## Immanuel Messenger June 2025



**Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:** 

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

The Messenger is packed with information that may assist you in being a part of the mission and ministry of Immanuel to share God's love through word and action!

Celebrations, Homebound and more, p. 4-5

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Join us
for
coffee
and
doughnuts in
honor of dads and
men of faith
following worship
on June 15th!



Immanuel is celebrating our Graduates on June 1

during worship with a reception following! You are most welcome to jot a note of congratulations or a prayer or a favorite Bible verse for our graduates! We will have a spot for items for each grad in the narthex. Below are

our known graduates. (If you know of any additional graduates please contact the church office at 815-625-3575.)

**High School Graduates:** 

Austin Castaneda, Clayton Pyskaty, Hannah Johnson, & Jacob Buck College/Vocational/University:

Isaac Attig, Associate in Science from Sauk Valley Community College

Students being promoted from 8th Grade:

Elin Shuman, Kate Morgan, Tenley Schumaker

Look for a special graduate insert in our July Messenger. Thanks be to God for all Graduates and all who have supported them along the way!



On Instagram, I follow an account called, "threadbare\_creative" that welcomes space for "creating from what's worn thin and stitched together by grace." Each week they share a prompt for pondering

through art, words, music or movement in hope of people living

deeply in Christ. A recent prompt challenged us to consider and dwell on "something that refused to break"... I really wrestled with this—and I welcome you to join in considering with me... What is

What is

"something that refused to break" in your life?

something that refused to break? What remains when things fall apart or get rough? What gets you through? Maybe it is your love for the Rock River and time on the boat or time immersed in your garden or on the golf course or time with a loved on or time reading books or at work or on the field/court/track/stage or ???....All of these things are gifts of God AND in life's journey—up and down and all over the place—-God's promise of love, grace and withness remains.... It refuses to break... You are always held in God's unending love through Jesus Christ fueled by the Spirit... You are saved by grace (Eph 2:10), you are forgiven (John 3:17, Luke 24:47); you are never alone (Matthew 28:20)! These truths and promises of God refuse to break. May we all have the courage to welcome God's promises of love, grace and withness—to enjoy it and live it!

May God awaken us to God's presence and move us to live in and live out God's love as we care for others, ourselves and all of creation.

It continues to be an immense privilege to serve alongside you!

—Pastor Bree, <a href="mailto:pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com">pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com</a>, 360-989-4906

Pastor Bree will be off and on vacation out of state, June 6 - 12. For emergency pastoral care during this time, please call Pr. Kathy Burkheimer at 815-590-0974 or the church office at 815-625-3575.

#### Council Meeting Highlights from on May 15, 2023

1. New Mutual Ministry members are: Terry Andersen, Tim Dietz and Kris Sandrock. Thanks to all who serve on Mutual Ministry!



- 2. At the Council's request, Shannon Schutz has priced dishwashers that meet the established criteria and will proceed with purchase of one for installation in conjunction with a water softener. Thrivent Choice dollars will pay for these purchases.
- 3. Council discussed and approved revisions to the Sabbatical Leave policy, and voted to approve Pastor Bree's request for a one month leave in 2025 and an 8-week leave in 2026. Per the policy, a Sabbatical committee will be organized.
- 4. The Trust Fund committee continues to seek bids to repair/replace the front concrete steps.
- 5. Council gives special thanks to Nim and Sally Scanlan for all their hard work caring for the church lawn.

Next meeting will be June 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ronda Borgmann, Council Secretary



Happy Father's Day on June 15th to all dads and all who extend love and care to others! THANK YOU for sharing God's love through words and action! Join us for coffee & doughnuts in your honor following worship on June 15th!

Let us pray. O God, THANK YOU for all loving fathers and all who extend care like a loving father. Though we may not be in the physical presence of our loved ones this day, unify us in your presence and unfailing love. Amen.

You are most welcome to worship with us over the phone or in person each week! You can call into worship toll free ANYTIME at 1-888-975-5536. Immanuel's in person worship, is offered each Sunday at 9 a.m. & Wednesday at 4 p.m.



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

6/04 Carl Shank

6/05 Jim Meyer

6/20 Don Schmitt

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Tom & Betty Clementz 6/12/1965 Jim & Pam Meyer 6/26/1966 Sid & Shirley Attig 6/29/1969



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** to everyone that brought individual pasta, soups & ramen noodles for the *Let's Feed Our Children* summer lunch program. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Thanks so much!

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: Mardi Ybarra, P.O. Box 806, Sterling, IL 61081 with Lets Feed Our Children on the memo line. Thank you for supporting the Noisy Offering so generously throughout May for Let's Feed Our Children!!! Your generosity blesses youth in need! Thank you for ALL of the ways that you give and serve others!



