

Immanuel Messenger

March 2025



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:

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



Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5 with Ash Wednesday! Immanuel is delighted to offer Ashes and Prayer at the CGH Chapel on March 5th from 6:45-7:45 a.m. and from 11-11:45 a.m.

You can also receive ashes and a prayer from the comfort of your car in Immanuel's parking lot from 8-8:30 a.m.

**Drive Thru
Ashes
at Immanuel
March 5
8-8:30 a.m.**

Ash Wednesday in person worship will be offered at 12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at Immanuel with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Please join



us for soup and sandwich lunch provided by WELCA on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 after the 12:15 p.m. worship service. Donations toward the meal cost will be received. Please join us in worship & fellowship!

There is no 4 p.m. worship service throughout Lent. Regular Wednesday worship will resume on Wednesday, April 23.

Throughout Lent we will be Turning Toward God's Abundance as we explore God's Faithfulness, Mercy, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Love through Tri Church Mid-Week Lenten Worship! Worship is offered at 12:15 p.m. at St. John's and at 6 p.m. at Immanuel beginning on March 12. You can learn more about our Mid-Week Lenten worship plans on p. 9.

*Turning Toward
God's Abundance*



As you may already be aware, Midway International airport (MDW) is home to many restaurants, a yoga area and a chapel! One my journeys to see my family in Oregon, one of my favorite things to do at MDW is stop in to breathe deep, pray, read and sing (if no one is around). In the back of the worship book there is this RENEW Prayer that has often nourished me along the way... may it also be a blessing unto you! I invite you to join me in praying the RENEW prayer throughout Lent.

RENEW PRAYER

©Renew International

Gracious God and Father

We are your people embraced by your love.

We thank you for your presence with us throughout all time.

Create us anew through Jesus Christ your Son.

Liberate us from all that keeps us from you.

Send your Holy Spirit, enabling us to share in your work of recreating our world and restoring justice.

Heal us from every form of sin and violence.

Transform us to live your Word more profoundly.

Reconcile us so enemies become friends.

Awaken us to the sacred; nurture our relationships.

Enliven our parishes; reunite our families.

Fill us with joy to celebrate the fullness of life.

Empower us to be a community of love
growing in your likeness,
by the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God renew us and all day by day and minute by minute! I give thanks for y'all! - Pastor Bree

—Pastor Bree Truax, pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com

815-625-3575, office 360-989-4906, cell

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bree". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

In Accordance with our constitution the Council met on January 26 after annual meeting to determine Executive Team roles. The Council decided as follows:

President – Kevin Arnold

Vice President – Deb Keaschall

Secretary - Ronda Borgmann

Treasurer - Bill Wescott

Immense thanks to all who are serving on Council and on the Exec. Team!

Council Meeting Highlights February 17, 2025

1. Bringing back the passing of the peace was discussed and council voted to table further discussion until March hoping that the flu season will be abated by then.
2. Most of the security cameras are in place and the remainder should be installed by the end of February.
3. Final ad copy has been chosen for the Rock Falls Tourism Guide and we await publication of the booklet.
4. After discussion on changes to the kitchen, council voted to install a water softener and either an on-demand water heater or a larger one.
5. The new checking account for the roof fund has been created and the funds transfer is complete.
6. Held discussion on ministry wheel and members selected what they would like to lead:
 - Service Ministry – Pam Shoffner & Bonnie Cassens
 - Worship Ministry – Ronda Borgmann & Kevin Arnold
 - Support Ministry – Scott Attig & Eli Attig
 - Faith Formation Ministry – Stacey Hackbarth
 - Hospitality Ministry – Sheryl Wagner & Shannon Schutz
 - Congregational Life - Deb Keaschall & Bill Wescott
7. A tentative date for Council installation will be March 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. worship.



Next meeting will be on March 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Borgmann, Council Secretary



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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.

Norma Atkins 3/26

Happy Anniversary!

Mike & Chris Wilen 3/04/1972
Robert & Wendy Fauble 3/28/1969



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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.



