

Immanuel Messenger

May 2024



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:

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



Happy Mother's Day to all moms and all who extend love and care to others! **THANK YOU** for sharing God's love through words and action!

Let us pray: *O God, THANK YOU for all loving mothers and all who extend care toward others. Uphold all who are caring with others. Guide relationships and bloom love in all places. Thank you for moms and all who share love! Amen.*

Pentecost is on May 19th! You are invited to wear red as a reminder of the Holy Spirit in our midst. You are welcome to sponsor geraniums to adorn our worship space for Pentecost too. The order form is available outside the church office, by email or calling the church office. Orders are due by May 12th at \$8 each. **Weather permitting, we hope to plant the geraniums at 1 p.m. on May 20th.**



If you are available, please come help plant the geraniums.

Worship
with us
from
HOME

You are most welcome to worship with us weekly in person or over the phone! In person worship is offered on Sundays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. You can call into worship toll free ANYTIME at **1-888-975-5536.**

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 sign up outside the church office to help. Please bring your own work gloves and gardening tools. Thanks in advance for your service!



What a gift it is to be a part of this community of faith! THANK YOU for your on-going partnership in the gospel! I continue to thank and praise

God for all of you and our partnership in the gospel!

In pondering Philippians 1:3-6, y'all come to mind. I am deeply grateful to have attended and helped with my uncle Dan's celebration of life service in Longmont, CO April 13. So many of you served on April 14, making

Philippians 1:3-6 (NRSVUE)

³I thank my God for every remembrance of you, ⁴always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy ⁵for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

it possible for me to be away with zero worry about worship—**THANK YOU!**

Many thanks also to ALL who helped with the Agape Ringers Bell Choir Concert promotion, set up, hosting, providing treats & beverages for the Agape Bell Choir and all our guests, attending the concert and clean up!

THANK YOU for making this wondrous afternoon possible!

At our council meeting on April 15, we were discussing the bounty of the days prior and Philippians 1:3-6. I mentioned how this texts rings true when I

think of you all and Bill Wescott noted, "We lived in it! We live in it!"* Truly beloveds—as we rely

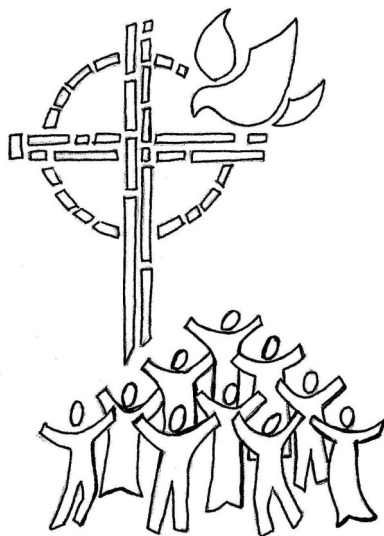
on and lean into God's love; as we welcome

God's love as fuel and remain open to opportunities to serve and follow Christ in word and deed we are partnering in the Gospel and

God is at work in us. **Thanks be to God!**

Gratefully—Pastor Bree Truax

pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com 360-989-4906



*Bill gave me permission to quote him.

Council Meeting Highlights from Mtg. on April 15, 2024

1. Treasurer Wescott gave an update on the current CD for the Roof Fund (\$53,000.00) earning (3.83%) which comes due on 4/17/24. The CD will be rolled over for 15 months and an interest rate of 4.55% has been secured for the funds.
2. The Council voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$4,000 to replace and upgrade three our current computers in the church through William & Mary Computers of Rock Falls.
3. Council had a general discussion of additional projects that they will be looking into. Phone system, AED for the basement and first aid kits, replacement of older emergency EXIT signage and lighting, as well as, offering additional handicap parking stalls in our parking lots. Information will be gathered and presented for review and consideration.



Next Meeting will be on May 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel.

Respectively submitted, Bill Wescott acting Secretary



Memorial Day is the day that's set aside to remember with gratitude and pride all those who served and died for our country and our freedom. May your day be filled with memories and peace.

O God, thank you for all who serve in the Armed Forces. Thank you for all who have made the ultimate sacrifice, of giving their lives in service to others. Amen.

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

Please contact 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.** Thank you!





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

- 5/01 Judy Beveroth 3832 E Carol Ann Way, Phoenix, AZ 85032
- 5/07 Betty Clementz
- 5/14 Regis Dahlstrom
- 5/24 Harold (Swede) Knapp (98)
- 5/28 Joyce Greenwalt

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

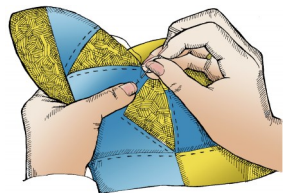
If you don't see your name on this list or there is a correction to be made, please contact the church office at 815-625-3575.

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).**



WELCA Bible Study will be held on **Tuesday, May 21, 2024**, at 9:00 a.m. at Immanuel. Please bring your Bible and "Gather" Magazine or contact the office to get a copy of the Bible study. 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 in Sterling on **Mon., May 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.