Special Thanks to Jerry Adams, Nancy Strock, Scott Attig, Nim Scanlan, Gerald Foskitt and Pam Shoffner for all their hard work on cleanup day at Immanuel on May 6th. Thanks also to ALL who have served at other times! The grounds look great! All the ways you serve matter!

#### 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

105 E. 23rd Street

Rm 205

Sterling, IL 61081

**Delores Kuhlemier** 

1011 6th Avenue Rock Falls, IL 61071 Shirley Downey

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

Nancy Maxwell

710 W. LeFevre

Apt. 204

Sterling, IL 61081

JoAnn Linton

20538 Manton Road Sterling, IL 61081

Joyce Greenwalt

P.O. Box 144 Polo, IL 61064 Ruth Ann Metzen

Morningside of Sterling 2705 Avenue E, Apt. 107

Sterling, IL 61081

Virgil Rhodes

Allure of Walnut 308 S. 2nd Street

Walnut, IL 61376

Norma Atkins

620 N. Ottawa Avenue

Rm. 222

Dixon, IL 61021

Deb Gonzalez

812 W. 5th Street

Rock Falls, IL 61071

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



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).

**WORSHIP** at Parkway Ctr & Morningside

Immanuel is offering worship at two area care facilities. We are leading worship on Sunday, June 8 at 4 p.m. at Parkway Center, (1801 Avenue G in Sterling) and Tuesday, June 10 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

Menz Group will meet on Monday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling. This opportunity is open to all men. A hearty welcome and invitation is extended! Please contact Gerald Foskitt at 815-499-6566 with questions.



WELCA Bible Study will not meet in June. Join us for a special visit with Virgil Rhodes on June 16th! The details are below!

Breaking Bread Together BBT

Please join us for BBT in June! 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. We are changing the days of the week to meet to Mondays in June. Please join us for BBT on Monday, June 2 at 11:30 a.m. at Froggy's Bar & Grill (215 W. 2nd St., Rock Falls).

You are also welcome to join us for a special day in Walnut, Monday, June 16 at 11:30 a.m. at The Shed Tap N Grill (134 S. Main St., Walnut). If you would like to carpool, we will leave from Immanuel at 11 a.m. Following lunch on June 16th, we will be visiting with Virgil Rhodes! If you are unable to join us for lunch, you are most welcome to join in visiting Virgil by meeting us in the bird room at Allure (302 S. 2nd St., Walnut) at 1 p.m. on June 16. Those who carpool may also stop at Avanti Foods Company Store on the way home. If you would like to participate in BBT and have fiscal need, please speak with Pastor Bree privately. We will find the resources for you to participate! Come and share life with God and each other at BBT!

MANY THANKS to Danyelle Robinson & Jennifer Morgan for being our lead teachers and Lori Attig for leading Pre-K-1 music. Thanks to Stacey Hackbarth, Shirley Attig, Antori Dirks, April Roth, Scott Attig, Molly Hackbarth & Kayla Hackbarth



for helping with Sunday School and/or confirmation! Thanks also to all confirmation families for providing Tri Church Confirmation meals!

Relay For Life (RFL) will be held on Saturday, June 14th from 5 - 9:30 p.m. at Westwood Fitness & Sports Center.

You can be a part of The Spirit of Immanuel Relay For Life Team through your sponsorship of a 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 the Westwood on June 14th from 5-9:30 p.m. You may pick up your luminaria as a keepsake following. **Luminaria forms are also 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.



The Noisy Offering for June 1, 8, 22 & 29 will support the Spirit of Immanuel Relay for Life Team that supports the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life is dedicated to celebrate survivorship, remember those lost to cancer, and

fighting back through education, advocacy, patient services and research.

## Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Part of the mission and ministry of Immanuel is to live out our Baptismal promises to: live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Our support and partnership on the gospel with

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is a integral part in living out our baptism; it is a part of following Jesus. We are blessed to have the Reverend Kelly Nieman Anderson (Manager of Church and Community Engagement for LSSI) with us on June 15th! Rev. Kelly will be sharing the message in worship as we celebrate their gospel work caring for people in need. The Mission of LSSI is" Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities. In 2024, LSSI served 56,755 people in need. Thank you for being a part of their good work! We will receive a special Noisy Offering designated for LSSI on June 15.



#### **Caring Community Artful Party**

You are invited to a paint party on Saturday, June 28th at 10:30 a.m. hosted by Linda Von Holten at St. John's (703 3rd Avenue, Sterling) in the basement. The cost is \$40 which is paid at sign-up time. The registration deadline is Friday, June 20th. Checks made out to St. John's. Children age 8 & up are welcome if they have an adult present with them. Proceeds to benefit the YWCA of the

Sauk Valley Domestic Violence Program. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

**STUDENT MUSICIANS:** This summer, MANY churches are again hosting student musicians from the Sterling/Rock Falls area. This includes any student completing 7th grade – a just graduated college student.