IMMENSE THANKS to all who have designated

Immanuel to receive their Thrivent Choice Dollars!

Your generosity is an immense gift to our congregation!

Over the years Thrivent Choice Dollars have supported the Immanuel Roof Fund, and a vast array of other projects to benefit our community of faith and the greater community.

THANK YOU!

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 or Dawn & John Kirchhoff at (815) 213-7181

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 2024, we received Thrivent Action Team grants for

supplies for VBS, Buddy Bags, Quilting, Sub Sales, Tri Church Birthday Buddies, meals for Twin Cities Homeless Shelter meals, Food for the Youth Quake & 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/.

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

Gerry Trieloff

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

Shirley Downey

Morningside of Sterling
2705 Avenue E, Rm. 317
Sterling, IL 61081

Norma Atkins

620 N. Ottawa Ave.,
Rm. 222
Dixon, IL 61021

Emma Bailey

Citadel
105 E. 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Nancy Maxwell

710 W. LeFevre
Apt. 204
Sterling, IL 61081

Betty Harms

1801 Avenue G
Apt. 305
Sterling, IL 61081

Vera Stutzke

Citadel
105 E. 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Virgil Rhodes

Allure of Walnut
308 S. 2nd Street
Walnut, IL 61376

Patricia Mintun

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

Joyce Greenwalt

P.O. Box 144
Polo, IL 61064

Delores Kuhlemier

1011 6th Avenue
Rock Falls, IL 61071

JoAnn Linton

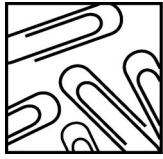
20538 Manton Road
Sterling, IL 61081

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).**

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!

**WORSHIP
at Parkway Ctr
& Morningside**

Immanuel is offers worship at two area care Facilities monthly. We are leading worship on **Sunday, March 9** at 3 p.m. at Parkway Center, (1801 Ave. G in Sterling) and on **Tuesday, March 11, at 9:30 a.m. at Morningside of Sterling** (2705 Avenue E). Thank you for supporting this ministry!



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Jill has some vacation days in March. To ensure adequate volunteer coverage in the office during staff vacations, council voted to reduce office hours to M-W-F from 8:00 a.m. – Noon and T-Th from 1 – 4:00 p.m. If you are able to assist in staffing the office while Jill is on vacation, PLEASE contact the office at 815-625-3575. **Immense thanks** to all volunteers who will be covering the office while Jill is on vacation.

Winter Worship and the Weather

Generally speaking we will be having worship on Sundays and 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, there will also be postings on our Facebook page, Immanuel Ev. Lutheran — 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!**

People of Immanuel—

Thank you for your generous support of LOMC this past year! Over 50 years, we have learned from and continued to explore meaningful and transformative ways of connecting the word of God



with the world of God. We hold to our core while making sure to meet people for such a time as this. As we look forward, we are encouraged and excited by all that is possible before us in this ministry. Your support and generosity play a vital role in strengthening LOMC for its next chapter in ministry! Thank you for being part of this opportunity to sustain and strengthen LOMC for the future!

Blessings and peace,
Clyde Andrew Walter, Executive Director



**THANK
YOU!**

THANK YOU for purchasing bread and subs! **Thank you for giving generously in support of our youth!** Through your gifts, our youth raised **\$1,849** in support of youth ministry opportunities! Special thanks to Thrivent for the Thrivent Action grants and to 1891 Financial Life for the Impact Team funds that assisted in purchasing supplies. We are deeply grateful for Thrivent, 1891 Financial Life and **ALL YOU SUPPORT! THANK YOU!!!!**



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.*

Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the generous donation of \$500 to the Caring Center. There is so much need in our community. Because of donations, we are able to serve those needs. God bless. Thank you. The Caring Center



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! 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 the lilies purchase will have your name and dedication shared in the Easter Bulletin and the May Messenger. Any donations left from 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.