QUILTING GROUP

The quilting group has been busy. They have finished 23 quilts in the last year and have several in progress. They are currently meeting weekly on Wednesday starting at 9 a.m. Please come and join in the fun! **MANY THANKS** to all who have donated fabric over the years!

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

Shirley Boyer

1102 E. 13th Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Delores Kuhlemier

1011 6th 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

Lois Deetz

28286 Woodside Drive
Rock Falls, IL 61071

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

Ruth Ann Metzen

2705 Avenue E, Apt. 107
Sterling, IL 61081

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. We are leading worship the **second Sunday** of each month (May 12) at **3 p.m. at Parkway Center**, (1801 Avenue G in Sterling). The **second Tuesday** of each month, (May 14) we are leading worship at **9:30 a.m. at Morningside of Sterling** (2705 Avenue E). If you would like to assist with either of these services, please contact Pastor Bree at 815-625-3575. Thank you for support of these worship opportunities! We are church together!!

Immense THANKS to all who donated lilies for Easter Worship!

In Loving Memory of:

June Alber
Harold & Lillian Adams
Don & Liz Andersen
Bud Arnold, Les Boyles & Dave Ternus
Kenneth & Martha Fowler
Raymundo & Josephina Arellano
Our Loved Ones
Our Parents: Merle & Verneta Attig
Russell & Ellen (Boots) Spencer
Marvin Deetz
Ed Downey
Hugo & Mabel Gerken, parents
Jessica Gordon, Doug Gordon
Dan & Joyce Gordon
John & Shirley Luttrell
Husband Tom
Uncle Lyle, Mom & Patty
Marvin Keaschall
Ray & Marge Pohlmann
Doris & Johnie Leopard, Stephanie Rivera
Clark's sister, Linda
Barb's brother, Gerald Kerr
Loved ones
Ken Strock
James A. Sikkema

Paul & Florence Simpson

Given By:

William & Carol Alber
Jerry & Betty Adams
Terry & Mary Andersen
Kevin & Teri Arnold
Riley & Diane Arellano
Riley & Diane Arellano
Rod & Janice Attig
Sid & Shirley Attig
Sid & Shirley Attig
Lois Deetz
Shirley Downey
Tom & Betty Clementz
Dan & Lisa Gordon
Dan & Lisa Gordon
Dan & Lisa Gordon
Karen Goss
Jim & Kathy Johnson
Kelly & Deb Keaschall
Kelly & Deb Keaschall
Brandy & Lorrie Leopard
Clark & Barb Smith
Clark & Barb Smith
Greg & Kris Sandrock
Nancy Strock



Linda Wolber, Kellie & Jared Gardner,
DuWayne, Abby, Deyon, Darci, & Daniel Wolber
Linda Wolber, Kellie & Jared Gardner,
DuWayne, Abby, Deyon, Darci, & Daniel Wolber

In Loving Memory of:

Marian Rhodes
Marian Rhodes
Harry & Evelyn Steltzer
Marvin, Claire & David Schumaker
Our Loved Ones
Terry Schutz
Edwin "Bud" Stutzke, Lorraine Janssen
Erick & Tillie Stutzke
Dick & Hazel Livingston
William & Betty Wescott
Harry & Virginia Winters

In Honor of:

Our Grandchildren
Our Family

To the Glory of God for:

Gerald & Linda
Our Children & Grandchildren
Our Grandchildren
Our decedents: children,
grandchildren & great grandchildren

Given By:

Virgil Rhodes
Terry & Mary Andersen
Jerry & Betty Adams
Dennis & Virginia Schumaker
Nim & Sally Scanlan
Virginia Schutz
Vera Stutzke
Vera Stutzke
Bill & Linda Wescott
Bill & Linda Wescott
Bill & Linda Wescott

Given By:

Mike & Sherry Leaf
Rick & Pauline Moeller

Given By:

Clark & Barb Smith
Riley & Diane Arellano
Greg & Kris Sandrock
Dennis & Virginia Schumaker



We welcome you to join in this prayer:

O God, we praise you for the lives of the loved ones who have gone before us. We thank you for wrapping all of humanity up in your love. We praise you O God of love and grace! We commend these dedications to you as we celebrate the gift of eternal life. Amen.

Thank you for your generous remembrances and gifts that adorned our worship space!

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!

THANK YOU for being a part of United Way's ministry through your giving and through yearly donations to the Let's Feed Our Children. If you would like to make a special donation to United Way, you may do so directly by mailing it to: United Way of Whiteside County, Attn: Keri Olson, P.O. Box 806, Sterling, IL 61081 with Lets Feed Our Children on the memo line or contribute to the **Noisy Offering throughout May that will support Let's Feed Our Children.**

Thank you for ALL of the ways that you give and serve others in need!



Breaking Bread Together BBT

Join us for **Breaking Bread Together (BBT)** this May!

