary and our grounds Geraniums may be ordered in honor or memory of a loved one or a special event.

The plants cost \$8.00 each.

Orders must be received by Sunday, May 12th.

Your gift will be acknowledged in our Pentecost Sunday bulletin on May 19. Geraniums will be planted outside in Immanuel's flower beds on Monday, May 20 at 1 p.m. (weather permitting).

Mark your calendars and plan to plant with us!

To order geraniums: Fill out the form below and enclose cash or a check made out to "Altar Guild." You may mail it to "Altar Guild" at Immanuel (501 8th Ave., Rock Falls, IL 61071)

----- GERANIUMS ORDER FORM-----

My/Our Name(s) _____

Phone _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To the Glory of God for _____

Cost: \$8 per geranium. Make checks out to "Altar Guild."

Be sure and order by May 12th!

Thank You

Thank you to all those who helped prepare and serve the Lenten mid-week meals both at Immanuel and St. John's this Lenten Season. These meals provided more than just food, they also provided meaningful opportunities for fellowship between the Tri-Church congregations. Many blessings to all who helped and participated! We are church together!

Thank you to Mary Andersen, Betty Clementz, Pam Shoffner, Ronda Borgmann, Bonnie Cassens, Karen Goss, Barb Smith and Ashlee Alber for providing evening meals to the PADS Homeless Shelter from October through April. You make a difference!

Alleluia!



Christ is risen!

MANY THANKS to all who purchased Easter Lilies in memory, honor or celebration of others! **You are welcome to take your Easter lily home following worship on Easter Sunday!** Dedications will be shared in the Easter bulletin and the May Messenger.

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.*

Thanks
for your
participation



WELCA served 29 attendees at the Ash Wednesday luncheon.

WELCA Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 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!

If you would like a copy of April, May & June ***Christ in Our Home***, please contact the church office and we will get one out in the mail to you.



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

Your assistance is needed in trimming bushes, weeding, edging and so much more! **Spring Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, May 4th at 8 a.m.**

Come and help spruce up the grounds!
Please bring your own work gloves and gardening tools. Thanks in advance for your service!

NOW is the time to sign up for summer camp!

Learn more and register at <https://lomc.org/>



**May Work Days at LOMC are on Saturdays,
May 4 & 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

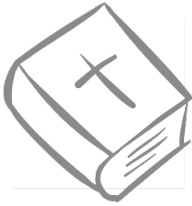
Lunch provided at NOON (freewill donations will be received). Most projects are not suitable for younger children. Registration is required. Register at www.lomc.org. Thanks! **Anticipated Projects include:**

- Window washing and painting of resident house at LOMC's entrance
- Spreading mulch at team building course and garden areas
- Spring cleaning of areas like the Pool House and Tent n' Trailer Pavilion
- Landscaping & tree trimming, trail maintenance & various small fix-it Projects

**Earth Day Earth Church
at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center
in Oregon, IL
Saturday, April 20, 2024
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

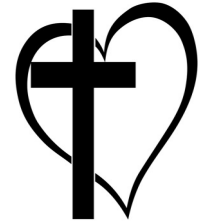
Special event includes lunch, forest meditation, prayer labyrinth, hiking. Bishop Stacie Fidlar will be the guest leader. \$7 per person. For more information and to register please go to www.LOMC.org. All are welcome!





Sunday School (S. S.) is offered weekly from 10:15 –11 a.m. on Sundays! 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.

6-8th graders have Sunday School weekly from 10:15 - 11:00 a.m. in the Luther Room. Come and explore your faith with us!



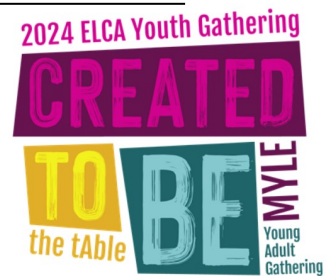
6th-8th Grade Tri Church Confirmation is on April 14 at St. John’s from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on May 5th at Immanuel.

Lunch is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bree. Come and explore your faith with us!



Tri Church Teen (6th - 12th graders) Time in April will be a service event of **packing buddy bags on Wednesday, April 24 from 7 - 8 p.m.** at the Wesley United Methodist Church (2200 16th Avenue). Please meet us at Wesley United Methodist. Come and serve with us!

Young Adult Gathering and National Youth Gathering participants make plans to participate in our next trip meeting **on April 28 at 11:15 a.m. at Immanuel.** There are many updates to share and plans to develop!



Immanuel Young Adult Gathering & National Youth Gathering participants and their households 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!

Tri Church Menz Group will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling **on Monday, April 1, 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.



National Alliance on Mental Illness

Immanuel is honored to host a Connection Recovery Group for people eighteen and older who are living with a mental health condition. **The Connection Recovery Group is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Sauk Area & meets the 4th Friday of each month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Luther Room (downstairs) at Immanuel.** New participants are most welcome! Please contact namisaukarea@gmail.com with any questions. In May, this gathering will switch to the 4th Monday of each month. NAMI Sauk Area is Dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education, and advocacy. You can learn more about that NAMI Sauk Area offers at <https://namisaukarea.org/>.

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!

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 vtterry@yahoo.com	Luke Sandrock 815-499-0293 lsandrock@2cornerstone.com		
Faith Formation Ministry	Stacey Hackbarth 815-303-3386 shackbarth1@icloud.com	<i>Please keep our Council Members and Pastor Bree in your prayers.</i>		
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 vtterry@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		

THANK YOU for supporting the mission and ministry of Immanuel through your prayers, service and giving! You make a difference!

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

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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/