Throughout Lent, we will be Turning
Toward God's Abundance as we
explore God's Faithfulness, Mercy,
Compassion, Forgiveness, and Love

Turning toward
God's Abundance

through **Tri Church Mid-Week Lenten Worship! Worship is offered at 12:15 p.m. at St. John's and at 6 p.m. at Immanuel beginning on March 12.**



During Wednesdays in Lent, (March 12, 19, 26, & April 2, 9, 16) St. John's welcomes you to enjoy a light lunch. Lenten Lunch at St. John's will be at 11:15 a.m. followed by worship at 12:15 p.m.

Meal(s) will be Soup, Sandwich/Salad. As for "after" the service anyone who missed lunch can pick up a to-go meal.

March 12 will be hosted by both councils of St. Paul & St. John. (St. Paul will bring 1 Soup & 1 Salad along with 2 helpers).

March 19th will be hosted by St. Paul and Julie Woessner is coordinating.

March 26th will be hosted by the Funeral Committee of St. John's.

April 2nd will be hosted by Worship Arts & Bell Choir of St. John's.

April 9th will be hosted by St. Paul (they will be bringing 2 soups & 2 Salads & 4 helpers).

Immanuel welcomes you to worship at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays (March 12-April 16). Simple Suppers will be served at 5:00 p.m. prior to worship weekly. All are welcome! MANY HANDS make light work! YOU can help with a Simple Supper by signing up on the sheet outside the church office or speaking with a ministry team leader (listed on p. 14). Each week a different portion of the ministry wheel will be leading. We hope to see there!



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

Tri Church Confirmation is on March 2 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.



The schedule for the rest of the school year:

April 6, 2025 at St. Paul, exploring the New Testament

April 30, 2025; 7:00 p.m. *Buddy Bags packing at Wesley Methodist*

May 4, 2025 at Immanuel New Testament (Wrap-up party & review)

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

We have a Pre-School-1st grade class that meets downstairs led by Danyelle Robinson. Lori Attig is leading music for this age group as well! 2nd-6th grade class is led by Jennifer Morgan with a variety of assistants. High School Class is working on a variety of projects each week. Come and grow in God with us!

Culver's Share Night



Do you like to eat? Join us at Culver's! Please help support us on Tuesday, March 25 from **5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** The youth is doing a fundraiser at Culver's. The proceeds will help support them going

to the youth trips. 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!) **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. Hope to see you there!

Remember to change your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night, March 8th or you will be just in time to help with Sunday School.



Now is the time to sign up for Summer Camp!

The theme for 2025 is
Remember. Reconnect. Renew.



Camp is offered weekly from June 15-August 5. All camps enjoy a full schedule each day at the beautiful 600+ acres of LOMC. Campers experience morning devotions, natural exploration, cookouts, Bible study, archery, team building, campfires, games and so much more. Come to LOMC this summer for a unique outdoor experience! **You can learn more about all the great options for LOMC Summer camp at www.lomc.org.** A non-refundable deposit per camper is required to hold your space.

The Lyle Zimmerman memorial has some summer camp scholarship money available for use. Please contact Pastor Bree to apply.



Mark your calendars and make plans to join in CommUNITY VBS this summer! Consider having your grandkids or extended family coming to visit during that time and join us for VBS too!

CommUNITY VBS is offered for Pre-School-5th graders July 20-24 from 5:30- 8 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran (501 8th Ave., Rock Falls). Festivities include a free supper, Bible exploration, music, games, science and arts & crafts!

Guard your calendars and plan to volunteer for this life-shaping week too! If you would like to be on the CommUNITY VBS planning team, the next meeting is on March 4 at 6 p.m at Immanuel. If you are willing to head of Immanuel's VBS Meal or coordinate the kitchen for VBS please speak with Pastor Bree. **PLEASE plan to join us or volunteer for CommUNITY VBS July 20-24!**



WELCA Bible Study will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:00 a.m. 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 13 Immanuel college students in February! Thanks be to God for each of them: Ben Roth, Addisyn Castaneda, Elise Moeller, Sophia Moeller, Taylor Johnson, Emily Lego, Isaac Attig, Eli Attig, Maggie Rowzee, Molly Hackbarth, Kathryn Rowzee, Callie Michlig 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 3, 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.