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 this month on:**

**Wednesday, May 1, at 11:45 p.m. at
A's Kitchen, (2004 1st Avenue, Rock Falls).**

May 15 at 11:45 a.m. at Harvest Bakery & More, (916 Albany St. Erie). You are welcome to meet us there or join in the carpool leaving at 11:15 a.m. from Immanuel's parking lot. After lunch, we will check out Ashleigh Sandrock's store, Sandlin, across from Harvest Bakery & More. **Come and share life with God and each other at BBT!**

Letter Carriers' Food Drive will be held **May 11th**. Your letter carriers, in conjunction with rural carriers, the U.S. Postal Service and the United Way will be collecting non-perishable food and/or paper products for distribution to local food banks in the Twin Cities. Please place food and/or paper products donation by your mailbox on **Saturday, May 11th** and your mail carrier will pick it up when delivering your mail, or you may also drop it off at your local Post Office. **THANK YOU for helping us feed the hungry in our community!**



Mark your calendars and make plans to join in the Juneteenth Celebration at Grandon Civic Center on June 22 from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Juneteenth celebrates resilience, freedom, joy and family! Entry is free! Food, music, poetry, activities and vendors will be available! All are welcome! This event is sponsored by the Sauk Valley Diversity Alliance; a nonprofit that supports diversity, equity and inclusion for all.



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 about them by May 10**; as Immanuel would like to celebrate their achievement on Sunday, May 19, 2024 during a special youth led worship with reception to follow. Thanks!

Thanks be to God for our Confirmation and Sunday School teachers and students! Classes are offered weekly in the Fellowship Hall (10:15-11:00 a.m.) thru May 19th. Please join us! **We will have a special celebration on May 19th in worship with a special class following.** There is no Sunday School May 26 until September. **Come and grow in God with us! *Please keep our S.S. youth and teachers in your prayers!***



6th-8th Grade Tri Church Confirmation is on May 5th at Immanuel. Lunch is provided. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bree. Come and explore your faith with us!



STRONG GIRLS 2 WOMEN (SG2W) 2024

Strong Girls Dream!

Monday June 17 to Thursday June 20
8:30am-11:30am
Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt Morris







STRONG GIRLS 2 WOMEN
DREAM 2024

Registration open until May 10!

Register Here!





SG2W is a day camp designed to empower and inspire any strong girl going into grades 4-6. The cost is \$20 per family and includes a t-shirt.

#SG2W #DreamOn #IamEnough

Immanuel Young Adult Gathering & National Youth Gathering participants and their households will be holding a rummage sale June 7 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. & June 8 from 8 a.m. - noon. **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!!



NOW is the time to sign up for summer camp!

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

**God’s Work Our Hands – Saturday,
May 11th at LOMC**

Tri Church will be participating in a workday at LOMC (Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center) near Oregon, IL on **Saturday, May 11th**. **Work will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m.** – any help you can give that day will be appreciated! Lunch will be provided at noon (freewill donations for lunch are welcome).

The project list includes mulch spreading and garden bed work, tree trimming, deck board replacement and staining, trail maintenance, window washing and spring cleaning, small carpentry repairs and toilet repairs. Rob Foelski, LOMC Property Manager, will be present to provide instruction and guidance.

It is recommended that participants bring work gloves, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Optional items include tools for landscaping and basic repairs.

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for those able to help; include if you plan to attend lunch. **Please sign-up no later than Sunday, May 5th**. In addition, LOMC is a volunteer partner with Sauk Valley Community College’s Impact Program.

A stylized, cursive logo that says "Thank You". The letters are elegant and flowing, with a decorative flourish at the end of the word "You".

Immanuel!

Thank you for an amazing send-off. The gifts, notes and messages were awesome!!! Thank you for supporting LOMC! Thank you for supporting me!!! Blessings and thanks!

—Rob Gieraltowski



Relay For Life (RFL) will be held on Saturday, June 8th, from 5 - 9 p.m. at Westwood Fitness & Sports Center, Building 3, 1900 Westwood Drive, Sterling,

You can be a part of The Spirit of Immanuel Relay For Life

Team through your sponsorship of a \$10 luminaria in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of someone lost to cancer. Names will be read and luminarias will be displayed at Westwood on June 8th from 5-9 p.m. You may pick up your luminaria as a keepsake following the event. Survivors are invited to be apart of the opening lap with registration after 5:00 p.m. to record the number of years of survivorship. A free Arthur's box lunch is available to survivors who register and their caregiver. The registration form is also posted on the relayforlife.org/saukvalleyil website or call 1-800-227-2345 to register and receive a t-shirt in the mail. **Luminaria forms and survivor forms are available outside the church office. Please make your check payable to the American Cancer Society RFL of Sauk Valley and mail the form to the address on the form and postmarked no later than Thursday, May 30th.**

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. 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/>.



**Stewardship is how we...
Live, Give and Serve!**



CommUNITY VBS is a multi-day opportunity to experience God through the Bible, arts & crafts, games and more! Save the dates and plan to attend or volunteer for this amazing opportunity. Please watch your email and next month's newsletter for the remigration QR code.



PLEASE SAVE your cardboard toilet paper rolls and clean Gatorade/sports drink bottles with lids for CommUNITY VBS Crafts! These will be an immense gift to assist with wondrous VBS crafts! Please bring these items to the Gathering Space at Immanuel and place them in the CommUNITY VBS Box. THANKS!



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



Schutz Farms

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

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. thru May 19

Facebook: Immanuel Ev. Lutheran, www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/