We ask that students share a piece with Immanuel and then arrange to play that piece at another congregation, where you will be paid \$25 per service as a guest;

**musician.** The following churches in Sterling welcome you to share your gifts: First Christian, First Presbyterian, Grace Episcopal, St. John's, St. Paul. The church office has a list of who you will need to contact at each church to schedule your date to serve as a guest musician. This is a chance to



keep your music skills tip top over the summer, share an IMEA or audition piece you may be working on, or another special piece. Please contact the church office to receive all the details and request a date to play at Immanuel and the music coordinator will get back to you. Thanks!



#### Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$251.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) for the U.S. Wildfires. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling with disasters, in the immediate aftermath and far into the future. Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

With gratitude, Rachel Wind, Executive for Development, LDR

#### Tri Church: God's Work Our Hands -**Cledy's House of Hope**

God's work. Our hands.

Cledy's House of Hope was introduced in the May newsletter as a Tri Church God's Work Our Hands project. Cledy's is a sober living home for

women with a current wait list of 10 women located in the former Arrowwood facility in Rock Falls and next to the former Rock Falls Rehab Nursing Home. On Sunday, June 8th, Ashley Odell, a Cledy's staff member, will give a brief temple talk on her recovery story.

How can you help? Donate item(s) to help "furnish" this 42-bed facility! Cledy's House of Hope has a *needs list* of new items as follows: bath towels and wash cloths, twin size sheet sets and comforters, pillows and pillowcases; cups, plates and bowls - sets of 4; cooking sheets and cooking utensils; and brooms and dustpans. These items will be collected through the month of June and can be brought to the church. Cash donations (check to Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery) or Thrivent cards are also welcome. Volunteers are also needed! You can volunteer to visit local thrift stores in search of gently used additional needs list items not mentioned above. You can volunteer to help with a variety of projects such as sanding and painting cabinets, tables & dressers. They are also looking for someone to help with weekly mowing of the grounds (mower is provided). While there is no designated date to help with these projects, please contact Deb Keaschall at 815-718-5237 to help coordinate your availability with Cledy's staff. Volunteer hours can be used for IMPACT

hours! Thank you in advance for "your hands" to support God's work in our local community. —Deb Keaschall, Tri Church Convener

# Thanks be to God

People of Immanuel—-

Thanks for all your helpful ways. Love and God's blessings to all of you. Thank you for all your thoughts, prayers and cards. Riley loved our Immanuel family! for you!!! 1 am so blessed to have you all in my me.

—Diane Arellano (1432 Hunter Sq., Waconia MN 55387)

# Sabbatical rest - renew - refresh

### Did you know that Immanuel has a Sabbatical Policy? We do!

Immanuel's Congregational Council approved a Sabbatical Policy in May 2023 and approved revisions to this policy in May 2025. **A sabbatical is** 

planned time for the Pastor to engage in extended study, spiritual growth, and skill development, as well as a time for rest and renewal to continue serving in ministry. The length of a sabbatical can be up to 3 months, or the 3 months divided over a period of two years and cannot taken during the Lent/ Easter or Advent/Christmas seasons.

Prior to a sabbatical, a Sabbatical Committee is formed to ensure continuance of church operations during the Pastor's sabbatical – from worship services to emergency pastoral care and homebound visits. Per Immanuel's policy, the committee is comprised of two members of the Council, two members of the Mutual Ministry Committee and one congregation member at large.

At the conclusion of the sabbatical, the Sabbatical Committee will submit a report to the Council on how well the church functioned during the sabbatical period. The Pastor will submit a report to the Council on how the sabbatical period was used and will also share learning experiences with the congregation.

Pastor Bree has served alongside us since June of 2017. Her first sabbatical will be three months divided over two years. More information about what Pastor Bree will be up to and how you can support the mission and ministry of Immanuel will come in future newsletters. If you would like to see a copy of Immanuel's Sabbatical Policy, it is available in the church office. If you have any questions or concerns please speak with a Congregational Council member or Pastor Bree.



Stewardship is how we... Live, Give and Servel We have a great group registered for **Strong Girls to Women Camp**, June 23-26th at Trinity
Lutheran in Mount Morris! Please keep Abby
Wright, Jemma Hinrichs, Ella Burtlow, Remi
Brushaber, Maiya Hernandez, Kaila Hernandez,
Gracie Pettinger, Elizabeth Dirks and Rylee
Reglin in your prayers as they grow stronger in
knowing God, themselves and others more!
Strong Girls 2 Women 2025 - Strong Girls Under
the Sea, runs June 23-26, 8:30am-11:30am.
Strong Girls is designed to empower campers



going into 4-6 grades. The theme this summer reminders us that we have infinite potential just under the surface. Activities include: music, games, crafts, and discovery. Plus, we'll have unique role models from interesting careers here everyday to inspire our campers! Thanks in advance for keeping Strong Girls to Women Camp and our participants in your prayers!