The 2025 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 22, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.** Immanuel will cover the \$35 registration fee for anyone who would like to attend! Coffee, morning snack and lunch is provided. **Sign up outside the church office to participate by March 9.** All are welcome!

Immense thanks to all who attended and helped with the funeral for DJ Gordon on February 21. Special thanks everyone who donated food and served at the funeral luncheon. We are church together! Your service and hospitality matters! Please continue to keep the loved ones of DJ in your prayers.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Project VITAL (Volunteers in Teaching Adult Literacy) is looking for volunteers to tutor adults. We currently have a list of adults waiting to work with volunteer tutors!

What is required to become a volunteer literacy tutor? Be 18 years old or older and have completed a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalency

*No previous teaching experience required

Complete 12 to 14 hours of pre-service training before working with a student

Be available to meet with a student each week for a minimum of 1 hour

How do I become a trained volunteer tutor?

Tutor training will be available at Sauk Valley Community College on Fridays: March 21, March 28, AND April 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tutors must attend all dates to complete training requirements. Online training is also available. Interested, or have more questions? Please call 815-835-6241 for more information or complete a tutor interest form at svcc.edu/vital.



Preparing for Life & Eternal Life in 2025!

Immanuel is offering a three-session opportunity focused on Preparing for Life and Eternal Life. As it says in Ecc. 7:2b, "death is the destiny of everyone, the living should take this to heart." There is no getting around it--death is a part of life. **Being prepared for death, exploring and thinking through the plethora of decisions that need to be made when one dies helps loved ones and individuals live more fully.** It frees up loved ones to grieve when plans are already in place in the event of death. Making preparations is not morbid or a death wish--it is a path for life and is anchored in the promise of eternal life. Death is not the end; we have eternal life in Christ. Out of love for God, others and ourselves we can make plans that will bring life and ease the burden death brings. **Please prayerfully consider joining us for this special series meeting on March 16th following worship in the Friendship Room.**

You are welcome to attend all or any sessions!

- On March 16th, we will talk through burial arrangements, writing an obituary, burial costs and more. A representative from McDonald Funeral Home will be sharing resources with us.

We hope you will join us for Preparing for Life & Eternal Life on March 16!

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 Kevin Arnold 309-434-8638 Karnold@growmark.com	Vice President Deb Keaschall 815-718-5237 Debra.Keaschall@gmail.com	Secretary Ronda Borgmann 815-622-9306 Rondaborgmann@gmail.com	Treasurer Bill Wescott 815-590-6270 paramedic61071@yahoo.com
Congregational Life Ministry	Deb Keaschall 815-718-5237 Debra.Keaschall@gmail.com	Bill Wescott 815-590-6270 paramedic61071@yahoo.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	Bonnie Cassens 815-535-8323 BJCassens@yahoo.com		
Support Ministry	Scott Attig 815-303-9642 attig80@yahoo.com	Eli Attig 815-303-4092 eliattig@gmail.com		
Hospitality Ministry	Sheryl Wagner 815-252-7923 dashwagner@gmail.com	Shannon Schutz 815-590-6150 sschutz2000@gmail.com		
Worship Ministry	Ronda Borgmann 815-622-9306 Rondaborgmann@gmail.com	Kevin Arnold 309-434-8638 Karnold@growmark.com		

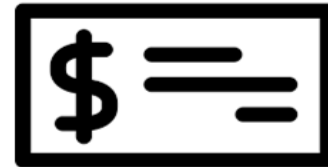
THANKS for supporting the mission & ministry of Immanuel! Your partnership in the Gospel makes an immense difference! We have THREE secure ways for you to give.



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.

Worship - Sundays at 9 a.m. & Lenten Worship on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Sunday School at 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

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

Phone-in worship - available toll free anytime 1-888-975-5536