Ronda Borgmann, Bill Wescott, and Pastor Bree will be representing Immanuel at the 2025 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly in person June 13-14. The theme for this year's gathering is "Growing Disciples" We are called to the body of Christ as individuals, as congregations, as a synod and as the church throughout the world. We are Church together! Please keep the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly in your prayers. Thanks to Ronda, Bill for their willingness to serve!

Immanuel's Trust Fund Team is meeting on June 5 at 4:15 p.m. in the Friendship Room. The Trust Fund Team oversees Immanuel's "Perpetual Mission/Ministry Fund" and the "Memorial Fund" for the purpose of receiving and administering gifts, bequests, estates, insurance, memorials and other assets. Visitors are welcome.





The 40th anniversary of the Child Fair and we are excited! We invite you this year on Saturday, June 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Sauk Valley Community College. The theme is "Candy Land". The Child Fair is not only entertaining but also educational. The family – friendly event will be held indoors and outdoors. Free Admission: Miller's Petting Zoo, Bounce

House, Emergency Vehicles, Interactive Booths and Exhibit Displays. For more information visit svcc.edu/childfair

Summer Splash will be held Saturday, June 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at RB&W Riverfront Park in Rock Falls. This free family friendly fun is for all ages. Activities throughout the day including craft and food vendors. All are welcome! To check activities and times visit <a href="https://www.rockfallschamber.com">www.rockfallschamber.com</a>

ALL ARE WELCOME to join in the fun at **Touch-a-Truck**, sponsored by the Sterling Park District, on Saturday, **June 28th from 10:00 a.m. to noon at RB&W Riverfront Park in Rock Falls.** There will be all kinds of big trucks for kids and adults to see, touch, and climb inside. There are maybe some fun giveaways at each truck as well.



Juneteenth is federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation



of enslaved African-Americans back in 1865, is observed on June 19. A CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH presented by the Sauk Valley Diversity Alliance and the Sauk Valley YWCA on Saturday, June 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Grandon Civic Center (304 Brinks Cr., Sterling). Come join us for a family friendly event celebrating Juneteenth! This is

event is free and is for people of all ages! We will have music, vendors, and games for kids! Come out and celebrate this great day in American History.



Registration is now OPEN for Community VBS 2025! Join us July 20–24 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Falls for True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World! This will be an unforgettable week of adventure, worship, and faith-building fun for kids entering Pre-K through 5th grade. A <u>free dinner</u> is served nightly at 5:30 p.m. and VBS runs from 6:00–8:00 p.m. each night.

MANY (6th grade through adult) VOLUNTEERS are needed to help lead games, crafts, music, Bible stories, and more. Whether you love being on stage or serving behind the scenes, there's a place for you!

You can scan the QR code to register kids or sign up to volunteer. Let's help kids discover that Jesus is our True North!

CommUNITY VBS is sponsored and led by Immanuel, First Presbyterian, St. Paul, St. John's, Grace Episcopal, First Christian of Sterling, Bethel Reformed Church and



Open Door Community Church. Immanuel is the host site for this year.

Thank you for supporting this vital ministry!

CommUNITY VBS Worship is on July 27 at 9 a.m. at Grandon Civic Center. If it rains, worship service will be held at Immanuel.

#### 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 <u>pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com</u>					
Executive Board	President Kevin Arnold 309-434-8638 <u>Karnold</u> @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		815-59	Vescott 90-6270 71@yahoo.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		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 <u>Rondaborgmann</u> <u>@gmail.com</u>		Kevin Arnold 309-434-8638 <u>Karnold</u> @growmark.com			

Thank you to everybody for all the aluminum cans you brought to us. Thanks to Gerald Foskitt for taking them to be recycled!

You are most welcome to save and bring your bagged uncrushed participation aluminum beverage cans by Immanuel and place them in the entryway. Money raised from these donations support Immanuel Lutheran Youth

ministries



#### 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.





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

Immanuel Office Phone: 815-625-3575

Office Administrator - Jill Leesman <u>office@immanuelrockfalls.org</u>

Custodian - Jerry Adams

Organists & Music Directors - Virginia Schumaker & Lori Attig

Sunday School Superintendent - Jennifer Morgan

Pastor Bree Truax Cell: 360-989-4906 <u>pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com</u>

#### **Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Website: <u>immanuelrockfalls.org</u> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

Facebook: Immanuel Ev. Lutheran, <a href="www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/">www.facebook.com/ImmanuelRockFalls/</a>

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